ICARUS RISING
"The Mummy and The Mantis"

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FADE IN:

INT. ICARUS - COMMAND ROOM - DAY

JASON, alone, holds his key-chain up, looks around the room. The emergency light pulses, illuminates his surroundings.

In front of him, a mummified man with two long fingers on both hands, a jeweled crown on his head. The crown connects to several thin tubes attached to the ceiling.

Jason, fascinated, gets a closer look.

The mummy's skull-like head, small ridges. Big frog like eyes, closed. Skin like sandpaper.

Uniform dirty, torn. Thin body, half of it missing.

Nearby, two fossilized big wolves.

Jason reaches in his pocket, extracts a pencil.

Uses the tip of the eraser.

Pokes the mummy's right shoulder. Nothing happens.

Jabs the skull with the eraser.

The skull cranks left, decapitates! The crown goes with it. Detaches itself from the tubes!

The alien mummy head smacks into dust upon contact with the floor.

Jason uses the pencil.

Drags the crown closer to him.

Picks up the crown. Inspects it. Likes what he sees.

Hears a slight TAP in the next room.

JASON

Hey, I'm in here!

No response back, Jason laughs.

JASON

Wait until they get a load of this.

He puts on the crown.

Behind him, the tubes become alive, squirm down like snakes, plug themselves back into the crown. Jason gasps.

His body vibrates.

The rest of the mummy falls out of the chair.

The tubes pull on the crown. Lifts Jason.

Jason kicks out, struggles.

His Earth Force Seven key-chain emergency light clinkers on the floor. The pencil rolls away.

Jason's body goes limp. The alien devices sits him in the chair. Locks him in. Jason screams.

Two projectors slide open, flash into his eyes.

Hundreds of alien symbols hypnotize at rapid speed.

His scream fades. His body relaxes.

The alien symbols cease to invade his eyesight.

Projectors close.

Jason's eyes glow.

The restraints unlock.

Overhead White lights flicker. The ship HUMS.

An oblong panel near the bottom of the floor opens.

An ant-like army stutters out towards the mummy remains.

The small things surround the mummy, carry it towards the oblong panel. The ant-things disappear with the body into the wall... The panel closes.

Jason closes his eyes.

The entire room SHAKES. A clap of thunder echoes. A high pitched wail follows.

INT. SECRET ROOM - DAY

Amber lights flutter overhead. Highlights an entire room of frost. As the floor vibrates with movement and sound, objects in the room de-frost.

Moisture drips off the face of a man-sized insect head.

SUPER: FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

INT. ICARUS - COMMAND ROOM - DAY

Jason's eyes glow, as if he were possessed by a supernatural force.

Brandon and Ashley, amazed at Jason's condition.

Everyone else - Eric, Tom, Naomi and The Bartender block the door as a huge praying mantis 'spiked foreleg pops through, in an attempt to come in.

MOT

What is this thing!

NAOMT

Like I'm supposed to know!

BARTENDER

Anyone else wanting to help, feel free!

Brandon rushes to the door - spots a piece of alien-like pipe.

The monster leg scrapes Tom in the right arm. He staggers back, grabs his wrist.

JASON

It's alright. Let him in.

ASHLEY

Let who in?

Brandon holds the pipe ready to batter up.

BRANDON

Yeah, let him in! I got something for him -

The ship rumbles. Everyone except Jason wobbles about as the floor tips left and tilts right.

The Mantis Alien barges through! Success!

Fumbles around just like the rest.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The alien shuttle craft rises from the ground, barrels left and right. Straightens up. Dirt falls off the sides.

The craft rises above trees.

INT. ICARUS - COMMAND ROOM

Brandon slides across the floor. His body slaps the wall.

His pipe clatters away from him.

Ashley, a few feet away, rolls up across from him.

They share a moment of relief.

The Mantis spiked leg needles hard into the floor in between them. The creature turns its head, stares into Ashley's eyes.

The ship straightens up.

JASON

Everyone, remain calm.

BARTENDER

"Remain calm"!!

Jason's eyes look up, a panel in the ceiling opens up, a robotic arm the length and width of a pool cue drops down.

The Mantis looks at the object, regains its posture.

JASON

Everyone remain where you are.

ASHLEY

What is going on, Jason!

JASON

You will all find out.

MOT

Yeah, right. I -

A panel opens up behind him. Mechanical ants flood out all over him, yank him through the wall.

NAOMI

Oh my god!

JASON

He'll be fine. The nanos are just doing their job. What's his name?

ERIC

Tom!

The wall panel closes up.

The Mantis reaches for the end of the machine stick. It opens its mouth, gibberish. It attempts again. Same result.

Everyone spooked. Ashley backs away, gives the Mantis space.

ERIC

You know what that thing is?

JASON

Yes. I just don't know what it's doing here. Translator's out for a minute. While he's doing that...

Jason taps a nearby console in the armchair.

MEDICAL LAB

It's a small room, low lighting.

On a chrome table, Tom. Metal restraints over his wrists and feet. The alien mummy beside him doesn't help his composure.

The robot ants swarm over Tom's cut.

The lights get brighter. A robotic eye extends downward, much like the translator in the command room. On the side of the eye, a speaker.

JASON

(under static)

Tom. I want you to be still and listen. The nanobites sensed your injury, give them a minute.

TOM

What are you doing to me!

JASON

I told you, the nanos are healing -

ТОМ

What is this thing beside me!

The robot eye sways over to the mummy, back on Tom.

JASON

The previous captain of this shuttle. They tried to revive him when the systems came back online--

MOT

It's dead?!

JASON

Yes. Haute I Tick El Albae is dead--

TOM

Haute I what! Who are you!

JASON

It's Jason--

TOM

Let me go! I have rights! This is insane! You're all crazy!

JASON

Calm --

MOT

All crazy! I demand you get me out of this! Now!

Another robotic arm with a liquid tube drops down from the ceiling.

TOM

Now what is that thing!

A mist sprays out of the tube. Knocks Tom out.

JASON

Alien morphine. Talk to you in an hour.

Mechanical ants close up Tom's wound.

INT. ICARUS - COMMAND ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Frustrated, The Mantis taps the translator. More balderdash, but more urgent.

NAOMI

I don't like his tone.

BARTENDER

Probably thinks we're going to kill it.

BRANDON

Because there's more of us than more of him? Or because Jason's in charge of this heap?

ASHLEY

Little of both.

NAOMI

What if it's something else?

JASON

Quiet.

One more adjustment, the Mantis announces:

ORIRIS

Oriris. Oriris is my name.

Stops, thinks.

ORIRIS

Let who in. Let him in. Oh My God. What that thing is. Don't like his tone.

JASON

We understand you, Oriris.

ORIRIS

They call you Jason.

JASON

Yes.

ORIRIS

Ashley. Naomi. Brandon. Eric. Tom.

Oriris glances to the Bartender.

ORIRIS

Don't know your name yet.

JASON

How did you get on the shuttle, Oriris?

ORIRIS

Jason controls shuttle.

BRANDON

This is going nowhere-

ORIRIS

Salvage and scavenger assignment. Four of us. Original crew dead. Attacked. Three of group dead. I locked in lab area. Frozen.

Looks down on Brandon. Nods to the pipe.

NAOMI

ORIRIS

(whispers to Ashley)
Suspended animation...

Got something for him.

BRANDON

Think he wants me to pick up the pipe.

NAOMI

Why?

ORIRIS

Pick up pipe. Danger. Need weapons.

JASON

Prehistoric wolves attacked and killed the crew. Haute I Tick El Albae gave the report before his death.

ORIRIS

They are coming.

ERIC

Those wolves are dead, fossils and bones. We seen them, coming in.

NAOMI

Oriris...

Oriris turns to her.

NAOMI

The wolves are dead. If Jason rebooted this...ship, he thawed you out, right?

ORIRIS

(thinks it over)

Yes.

NAOMI

Thousands of years have passed. Maybe millions, whenever you were frozen. You were here for that long. Safe in that room. Understand?

Oriris cocks his head.

NAOMT

So, you aren't under attack, and there's nothing to come after us.

ORIRIS

Understand.

Everyone breathes a sigh of relief.

ORIRIS

Wolves.

NAOMI

Right. Wolves. Dead. Gone.

ORIRIS

Understand.

BARTENDER

Good, Now that we all understand, and you know everyone here...

Taps on the wall where Tom was snatched.

BARTENDER

And in there. Let me -

ORIRIS

What killed wolves?

Silence.

Oriris jimmies the translator, makes a long headset and secures it around his thin neck. Approaches Bartender.

ORIRIS

Jason thaws Oriris out. Not the only thing thawed out on ship.

NAOMI

You...mean the turtles...?

Ashley shakes her head, goes to the door. Looks out...

INT. CORRIDOR

An army of the pre-historic turtles in the next room. Thawed and alive. They glance up to Ashley, curious.

ASHLEY

Better than big bad wolves.

NAOMI

Turtles are out there?

ASHLEY

More than I thought, but yeah. I think we can handle them.

The big turtles take big, slow steps forward.

COMMAND ROOM

Jason taps the console. In a corner, paint ball gear materializes.

JASON

Ashley, back away. Oriris is right. They're dangerous.

ASHLEY

Freaking turtles.

JASON

Guys, get the paint guns and blind them until I locate the ship's weapon supply.

ASHLEY

Turtles-

Eric pulls her back in the command room.

ERIC

Seen enough crazy stuff, don't ask questions. Take his word for it.

ASHLEY

Okay, a giant preying mantis I can understand. Slow moving turtles? Come on.

JASON

Gear up. We don't have any time.

ASHLEY

Seriously, what can these things do?

ORIRIS

Sabotage the ship. Freeze us all...

JASON

For a few thousand years.

FADE OUT.