

THE FORSAKEN - PILOT

Written by

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FADE IN:

ACT ONE

EXT. U.S. EMBASSY - SOUTH KOREA - DAY

The four-story embassy is war-torn. The face of the structure is riddled with bullets. Huge chunks of the outer wall have been blown away. Despite the hostile scene, all is quiet.

OUT FRONT, a heavily armed PERSONNEL TRANSPORT serves as cover for what's left of the attacking NORTH KOREAN SOLDIERS. Only three remain -- two INFANTRYMEN and what appears to be a CAPTAIN. The others lie dead around the transport, ripped apart by assault rifle fire.

The surviving North Korean soldiers work frantically to reload their assault rifles. They're careful to keep themselves concealed behind the transport.

INT. U.S. EMBASSY - GROUND FLOOR LOBBY

A war-torn lobby. Debris-covered floors, bullet-riddled windows, counters, and walls. Various explosions have left the walls blasted with black soot.

SERGEANT ALEX STANFORD, early thirties, buffed out, looks like he could have been a teen idol in his younger days, is crouched under a windowsill. The other members of his SPEC OPS TEAM lie hidden in other defensive positions -- behind counters, around corners...

OLIVARES, mid-twenties, a chiseled man-god, darts from his cover and slides on his knees, stopping under the windowsill next to Alex. A beat passes. Alex signals for Olivares to check the enemy's position.

Olivares pokes his head out just enough to get a glimpse of the outside. There's no movement. Just the stationary personnel transport.

He ducks back under the window and shakes his head "no". Alex takes a peek to confirm. His eyes widen. He quickly drops his head as...

BULLETS rip through the already-punctured windows above Alex and Olivares, sending shards of glass crashing down onto the two. Alex catches a few tiny shards in the face. Leaves superficial cuts. He doesn't even feel it.

Without looking up to aim, Alex raises his assault rifle above his head and fires back. The rest of the team follows suit, no one exposing themselves to enemy fire.

EXT. U.S. EMBASSY

THE North Korean Infantrymen empty their clips into the building then duck behind their transport.

The North Korean Captain grabs his radio. Bullets PING and ricochet off the transport.

GENERAL

(In Korean)

We can't hold out much longer.
Where is our support?

The ground rattles. A K1A1 TANK plows onto the curb and comes to rest right between the transport and the embassy.

The tank's turret turns and points its barrel right at the team's position.

INTERCUT SPEC OPS TEAM/ NORTH KOREANS

Alex glances through the window just as...

BOOM! The tank fires a shell right over him and into the elevator shaft behind the team. It explodes the shaft but doesn't harm the men.

Alex and Olivares peek out again. A GUNNER points the tank's MACHINE-GUN (MG) right at their heads.

ALEX

Shiiiiit!

OLIVARES

Shiiiiit!

ALEX AND OLIVARES dash from their cover and dive behind a desk as...

A hail of MG fire shreds the windowsill they just used for cover.

FROM BEHIND THE DESK, Alex spots a side exit not too far from their position.

ALEX

(pointing to the exit)

There's the exit. You guys get outta' here. I'll hold off the enemy.

OLIVARES

Sarge, I'm not leaving you.

ALEX

GO! That's an order.

Alex springs to his feet and unloads on the tank while his men scramble over debris to get the exit.

CLICK, CLICK! He's out of ammo. The tank's barrel is pointed directly at him. Alex tosses his rifle, hops the counter, and dives as...

BOOM! Another shell flies through the window. This one hits Alex's desk and explodes. The blast launches Alex into the air and sends him crashing down onto the floor -- hard. He grips his ribs and winces.

The tank's MG lets off another wave of shells, ripping apart more windows and walls.

OUTSIDE, the TWO NORTH KOREAN INFANTRYMEN fire their assault rifles at the remaining windows, hoping for a lucky hit.

ALEX'S MEN hold by the exit for their leader. Alex is slow to get up. He scurries behind the information desk in the middle of the lobby. RUIZ, early thirties, pulls a GRENADE from his belt and slides it across the floor.

RUIZ

SARGE!

Alex grabs it, pulls the pin, and tosses it out the gaping hole that used to hold windows.

THE GRENADE rolls to a stop at the foot of the tank, then...
BOOM!

SHRAPNEL RATTLES against the tank's body but inflicts no damage. Alex grimaces in pain. The grenade toss aggravated his injury.

CARR, mid-twenties, skinny and bookish, screams into his radio.

CARR

Come in, air support. We're pinned down at the embassy, taking heavy fire. Enemy's got a tank. Where the hell are you?

AIR SUPPORT (O.S.)

Ground team, estimated E.T.A is about two minutes. Clear the area.

Another round of MG fire pins Alex down. He stays low and grips his ribs in pain. The team looks on as their leader lies in the middle of the floor, a sitting duck. Alex sees the men standing at the exit blatantly disobeying his orders.

ALEX
I SAID, "GO!"

CARR
You heard Sarge. Let's go. This place'll be a pancake in less than two minutes.

OLIVARES
(re: the men)
No. He's not dying here.

RUIZ
(re: Olivares)
I'm with you.

Olivares pulls a SMOKE GRENADE from his belt. He and Ruiz race over to Alex. The tank's barrel adjusts to their position. Olivares lets out a battle cry and tosses the smoke grenade. It lands on the tank's deck.

BOOM! It explodes. Green smoke spews out, marking the tank for destruction. The two look down at Alex, trying to figure out how to move him. A snappy decision.

OLIVARES
(re: Ruiz)
Grab an arm.

The two each grab one of Alex's arms and drag him towards the exit at a dangerously slow pace. They just barely get missed by the bullets that rip through the air just six inches behind them. Alex screams in pain as his ribs are pulled in the process.

EXT./INT. F-22 RAPTOR - DAY

An F-22 RAPTOR flies high above the city. The Raptor Pilot spots the green smoke in the distance and descends.

RAPTOR PILOT
I have visual of the target...

INT. U.S. EMBASSY

RAPTOR PILOT (O.S.)
(through Carr's radio)
I repeat, I have visual of the
target.

Alex is tired of the near misses.

ALEX
Let me go. My legs still work. I
can make it from here.

Olivares and Ruiz drop Alex. Alex struggles but pulls himself
to his feet, still favoring his ribs.

CARR
Come on, we gotta' go.

OLIVARES, RUIZ, and ALEX all dodge enemy gunfire as they
sprint for the exit.

INTERCUT SPECIAL OPS TEAM/ REMAINING KOREANS

ALEX AND HIS MEN bolt out the side exit and into an alley
leading away from the embassy.

The NORTH KOREAN CAPTAIN looks to the sky as he hears the
incoming Raptor. Scared shitless, he drops his radio. THE
INFANTRYMEN and the Captain all scramble in opposite
directions as...

INT. F-22 RAPTOR

The Raptor Pilot flips a switch on his dashboard.

RAPTOR PILOT
Bombs away.

EXT. U.S. EMBASSY

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM! A carpet bomb blows everything on the
street to pieces.

EXT. ALLEY

ALEX AND HIS MEN have made it out of the blast radius. They
turn to watch the embassy's destruction.

Burning pieces of the enemy tank and personnel transport rain down from the sky. A blazing fire consumes a majority of the street. They are truly lucky to have gotten away alive.

CARR
(over radio)
Hostiles are down. I repeat,
hostiles are down.

The men CHEER and fall to the ground, exhausted and relieved. Alex winces and clutches his ribs.

ALEX
Good job, men. We'd have been in real trouble if General Kim's men secured the embassy's armory. Looks like we live to fight another day.

EXT. VILLAGE - UGANDA - NIGHT

Improvised straw huts make up the village.

AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, with a bandana tied around their nose and mouth, carry dead bodies wrapped in white sheets out from many of the huts. They toss the bodies into a pile in the back of the village.

TWO VILLAGERS stand outside one of the larger huts, anxiously pacing back and forth. This is the medical hut. Inside, a MALE PATIENT SCREAMS in agony.

INT. MEDICAL HUT

The MALE PATIENT is being held down and restrained by DOCTOR LEILA STANFORD, early thirties, and a BUFF MALE MISSIONARY. The patient's skin is covered in red pustules from head-to-toe. He kicks and SCREAMS, trying desperately to break free from his restrainers.

Leila barks orders at her head nurse, BRIDGET MILLER, mid-thirties.

LEILA
Hand me the Benzodiazepine. Hurry,
please.

Bridget hands over a syringe containing a transparent liquid. The patient starts kicking like crazy when he sees the syringe. Leila holds him in place and injects him in the neck. She and the missionary continue to hold the fighting patient until he finally passes out.

Leila steps back and uses her sleeve to wipe the sweat from her brows.

She pulls a VOICE RECORDER from her coat pocket and speaks into it.

LEILA (CONT'D)

The patients aren't responding to the vaccine. Their high fevers are inducing erratic behavior. Sedatives are successful in neutralizing combatant patients. Going to administer a higher dosage of Dryvax and see if that helps.

Leila stuffs the recorder back into her coat pocket. She pulls a syringe of Dryvax from atop a surgical tray and injects it into the patient's arm.

He wildly convulses. Leila and the male missionary restrain him. After a couple beats of convulsing, the patient falls silent and still. Leila checks for a pulse then checks her watch. Leila pulls out her recorder.

LEILA (CONT'D)

(into recorder)

Time of death, 9:33pm.

She removes her latex gloves and tosses them into a nearby trashcan. Leila shakes her head in frustration then washes up at a portable rental sink.

MALE MISSIONARY

I don't understand. I thought smallpox was eradicated in the seventies.

Leila pulls off a paper towel and dries off her hands.

LEILA

So did I.

EXT. BODY PILE - VILLAGE - NIGHTVISION GOGGLES

Bridget and the buff male missionary toss the sheet-cloaked body of the dead male patient onto the pile of the dead.

EXT. NEARBY JUNGLE - NIGHT

A nearby REBEL SCOUT pulls the night vision goggles from his eyes and repels from his vantage point atop a tall tree.

As he touches down, he's surrounded by his fellow REBEL SOLDIERS and GENERAL KIMBO, forties, evil incarnate with a deep-tissue scar running over his eye. They also wear bandanas over their nose and mouth.

(Everyone wears a covering over their nose and mouth whenever they're dealing with the sick.)

REBEL SCOUT
(Ugandan accent)
They don't look armed.

GENERAL KIMBO
(Ugandan accent)
Does it look like they've found a cure?

REBEL SCOUT
Not that I could see.

General Kimbo lets out a HACKING COUGH. He uses his hand to cover his mouth. He checks his hand. There's blood in it.

GENERAL KIMBO
Then, we must act now. I don't have much time left.

INT. HOUSING HUT - VILLAGE - NIGHT

Rows of empty cots fill the housing hut. On her cot, Leila video chats with Alex on the laptop.

INTERCUT LEILA/ ALEX

Alex sits at his laptop shirtless with a bandage over his ribs.

LEILA
I don't understand. Nothing is working against it. It's like the smallpox virus grew stronger over the time we thought it was extinct. It kills faster and the symptoms are more intense.

ALEX
Yeah, I heard. It's been all over the news. The U.K.'s being hit pretty bad right now. They're saying they have no clue how it resurfaced.

LEILA

This whole thing just doesn't seem right to me. There were only two samples of it left after it was eradicated. This strain just doesn't seem natural. It multiplies too quickly. It almost looks engineered.

ALEX

So if you catch it, you're--

LEILA

Dead in a matter of weeks.

Alex lets her words soak in for a beat, then...

ALEX

I don't feel safe with you out there, anymore. There's too much that can go wrong.

LEILA

Alex, I'm fine. God has his hand over me. He's protected me and the others since we've got here.

ALEX

But that's just not enough assurance for me, babe. You're all I have. I can't lose you.

LEILA

You won't, hun. You stare death in the face every day and I don't worry because every day I continue to pray for you, knowing that God'll watch over you and bring us together again soon. You need to have a little faith.

Submachine guns fire outside the housing hut.

Leila is startled. She turns to the doorway.

ALEX (O.S.)

What was that?

More shots are fired. Leila SCREAMS then catches herself and covers her mouth.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Shhh.

Alex puts his ear closer to the laptop.

LEILA
There's something going on outside.

ALEX
Kinda' sounded like--

Two REBEL SOLDIERS burst into the housing hut and tackle Leila to the floor. She struggles. Kicks one in the face. He falls back.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Run, Leila!

She dashes for the door but is tackled to the floor.

ALEX can't do anything but watch helplessly as his wife is dragged kicking and SCREAMING out of the hut.

ALEX (CONT'D)
LEILA!

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Leila, Bridget, and the missionaries all stand in a line in the center of the village.

MALE MISSIONARY
What do you want from us?

GENERAL KIMBO
I'm looking for the doctor.

The line is silent, save for a few SNIFFLES. General Kimbo raises his submachine gun and FIRES a few rounds into the air. Freaks everyone out. People are crying now.

GENERAL KIMBO (CONT'D)
I will not ask again. Which one of you is the--

LEILA
I am.

Leila steps forward. General Kimbo looks shocked that it was that easy.

GENERAL KIMBO
Very well.

General Kimbo nods to a couple of the REBEL SOLDIERS. They grab Leila. She squirms.

LEILA

Get your hands off me. What did I do?

GENERAL KIMBO

I will be needing your medical expertise.

The BUFF MALE MISSIONARY from the medical tent steps out of line.

BUFF MALE MISSIONARY

You can't take her. We need her here. She's heading a project to develop a vaccine for the new strain of smallpox. If you take her you will be condemning millions of infected to death. I can't let that happen.

The men fire at the line, ripping everyone apart. Their lifeless bodies topple to the ground. Leila SCREAMS and drops to her knees. The Rebel Soldiers force her onto her feet.

GENERAL KIMBO

It would be in your best interest to cooperate with me. As soon as we have the cure, you will be free to go. But not a moment sooner.

ACT TWO

OVER BLACK:

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

ON TV as VARIOUS REPORTERS break news on the CURRENT STATE OF THE WORLD.

ON ONE CHANNEL: Leila is snatched by the Rebel Soldiers in a recording from Alex's laptop.

FEMALE REPORTER (O.S.)

--Still, no information has surfaced on the whereabouts of American Doctor Leila Stanford who was kidnapped by African militants over two weeks ago.

NEXT CHANNEL: CHINESE GUN-TOTING SOLDIERS force DIPLOMATS out of the Embassy of the United States: Beijing, China.

ANCHORMAN

--Chinese soldiers forced American diplomats out of the U.S. Embassy today. It's being considered a blatant act of retaliation to NATO's banding against communist North Korea after their invasion of South Korea earlier this month--

NEXT CHANNEL: A quarantined zone in a sealed off sector of a hospital. MEN in HAZMAT SUITS tend to patients covered in pustules from head to toe.

JOURNALIST

--A new strain of smallpox that surfaced in London last month has now infected millions across the globe. A vaccine has yet to be discovered.

NEXT CHANNEL: Thousands of voracious LOCUSTS devour a live camel in seconds. Buildings, cars, and streets -- all covered. Their numbers are in the billions.

ANCHORWOMAN

--A plague of biblical proportions consumes the Middle East. The locusts show no sign of slowing their feeding frenzy--

NEXT CHANNEL: JORDANIAN FISHERMEN use the nets on their massive vessel to skim thousands of dead fish from the surface of the now blood-red Jordan River.

NEWSCASTER

--Scientists have yet to come up with an explanation for the thousands of dead fish that have surfaced in the Jordan River over the past few days. The livelihood of hundreds of Jordanian fisherman is being threatened--

FINAL CHANNEL: Thousands of birds lie dead in the streets of major world cities: Los Angeles, New York, Paris, Jerusalem, Beijing...

NEWS ANCHOR

--Millions of birds all over the world are spontaneously falling from the sky. Scientists have no answer as to why this is happening--

CUT TO BLACK:

INT. CHURCH - VIDEO - DAY

PASTOR PHIL COULTER, sixties, southern Vietnam vet turned preacher, delivers a sermon from behind his pulpit.

PASTOR COULTER

We are living in the end of days. The Bible speaks of unceasing war, unrelenting famine, and incurable disease plaguing the world in the final years. My brothers and sisters, I urge you to get down on your knees and repent and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior so that we may all be together in paradise for eternity. Do not hesitate, for judgement day is coming soon...

PULL BACK TO REVEAL THE VIDEO PLAYING AT...

INT. NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

The video of Pastor Coulter's sermon plays at the head of the sanctuary.

PASTOR COULTER

Do not fear what is to come, for
all God's children will be taken up
into the clouds where we will reign
in Heaven with our God by the end
of the month. The rapture, is upon
us.

The video pauses on this frame.

PASTOR RODNEY TYRELL, forties, heads over to his pulpit to
lead a packed service.

PASTOR TYRELL

Do not let the words of the
ignorant stir up confusion in your
hearts. For the Bible says, "But of
that day and that hour knoweth no
man, no, not the angels which are
in Heaven, neither the son, but
[only] the father."

The sanctuary echoes with applause. MEMBERS of the
CONGREGATION shout "Amen!"

IN THE CROWD - MEREDITH STANFORD, sixties, with her hands up
and her eyes closed, allows herself to be filled with the
Holy Spirit. Next to her, her son BRANDON, eighteen, plays
with his handheld video game, dead to the world.

Meredith comes back from her trance and snatches the video
game from him.

MEREDITH

(whispers)
Pay attention.

BRANDON

To what? This is all bullshit.

MEREDITH

You watch your mouth.

BRANDON

Whatever.

Brandon slumps down into the pew and closes his eyes, trying
to fall asleep.

Meredith slips back into her trance.

PASTOR TYRELL (O.S.)
 Do not worry your hearts with the
 predictions of the end by a false
 prophet, but find comfort in God's
 Holy Word.

Meredith nudges Brandon with her elbow. He wakes up.

MEREDITH
 (whispers)
 Pay attention, Brandon.

BRANDON
 (whispers)
 You can choose to believe this if
 you want, but you can't force your
 religion on me.

Meredith cuts her eyes. Brandon stands up. Meredith grabs his
 hand trying to pull him back.

MEREDITH
 Where do you think you're going?
 Sit down.

Brandon snatches his arm back from her.

BRANDON
 Mom, chill. I'm going to the
 bathroom. I'll be right back.

Meredith concedes.

MEREDITH
 Make sure you come right back.

BRANDON
 Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Brandon maneuvers his way through the cramped space between
 the CHURCHGOERS' knees and the pew in front of them and heads
 for the lobby. Meredith slips into her trance, yet again.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - THE SITUATION ROOM - DAY

A video of Leila's capture and the news broadcast of China's
 forcing American Diplomats out of the U.S. Embassy in
 Beijing, China plays silently on a TV MONITOR.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

The most powerful people in the country sitting silently with blank stares. President MATTHEW MCCARTHY, middle-aged, could be mistaken for a Kennedy, rises from his seat.

CRACK!

Enraged, he spikes the TV remote into the table. Around It, his CABINET MEMBERS flinch.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY
Nations all around the world are
laughing at us right now. We look
weak. China and Uganda have
challenged us and we've done
nothing to respond.

Vice President BENJAMIN SLATER, late fifties, the nice guy that always finishes last, fidgets with his neck-tie nervously, then...

VICE PRESIDENT SLATER
But sir--

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY
No!

Vice President Slater sinks back into his chair, rejected.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY (CONT'D)
We need to act, now. We need to
clean up this mess before someone
gets bold enough to bring the war
to our shores.

Secretary of Defense RONALD EDWARDS, fifties, pulls his face from the portfolio he was reading over.

RONALD EDWARDS
So, what exactly do you propose we
do?--

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff GENERAL MARK EIDINGER, late fifties, cuts in.

GENERAL MARK EIDINGER
China has the world's largest
standing army. We couldn't possibly
put a dent in their numbers without
re-implementing the draft.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY
And that's why we won't go after
them, just yet. For now, we need to
get things in order here at home.
(MORE)

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY (CONT'D)

This nation is only as strong as its weakest link. And right now, a link is broken. Our people are in turmoil.

GENERAL MARK EIDINGER

Because the World around them is going to Hell. How are we supposed to unite them when all this chaos and war is trying to divide them?

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

I'm glad you asked. Gentlemen, my Chief of Staff, Mr. Kerry Newman will lead you through the details of a project I've had in the works for quite some time now. I trust that you will give him your undivided attention.

(gesturing Newman to rise)

Mr. Newman?

White House Chief of Staff KERRY NEWMAN, forties, comes alive in the back of the room.

President McCarthy takes his seat as Newman stands. Newman pulls a stack of PACKETS from a file folder and hands a packet to each member, one by one.

KERRY NEWMAN

If you'll all turn to page thirty-five, you'll see the rap sheet on how far we've come with the project since President McCarthy's proposal of it over a year ago.

The men scan the page.

Director of National Intelligence WILLIAM SAVAGE, fifties, glances up from his packet.

WILLIAM SAVAGE

And how accurate are these numbers?

KERRY NEWMAN

I'd swear by them.

Newman makes his way to the head of the room.

KERRY NEWMAN (CONT'D)

Since the project's inception, we've managed to manufacture and test over five-hundred million of what we've appropriately named, Life Chips.

The men chuckle at the name.

KERRY NEWMAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, yeah. Laugh all you want but we need them to have a good connotation. These... Life Chips will be used to store every fragment of paperwork its host accrues during the course of his or her life.

He has everyone's attention.

WILLIAM SAVAGE

Can you elaborate?

KERRY NEWMAN

Sure. For example, bank account information, Identification information, criminal records... will all be visible to the few that have the appropriate scanner. The Life Chip can even reveal its host's darkest Facebook messages along with his or her latest tweets.

VICE PRESIDENT SLATER

Are you crazy? That's unconstitutional. It'll infringe on our right to privacy.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

True. Some sacrifices will be made, freedoms lost. But this is what must be done to preserve the union.

Everyone else nods their head in agreement.

VICE PRESIDENT SLATER

You can't tell me you are all in agreement with this. This is preposterous. Congress would never allow it.

KERRY NEWMAN

Under normal circumstances, no. But Mr. Vice President, these are not normal circumstances. We are in the midst of World War Three. Drastic actions must be taken to ensure our survival and Congress understands that quite well. Which is why they even fast-tracked the bill for us.

Vice President Slater grips his cane, stabs it into the floor, and pulls himself up from his chair. His knees buckle but he stands firm.

VICE PRESIDENT SLATER

And just how is forcing everyone to get this chip implanted going to unify our nation?

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

By giving the people a common enemy. Without fail there'll be people that refuse to get the chip. And these people will be that common enemy.

GENERAL MARK EIDINGER

Sounds like what Hitler did with the Jews.

President McCarthy is overcome with excitement. Like a child telling his favorite story.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

Yes! This is exactly what Hitler did with the Jews. And no one could deny the power of their army.

GENERAL MARK EIDINGER

But they were defeated.

WILLIAM SAVAGE

Because they didn't have a nuke. They lacked firepower.

VICE PRESIDENT SLATER

With all due respect, Mr. President, I don't think you fully understand the gravity of what you're trying to do here--

President McCarthy slams his fist onto the table.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

I am fully aware of the difficulty of it and the ramifications it may bring but I refuse to sit idly by as our nation crumbles under a colonial regime--

VICE PRESIDENT SLATER

So you throw out the Constitution? Mr. President, that chip will take away the very thing our forefathers founded this nation on almost two-hundred and fifty years ago -- our freedom.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

And I'm going to do whatever it takes to ensure this nation is here for another two-hundred and fifty years. And if you don't agree with that, Mr. Slater, then you may step down as Vice President.

INT. BARRACKS - U.S. ARMY BASE CAMP - UGANDA - DAY

A huge map of Africa is tacked on the rear wall. RED PUSHpins chart a path from the western edge of Uganda to the heart of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

CAPTAIN WHITE, forties, stern but approachable, inspects the map from over Alex's shoulder.

ALEX

(tracing path with finger)

Each of these points have been hit by General Kimbo and his men in the last two weeks.

CAPTAIN WHITE

And how are you so sure that it was him that raided them?

ALEX

I'm not. But the reports have been consistent with his style of attack. Night raids and a line of dead civilians, mowed down by submachine guns seems to be his calling card.

CAPTAIN WHITE

What about kidnappings?

ALEX

That's where I'm confused.
Everyone's been accounted for. No
one else has been abducted.

CAPTAIN WHITE

What're the demographics for the
victims?

Alex reads over a packet of information he received on the
attacks.

ALEX

Besides the attack on Leila's
mission, they've all been African.

CAPTAIN WHITE

And what's he taking from all these
people?

ALEX

Medical supplies. Heart monitors,
medicines, gurneys... Hospital
supplies.

CAPTAIN WHITE

(pondering)

Hmmm.

The two inspect the points on the map, looking for a
connection. They have a moment of realization.

ALEX

There!

Alex points just east of a BLUE PUSHPIN at the end of his
plotted path.

ALEX (CONT'D)

He's gotta' be holding up in this
village... Or preparing to raid it.

CAPTAIN WHITE

Sure, if he was stupid enough to
continue on that course, which I
strongly doubt he is. That'd make
it too easy.

ALEX

What if he's not stupid, just
extremely desperate.

CAPTAIN WHITE

Go on.

ALEX

Well, he's taken enough equipment to open his own clinic. Plus, my wife was the only doctor in the mission at the time of her kidnapping... Maybe he's sick?

Captain White inspects the map for another beat, then...

CAPTAIN WHITE

I'll make a call.

Captain White heads for the exit.

CAPTAIN WHITE (CONT'D)

I really hope you're right about this.

He disappears through the doorway.

Alex stares at the map, re-checking his hypothesis.

He places his finger on the BLUE PUSHPIN.

ALEX

That means Leila should be right... here.

CLOSE UP on the map as it transforms into...

EXT. ABANDONED CIVILIZATION - D.R. OF CONGO - AERIAL - DAY

Our point of view is that of a RECON DRONE as it soars above an abandoned civilization. The clay buildings and designated farmland are dormant and aging.

INT. DRONE CONTROL ROOM

The Drone Pilot steers the recon drone with a joystick, eying the MONITOR for any sign of General Kimbo or his men. The abandoned civilization is tranquil. The Pilot speaks into his headset.

DRONE PILOT

HQ, this is Predator two-one. I'm not seeing anything. Looks quiet.

RADIO (O.S.)

Copy that, Predator two-one. Just keep an eye out.

BELOW

EXT. SMALL HOUSE - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION - D.R. OF CONGO

Leila and the Rebel Soldiers hide-out in a makeshift clinic that's been set up in a small abandoned house.

General Kimbo lies in a gurney, asleep.

The next in command, LIEUTENANT KUNTA, thirties, point his submachine gun at Leila to keep her from trying to flee.

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP. The Rebel Scout's radar detects the recon drone flying above and displays it on screen as a circling white dot.

The mens' eyes are saucers.

INT. DRONE CONTROL ROOM

ON MONITOR - Nothing looks out of the ordinary. The civilization remains quiet.

INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - DAY

Captain White mans the radio at his desk. Alex stands close anxiously awaiting a positive update.

DRONE PILOT (O.S.)
(through radio)
Yeah, there's nothing here, HQ. I'm gonna' call it... Bringing it back to base.

CAPTAIN WHITE
Copy that, Predator two-one. Thanks for your help.

EXT. ABANDONED CIVILIZATION - D.R. OF CONGO - AERIAL

The Recon Drone banks and flies off.

INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

Captain White shrugs.

CAPTAIN WHITE
We tried.

ALEX

No. They're there. The General had to have known we were coming. Let me and my boys go in, I'll prove it to you.

CAPTAIN WHITE

I can't do that.

ALEX

General Kimbo is responsible for hundreds of war crimes. He's not going to stop until we force him to. Send me in. Let me bring him to you.

CAPTAIN WHITE

It's outta' my hands. I'm sorry.

ALEX

So, what now?... That's it?... We just give up?

Alex kicks a chair across the room.

ALEX (CONT'D)

That's bullshit and you know it!

Captain White springs to his feet.

CAPTAIN WHITE

Hey, what the hell's wrong with you, huh? I can't just send ya' out there to scorch the whole fuckin' continent on a hunch. That's not how it works here. There's procedure to follow. You know that.

ALEX

Fuck the procedure. I've given you ten years of my life. Ten years. And she's the only one that's been there for me through it all. .

Alex tosses the map onto the Captain's desk.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm going to find her. Even if I have to do it alone.

Alex storms out of the tent.

CAPTAIN WHITE
Stanford, If you leave your post
you will be courtmarshalled!

He's already gone.

CAPTAIN WHITE (CONT'D)
Stubborn son of a bitch.

INT. BATHROOM - NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY

The bathroom looks like that of a high school bathroom.
Unkempt and unsanitary.

Brandon's at home here. He rushes to the sink and pours water
over his face. He stares in the mirror as water drips from
his nose. He's mildly entertained. His elation turns to
weary.

BRANDON
This is bullshit. I gotta' get
outta' here.

He has a moment of realization, then pats down his pockets.
He hits something in one of them.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Jackpot.

Fishing, he pulls out a tiny packet of cocaine. He scoops
some up with his fingernail and snorts he. He winces.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Oh yeah. That's the shit.

The door creaks. Someone walks in. In panic, Brandon drops
his packet of coke in the sink. It slips down the drain.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
No!

A DEACON walks right past him to the urinal. The packet is
still visible in the drain. Brandon sticks his finger down
it, desperately trying to retrieve the dope.

The Deacon glances over. He notices Brandon's panic.

DEACON
You alright over there, son?

BRANDON
Uh, yeah.

The Deacon finishes up. He walks over to the sink.

DEACON
Do you mind?

The packet is so close, yet so far. Brandon takes the loss and turns on the water himself. The dope slips down into the pipes.

BRANDON
Go ahead.

Brandon heads for the door, dejected.

DEACON (O.S.)
Hey, young man?

Brandon's heart drops. He turns to the Deacon.

BRANDON
Yeah?

The Deacon finishes washing his hands and pulls a paper towel to dry them off.

DEACON
I'm sorry to hear about your sister-in-law and your little niece. I'm sure they'll turn up soon, though. God protects his people.

BRANDON
Thanks.

Brandon turns for the door again.

DEACON (O.S.)
You're probably gonna' want to wipe that coke from your nose, though.

BRANDON
What?

DEACON
It's not really church-appropriate and you wouldn't want your mom to find out about your little habit, would you?

Brandon quickly swipes his nose with the sleeve of his hoodie. He inspects the residue that's now on his sleeve.

BRANDON

Oh, this? Must've been that powdered donut from this morning.

DEACON

I bet.

The Deacon tosses the paper towel in the trash.

DEACON (CONT'D)

Just, lay off the powdered donuts. You have your whole life ahead of you. Don't throw it away.

And with that, he heads out the door. Brandon's even more dejected, now. A beat passes before he's hit with another moment of realization.

BRANDON

Mom!

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - CORRIDOR

The President's CABINET files out of the Situation Room. President McCarthy shakes each of their hands as they exit. He gets to Vice President Slater. President McCarthy shakes his hand casually, then grips it tight and pulls him close.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

(in his ear)

Mr. Vice President, feel free to leave your letter of resignation with one of the secretaries.

Vice President Slater snatches his hand back.

VICE PRESIDENT SLATER

You're a son-of-a-bitch, you know that? I'll be here for the duration of my term and before it's over I will see that you're impeached.

The Vice President storms off with his ASSISTANT.

Newman pats the President's back. President McCarthy reciprocates.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

I think that all went pretty well.

KERRY NEWMAN

Minus the hiccup. But you have majority approval.

(MORE)

KERRY NEWMAN (CONT'D)

The Vice President'll hop onboard
once everything gets moving.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

And exactly how soon can I expect
it to get moving?

KERRY NEWMAN

If we can get the bill signed
today, I'd say the first chips'd be
distributed by the end of the week.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

Make it happen.

KERRY NEWMAN

I'm on it.

The two shake hands.

INT. SMALL HOUSE - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION - D.R. OF CONGO

Rebel Soldiers stand over General Kimbo's gurney. He's
growing pale.

Leila injects his IV with a syringe of sedatives.

Lieutenant Kunta oversees her work. He doesn't trust her.

LEILA

(re: Lieutenant Kunta)

This is the last of the sedatives.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA

(Ugandan accent)

He'll just have to continue his
treatment awake and alert, then.

LEILA

No, I don't think you understand
the strength of this virus. In just
a few hours, he'll wake up to a
pain that's far more excruciating
than anything he's ever
experienced.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA

How do you know this?

LEILA

I'd been working on developing a
vaccine for a couple weeks when you
took me. It isn't pleasant.

(MORE)

LEILA (CONT'D)

I've seen many go into shock. He needs to remain sedated if I'm gonna' have any shot at helping him.

Lieutenant Kunta looks over to his men. They understand the severity of the situation and what they must do to help their General.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA

(re: Rebel Scout)

Give me the map.

The Rebel Scout pulls a map from his backpack and hands it over to Lieutenant Kunta. Lieutenant Kunta spreads it out on a table and points to a road not too far from their position. He checks his watch.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA (CONT'D)

(still pointing)

A military supply truck will pass through here in just over fifteen minutes. It transports, medicines and provisions to the District's front lines. That's where we will find the sedatives you need.

EXT. ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

Lieutenant Kunta and his men hop on DIRTBIKES they had hidden in one of the larger abandoned buildings. They fire them up. One soldier, REBEL GUARD, tries to do the same. The Lieutenant WHISTLES and gestures for him to get off.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA

No. You, stay here and watch her.

(pointing at Leila)

Don't let her out of your sight. We won't be long.

Rebel Guard nods.

REBEL GUARD

Yes, Lieutenant.

The Lieutenant and his men speed off.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - NEWS BROADCAST - DAY

ENRAGED CITIZENS toss burning trash cans, televisions, and bricks through store windows. Cars are overturned. Buildings burn. Chaos is everywhere.

Reporter ELIZABETH BAXTER, 30s, broadcasts from the scene.

ELIZABETH BAXTER

Elizabeth Baxter reporting from downtown Los Angeles as an all-out riot breaks out behind me in response to President McCarthy's earlier announcement of his plan to sign an extremely controversial bill.

INT. NEWS 360 STUDIO - BROADCAST

DICK STEWART, forties, well groomed, professional, chats with Pastor Phil Coulter on air, behind the news anchor desk.

DICK STEWART

I'm here with New Haven Baptist Church's own Pastor Phil Coulter. So, Pastor Coulter, share with our viewers out there, your interpretation of the current state of the world.

PASTOR COULTER

(Southern accent)

Well, Dick, I think it's quite obvious. We're in our last days. The signs are all around us. We have plague in the Middle East, famine in Africa... The resurgence of smallpox in the UK, war all around us... Our missionaries are even being sought out and persecuted all over Africa. The Bible prophesied all this--

DICK STEWART

So, our producers tell me you're predicting the apocalypse isn't too far off.

PASTOR COULTER

Yes. I strongly believe that all us Christians will be raptured up before the first chip is implanted.

DICK STEWART

And what does the chip have to do with anything?--

Pastor Coulter hesitates for a moment, gathering his thoughts, then...

PASTOR COULTER

Well, it's the mark of the beast.

ACT THREE

INT. SANCTUARY - NEW HOPE BAPTIST TEMPLE

Brandon squeezes past the CHURCHGOERS' knees and takes his seat next to his mom.

MEREDITH
(whispers)
Took you long enough.

BRANDON
(whispers)
It was a killer deuce.

MEREDITH
Watch your mouth.

PASTOR TYRELL (O.S.)
Now... I'd like to lead us in
prayer...

Pastor Tyrell commands attention back at the pulpit.

PASTOR TYRELL (CONT'D)
For all our brothers and sisters
who are still missing down in
Africa. As we all know, Sister
Meredith Stanford's daughter-in-law
went missing a couple weeks ago...

Meredith's eyes swell with tears. For the first time, Brandon's showing some emotion. His head droops as he focuses forward.

PASTOR TYRELL (CONT'D)
Father God, we ask that you bring
them home to us, safely. We ask
that you ease the suffering of
sister Meredith and brother Brandon
and give them the news they've been
waiting so long to hear...

Brandon spots the Deacon from the bathroom, across the sanctuary. The Deacon shoots him a solemn nod.

PASTOR TYRELL (CONT'D)
And Lord, we ask that you continue
to keep Alex Stanford safe during
his tour overseas... And we pray
that you bring him closer to you,
wherever he may be.
(MORE)

PASTOR TYRELL (CONT'D)
 In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

EXT. HIGHWAY 38

The Lieutenant and his men trail behind the SUPPLY TRUCK.
 They accelerate.

EXT. SMALL HOUSE - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION - D.R. OF CONGO

Leila presses the back of her hand against the General's
 forehead.

LEILA
 He's burning up. Do you have any
 water left in your canteen?

REBEL GUARD
 No.

LEILA
 We're going to need to refill his
 IV soon.

Rebel Guard stares stoically at her.

LEILA (CONT'D)
 We passed a small river about a
 hundred meters out of the city. I
 can fill them up there.

REBEL GUARD
 I'm not letting you my sight.

LEILA
 He needs water. With his fever as
 high as it is, it won't take long
 for him to get dehydrated.

REBEL GUARD
 Is there absolutely no way he can
 hold out until the Lieutenant gets
 back?

LEILA
 Who knows how long that'll be? He
 will die without it.

The Rebel Guard glances down at the General. He's pale, his
 lips are purple, and his nose is bright red. The Rebel Guard
 is conflicted.

LEILA (CONT'D)

Think of what the Lieutenant would do to you if he came back and found the General dead. I'd tell him you refused to get him water. He'd kill the both us.

The Rebel Guard weighs his options for a moment then caves.

REBEL GUARD

I'll go. But if I come back and you are not here--

LEILA

We're surrounded by desert and jungle. I'd die before I made it to civilization. General Kimbo promised my freedom after we've found a cure. I plan to see that through.

Leila tosses her canteen to him.

LEILA (CONT'D)

Hurry.

EXT./INT. SUPPLY TRUCK

The supply truck flies down the road. The DRIVER is unaware of his pursuers. He sings along to an American country song playing on the radio.

The LEAD BIKER glances back at Lieutenant Kunta. The Lieutenant nods in approval. The Lead Biker speeds alongside the truck.

Inside, dispatch calls in over the transmitter. The Driver turns down the radio.

DISPATCH (O.S.)

(African accent)

Route three, what is your location?

The Driver reaches for the transmitter. The Lead Biker pulls up on the side of him.

BLAT, BLAT, BLAT!

The Driver's brains paint the interior of the cab. His body topples over. The truck turns straight for a tree. The Lead Biker hops onto the driver side door and pulls the wheel in the opposite direction.

Hearing the commotion, three CONGOLESE SOLDIERS open the rear hatch and fire at the REBEL BIKERS.

The truck swerves left and right as the Lead Biker wrestles with the wheel. The dead Driver's foot, still on the gas, accelerates the truck.

One of the Congolese Soldiers' bullets strikes a rebel biker. His body falls off the bike and tumbles across the pavement.

The other Bikers fire back, hitting one of the Congolese soldiers in the neck. His body falls out of the truck and whacks a Biker. They both smack the pavement, crushing their skulls and smashing their bodies.

EXT. RIVER - RIGHT OUTSIDE ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

The Rebel Guard sets his submachine gun down and dips his canteen into the river.

EXT. SMALL HOUSE - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

The General lies almost lifeless in the gurney, until... He has a fit of the chills and shivers uncontrollably.

Looks a lot like a seizure. No one is there to cover him. Leila's gone.

EXT./INT. SUPPLY TRUCK

The truck continues to accelerate. The Lead Biker, still hanging from the driver side door, reaches for the window control switch and lowers the window.

DISPATCH (O.S.)
(through radio)
Come in, Route Three... Route
Three, do you read me?

The Lead Biker tries to pull himself through the window but drags the wheel his way, jerking the truck to the left.

The truck's tail swings into the front tire of another Rebel Biker. His bike pitches like an animal that's had its legs taken out from under it.

The Biker is launched into the air. He SCREAMS as he smacks a tree at over eighty miles an hour.

INT. MILITARY TRUCKING DISPATCH - D.R. OF CONGO

A panicked CHUBBY DISPATCHER frantically picks up a corded phone and dials.

EXT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - U.S. ARMY BASE CAMP

Captain White pursues Alex.

CAPTAIN WHITE
Stanford. Don't you walk away from me.

Alex stops, turns around.

CAPTAIN WHITE (CONT'D)
Where the hell do you think you're going? You're not leaving this base.

ALEX
Sir, I can't just sit back while my wife is out there alone with General Kimbo and his men. They're ruthless. They'll kill her as soon as they get what they want from her.

INT. COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - U.S. ARMY BASE CAMP

An OPERATOR mans the radio communications room. He's got headphones over his ears and keys notes into his computer as he receives a message.

A panicked message comes in from the Military transportation dispatcher.

CHUBBY OPERATOR (O.S.)
(Congolese accent)
Mayday, mayday. This is the D.R.C's transport dispatch. I lost contact with one of my trucks on route three about four klicks east of the U.S. Embassy, heading north on Highway 38. Can anyone out there assist?

OPERATOR
Copy that, dispatch. I'll see if I can get someone down there to check it out for ya'.

The Operator prints up a report and hands it off to a MESSENGER sitting close by.

OPERATOR (CONT'D)
Get this to Captain White.

EXT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - DAY

Captain White and Alex are still chatting.

CAPTAIN WHITE
I understand that, but you have a job to do. You can't just abandon your post in the middle of a war. I'm sorry about your wife but you need to start acting like a professional. You're letting your emotions get the best of you. I appointed you squad leader because of your composure in tight situations.

The messenger from the communications room dashes across the base and catches up with Captain White and Alex.

ALEX
But this is my wife, Captain.

The Messenger hands the message over to Captain White.

MESSENGER
Sir?

The Captain skims it. His eyes widen.

EXT. RIVER - RIGHT OUTSIDE ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

The Rebel Guard chugs a mouthful of water then dips the canteen back into the river.

INT. DIRTBIKE STORAGE BUILDING - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

The building looks like it used to be an auto shop. Leila sits on the Rebel Guard's dirtbike trying to kickstart it. She sees the empty keyhole.

She scours the area looking for the key. Her hand trembles as she dumps out tin cans sitting on the shelves. Nothing.

EXT./INT. SUPPLY TRUCK

BLAT, BLAT, BLAT! The Congolese Soldiers defend their supplies from the persistent bikers.

Lieutenant Kunta's had enough. He's lost too many men. He dodges a barrage of gunfire and races to the side. He fires at and strikes the rear tires. The truck's rear launches as the tires explode.

The truck veers towards him. Lieutenant Kunta smashes his brakes. The truck crosses over in front of him. A near-miss. The Lead Biker makes it through the window. He kicks the Driver's body out of the way as he does so.

In an attempt to straighten out the swerving truck, the Lead Biker turns the wheel in the opposite direction. The rear rims skip across the rocky pavement. The truck wobbles. The Lead Biker presses the brake but it's already too late.

The Congolese Soldiers duck down in the rear of the truck and grip the interior as it flips and rolls. The truck crushes as it tumbles across the pavement.

The Lieutenant and the Bikers smash their brakes to avoid the accident. The truck's rolling slows to a stop. Sheet metal and bodies litter the highway.

EXT. RIVER

The Rebel Guard shoves the filled canteens into his backpack. He heads back.

INT. DIRTBIKE STORAGE BUILDING

Leila's destroyed the room, searching for the key. Drawers and boxes of tools have been scattered across the floor.

She falls to the floor and weeps. She hears footsteps walking by, outside the window.

Leila quiets herself.

INT. SMALL HOUSE - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

The Rebel Guard stands in the doorway. He sees that Leila's not at her post and bolts out the door after her.

ACT FOUR

SERIES OF SHOTS

A FAMILY at home anxiously watches the news broadcast of the Tag Act's signing.

FOOTBALL FANS sip back beers at a sports bar. Their game is interrupted by the signing broadcast.

A normally busy New York City sidewalk is calm as PEDESTRIANS gather around to watch the signing on the TV SETS in an electronic store window.

CHILDREN watch the signing on a TV SET in their classroom.

ON TV SET - INT. OVAL OFFICE - WHITE HOUSE

LEGISLATORS and MEMBERS OF CONGRESS stand around a large desk with McCarthy's TAG ACT Bill sitting atop it.

FEMALE REPORTER (O.S.)

The world awaits the arrival of President Matthew McCarthy who's slated to sign what many would argue is the most controversial bill in American history.

INT. PRESIDENT'S BEDROOM - WHITE HOUSE

President McCarthy adjusts the top of his tie through his reflection.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

(turning around)

Does this look alright to you?

NATALIE MCCARTHY, mid-40s, youthful and radiant, grabs the tie, straightens it up. She straightens the collar of his coat then runs her hands over his shoulders, caressing him.

NATALIE MCCARTHY

I think you look handsome.

She grabs his face and kisses him.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

I'm really glad you could make it.

NATALIE MCCARTHY

I've missed you.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

And I, you.

Their kissing gets heavy. President McCarthy gets frisky. He runs his hand over her breasts, moving down to her legs. She grabs his hand, shoots him down.

NATALIE MCCARTHY

I hate that we hardly see each other anymore.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

Yeah, well maybe after all this is said and done I can take some time off and you can take a little break from pushing your book--

NATALIE MCCARTHY

And we can just lie in bed all day...

She buries her lips into his neck.

NATALIE MCCARTHY (CONT'D)

And I can show you just how much I've missed you--

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!

The two pull back from each other. President McCarthy straightens his suit and hair in the mirror. Natalie scrambles to straighten her skirt and button her blouse.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

(clears throat)

Come in.

The door opens. It's Kerry Newman.

KERRY NEWMAN

Mr. President, they're ready for you downstairs.

Newman notices he's intruding. He's not used to seeing them getting along like this.

KERRY NEWMAN (CONT'D)

(greeting)

Madame First Lady.

NATALIE MCCARTHY

Mr. Newman.

KERRY NEWMAN
I'll be waiting outside, Mr.
President.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY
I'll be out in a second.

Newman nods and exits the room.

Natalie kisses the President lightly on his cheek. She's disappointed that he has to leave her.

NATALIE MCCARTHY
Go on. I'll be here when you get
back.

He kisses her forehead.

EXT. ACCIDENT SITE - HIGHWAY 38

Shards of glass twinkle like stars against the black pavement. The supply truck lies in smashed ruins. All is silent.

Boots step towards the accident, crushing the glass below them. The boots belong to Lieutenant Kunta. His three remaining men -- two REBEL SOLDIERS and the REBEL SCOUT -- follow close behind. The Lieutenant halts as he arrives at the truck's remains.

He sees the Lead Biker's crushed body in the cab of the careened vehicle.

GENERAL KIMBO
Find the sedatives.

The Rebel Soldiers step over the body of a Congolese soldier and head into the truck's trailer.

An injured Congolese soldier COUGHS. The cough evolves into a RASPY HACKING. He spits blood onto the pavement and attempts to crawl away.

Lieutenant Kunta steps over the soldier's body and brings the muzzle of his submachine gun to the soldier's head.

The Congolese soldier puts his hand in the way, trying to protect himself.

CONGOLESE SOLDIER
Don't--

BLAT! The Lieutenant's submachine gun silences the soldier.

A Rebel Soldier carries out a case of medical supplies. He drops it on the pavement and rifles through it. Inside are syringes, containers of pills, bandages... The Rebel Soldier pulls out small vials that read "Benzodiazepine".

REBEL SOLDIER #3
(reading the container)
It's here, Lieutenant.

The soldier tosses a vial to the General. He inspects it himself. Looks satisfied.

REBEL SOLDIER #4
What should we do with the rest of
the stuff. There's a lot we can
still use.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA
Take everything you can carry.

The Rebel Soldiers start stuffing their backpacks.

INT. DRONE CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The Drone pilot guides the drone.

EXT. JUNGLE - D.R. OF CONGO

The Drone soars above Highway 38.

INT. DRONE CONTROL ROOM

The Pilot eyes the TV MONITOR, searching for a sign of the missing supply truck. He's getting close.

CAPTAIN WHITE (O.S.)
(over radio)
Do you see anything?

DRONE PILOT
Not yet.

EXT. ACCIDENT SITE - HIGHWAY 38

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP. The Rebel Scout's radar sounds. A DOT representing the drone closes in.

REBEL SCOUT
Lieutenant!

The Lieutenant hears it.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA
Grab your equipment. We have to go.

EXT. ACCIDENT SITE - HIGHWAY 38 - AERIAL

Below, the men scramble to their DIRTBIKES.

INT. CONTROL ROOM

The Drone Pilot zooms in on the men. He clicks on Lieutenant Kunta's face. The computer runs it through its database. Confirms Kunta's identity.

The Drone Pilot grabs the radio.

EXT. ACCIDENT SITE - HIGHWAY 38

The men look to the sky and watch as the drone passes over them.

REBEL SCOUT
Lieutenant, we've been spotted. The Americans will be coming for us soon. We can't go back.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA
We cannot leave the General behind. The Americans will capture and torture him. We're going back.

INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - U.S. ARMY BASE CAMP

FEEDBACK comes through Captain White's radio, then...

DRONE PILOT (O.S.)
I've spotted General Kimbo's right-hand man, Lieutenant Kunta at the scene of the accident. They're fleeing on motorcycles. Look to be heading for an abandoned village not too far from here.

CAPTAIN WHITE
Copy that, Predator two-one. I'm sending a unit to infiltrate.
(to himself)
I'll be damned. Son of a bitch was right.

Captain White rushes out of his quarters after Alex.

INT. BARRACKS - U.S. ARMY BASE CAMP

Alex stuffs his equipment into his backpack. His men stand around him.

OLIVARES
We're coming with you, Sarge.

ALEX
No. You guys stay here. I can handle myself. Don't need you getting caught up in all the legal bullshit.

CARR
You'll die out there alone. It's suicide. Kimbo has a small army. You'll need backup--

ALEX
Look, I appreciate it guys. I really do. But I can't let you throw your lives away trying to help me. I'm going alone.

Alex zips his bag closed and heads out.

OLIVARES
Sarge!

EXT. BARRACKS - U.S. ARMY BASE CAMP

The men file out of the tent in pursuit of Alex.

OLIVARES
Sarge, hold up.

Olivares catches up to him.

OLIVARES (CONT'D)
What's Leila supposed to do if you get killed?

ALEX
And what am I supposed to do if *she* gets killed? I can't wait around for someone to go after her. By then, it'll already be too late.

OLIVARES

Then let us come with you. You know if anyone can track Kimbo it's Ruiz. Springfield's precision'll keep you out of trouble, and Carr and I'll wear down their numbers. We could bring her back a hell of a lot better than you could yourself--

CAPTAIN WHITE (O.S.)

Stanford!

Captain White rushes over to the two.

ALEX

No offense, Captain, but my mind is made up. I'm going.

CAPTAIN WHITE

Looks like we found your wife.

EXT. NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

Brandon stands around smoking a cigarette while his mother, Meredith, chats with members of the congregation.

The Deacon walks up to him. He pulls out a cigarette and lights it up. Why's a deacon defiling his body like that?

DEACON

Long service.

Brandon takes a long drag and flicks his cigarette to the floor. He tries to walk away without conversing.

DEACON (CONT'D)

Hey, so do you know where your brother is?

Brandon stops. Can't ignore him now. He turns and shakes his head.

BRANDON

Somewhere overseas. Never told us where they're sending him.

DEACON

Ya' know, I saw a lot of promise in Alex. He could have been president. Who knows, maybe he still can. He's a great leader. I see that in you. You know, beneath the bullshit cokehead rebel facade.

BRANDON

I thought deacon's weren't supposed to swear.

DEACON

I'm not your average deacon. I've been on both sides of the tracks. I can promise you, this side's better. Let God into your life. You will see that it's worth a whole lot more than your taking it for.

The Deacon tosses his cigarette and walks away. Brandon looks almost offended by the Deacon's words.

DEACON (CONT'D)

Think about it. It's never too late to look for God.

EXT. HIGHWAY 38

The General and his men race back to the abandoned civilization.

EXT. ABANDONED CIVILIZATION - DAY

Leila ducks behind a wall not too far from the Rebel Guard. She peeks out and sees him walking away. The keys are clipped to his belt. As he rounds a corner, she tiptoes after him with the stealth of a ninja until...

SNAP! She crushes a twig. The Rebel Guard snaps around. She dives around a corner. He barely misses her. She holds her mouth, panting in fear as the Rebel Guard walks her way.

The Rebel Guard fires in the air, trying to draw her out. Leila holds her hand over her mouth and fights back tears. Her breathing gets heavier as she panics.

He fires another wave of shells. She SCREECHES. The Guard dashes to the source of the screech. In desperation, Leila hops out of her hiding place and tackles the Rebel Guard as he rushes by. His gun slides across the ground.

EXT. HELIPAD - BASE CAMP

The men file into a waiting TRANSPORT CHOPPER.

CAPTAIN WHITE

Sergeant Stanford!

Captain White pulls Alex aside just before he could climb aboard.

ALEX

Yeah?

CAPTAIN WHITE

I wanna' make it absolutely clear that we're not sending you boys out there to find your wife. We have orders from the President to capture General Kimbo alive, if possible.

ALEX

I can't promise anything.

CAPTAIN WHITE

I don't think you're prepared for the shitstorm you'd be bringing upon yourself if you decided to carry out your own agenda. Bring him back. You understand me?

Alex says nothing. He clearly doesn't agree with it.

CAPTAIN WHITE (CONT'D)

Do you understand me, Sergeant?

ALEX

I hear ya'.

CAPTAIN WHITE

Good luck.

Alex hops aboard. The blades WHIR at full speed and the chopper lifts off.

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR - WHITE HOUSE

SECRET SERVICE escorts President McCarthy and Newman through the corridor. Their voices and footsteps echo through the massive hallway.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

The public's still resisting. We may have to consider ways to put it down if it persists.

KERRY NEWMAN

I can assure you they'll all come around after the signing, sir.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

Still, it never hurts to have contingency plans in place... I need you to setup a meeting with NATO. I have some ideas I'd like to run by them.

KERRY NEWMAN

I'll get on it, sir.

They stop at a door. President McCarthy adjusts the top of his tie again.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

You know, they're starting to call me Lucifer, now. They're saying I'm going to bring about the end of the world.

A SECRET SERVICE AGENT opens the door.

KERRY NEWMAN

I wouldn't put too much weight on their words.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

I just hope I don't disappoint them.

KERRY NEWMAN

Sir?

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

Get me that meeting with NATO. The rest will fall into place soon enough.

President McCarthy heads into the office.

EXT. ABANDONED CIVILIZATION - DAY

Leila and the Rebel Guard struggle on the ground. Both, reaching for the submachine gun.

Leila digs her fingernails into his eyes and rakes them. He screams and snatches her leg as she tries to crawl to the gun. He pulls her back and punches her in the back of the head.

It's a sloppy fight but both give it everything they've got.

Slightly disoriented, Leila kicks at the Rebel Guard. He gives her blow after blow to the body. She's not moving now. He grabs the gun and points it at her.

Lieutenant Kunta's men arrive at the other side of the civilization. The Rebel Guard turns as he hears the dirtbikes' engines.

Leila rolls over and sees the Guard with his back turned. He's vulnerable. This maybe her only chance.

She pounces at him. The Guard turns just in time to push her off. Her back hits the wall. Without thinking, the Rebel Guard lets off a burst of fire into her stomach.

Leila crashes to the floor, heavily bleeding. The Guard's eyes widen.

EXT./INT. TRANSPORT CHOPPER - OVER JUNGLE - DAY

The low pitch SWOOSHING of CHOPPER BLADES echoes through the jungle as the transport chopper comes into view, skimming over the treetops.

Alex and his squad of Olivares, Ruiz, Carr, and Springfield, sit restlessly trying to mentally prepare for their mission.

Alex looks troubled.

Ruiz eyes him for a beat, then...

RUIZ

If we find Leila and those rebels did anything... you know... unspeakable to her, I'll turn my back... Let you give 'em what they got coming.

Alex cuts his eyes at Ruiz.

RUIZ (CONT'D)

What? I was just saying... Ya' never know.

ALEX

She's okay. I can feel it.

The PILOT turns to the men.

PILOT

We're about ten minutes out from
the drop zone.

Jackson pulls a crucifix from under his shirt, does a Hail
Mary and kisses it.

SPRINGFIELD

Make your peace with God, boys.
It's going down.

Alex fishes a PHOTO from his jacket pocket.

INSERT PHOTO - Leila and Alex share their first kiss after
finally being declared married.

Alex runs his thumb over Leila's face, caressing it.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - WHITE HOUSE - NEWS BROADCAST

The President enters and is APPLAUDED as he takes his seat
behind the desk.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

Today, I am saddened to have to put
my signature on the controversial
Tag Act, but my cabinet and I feel
it is a necessary action to ensure
the survival of our nation. After
ratifying the act, everyone will be
required to receive a Tag implant.
The Tag will help in weeding out
potential enemies of the state...

INT. OVAL OFFICE - WHITE HOUSE

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

Anyone that refuses to do so will
be considered a terrorist. To make
the transition easier, we will
offer debt relief for anyone that
willingly accepts the Tag. During
these tough times of war, famine,
and disease, we will need everyone
to come together if we are to
survive. I hope that you will all
understand this and cooperate with
our efforts to preserve our union.

The President receives SOMBER APPLAUSE as he finishes his
speech.

President McCarthy signs the bill in ceremonial fashion, writing a letter or two with a different pen and placing each back into a box to use as souvenirs for the bill's supporters.

Cameras FLASH. Reporters chatter and rally for the President's attention. Supporting Legislators and Members of Congress pat President McCarthy's back and shake his hand in congratulations. This is a big victory.

Congressman LUCAS DEPAUL shakes President McCarthy's hand then leans in towards his ear.

CONGRESSMAN DEPAUL
So, what happens next, Mr.
President?

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY
Everyone gets the chip.

EXT. SMALL HOUSE - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

The Rebel Guard meets the returning soldiers outside the small house. He's covered in blood. Lieutenant Kunta tosses the vial of sedatives to the Rebel Guard.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA
Get that to the doctor. Tell her we
have to clear out, now.

The Rebel Guard trembles. Lieutenant Kunta eyes him suspiciously.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA (CONT'D)
Where's the doctor?

The Guard shakes his head.

REBEL GUARD
She attacked me.

Lieutenant Kunta shoves the Guard against the wall.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA
You idiot. Do you understand what
you've done?

The Lieutenant storms into...

INT. SMALL HOUSE - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

General Kimbo lies on his back with vomit all over his mouth. Lieutenant Kunta presses his fingers against General Kimbo's neck.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA

He's dead.

The men turn to the Guard and cut their eyes.

REBEL GUARD

I'm so sorry.

The Lieutenant points his gun and shoots him. The Guard falls to the floor clenching his stomach wounds and dies.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA

We have to go.

The low-pitched WHIRRING of the chopper blades echoes through the room.

EXT./INT. TRANSPORT CHOPPER - OVER JUNGLE - DAY

The men put on their equipment packs and grab their guns. Springfield's head is bowed with his eyes closed. As everyone prepares for the drop, he mutters something under his breath. A prayer. Alex catches notice.

ALEX

Springfield, you've been at it for five minutes. Let's bring it back to the moment.

SPRINGFIELD

Just making sure I'm covered, Sarge.

ALEX

Yeah, well we need you here with us right now. You'll be alright.

SPRINGFIELD

Yes sir.

Springfield puts on his pack and readies his gun. Silence lingers for a couple beats, then...

SPRINGFIELD (CONT'D)

Hey, Sarge?

ALEX

Yeah?

SPRINGFIELD

You believe in God, don't you?

Alex is taken aback by the question.

SPRINGFIELD (CONT'D)

It's just, I never see you pray or
anything but your wife's a
missionary.

The rest of the men chime-in in agreement, voicing their
confusion over the matter.

ALEX

Like I tell her, I'll believe in
Him when he reveals Himself to me.
And that'd take nothing short of a
miracle.

CARR

Like finding your wife?

ALEX

That'd be a start.

The Pilot turns.

PILOT

One minute out.

ACT FIVE

EXT. ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

OUTSKIRTS OF THE CIVILIZATION

Leila pulls herself onto her feet, clutching her stomach. She uses the walls as a crutch as she makes her way back to the small house that houses the General. She smears blood down the walls as she moves.

CENTER

Alex's chopper hovers above the center of the town. It descends and touches down. Alex and his men hop out and move through the maze of the civilization's buildings.

They round a corner. A Rebel Soldier standing outside the small house spots them and fires. The men take up defensive positions around corners and fire back.

INT. SMALL HOUSE - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

The Lieutenant hears the gunfire. The men rush outside.

REBEL SOLDIER (O.S.)
Lieutenant, the Americans are here.

Two Rebel Soldiers standing in the doorway are ripped apart by American guns.

Lieutenant Kunta paces to a metal cabinet. He puts a key in and opens it. Pulls out an RPG LAUNCHER.

EXT. ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

MAZE

The men reload their weapons.

ALEX
How many are there?

Carr takes a peek. Ducks back in just as a barrage of fire flies by.

CARR
Maybe five?

Alex looks around, searching for something. He finds a side alley.

ALEX

Springfield, Olivares... We're going through that alley. Carr and Ruiz, I need you two to stay here and draw their fire.

CARR AND RUIZ

No problem, Sarge.

Alex, Olivares, and Springfield dodge fire as they run into the alley.

Carr and Ruiz peek out and fire back at the Rebel Soldiers. Two more go down.

INT. DINING ROOM - WHITE HOUSE

President McCarthy and Natalie enjoy a formal candle-lit dinner together.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

You look beautiful, tonight.

Natalie blushes. She continues eating her meal.

Newman approaches. Natalie lets out a frustrated sigh.

KERRY NEWMAN

I apologize for interrupting. I just wanted to let you know NATO's agreed to have a meeting with us next week to discuss your plans for the One-World government. They feel it is in their best interests to listen to your suggestion.

PRESIDENT MCCARTHY

Very good, Mr. Newman. Thank you. Now, if you'll excuse us...

Newman nods and walks away. Natalie smiles.

EXT. ALLEY - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

Alex, Springfield, and Olivares sprint through the alley.

WHACK!

Alex smacks into Leila. They both crash to the ground. Leila's lost a lot of blood. She coughs. Blood spills from her mouth.

ALEX
 (panicking)
 Leila? No, no, no, no, no...

He holds Leila in his lap and runs his hands through her hair.

Her eyes flutter and she slowly begins to slip out of consciousness. Alex shakes her.

Alex's men stand over them. Their heads solemnly bowed.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Baby, listen to me. You need to
 stay awake. You can't leave me. I
 came all this way for you.

Leila flashes a bloody smile. Caresses Alex's face with her limp hand.

LEILA
 I love you so much.

ALEX
 I'm gonna' get you out of here. The
 chopper's waiting.

LEILA
 (gurgling blood)
 I'm so sorry. I tried.

Leila smiles, her eyes flutter. She fades away. She's gone. Tears fall from Alex's eyes. Alex carries her off to the side and sets her down.

ALEX
 (re: his men)
 Let's clear this place out.

EXT. MAZE - ABANDONED CIVILIZATION

Carr and Ruiz continue to fire at the Rebel Soldiers, when...

BOOM! An RPG rocket explodes a wall a few yards away from them. Shrapnel and dirt go flying. Carr and Ruiz shield their faces.

Ruiz pulls a smoke grenade from his belt and tosses it at the rebel soldiers.

The area quickly fills with smoke. The soldiers choke.

Lieutenant Kunta fires another rocket down the way and misses again, this time taking out a small house.

EXT. ALLEY

Alex, Olivares, and Springfield come up on the Rebel Soldiers' flank as they retreat to their DIRTBIKES. The three spray down the retreating soldiers, ripping them apart.

Realizing he has no one to protect him, Lieutenant Kunta acts in desperation. He aims the RPG at the three, his finger on the trigger.

ALEX
(shouting from a distance)
IT'S OVER! DROP YOUR WEAPON OR I
WILL SHOOT YOU!

Olivares and Springfield duck behind neighboring houses and aim their weapons at the Lieutenant.

ALEX (CONT'D)
ALL YOUR MEN HAVE FALLEN. DON'T
MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE.

Lieutenant Kunta sees that he has no chance. He drops his RPG and raises his arms. He smirks.

The audio drowns out as the men order him to the ground.

EXT. TRANSPORT CHOPPER

The men sit with the now handcuffed Lieutenant Kunta waiting to take off.

Alex appears in the distance carrying Leila's bloodied body.

As he gets to the chopper, he carefully lays her on the deck and covers her up with a white sheet. The men hold their heads down.

PILOT
(into radio)
We've cleared the village and
captured Lieutenant Kunta. General
Kimbo is dead. I'm told it was
smallpox. We're heading back to
base.

Alex climbs aboard and the chopper takes off.

EXT./INT. CHOPPER - OVER JUNGLE

Alex eyes Lieutenant Kunta with fury.

ALEX

You're gonna' hang for everything
you've done. Just thought you
should know that.

Kunta looks down at Leila's body. He notices Alex holding her hand.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA

Was she your wife?

Off Alex's look.

LIEUTENANT KUNTA (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

I'm sorry about her death.

Enraged, Alex pulls his pistol from his belt holster. His men yell "no" and try to wrestle the pistol from his grip.

POW! Alex puts a bullet in Kunta's skull. His men tackle him and wrestle the pistol away. The men scream at Alex. He's just executed a prisoner of war.

EXT. U.S. ARMY BASE CAMP/ INT. TRANSPORT CHOPPER

Captain White waits at the center of the camp with TWO MILITARY POLICE OFFICERS as the chopper approaches. Alex looks down. He knows his fate. He glances at his men. They shoot him a solemn nod.

The transport chopper touches down in the center of the base camp. The men hop down. Alex holds for a second and kisses Leila's hand.

Alex climbs down into the waiting arms of the Military Police Officers. One of the Officers quickly snatches Alex and handcuffs him.

CAPTAIN WHITE

You just couldn't get control of
your emotions, could you? I told
you, you were in over your head.

Alex says nothing, just smirks.

CAPTAIN WHITE (CONT'D)

Get him out of here.

The Officers start to take him away, when...

BOOM! The ground below them rattles, then shakes violently. The tremor grows in size. The ground rolls in a wave and tips the chopper. Alex and the Officers are thrown to the floor.

The shaking and rolling sounds like a stampede of buffalo.

OFFICER #1
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?

The ground splits open and spreads apart. The fault line moves straight toward Alex. He's cuffed and lying face down in the dirt. He sees it drawing closer.

The Officers snatch Alex and drag him out of the way just as the fault splits at his former position. He narrowly escapes death.

A loud TRUMP sounds. It resembles a foghorn used on turn of the century ships. The TRUMP drones.

The ground opens up at the fault line. Alex shouts to his men who are now on the other side of a bottomless trench.

Alex's men call out to him, then... BOOM! An explosive sound hits, then...

Springfield, Olivares, Ruiz, and Carr are whisked into the sky. Soldiers from all over the camp rush out of the buildings in fear.

Many of them are also snatched into the sky but some are left behind.

Alex struggles but gets to his feet. As he turns to the chopper his eyes widen.

Leila stands on top of the careened chopper. Her bullet wounds are gone. The white sheet is wrapped around her glowing body in a toga fashion. Her hair streams, her eyes glow.

Alex reaches his hand out to her.

ALEX
LEILA!

She smiles at him. As she's taken into the sky, all goes silent. The Trump has stopped, the tremor has ceased.

Darkness seeps over Alex and the Officers, disappearing all shadows on the ground.

Officer #1 looks to the sky, his eyes widen. He nudges the other OFFICER and points up. Their jaws drop as...

The sun is eclipsed by millions of bodies ascending to Heaven.

FADE OUT: