# HALO©

A film

By David Clatworthy

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2 Padgam streetGreenside

2193

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sagescript@metroweb.co.za

# EXT. SPACE.

Space. Passing planets and stars. A distant star brightens as it approaches. It is Earth, beautiful, floating peacefully.

### INT. STUDIO

A pleasant looking grandfatherly figure, wearing a nicely tailored suit, holds a young child on his lap. Around them, our galaxy and the rest of the universe twirls gently. He talks to her but his voice is in voice over. His voice is deep and soothing.

#### GRANDFATHER

# V/O

When the Dark One was banished, the Power of Light sent him to another dimension; the fourth dimension. Close enough to our world, but unable to touch. However, the Dark One's banishment was conditional: As long as people believed in the forces of darkness, he would slowly regain his power. You see, fear and hatred were a thing of the past for the universe. But there is always an exception to every rule: On planet Earth, humans were still confused. They thought they had been abandoned by their Creator

CUT TO

# IMAGES OF WAR AS THE V/O CONTINUES

V/O (cont.)

They believed God was "out there...somewhere" and in order to reach God, they had to have wars. For humans, war meant righteousness, and every act of righteousness meant taking a step closer to God. People waged wars because of their fears and the more they feared, the more they fed the Dark One's power.

CUT TO

Images of the Dark One gaining strength, becoming solid, being the driving force invading other distant planets in other dimensions and sowing destruction V/O (cont)

So, by now, the Dark One was up and about, tearing around the fourth dimension in search of a way out.

CUT TO

# SPACE IMAGE OF QUESTAR/ EARTH

V/O (cont)

And then, he discovered Questar. A planet in the fourth dimension similar to Earth, a kind of parallel world, if you like, but a planet of Earth watchers. You see, Earth holds information vital to the universe's existence:

CUT TO

# AN IMAGE OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT, ALL GOLD AND GLITTERING

# V/O (cont)

the greatest treasure in all of the universe: the enigmatic "Ark of the Covenant". Not only does it supposedly contain the Ten Commandments, but it also holds the DNA coding for love, peace and goodwill. Earth has the prize, the Dark One wants it. More than anything else, he wants to put an end to God's rule; to snuff out the light and bring about the Age of Darkness.

# INT. QUESTAR. LABORATORY. DAY

The lab is a huge glass room. Even the floor is glass: everything outside the room is visible. The planet is in a state of chaos. People run here, there and everywhere as the Dark One's forces. The Elders: ELSON(male 80'S), TEREES(Female 70's), GORRAN(Male 70's) watch the chaos.

ELSON

(Sadly)

So. It has finally come to pass.

### TEREES

I suppose it was inevitable. Given the fear.

GORRAN enters with a silver box. He offers it to Terees who shakes her head

### TEREES

Open it, Gorran. You've waited so long.

ELSON steps closer as the box is opened. Inside is a crystal star tetrahedron. Elson removes it and magically, the star breaks into three pieces.

### ELSON

# Time for the three.

They cross to a strange looking gun. Elson takes the star and reassembles it. Gorran slides back a lid and Elson places the star into the gun chamber. Terees punches in some co-ordinates. In the back ground the Dark One has begun his attack. Balls of fire drop in on Questar from the sky. The gun moves automatically to its programmed target. Elson and Terees step back and nod to Gorran. But as he is about to pull the trigger, the ceiling shatters and the Dark one drops in. He quickly assesses the situation and single-handedly throws Elson away. Another side-swipe sends Terees flying. Gorran pulls the trigger and the Dark One roars and leaps forward as the gun fires. His hand reaches over the barrel and the star tears through his flesh, taking a drop of his blood with it on its journey to Earth. The Dark One is livid and tears Gorran in two, flinging the halves away in disgust. Terees slowly regains her feet. She is bleeding heavily from nose and mouth

### TEREES

Too late.

### SATAN

# (Whirls and glares)

Timing is everything, my dear, that much I've learned. One way or another, everything has a consequence and timing makes the difference.

#### TEREES

# (Sadly)

You can't win. In the end, there's just too much good. We will protect the Ark.

Elson moans and struggles to his feet. Satan is at his side in a few strides. He grips Elson's head between his hands and squeezes

# SATAN

# How? You can't even protect yourselves.

With a quick exertion of pressure, Elson's head pops and blood splatters over Terees' face. She blanches. He waits expectantly but she is frozen. He goes to the gun, opens a drawer and takes out an explosive device which he loads into the gun.

TEREES

You'll destroy it.

# SATAN

# Eventually.

He programmes the gun and it changes course slightly

# TEREES

(Realises where the gun is pointing)

### The sun?

Satan smiles broadly and without taking his eyes from her, pulls the trigger.

CUT TO

# EXT. SPACE

The bomb shoots out of the gun and heads off into space, locked onto a distant star.

CUT TO

# INT. LABORATORY. FOLLOWING.

#### SATAN

Your three. Will open the gate for me. Fifteen Earth-years from now, the three will be drawn and the gate will be opened. TEREES

It'll be your end.

SATAN

I don't think so.

He smashes the gun and starts advancing on Terees.

BLACK OUT

# INT. BRANFORD CONNECTICUT. LABOUR WARD. SUNRISE.

SHEILA CARDMAN(20's) is in serious labour. Her face is scrunched up with pain and effort as the MID WIFE and ATTENDANTS standby to deliver her baby. Standby to deliver her baby. RALPH(20's), her husband, holds her hand and grimaces through his own pain. Delivery is imminent.

CUT TO

### EXT. EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. DAWN.

The star tetrahedron appears in the third dimension and enters Earth's atmosphere. It glows red hot and splits in three, each piece taking a different course to the planet. But trailing each piece is a tiny droplet of blood.

CUT TO

### INT. BRANFORD. LABOUR WARD. CONTINUE

Sheila shrieks and Ralph winces

### MIDWIFE

And push, Sheila! Go on, a nice big push!

RALPH

Come on, Honey, one big push ...

### SHEILA

I'll push you out the door if you don't shut up!

She pushes

(CONT) Sorry, I didn't mean that.

CUT TO

EXT. SKY.DAWN

A piece of the star tetrahedron plummets toward the hospital as the sun begins to crest the horizon.

CUT TO

# INT. BRANFORD. LABOUR WARD. CONT.

Sheila gives one last scream

MIDWIFE

That's it! Here she comes! Here she comes, one more push.

CUT TO

EXT. SKY. FOLLOWING

The piece of star penetrates the roof.

CUT TO

# INT. LABOUR WARD. CONT.

As a shaft of sunlight spreads across the windowsill, Midwife places the screaming baby on Sheila's tummy. Suddenly the room is bathed in white light, blinding everyone as the tiny piece of star enters the baby's arm. When normal light returns, everyone is somewhat dazed but the baby is quiet. Midwife notices something and lifts the baby's arm. A trail of blood trickles from the star-shaped wound

MIDWIFE

Never noticed that. Little accident. She'll have a scar.

SHEILA

Her name is Rebecca.

(To Ralph who is examining the cut)

Her name's Rebecca, Honey. OK?

Ralph looks from his daughter to his wife. The emotion is too intense for him and he can only nod. The Midwife places a plaster on the cut.

CUT TO

### INT. BRANFORD. CHURCH. MORNING.

CONT

FATHER CALLUM (40's Slicked back hair. Weak chin.) A Catholic priest, is already at the pulpit, practicing his sermon to an empty church

### CALLUM

"...thirsty! My God, I'm thirsty!" A Roman soldier dipped a sponge into some wine vinegar and proffered it to the Messiah who greedily..." no, no I can't say that..."Gratefully"...yeh, that's better..."Gratefully drank of the acidic refreshment..."

A drop of Satan's blood penetrates the roof and rockets down into the priest's forehead, knocking him off balance. He staggers, but remains on his feet, dazed. Shakes his head. He is not feeling well. His clothes feel very uncomfortable and his mind is suddenly in turmoil. He wipes his forehead but his hand comes away clean. He looks around wildly, shakes his head again and continues with the sermon.

CALLUM

And Jesus said "The way is paved for the return of Satan, Prince of Darkness. He who was banished, but now returns...

What the heck...where did that come from?

He crosses himself and the spot on his forehead burns intensely. He grabs at his head, twisting back and forth. He leaps off the pulpit and staggers down the aisle and out the door.

CUT TO

# EXT. VILLAGE. UGANDA. NIGHT.

There are festivities on the go. Dancing and singing around a huge bonfire. The villagers are partaking in a ritual festival. KANGATA, the chief, sits on his animal skins, watching proceedings. He is a man of considerable presence. A shower of sparks rises into the night sky. A *comet* leaves a trail as it heads for earth and the village.

CUT TO

# INT. HUT. UGANDA. NIGHT.

It is dark inside the hut. A single candles burns steadily. Outside, the drums and singing is loud. ZUKISWA, has just given birth and her daughter lies on her stomach, wrapped in sheepskin. She gently strokes the baby's head. The candle flickers and suddenly the hut is filled with a blinding light. Zukiswa gasps in superstitious awe. The light fades. The candle burns steadily again. She looks at her daughter's arm and sees the small, star-shaped cut.

#### ZUKISWA

Nosipho, Nosipho

(Gift, Gift)

CUT TO

### EXT. VILLAGE. NIGHT.

KANGATA has seen the star enter Zukiswa's hut. He rises, and as he steps forward, a second drop of blood smacks into his forehead. He reels. As he straightens up his eyes firefly flash yellow. He gathers himself and bellows up into the sky. The villagers quieten at once. All stare at him. He looks around, making sure he has their undivided attention.

### KANGATA

Minanzani bukise eyedi sagale. Ye suntodwa nigitle tinas gutela! Ugutela ska ndo tinas kranda lushek kalo ti Inyatenga! Yintoni tinas gamani. Yegesi twaleto! Namhlagenda usupile gashaga! Businte koladi!

(I have seen the sign! The ancestors have sent us a gift! A gift that will one day lead us in the path of the almighty one. The one for which we will be waiting. Leave the beer! Tonight, we drink blood! Bring the goats!)

There is a moment of silence, then the village erupts again as several people rush off to gather goats. Kangata hauls out a very wicked, ultra-sharp, gleaming dagger and smiles. At the edge of the clearing, the WITCHDOCTOR looks on with fear.

CUT TO

### EXT. MOSCOW. SKY. DUSK.

From the third crystal's POV, we observe the Moscow skyline rushing up.

CUT TO

# INT. MOSCOW. HOSPITAL. DUSK.

In a brightly lit ward, MASHA, is struggling to give birth. The DOCTOR and NURSES are in obvious panic. The DOCTOR is trying to loosen the umbilical cord inside MASHA.

### DOCTOR

# (IN RUSSIAN)

Get the theatre on standby for an emergency Caesar. I don't think this cord is going to loosen!

NURSE breaks away and makes a call from a wall phone.

# MASHA

What's happening? Why isn't my baby coming?

### DOCTOR

Take it easy, Masha. There's a minor complication...

# MASHA

If it's so minor, why are you preparing for an emergency Caesar? I don't want a Caesar; I want this baby to be born naturally! Do you hear me?

# DOCTOR

Masha, please. The cord is around the baby's neck. I can't loosen it. The baby is still alright but I don't want to take the risk of the cord tightening and the only way that is going to happen...

The room is suddenly washed out in bright light. MASHA's body rocks as the crystal penetrates her. The piece of crystal enters her womb and penetrates the baby's arm. At the same time, the foetus jerks its arm and coincidentally pulls the umbilical cord from around its neck. The whiteness fades and suddenly the doctor sees that the baby is being born.

DOCTOR

(Shouts to NURSES)

Here! It's here! Leave the emergency!

(TO MASHA, BEWILDERED SMILE)

Do you always get your way?

MASHA

Only in an emergency. Give him to me. Give me my Alexander. My Alexi.

ALEXANDER is delivered and has small cut on his arm. The NURSE is packing up the equipment when the final drop of blood slams into her head. The instrument tray crashes to the floor. All look at her as ALEXANDER starts crying. The DOCTOR gives her a reproachful look as MASHA consoles the infant. The NURSE apologises and as she picks up the spilled instruments she looks at ALEXI who appears to be looking at her. Her eyes briefly glow yellow. The three, have been born.

CUT TO

### INT. BRANFORD. REBECCA'S LOUNGE. DUSK.

Fifteen years later.

REBECCA, now a teenager, sits on a couch in the lounge watching TV. Her brother, MICHAEL(12), sits beside her. His wheelchair is next to him.

### MICHAEL

### Becks, is this serious?

### REBECCA

### Sh!

They watch. On screen an ASTRONOMER speaks. Beside him is a series of pictures and animations depicting the 'ASTEROID', the impending impact with the sun, and the resulting flares reaching out to earth.

#### ASTRONOMER

...which is headed directly for the sun. The small asteroid has been undetected, until now, as its approach has been from the dark side of the sun and is visible now as it goes into orbit around the sun. The asteroid is traveling at enormous speed and at its present trajectory will impact with the sun in three days. At this point in time it is impossible to predict what effect the impact will have, but the likelihood of extended solar flares could be of severe consequence to our planet.

### MICHAEL

What does that mean?

### REBECCA

It means an asteroid is going to crash into the sun and we could all die of solar radiation.

### MICHAEL

What's solar radiation?

### REBECCA

Burnt to a crisp by the sun.

### MICHAEL

Are we all going to die in three days?

# REBECCA

No, Mikey. We might get badly sunburnt, that's all. So make sure you wear a hat. And sunscreen with a gazillion SPF factor. OK? MICHAEL nods uncertainly. Rebecca looks back at the TV, but the clip is over and the ANCHORWOMAN is talking about an outbreak of cholera in Malawi. Suddenly Rebecca feels unwell. Deep inside her, the tiny star crystal begins to pulse a deep blue. Rebecca senses something happening inside her body-something awakening, but she is overcome with nausea.

#### REBECCA

I don't feel so good. I'm going to lie down. You OK or do you want help into the chariot?

#### MICHAEL

Smiles at the reference to his chair

Nah, I think I'll just chill. I'll do the chariot race later.

Rebecca forces a smile, nods, and heads off upstairs leaving Michael alone in the lounge. The kitchen door bangs shut as and his mother, SHEILA, calls.

SHEILA

Anyone for tea?

### MICHAEL

No thanks, mom.

SHEILA

Becky?

# MICHAEL

Becky's lying down. We're all going to die from solar radiation!

### SHEILA

(OFF)

What?

# MICHAEL

Have we got sunscreen?

He watches TV distractedly.

CUT TO

## INT. UGANDA. NOSIPHO'S HUT. NIGHT.

Outside, the noise of the festivities is very loud. Zukiswa is rubbing fat over the teenaged Nosipho's body. The girl is decorated in beads and a grass skirt. She is unsettled.

### NOSIPHO

Why do I have to marry him?

## ZUKISWA

You were chosen at birth. It was your destiny to become a princess.

#### NOSIPHO

I am frightened. Kangata is a hard man. I don't want to be his wife.

# ZUKISWA

It is not for us to question the Ancestors. You are fortunate because they have smiled on you. You will lead us all forward. Now come. Kangata is waiting.

They both rise. Zukiswa gives her daughter a final check and kisses her on the forehead and they exit the.

CUT TO

### EXT. UGANDA. VILLAGE. NIGHT.

A half-moon lights the night. The two women exit the hut and the festivities reach a crescendo. Kangata watches with glee as his new bride is brought to him. Zukiswa gives her daughter a light caress on the shoulder and bowing, backs away from Kangata. The drums beat furiously. Fires brighten the village clearing. Carcasses roast. Kangata walks to the ceremonial platform with his bride behind him. He steps up onto the dais and turns to the people, arms wide. The drumming ceases. He looks at his people.

#### KANGATA

Tonight the prophecy comes to pass! Tonight, I take a bride of the ancestors, sent to lead us on a new path - the path of our Master. We have lived in the shadow of this moment for fifteen years and now it ends. It ends as it began. With feasting and blood.

The people roar their approval. Kangata steps down and moves to a large fire. Nosipho behind him.

# KANGATA (CONT)

This is my bride, given to me by Inyatenga - our Great Lord of the Night. And through her, the new princess will make our village strong. She has the blood of Inyatenga!

# PEOPLE

Inyatenga!

# KANGATA

Inyatenga - ruler of night and blood!

### PEOPLE

### BEGIN CHANTING

# Inyatenga! Inyatenga!

### KANGATA

Grabs Nosipho and pulls her close to him. She tries not to cry out in pain. He pulls her arm out so that the scar is visible.

# KANGATA

Here is the sign. Tonight Inyatenga will see the sign that he has sent us! And we offer Him the blood of the chosen one!

He pulls his knife out and pushes the blade into Nosipho's scar. It pulses blue. She shrieks and yanks her arm away. Blood trickles from the scar. Kangata tries to hold on but her skin is slippery with the warm fat and she pulls loose. His eyes flash yellow. Nosipho sees this and screams. As he reaches for her again, she shoves him in the chest. Kangata's arms wheel, trying to keep his balance but she has caught him by surprise. He turns and falls, screaming, into the fire. Nosipho is momentarily stunned, then realises that she cannot survive after this and with a final look at her anguished mother; she turns and dashes off into the forest. The villagers rush in and yank Kangata from the flames and an animal skin is slapped onto him. His face is charred black and red. His eyes glow yellow in the moonlight. He opens his mouth and rasps.

### KANGATA

# Find her.

He lies back as some of the men rush for their spears and race out of the village in pursuit of Nosipho.

CUT TO

### EXT. UGANDA. BUSH. NIGHT.

Nosipho runs through the forest. Branches clutch at her skin and hair. She holds her arm painfully. She stumbles over a root and falls to the ground but immediately jumps up and resumes running. She stops and listens. Far off she hears the commotion in the village and nearer, the sound of men crashing through the bush. She runs on. She stumbles into a clearing. A small hut off to one side. The flames of a small fire burn brightly. The Witchdoctor stands with his back to her at the fire. She stops in her tracks. He turns to her. She is about to run when he holds up his hand.

### WITCHDOCTOR

Nosipho. Wait! It is time for the Three. Find the door! Find the door!

Somewhere, branches crack as her pursuers close in.

#### WITCHDOCTOR

Points off in another direction.

Go! Go quickly! Find the door!

Nosipho gives a confused look of gratitude and rushes off. The Witchdoctor passes his hand over the fire and the flames disappear, leaving him as a shadow in the night.

FADE TO

### INT. BRANFORD. REBECCA'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Rebecca is asleep. Dreamimg. Tossing and turning in bed. Sweating.

FADE TO

### DREAM. FOREST. NIGHT.

In her dream, Rebecca is racing through a forest. She crashes through branches and dives behind a fallen tree trunk as huge wings beat and shadows pass overhead. She scrambles back to her feet and runs in another direction. Close by, through the branches and leaves, she catches sight of a river glistening in the moonlight. She edges toward it. The shadows circle overhead and she presses up against a tree. Now she hears church bells. She whips around and sees a glow of light in the distance. She steps warily through the branches and stops short when she sees the ruins of an ancient church. She looks up but there is no sign of the shadows. She steps out into the open and walks toward the church. Golden light shines through the windows. Suddenly, a large shadow passes through the light inside the church\_- a huge hulking shape. She stops. Then she hears the wings beating again. She looks up and sees the shadows heading for her. She races for the church, stumbling through the thick river sand, picks herself up and gets to the door- a huge ancient scarred wooden thing. She grabs the handle but the door won't open. She looks over her shoulder and sees the flying shadows closing in. She bangs desperately on the door, looking back at the approaching things that are almost upon her. Suddenly the door is yanked open and a huge clawed hand snatches her wrist and as it begins dragging her inside she screams and

FADE TO

# INT. REBECCA'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Rebecca wakes with a start. She looks around wildly, finally calming down.

# REBECCA

### WHISPERS

# The door. The door.

Although puzzled, she instinctively knows what to do. She gets out of bed, still dressed, puts her shoes on and goes out.

CUT TO

# EXT. FRONT-DOOR. NIGHT. FOLLOWING.

Rebecca closes the front door. The house is quiet and dark. A half-moon lights the sky. She walks off down the garden and out into the road. As she turns the corner at the end of the block she hears something and stops. She turns back and sees Michael in his wheelchair racing toward her.

### MICHAEL

Where are you going?

### REBECCA

For a walk. What are you doing up?

#### MICHAEL

Couldn't sleep. Where are you walking to?

### REBECCA

The beach. Go in, Mikey.

# MICHAEL

Can I go with?

### REBECCA

# SIGHS

# MICHAEL

# Please?

# REBECCA

Not tonight. I want to be alone.

# MICHAEL

### Are you OK?

# REBECCA

Yeah, I'm fine. Go in, Mikey. Really, I want to be alone.

She looks at him pleadingly. Michael sees the look, gives in. He nods and turns the wheelchair around.

### REBECCA

Next time, Mike, OK? I promise.

Michael nods and keeps rolling back toward the house. She watches him go, then turns and walks.

CUT TO

### INT. FATHER CALLUM'S STUDY. NIGHT.

Callum is hunched over his desk. He doesn't look well: his skin and hair are greasy. The desk is strewn with writings - both by hand and typed- as well as photos, drawings, sketches: all concerning Satanism. His walls are plastered with similar writings and drawings, dominated by sketches of various doors, and here and there, the Ark of the Covenant. He suddenly becomes frantic, throwing papers into the air as he searches for something.

### CALLUM

# Where? Where is it?

He looks at the pictures on the wall. One catches his eye: a black ink sketch of a stretch of water with moonlight reflecting off it and a thin piece of beach. He becomes still as he stares until finally he understands. He rises and goes to get a closer look.

CUT TO

#### EXT. BRANFORD. BEACH. NIGHT.

Rebecca stands on the sandy shore as moonlight plays on the still water of Long Island Sound. Not a soul in sight. She steps on the silvery sand and shivers. She looks up and down the beach, then turns left and walks along the sand.

CUT TO

# EXT. UGANDA. FOREST. NIGHT.

Nosipho crashes through the bush, her footing suddenly gives way and she sprawls onto the thick river sand. Ahead, the river rages. She picks herself up, hearing the men racing through the bush, calling to her. She sees a pile of driftwood and runs toward it. She dives behind it, on the river side, the raging water inches from her heels. She waits, gasping for air. The men burst through the forest further upstream. They look her way but see only the pile of driftwood. They turn and race off parallel to the river, away from her. She sighs with relief.

CUT TO

### EXT. BRANFORD. SHORE. NIGHT.

Rebecca walks, clutching her arms around herself. Suddenly she stops. A short distance away the air begins to shimmer. She looks harder, not understanding what she is seeing. Looks around at the deserted beach and walks slowly closer. The air shimmers more and a structure begins to take shape. She is stunned. As she watches, a door begins to take shape, standing alone in the sand. It is a simple wooden door with a chromed handle. The shimmering stops and the door remains standing. She looks around in disbelief again then turns back to the door. She walks closer. Looks around the door at the beach stretching away. She circles the door back to her staring point. Gingerly, she reaches out a hand.

CUT TO

#### EXT. UGANDA. RIVERBED. NIGHT.

Nosipho regains her breath. As she looks after the departed men, the air on the beach begins to shimmer. She stares in superstitious awe until the shimmering ceases and an ancient wooden door remains standing on the sand. Slowly she edges out from behind the driftwood and sidles closer, ever watchful for the men. Close to the door, she studies it carefully, then walks all the way around it. Finally, she reaches out and lightly grips the handle. She pulls the door and it opens slowly. She peers inside and sees nothing but blackness. She lets go and walks around the door, but from the other side, the door is closed and the handle is missing. She goes back to the open side, grabs the handle and opens the door wider. A rectangle of darkness stretches out before her. Suddenly the men are behind her, charging down the beach, spears bristling in the moonlight. In her terror, Nosipho does the only thing she can and leaps through the door, pulling it shut behind her. The door instantly vanishes from the beach, leaving the gobsmacked men staring in disbelief. They look around, scratch in the sand, shake their heads and jabber at each other.

CUT TO

### EXT. BRANFORD. BEACH. NIGHT. CONT.

Rebecca's hand closes on the handle. She gives one last look around, takes a deep breath and yanks the door open. Standing right in front of her is the terrified Nosipho. Both girls scream and Rebecca slams the door closed as she leaps back, landing on her bum in the sand. The door disappears as...

CUT TO

### EXT. UGANDA. RIVERBED. NIGHT.

...The door suddenly reappears before the startled men. It is flung open and Nosipho crashes out on to the sand. She sees the men and in their bewilderment she has time to immediately leap into the raging river. The men shout and throw their spears, narrowly missing her as she is swept away. A wave washes over her head and she disappears from sight. The mean stand and watch. They turn back, but there is no sign of the door.

CUT TO

# EXT. BRANFORD. BEACH. NIGHT.

Rebecca stares at the empty spot, convinced she is losing her mind. Suddenly a hand grabs her shoulder and hauls her to her feet. She gasps, staring into the pained face of Father Callum.

#### CALLUM

### Where is it?

# REBECCA

### Let me go!

She struggles to free herself, but Callum is stronger. He pushes his face closer to hers

### CALLUM

Where is it? You saw it, didn't you?

#### REBECCA

Get away from me!

## CALLUM

Starts shaking her

Where is it! You will tell me where it is!

# REBECCA

I don't know what you're talking about! Let me go!

### CALLUM

Suddenly on the verge of tears. His shaking gets weaker.

Please! I need to find it. I need to open the door.

Rebecca realises what he is talking about. She shakes loose of him and he slips onto his knees in the sand. She understands now that she may not tell him anything - that the drawing of the three depends on him not knowing where the door is. She steps away

#### REBECCA

I don't know what you're talking about.

Callum suddenly regains his fury and leaps at her, grabbing Rebecca around the legs. She whirls her arms trying to keep her balance and lashes out at his head. Callum pulls himself up to his feet and grabs her throat.

CALLUM

Growling like an animal

Show me the door! Show me the door!

Rebecca struggles to free herself. Someone screams from the grass embankment.

# MICHAEL(OS)

Rebecca! Becky! Leave her alone!

Callum looks fearfully toward Michael who is sliding out of his wheelchair onto the grass while continuously screaming. His grip on Rebecca loosens and she manages to knock his arms away and then lashes out, her nails biting into his eyes.

### MICHAEL

# Run Becky!

Callum clutches his eyes with one hand, the other groping for Rebecca. She kicks wildly and her foot catches him in the throat. He drops down and staggers backward, gagging.

### MICHAEL

# Becky!

She turns to Michael who is dragging himself over the sand. She runs to him.

### REBECCA

Mikey! What are you doing here?

### MICHAEL

I followed you. I'm sorry.

### REBECCA

Half dragging him back to his chair.

Don't be sorry, Mike. I think you just saved my life!

### MICHAEL

Settling into the chair, looking off to Callum who is blindly rising.

# Time for that chariot race!

Rebecca sees Callum on his feet. She whirls the wheelchair about and they go racing down the pavement leaving Callum staggering and cursing on the beach.

CUT TO

### EXT. MOSCOW. PAVEMENT. DAY.

Fifteen year old ALEXI is walking down the road through the bustle of the Moscow shopping district. He is neatly dressed in Russian fashion garments which show signs of wear. A cap is pulled down over his eyes. He carries a skateboard under his arm. His eyes are searching for a target. Suddenly he identifies her - a nurse (from the delivery room). She climbs out of a taxi, the door held open by the driver. As she heaves herself off the backseat, her arms reach out, handbag clutched in the left hand. The driver reaches over the door to help her up. Alexi charges. She looks up and sees him coming and her eyes flash yellow. Alexi sees this, but he is at full momentum and he snatches the bag and runs for his life. The nurse screams. People turn to see what the commotion

is. The driver swears and begins to chase him but Alexi is young and fit and opens the gap. The driver runs back to the taxi. Alexi drops his board and leaps on, weaving through the people, gaining speed as the downhill opens up before him. People scatter out of his way. He looks back but the coast is clear. He rifles through the bag on the ride, retrieving a cell phone and a wallet and dumps the bag into a trash can. As he pockets the goods he hears tyres screeching behind him. He looks over his shoulder to see the taxi tearing down the road in pursuit. His face turns white. He kicks himself forward but the car is gaining. He searches for an escape. The car mounts the pavement right behind him sending pedestrians diving out of the way. At the last moment and ally opens up and Alexi shoots into it. The car roars past and slams on brakes. Alexi kicks harder, propelling himself down the narrow ally. The ally dog-legs to the right and as he rounds the corner he sees a high wall blocking his escape. He stops, frantically looking around. He hears footsteps pounding down the alley. Suddenly the air begins to shimmer and a door begins to take shape. The footsteps are closer. Alexi stares with huge eyes at the door. He knows this can't be happening, but the approaching footsteps spur him to take the only action he can - he rips the door open and steps into blackness - closing the door behind him. The door instantly disappears just as the driver and the Nurse rush around the corner and come to an exasperated stop before the high wall and the empty alley. They look around but there are no hidden exits. The driver kicks a bottle in frustration and turns to go. The nurse lingers, eyeing the spot where the door was, almost sniffing the air. Her eyes are yellow and she turns away, giving a last look over her shoulder as she rounds the corner.

### INT. DOOR.

Alexi stands, breathing hard in the darkness. For a moment he sees what looks like a rushing river with someone floating in it but then all is still. He hears the footsteps behind him and braces for the door's opening, but nothing happens. He hears the driver kick the bottle and the footsteps recede. When all is silent again he gingerly opens the door and peers around.

CUT TO

# EXT. ALLEY. DAY.

The alley is empty. He steps out, marvelling at the door. He walks all the way around it. He looks inside into the darkness again. Far off, he hears the river. He slowly closes the door and as it clicks shut, the door vanishes leaving Alexi gasping. He waves his hand through the spot where the door was but feels nothing. He waits a while but the door does not reappear. As he turns to go, he suddenly realises that his skateboard is missing. He shouts his frustration into the air.

CUT TO

# INT. BRANFORD. REBECCA'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Rebecca sits on her bed, sweating. Michael is parked in his wheelchair, eyes wide.

#### MICHAEL

How did you know it was there?

### REBECCA

I didn't. I had a dream...there was...something...I don't know - a message or something. I just felt I had to go to the beach.

# MICHAEL

And the priest?

# REBECCA

He knows. I think somehow I've got to keep him away from the door.

Pause

Did you see her?

MICHAEL

Who?

REBECCA

The girl.

### MICHAEL

What girl?

### REBECCA

When I opened the door. She was just standing there. I got such a fright I slammed the door shut. I think she's African. She had these beads and this..little skirt.

### MICHAEL

Awesome!

REBECCA

I think I need to find her again.

### MICHAEL

How? The door's gone.

# REBECCA

I dunno. I keep getting this image of three…three…something. Oh, Mikey, there's something weird going on here.

### MICHAEL

Huge eyes, very excited.

Do you think it's a…like a gateway to another universe? A wormhole or a Stargate?

#### REBECCA

I dunno. But it goes somewhere. And that girl.

### MICHAEL

Awesome!

## REBECCA

Smiles

Awesome.

CUT TO

# EXT. UGANDA. RIVER. NIGHT.

A calm spot of the river. Nosipho paddles to the shore. Exhausted. She crawls onto the sand and looks around wildly. Far off, a waterfall thunders. The reality of her ordeal slowly settles over her and she begins to cry. Overhead, the bomb streaks slowly across the sky. She senses it and looks up. She knows her adventure has just begun. She draws a picture in the sand of a door framing a girl in long pants. Then, as an afterthought, she draws another figure behind the girl.

CUT TO

### INT. MOSCOW. ALEXI'S LOUNGE. MORNING.

Alexi sits in the lounge of his mother's small Moscow flat, watching TV. The same Astronomer form Rebecca's TV is talking again but with a Russian translation. The images are clearly the same as before, but with less animation and more real telescopic photography. A small, bullet-shaped object speeds through space trailing a yellow tail. The camera pulls back to show the bomb's final destination - the sun. The astronomer says the object appears not to be a meteorite, but a man-made object - possibly a piece of satellite. It will impact with the sun in two days, but the resulting solar flare cannot be estimated. Viewers are advised to wear sunglasses and sunscreen as a precautionary measure until more is known and there is a very real chance of most electronic equipment failing. Alexi stares in wonder. He looks at the drawings on the coffee table. Many different doors and shadowy figures. He picks up one drawing showing two vaguely feminine shapes in the darkness.

ALEXI

Whispers

Tpoe.

(Three.)

CUT TO

### EXT. BRANFORD. VILLAGE. DAY.

Rebecca pushes Michael in his wheelchair through the village. All about, people are putting up awnings and boarding up windows. Everyone wears sunglasses. They enter a shop and search the shelves. The shelf they are looking for is mostly empty, just a few plastic bottles of suntan oil. They go to the sales-clerk.

REBECCA

Нi

CLERK

Can I help you?

REBECCA

Sunscreen?

### CLERK

We're all sold out. Sorry.

Rebecca nods. Pushes Michael out. They look up and down the road.

#### REBECCA

That's six. All sold out! This is serious.

She pushes Michael along the pavement.

MICHAEL

# Stop!

### REBECCA

Doesn't hear him and continues.

# MICHAEL

Harsh whisper

Becky! Stop!

# REBECCA

Stops

# What is it?

### MICHAEL

Points down the road. Father Callum is walking toward them. He hasn't noticed them.

# Turn around! Quick!

Rebecca starts turning the chair. One wheel slips off the edge and the chairs tilts dangerously. She struggles to keep it from tipping over. Suddenly, Father Callum is at her side, helping. Rebecca's eyes are huge. Father Callum has rake marks across his eyes but he appears not to recognise her.

### REBECCA

It's OK, I've got it!

# MICHAEL

Looks up and sees Father Callum. He winces. Sudden panic.

Leave us alone!

# CALLUM

I'm only trying to help! Are you alright?

### REBECCA

Looks at him strangely.

Yes. Thank you.

They look at each other momentarily. Then Rebecca pushes the wheelchair off. Calls over her shoulder.

Thanks.

REBECCA (CONT)

Hurrying away with the chair.

What the heck was that?

MICHAEL

He didn't even recognize you!

### REBECCA

This is all too weird!

CUT TO

# EXT. BRANFORD. FOLLOWING.

Father Callum stands looking after the exceeding wheelchair. His look is innocent, if somewhat puzzled. He slowly lifts a hand and touches his scratches.

CUT TO

### EXT. UGANDA. RIVERBED. SUNRISE.

Nosipho walks cautiously along the sand, reluctant to leave the river in case the men return. She stops when she hears a noise, but it is only monkeys chattering in the trees. Ahead, she sees something lying in the sand. She approaches and stares at the strange object - it is Alex's skateboard. She picks it up and examines it from all sides, spins the wheels and looks at the strange pictures beneath the board. She is about to toss it into the river when the air shimmers. She jumps back and waits, but nothing happens. She tries to throw the board again. Once more the air shimmers. She steps back, clutching the board to her chest. Nothing happens. After a while she re-examines the board. As she lifts it in front of her face, an arrow whacks into the front of the board, the point piercing through, inches from her nose. Up ahead the men shout and begin charging down the beach. She thinks of ducking into the forest but another arrow slashes through the air in front of her. She turns and once again dives into the river, using the board to steer herself through the rapids. Arrows slice through the water around her but she is unscathed. The men run along the bank for a while but their path is blocked by a rocky promontory that sticks out deep into the river. They stand and watch her go.

CUT TO

#### EXT. BRANFORD. BEACH. NIGHT

The bomb streaks across the night sky. Rebecca and Michael sit on the grass verge watching it go. Ahead of them, the Long Island Sound is tranquil, reflecting lights.

### MICHAEL

Do you think we're going to die?

### REBECCA

I don't know, Mikey. I really hope not. Doesn't seem like the way the world is supposed to end - burnt out by a solar flare. I always thought we'd have a third world war to wipe us all out.

# MICHAEL

Cheerful. One minute you're there, the next, vaporized! Kaboom! Can't we just get old and die peacefully like any normal planet?

### REBECCA

We're not a normal planet. We're a bunch of savages who only know how to solve problems with violence.

Pause

# MICHAEL

Do you think it's going to come back?

### REBECCA

Looks at him, then understands. Looks back to the beach.

# Who knows?

They sit in silence for a while. Michael looks around.

MICHAEL

I wonder if the priest is watching.

### REBECCA

Looks around

I hope not. He's one serious psycho!

The air on the beach shimmers. Michael sees it and grabs Rebecca's arm.

# MICHAEL

# There!

Rebecca looks. Gets up.

REBECCA

Stay here, Mike, OK? Keep a lookout. Yell if you see him coming.

### MICHAEL

### Can't I go with?

### REBECCA

No. I need you keep a look out.

Michael isn't very happy but accepts the job. Rebecca walks down the beach toward the shimmering spot. She makes sure the priest isn't anywhere near. She arrives at the shimmering spot, but nothing happens. Gingerly she reaches out a hand to touch it. Her hand slides into the shimmer. Suddenly the door takes shape around her hand. She tries to pull away but her hand is stuck in the wood. She yanks but her hand remains fast.

REBECCA

Panicking

Michael! Michael!

MICHAEL

What is it?

REBECCA

My hand is stuck in the door!

MICHAEL

What?

### REBECCA

Struggling to pull free.

My hand is stuck in the door! I need help!

### MICHAEL

Immediately flips onto his stomach and starts dragging himself across the sand. He has limited use of his legs, so the going is not as arduous as expected

I'm coming!

Rebecca reaches for the handle with her left hand and opens the door. She peers around the edge and sees her hand sticking through the inside of the door. She stares in horrid fascination. She tries pulling her hand out again but the door swings open wider and she loses her balance, hanging from the door by her right hand. Michael arrives, gets himself into position and stares

### MICHAEL

Awesome!

### REBECCA

It's not awesome, it's painful!

# MICHAEL

How'd you do that?

### REBECCA

I didn't do it, Michael! The door did it! Please help me!

Michael slides around behind her and pulls himself up behind her. Rebecca grunts in pain. He steadies himself, his arms around her waist and leans back to pull. ICHAEL SLIDES AROUND BEHIND HER AND PULLS HIMSELF UP BEHIND HER. REBECCA GRUNTS IN PAIN. HE STEADIES HIMSELF, HIS ARMS AROUND HER WAIST AND LEANS BACK TRYING TO PULL.

REBECCA

Shrieks

Stop! Ow! Ow! Ow! O God!

Michael lets go and drops to the sand.

#### MICHAEL

It's stuck!

# REBECCA

I know it's stuck, Michael! Tell me something I don't know! Go round to the other side; see if you can push it through.

### MICHAEL

Slides around to the inside of the door. On the way, he peers into the vast darkness inside. Awed.

What is in there?

He pulls himself up and holds the edge of the door, then pushes on Rebecca's hand. Rebecca is in pain, but suddenly the door gives way a bit.

REBECCA

It's working! Mikey its working! Push harder!

Michael pushes again. Rebecca's hand starts sliding out slowly and painfully. She winces, then puts one foot against the door and leans back and pulls with all her might. Michael pushes from the other side and her hand suddenly slips free. As Michael starts collapsing, Rebecca's foot shoves the door and he tumbles into the darkness, wheeling his arms wildly.

#### MICHAEL

# Becky! Becky!

The door slams shut. Rebecca falls on her bum, clutching her scraped hand and stares in horror at the shut door which immediately begins to shimmer and fade. She scrambles up and lunges for the handle as it disappears completely. Her fingers grab thin air and she lands on her stomach in the sand.

### REBECCA

Mikey! Michael! No! Oh God no! Oh Jesus! Mikey! Oh shitohshitohshit!

She lies on the sand and begins to weep.

CUT TO

### EXT. MOSCOW. ALLEY. DAY.

Alexi stands in the deserted alley staring at the wall. He shakes his head and turns to go. Just as he rounds the corner he senses something. He turns back and sees the air shimmering again. His face lights up. He approaches as the door begins to take shape. When it is solid he reaches out and tentatively grabs the handle. He begins pulling it open and suddenly it is shoved violently from the inside. Alex is thrown back. He falls and stares as Michael tumbles out onto the cement. Michael lies staring up into the sky. Alexi jumps up and watches apprehensively - ready to take flight. Michael just lies there.

#### ALEXI

(In Russian)

# Hello?

Michael stiffens, then rolls over. He and Alexi look at each other. Alexi notices that Michael is younger and not a threat. He steps closer.

(CONT) Who are you?

Michael doesn't understand a word. He gets himself into a sitting position. They stare at each other. Michael looks around the alley, eyes wide with confusion and wonder.

# MICHAEL

Hi.

Pause

# MICHAEL

Hi. Who are you?

### ALEXI

Cocks his head at Michael's English. Recognises the words. Speaks in broken English.

English?

# MICHAEL

Yeah. What do you think?

ALEXI

Who are you?

## MICHAEL

Where am I?

ALEXI

Moscow.

MICHAEL

Moscow? Yeah, right.

# ALEXI

Is right. Who are you?

# MICHAEL

Cool accent, dude!

# ALEXI

Dude? You are dude?

# MICHAEL

Yeah! Well no. I'm Michael. And you are?

# ALEXI

Alexi. Michael (PRONOUNCES IT THE RUSSIAN WAY). Is Russian name.

# MICHAEL

You're Michael too?

# ALEXI

Pardon?

# MICHAEL

Where am I?

### ALEXI

Moscow.

# MICHAEL

Yeah. You said so. I was on the beach in Branford, now I'm in Moscow.

# ALEXI

Branford?

# MICHAEL

Yup. Connecticut.

# ALEX

Connecticut? America?

### MICHAEL

Yup.

### ALEXI

How you get here?

# MICHAEL

I could ask you the same question.

# ALEXI

I live here.

### MICHAEL

I live in…never mind. I fell through the door.

# ALEXI

Door?

# MICHAEL

Yeah. Door. You know...big wooden thing...handles...

# ALEXI

Points past Michael.

Is door.

# MICHAEL

Looks behind him.

The door! It's still here!

# ALEXI

Is here. You go back?

# MICHAEL

Damn straight!

He starts turning himself toward the door.

ALEXI

Notices his legs

You not walk?

MICHAEL

Nope. Later, dude.

He crawls up to the threshold.

ALEXI

Wait!

Michael stops. Alexi hesitates.

(CONT) You go back America?

Michael nods. Alexi is torn, then makes up his mind.

ALEXI

I go with you!

# MICHAEL

To the States?

ALEXI

Yes, Dude! Come!

### MICHAEL

Haven't you got a mom or dad you need to tell?

# ALEXI

I tell later ...

He helps Michael up and before Michael can even protest he steps across the threshold with him. They stand in space. Nothing happens. Alexi looks out.

MICHAEL

Maybe we can only go one at a time?

ALEXI

Maybe we close door!

He grabs the edge and pulls it shut. The door instantly fades and disappears.

CUT TO

### INT. BRANFORD. LOUNGE. NIGHT.

Rebecca sits on the couch. Tears stream down her cheeks. Her parents sit on an opposite couch staring at her in bewilderment. Michael's empty wheelchair sits in the hall... MICHAEL'S EMPTY WHEELCHAIR SITS IN THE HALL

RALPH

How the heck does a door just appear on the beach and swallow your brother? What do you think I am - stupid?

Rebecca just shakes her head

### RALPH

For the last time - where is Michael? What the hell have you done with him?

### REBECCA

I've told you! I don't know how it happens! It just did, OK? It's my fault, I kicked the door shut and Mikey fell in and then the door disappeared again!

### SHEILA

I'm calling the police.

She gets up

#### REBECCA

Are you going to send me to jail?

# RALPH

Much as I would love to right now, no. Michael is missing and the most important thing is to find him as soon as possible.

Sheila picks up the phone and starts dialling. They wait.

RALPH

I can't believe you're putting us through this!

## REBECCA

Tears streaming

Do I look like I'm lying?

## SHEILA

Hello? This is Mrs Sheila Cardmann at 271 Beach view...271 Beach view look can we do the details later, my son is missing without his wheelchair and...no he doesn't have his wheelchair...because his sister brought it home...they were at the beach...I don't know, she just said he disappeared on the beach...no he wasn't swimming, he can't walk how the hell can he swim?

Listens. Slowly looks up at Rebecca with horror. Softly.

(CONT) Did you take him into the water?

Rebecca looks at her mother without comprehension

## SHEILA

Louder

Did you take Mikey into the water?

#### REBECCA

Of course not!

## SHEILA

Into phone

Just hold on! Rebecca - what have you done with Michael?

The door is knocked open and Alexi stumbles in with Michael on his back.

## MICHAEL

Points to his chair.

There it is! Hi Mom! Hi Dad! Becks, I've just been to Moscow! Mom, Dad, this is Alexi. He's Russian! Isn't that cool?

Sheila and Ralph stare at Michael and Alexi. The phone is forgotten.

#### ALEXI

Panting

He is not so heavy.

# REBECCA

You went to Moscow? You went to Moscow?

MICHAEL

Yeah!

REBECCA

Through the door?

#### MICHAEL

Uh…yeah!

SHEILA

To phone

Oh! Sorry! He just walked in!

# RALPH

Where have you been? What kind of game is this?

## REBECCA

How'd you get back?

# MICHAEL

Through the door! It waited!

# ALEXI

This is nice place you have.

## SHEILA

No! He didn't walk - he can't walk. A friend carried him home?

## MICHAEL

'Cos Becky took my chair!

# REBECCA

Is it still there?

## MICHAEL

Duh, I'm sitting in it!

# RALPH

Will someone please tell me what is going on here?

#### SHEILA

No! Everything's fine. Thank you. I'm sorry. Goodbye.

ALEXI

Can I have some water?

Everyone ignores him and continue talking over each other. Alexi gets up and wanders through to the kitchen.

## REBECCA

The door, Michael! Is the door still there?

#### MICHAEL

No. It disappeared again.

## RALPH

Jesus Christ! Can someone please tell me what the hell is going on here!

Everyone looks at him. Pause. Michael looks from his dad to Rebecca.

#### MICHAEL

Did you tell them about the door?

## RALPH

## What goddamned door!

# REBECCA

They don't believe me. Mom thinks I took you swimming and left you to drown.

SHEILA

I do not think that!

#### REBECCA

That's what you implied.

## SHEILA

Oh, come on, darling. It was in the heat of the moment! You said you took Michael to the beach and came back with his wheelchair, what was I supposed to think?

RALPH

Michael?

## MICHAEL

Yeah, Dad?

# RALPH

Would you mind explaining?

## MICHAEL

Looks at everybody. Rebecca shakes her head. He realises they're going to think he's nuts.

Um...well...we were down at the beach...and Becky wanted to come home...and I didn't...so...just then Alexi came by and started talking and I asked if he'd take me home and he said yeah!

# RALPH

He agreed to carry you home? What about the chair?

#### MICHAEL

UH...he..well...you know...he's like...he's Russian! I guess he wanted to show how strong Russians are!

## RALPH

Rebecca? Why did you tell us about Michael disappearing through a door?

REBECCA

Um...

## MICHAEL

Hastily

I bet her she couldn't make you believe the weirdest excuse she could come up with. Sorry, I guess that was pretty dumb of me. Where's Alexi? Alexi!

ALEXI

Comes in with a glass of water.

I must have water!

RALPH

We'll talk about this later!

He stomps from the room.

SHEILA

Well, at least you're safe. Thank you...Alexi.

ALEXI

Is OK.

SHEILA

Where do you live, Alexi?

ALEXI

23B Lenin Place, Moscow.

SHEILA

Laughs uncertainly. Stops. Looks at Michael, then back at Alexi.

Well, it's late. I guess you'll want to get home?

Pause as the kids all look at each other.

REBECCA

Jumps up

I'll walk you out!

ALEXI

To Moscow?

REBECCA

No, idiot. To the gate. OK? Get it?

ALEXI

Oh! OK. Goodbye, Michael. Goodbye Mrs....

MICHAEL

Later, dude.

ALEXI

Yes, dude!

SHEILA

Goodnight Alexi.

ALEXI

Ah, goodnight.

He leaves followed by Rebecca and Michael. Sheila shakes her head and wanders off into the house.

CUT TO

## EXT. HOUSE. NIGHT.

The three walk out to the gate. Michael in his chair. At the gate, Rebecca looks back to make sure the parents aren't watching.

## REBECCA

You're from Moscow?

ALEX

Da. Yes.

#### REBECCA

Moscow? Real Moscow?

# ALEX

Yes. Really Moscow. And this is real Branford, Connecticut?

## REBECCA

As real as it gets.

# ALEX

I always hear of America. I always want to come here. You have Levis?

## MICHAEL

Nah. I don't like Levis. They take too long to button up.

## REBECCA

I have Levis. 501's.

# ALEX

You have 501?

## REBECCA

Sure. Look. You'd better get back.

ALEX

# Yes.

They stand around awkwardly.

# REBECCA

Have you... have you seen ... the door .. before?

ALEX

Yes. Yesterday. In... passage.

# REBECCA

In your house?

#### ALEX

No. Outside. In street.

## MICHAEL

In the same alley?

# ALEX

Alley! Yes, where I find you. But where is door now?

# REBECCA

Maybe on the beach again. That's where we first saw it. Come on. We'd better see if it's still there.

## MICHAEL

As Alexi pushes him

What if it's gone? How're you going to get back to Moscow?

## ALEX

Maybe I stay here in America!

FADE TO

# EXT. BEACH. NIGHT.

The three stand on the edge of the beach where the door last appeared. It is deserted. No sign of the door. Alexi steps out onto the sand and walks off a way looking up and down. Rebecca touches Michael's arm reassuringly, then goes after Alexi.

#### REBECCA

It was right here.

#### ALEX

Looking around

Is no more.

## REBECCA

Yeah.

Suddenly they both gasp and scratch their arms. They become aware of each other's scratching.

#### REBECCA

Just a scar I've had since birth.

#### ALEX

## I'm sorry?

Rebecca pulls up her sleeve and shows him the star-shaped scar. Alexi grabs her arm and looks at it. Then he pulls up his own sleeve and shows her.

#### ALEX

#### Is same, no?

Rebecca stares as they put their arms together. The scars are identical.

## ALEX

I am... born...this...I am born.

## REBECCA

Softly

You too. Do you...do you have...strange dreams, sometimes? About three people...?

ALEX

Tpoe. Three. Yes. I dream of three. It is ... the three must come together ...

# REBECCA

To save the world ...

ALEX

Yes. Is you and me?

REBECCA

I think so.

# ALEX

And who is three? Michael?

REBECCA

He doesn't have the scar.

ALEX

No? Then who?

Rebecca shakes her head.

# MICHAEL

## Becky!

They look at him. Michael is pointing down the beach. Father Callum is staggering towards them. He appears to be in his own demented world, muttering to himself, scattering papers as he comes.

## REBECCA

Grabs Alexi.

Come! He wants to find the door. We have to leave!

## ALEX

He knows of door?

# REBECCA

He saw me. He attacked me. Come on!

## ALEX

Maybe he is number three?

#### REBECCA

I don't think so! He seems to want to shut the door.

They run up to Michael and push him off a ways. They turn and watch Father Callum. He reaches the spot where Rebecca and Alexi stood. He twirls around, clearly looking for something. He waves his arms through the air. Then he looks up at the sky and screams, scattering the last of his papers. He sinks to the sand, digging furiously. Finally he gives up. He rises and staggers off again. They watch him leave. Alexi runs down and gathers up the scattered papers and brings them back. They cluster round, looking at the sketches. The faces of Rebecca and Alexi are clearly seen in some of them. They also see Nosipho's face in the river. And then the final drawing - the Three, standing together in front of a church with light radiating from its windows. Written in pencil is one word - "Uganda".

CUT TO

## EXT. UGANDA. RIVER. DAY.

Nosipho stands shivering on the beach, still clutching Alexi's skateboard with arrow embedded in it. She looks up and down the river bank but there is no sign of the men. She walks up the bank to the bush, continuously checking. Far off, she hears the shouting of the men but their voices are receding. She comes out of the bush into a clearing and stops. Ahead of her is a great hole in the ground and rising from it, the rounded roof of an ancient church. She carefully approaches and looks down at the steep staircase leading down to the door. Even though the sun is shining, the church's windows seem to glow from within. She descends the stairs and peers into a window. The church is dark but a golden light glows from the very back, out of her line of sight. Suddenly she hears men's voices again. She rushes up the stairs and into the bush just as Kangata and a bunch of warriors arrive. Kangata's face is a twisted mask of burned flesh. He issues some orders and the men take up positions around the church. They are all armed. Kangata looks around. His eyes briefly pause on her hiding place and Nosipho holds her breath. She winces suddenly and looks at the star scar on her arm. She looks back at Kangata whose eyes flash yellow. He takes a few steps toward her, stops and stares, then turns back to the men, issuing a final barked command. He disappears down the stairs. Nosipho rubs her arm and edges back into the bush. On the river bed she stops, wondering which way to go. The air shimmers and the door reappears. She is drawn to it. She reaches the door and tentatively opens it, staring into the darkness. She steps in and closes the door.

## EXT. BRANFORD. BEACH. NIGHT.

Alexi, Rebecca and Michael look at the drawings

ALEX

#### Who is she?

## REBECCA

I don't know. And why Uganda? Maybe that's where she is.

ALEX

# We find her?

#### REBECCA

How?

## MICHAEL

# The door.

They look at him but he is looking at the beach where the door has appeared. As they watch, the door slowly opens. For a moment they look into darkness, then Nosipho steps out onto the beach. She looks around, clearly confused and terrified.

# MICHAEL

## It's her!

Nosipho sees the trio. She flinches, grabs the handle and yanks it open, ready to retreat.

#### REBECCA

# Wait!

Nosipho hesitates. Behind her the darkness is visible through the crack in the door. Rebecca, Alex and Michael all hold their hands up in greeting at the same time. Nosipho watches them warily.

## REBECCA

It's OK. Please, don't be scared.

She steps toward Nosipho who pulls the door wider and holds the skateboard up protectively.

#### ALEX

# It's my board!

#### MICHAEL

## Your skateboard?

## ALEX

Yes! I lost it somewhere in the door. (TO NOSIPHO) The board - it is mine.

He points to the board, then to himself. Nosipho gets the idea and looks from the board to him then to the open door. She points to the door, then to the board. Alex grins, hands outstretched. Nosipho stands her ground as they approach. Then she sees the scar on Alexi's arm and gasps. They stop. She points to his scar, then to her own. Now it's Rebecca and Alexi's turn to be amazed. Rebecca holds out her arm and shows her own scar. Nosipho's eyes are wide. She steps forward, grabs Rebecca's arm and looks closely at the scar. Alexi thrusts his arm forward and the three arms are parallel to each other. As they watch, it appears as though the scars are glowing. Michael watches as the light brightens. Suddenly Rebecca, Alex and Nosipho's bodies jerk. Their eyes lock and a blue light shoots out of each set of eyes, colliding in the middle. As Michael stares in amazement, an image begins to form in the centre of the light. It is the image of the church drawn by Father Callum - the church that Nosipho has seen. The image changes to the interior of the church to where the golden light shines from the back. The image shimmers and Terees appears. She speaks in a strange language for a short moment, indicating the golden light and slowly fades away. The golden light beckons to them but before they can see its cause, the light from their eyes snaps off and they jerk back to reality. They stand dazed, aware of what they have seen, and what must be done.

#### MICHAEL

Awesome! How did you do that? Becs, what was that all about? Can you do it again?

The three look at Michael who immediately shuts up.

REBECCA

We have to go away, Mikey.

MICHAEL

Where?

REBECCA

Uganda, I guess.

MICHAEL

But...that's in Africa! And what are you going to do there and when are coming back? And can I go with.

## ALEX

I think it is dangerous. And I think we will be running.

# MICHAEL

Ah, yes, the running bit ...

## REBECCA

You need to tell mom and dad.

## MICHAEL

Can't I come with? Please?

# REBECCA

No, Mike. We can't let mom and dad panic again and we also need you to watch the door - make sure the priest doesn't follow us...

## MICHAEL

How can I stop him?

## REBECCA

You'll find a way. And maybe the door just disappears again like it has before.

ALEX

It is good thing you do, Mikey.

Michael is unconvinced.

## REBECCA

We need to get you home.

# MICHAEL

It's OK. I'll push myself.

## REBECCA

You sure?

Michael nods.

## REBECCA

Thanks Mike. See you soon.

## MICHAEL

I hope so.

# ALEX

Goodbye. Thank you.

## MICHAEL

Look after my sister.

ALEX

I take good care.

Nosipho looks at the group. Then steps forward to Michael.

## NOSIPHO

Nosipho.

She touches Michael's arm and nods her head in thanks

MICHAEL

Call me Mike.

NOSIPHO

Maaik?

He nods. She smiles.

NOSIPHO

Mike.

The trio turn to the door.

MICHAEL

Bring me a souvenir from Uganda!

# ALEX

U -betcha!

## MICHAEL

Just not a shrunken head ...

They all laugh. Alexi looks at his skateboard. Pushes the arrow through and gives it to Michael. He joins the others and they step through the door, closing it behind them. Michael watches, expecting the door to vanish, but it remains solid. He looks around worriedly but settles to wait with determination, the arrow clutched tightly.

CUT TO

#### EXT. MOSCOW. STREET. DAY.

Traffic proceeds as usual in the busy CBD of downtown Moscow. At an intersection between traffic lights the air suddenly shimmers and the door wavers into existence. Car tyres screech as they swerve to avoid the door. Hooters honk furiously. A large van carrying a load of water containers hits the pavement sending pedestrians diving for cover. The driver tries desperately to avoid a collision but over-corrects and the van topples, sending plastic water containers hurtling through the air, some shatter store windows and others explode on the pavement. General pandemonium. People stand and stare at the door in the middle of the road which opens and the three teens step out into the middle of the chaos. The door disappears.

#### REBECCA

Oh shit! Look out! Run!

#### ALEX

I am back!

# REBECCA

Not for long if you don't move!

They run through the traffic. Rebecca realises Nosipho isn't with them. She looks back. Nosipho stands paralysed in the middle of the road.

#### REBECCA

# Nosipho! Nosipho!

Nosipho can only stare at the bedlam around her. A taxi is heading straight for her - hooter blaring. Inside the taxi the NURSE screams. Alexi sees the taxi and the Nurse. He throws his skateboard to Rebecca who miraculously catches it. He dashes through the traffic, watching as the taxi's tyres start smoking. At the last possible minute he crashes into Nosipho and they spill into the road as the wheels come to stop inches from Alexi's head.

## ALEX

# You OK?

Nosipho nods. He jerks her to her feet as the taxi's doors open and the Driver and Nurse emerge. They recognise each other. The Driver reaches into his jacket. Alexi lunges with a flying kick into the door. It slams into the Driver and his gun clatters to the road. Nosipho can only scream. Alexi gets up and grabs her hand, pulling her into the traffic. The Nurse screams after him and the Driver who looks for his gun. Alexi races off with Nosipho as the Driver starts chasing. Rebecca joins them.

## ALEX

Run! I know them! They want to get me!

#### REBECCA

Why?

#### ALEX

They know about the door. And now they know about us. Run!

The three race across the road. A shot rings out and a bullet ricochets off a shattered car mirror. They duck and dive between cars, the Driver in hot pursuit. The Nurse stands and shrieks. More gunshots and drivers duck under their steering wheels as random bullets punch into metal.

#### ALEX

Go! Go! I will stop him!

REBECCA

No Alex!

## ALEX

Go! Stay down!

He grabs the skateboard. He ducks behind a car's boot, breathing hard. He peeps through the rear window just as the Driver runs down the side of the car. Without a moment's hesitation, Alexi rises, screaming and with all his might slaps the skateboard into the Driver's face. The board snaps in two and the man is lifted backwards off his feet, landing on the road with a horrible thud. His gun flies off under the cars. Alexi doesn't wait. He races off after Rebecca and Nosipho as the Nurse stands and glares with yellow eyes.

CUT TO

## EXT. BRANFORD. BEACH. NIGHT.

Michael sits in his chair watching the door. A sliver of moon comes out from behind the clouds and the beach turns silver. He looks up and sees the bomb cruising overhead. He looks back to the door. He looks down the beach and suddenly sits up straight. The familiar figure of Father Callum strides forward with determination. Michael swallows hard, thinking desperately of a way to keep the priest away. The door seems determined to stay.

CUT TO

# EXT. GORKY PARK. DAY.

The trio walk through the park, breathing hard, looking around constantly to make sure they weren't followed.

REBECCA

Who are they?

ALEX

I do not know. I think they are the same as your priest. They want to stop us from saving the world.

#### REBECCA

It sounds completely insane! Three teenagers who think they can save the world!

Nosipho takes both their arms with the scars and gently shakes them.

#### NOSIPHO

Hesitant English

This...not...stupid. This...we...keep world...safe.

Rebecca and Alex look at her. She is speaking the truth and they both know it.

#### REBECCA

I just wish I knew why. Why us. And how can we do it. I mean, there's some kind of comet heading for the sun but what the hell can we do to stop it?

## ALEX

I think the answer is Uganda.

#### NOSIPHO

Uganda. Yes. We stop. Is my ... house ...

## REBECCA

Oh! OK, but how do we get there? The door brought us to Russia instead of Uganda.

## ALEX

You no like Russia?

## REBECCA

Not at the moment. Not with popping into rush-hour traffic and having someone shoot at me, Alex. No, me no like Russia.

NOSIPHO

Find...

She mimes the outline of a door

## REBECCA

Nods and looks at Alexi.

## ALEX

I think maybe I know. I first see door in...alley. We go there.

# REBECCA

But didn't you say those two chased you into the alley?

#### ALEX

Yes. But they no watch alley all the time. Sometime they sleep.

#### REBECCA

Looks at Nosipho who shrugs, then back to Alex.

I hope you're right. I really hope you're right.

# ALEX

Come. We go look.

They follow him

## REBECCA

What about your mom? Shouldn't you tell her?

# ALEX

You no tell...mom, so I no tell mom. This more important.

Nosipho pats him on the shoulder

#### NOSIPHO

Reassuring

Kearetse kgali umfitu shakare mamma. Shakare. (A mother's love makes her understand)

Alex and Rebecca understand her assurance and nod.

CUT TO

#### EXT. BRANFORD. NIGHT.

Father Callum nears. Michael can already see the madness in his feverish yellow eyes. Callum mutters constantly to himself. He sees Michael and stops. His eyes flare yellow. He sees the door. He looks at Michael. Michael suddenly waves the picture. Callum eyes it suspiciously.

#### MICHAEL

#### I think this belongs to you!

Callum looks back at the door, hesitates, then turns his attention back to Michael. Steps toward him. Michael thrusts the picture between his legs and pushes his wheels madly. Callum follows, picking up speed. As he gains on Michael, the boy pulls over to the kerb, balls the paper and tosses it into a storm drain. Callum howls and leaps forward. Michael turns his chair and deliberately rides into Callum. The two crash to the ground. Michael lashes out, hitting and scratching. Callum tries to ward off the furious attack. His eyes glow strongly and he suddenly grabs Michael, picks him up bodily and throws him onto the pavement where the boy crashes into a trash bin. Callum drops to his stomach and slithers to the drain reaching in and feeling for the paper. The injured Michael drags himself forward and grabs Callum by the hair and slams his face into the kerb. Blood shoots from the priest's broken nose. He howls and grabs Michael with one hand. He hauls him up and tosses him away again. Michael crashes into a street pole and whacks his head, His vision swims and as he begins to pass out, he sees Callum racing off across the road to the door wavering on the beach, He blacks out.

CUT TO

## EXT. MOSCOW ALLEYWAY. DAY.

Alex, Rebecca and Nosipho stand in the alley. They face the high wall. No door. They are fearful of being followed. Frustrated, they settle down to wait. Alex stands at the corner looking down the alley to make sure the Nurse and Driver aren't coming.

#### REBECCA

It's not here! What do we do now?

## ALEX

We wait. Door come back again ...

#### REBECCA

It better come soon! I don't want to be standing in this dead end when the others arrive!

## NOSIPHO

You know Uganda?

## REBECCA

No. I'm sorry; I never took the trouble to learn.

## NOSIPHO

To learn...is...no trouble...

Rebecca nods.

## ALEX

Door!

They turn as the door wavers into existence.

## ALEX

## They come!

Down the alley, the bloody driver and the Nurse approach at a rapid walk. He races back to the door, pushing the girls ahead. Rebecca yanks the door open and they jump through as the Driver and Nurse round the corner.

#### NURSE

# Get them!

The Driver leaps forward as the door begins to fade. He grabs the handle and pulls. It opens marginally and he sees the trio inside. Alex tries to pull the door shut, but the Driver is stronger. The Driver gets a hand around the edge of the door but as he pulls, Nosipho pulls a short porcupine quill from her necklace and jabs it into his hand. The Driver screams and lets go and the door slams shut and disappears, leaving the screaming Driver and the yellow eyed fuming Nurse.

CUT TO

## EXT. BRANFORD. BEACH. NIGHT

Father Callum gingerly opens the door and looks into the darkness. He looks back at Michael lying senseless on the pavement, then turns back and enters, closing the door behind him. The door wavers and disappears.

CUT TO

#### EXT. MOSCOW ALLEY. DAY

The Nurse and Driver stand waiting in the alley. The door wavers into existence. As they approach, the door opens and Father Callum steps out. The Driver is about to attack him but the Nurse stops him.

## NURSE

## (Russian) Wait ...

Callum stares at them for a while. He seems completely at a loss. Then he notices the Nurse's yellow eyes and he knows they are the same. He pulls the crumpled paper from his pocket with the sketch of the church in Uganda. The Nurse nods.

## CALLUM

We have to stop them ...

#### NURSE

(Nods)Da. (Broken English) Before it is too late. They cannot be allowed to get there first.

Callum nods. Looks at the Driver

NURSE

#### He come with.

Callum nods again and turns back to the door. They follow him inside and the door disappears.

CUT TO

## EXT. UGANDA. RIVER BANK. LATE AFTERNOON

Rebecca, Alex and Nosipho stand on the river bank as the door disappears behind them. They look around fearfully, listening to the noises of the jungle and the river roaring behind them. Rebecca and Alex are in awe, while Nosipho is alert, ready for danger. She gestures to them and begins to walk. They follow along the course of the river.

REBECCA

Do you know where the church is?

NOSIPHO

I know. Come. Be...ready...(Demonstrates)...Run?

REBECCA

OK.

Alex nods and they walk off.

CUT TO

## EXT. BRANFORD. BEACH. NIGHT

Michael groans and wakes up. He sits up, rubs his head and looks to the beach. The door is gone.

MICHAEL

No. No. No! The door! (Screams) Becky!

He starts dragging himself across the beach to the spot where the door was.

CUT TO

#### EXT. UGANDA. JUNGLE. SUNSET

The three walk through the jungle in single file. Nosipho in the lead. Suddenly she stops. They all listen. Voices can be heard in the distance. They creep closer and peer through the bush. Ahead, the church roof pokes up out of the ground. But the place is teeming with armed warriors. As they watch, Kangata rises up from the steps. He drags a rope, and as he yanks it, the Witchdoctor appears with the rope around his neck. Kangata calls two of the warriors over and gives them the rope with instructions. The warriors drag the witchdoctor off a short way to the edge of the hole and tie the rope around a large rock. They role the rock to the edge of the precipice so that the Witchdoctor has to lean back, straining to stop it plunging over the edge. The warriors laugh and one gives the Witchdoctor a playful shove. The rock starts sliding over the edge and the Witchdoctor has to strain backwards to hold it up. The three watch in horror. Kangata walks about, issuing orders to the warriors. They are all on high alert, facing away from the church. Kangata looks around, clearly expectant.

NOSIPHO

Is in church.

REBECCA

How the hell do we get in there?

#### ALEX

Is not easy.

## REBECCA

How did they know we were coming?

# ALEX

Maybe is same as the priest. Maybe they all work together.

## REBECCA

You think they want to stop us?

## ALEX

We are the three, yes?

# REBECCA

But we don't know what we're supposed to do!

# ALEX

We save world!

## NOSIPHO

## In there.

Alex and Rebecca look grimly toward the church and the soldiers and nod.

## NOSIPHO

# Our...time...will come...

There is a sudden commotion from the warriors. As they watch, the door wavers into existence. The warriors back away with superstitious dread. Kangata bravely steps forward, his dagger raised and ready. Slowly the door opens and Father Callum steps out, followed by the Nurse and the Driver. Everyone is silent.

# ALEX

Is them! They find us!

# REBECCA

Oh, shit. Now what do we do?

Kangata approaches the new arrivals. He looks closely at Father Callum and the Nurse and sees their yellow eyes. The three recognise each other and speak. Rebecca, Alex and Nosipho can't hear what they're saying. Kangata points to the church. Father Callum gestures about, inquiring about the youngsters. Kangata shakes his head and points to his warriors, indicating that they are ready for action. He beckons to Callum and the Nurse to follow and they descend the steps to the church.

#### REBECCA

Groans and slumps back.

How are we going to do it?

ALEX

I do not know.

#### NOSIPHO

We wait. It will be our time. Soon.

FADE TO BLACK

## EXT. UGANDA. JUNGLE. NIGHT

Fires burn around the large hole. The warriors are no longer on high alert. They stand in groups, chatting. Meat cooks on several fires. Alex, Rebecca and Nosipho watch.

#### NOSIPHO

Nudges Alex

## Look!

As they watch, Kangata, Callum, Nurse and Driver appear at the top of the steps. They walk off a short distance and settle down under a tree. Kangata calls and a few men bring food.

#### ALEX

I am hungry!

#### REBECCA

I'd give anything for a Big Mac and cheese!

# ALEX

You eat Big Mac?

REBECCA

Not really, but the thought of it, right now, is driving me crazy.

ALEX

In Russia we also have Big Mac ...

#### REBECCA

Yeah?

# ALEX

Yeah. But I no see what is big deal. Is very small, no?

#### REBECCA

## I guess.

Kangata suddenly shouts a command. The warriors gather together. A drumbeat sounds and the dancing and festivities begin.

## NOSIPHO

# It is time.

She starts moving through the bush on a bearing toward the back of the church. The others follow. They keep an eye on the dancing warriors as they move. When the get opposite the straining Witchdoctor, Alex, who is at the back, takes a Swiss Army knife from his pocket and gets down onto his stomach. He begins to crawls into the clearing. Rebecca senses his movement and turns back, horrified.

#### REBECCA

(HISSES) Alex! What are you doing?

Nosipho turns and claps a hand over her mouth to stop shouting. Alex grins over his shoulder at Rebecca.

ALEX

Holds up knife

Swiss Army! Is good, no?

## REBECCA

No! It's not good, Alex! They'll see you!

## ALEX

I go quiet, like Indian Jones!

REBECCA

Indiana Jones always gets caught!

## ALEX

#### But he always win in end!

## REBECCA

Oh, God, please don't let this be the end!

She watches as Alex slowly crawls toward the Witchdoctor. The warriors continue their festivities, unaware. Alex sticks to a row of rocks that provide minimal cover. Soon he is very near to the Witchdoctor. He breaks cover and crawls the remaining distance until he is behind the straining Witchdoctor's feet. The touches the man's heel. The Witchdoctor jumps and the rock slides over the edge. Now the Witchdoctor is straining with all his might. Alex crawls forward to the edge. The Witchdoctor sees him.

#### WITCHDOCTOR

(Hisses)You are mad, Whiteman! They see you! They kill you!

ALEX

Only if you make too much noises!

Alex begins cutting the rope. The Witchdoctor gnashes his teeth.

## WITCHDOCTOR

Wait! Not now!

#### ALEX

Now I think you are the mad one! Why not?

#### WITCHDOCTOR

They hear rock fall! Wait! I tell you.

He strains back as hard as he can, but his feet are slowly sliding toward the edge. Alex watches the rope slipping past his face. His knife at the ready. The drumbeat builds. The Witchdoctor grunts and strains but his feet continue to slide. Almost over the edge.

#### ALEX

I must do it now! It is too late!

#### WITCHDOCTOR

Wait!

The drums reach a crescendo.

## WITCHDOCTOR

Now! Hurry! I can't hold it anymore!

His feet slide over the edge. Alex cuts furiously.

#### ALEX

## Hold on!

Suddenly the Witchdoctor's feet slide from under him as Alex cuts through the rope. The Witchdoctor staggers backwards and the rock plunges into the hole to the base of the church where it crashes onto other rocks. Alex is on his feet helping the Witchdoctor up.

ALEX

Come! We must go!

## WITCHDOCTOR

Go! Do not wait!

Alex grabs the rope around the Witchdoctor's neck and yanks him to his feet. He pulls the man behind him. Suddenly there is a cry from the warriors. Alex turns and sees the warriors turning toward him. They stare at him in amazement. Kangata rises slowly, his eyes blazing yellow.

## KANGATA

Kill them!

# ALEX

Come on!

FADE TO

## EXT. UGANDA. CHURCH. NIGHT (CONT)

Rebecca and Nosipho watch as Alex and the Witchdoctor run for the jungle.

NOSIPHO

Grabs Rebecca's arm

Come! Quick!

#### REBECCA

On her feet

What about them?

NOSIPHO

Pulling her away

We find! Later!

Hysterical

Now we go!

They charge off into the jungle

CUT TO

## EXT. UGANDA. CHURCH. NIGHT. (CONT)

Alex and the Witchdoctor plunge into the jungle with the warriors in hot pursuit. Alex veers right toward the girls but this time the Witchdoctor grabs him and pulls him left. They race through the jungle, the Witchdoctor leading the way. Behind them, the warriors crash through the jungle. They zig-zag through the trees.

CUT TO

## EXT. BUSH. NIGHT. (CONT)

Half the warriors suddenly break from the group and chase after the girls who are disappearing into the bush ahead of them.

CUT TO

# EXT. BUSH. NIGHT. (CONT)

Alex and the Witchdoctor race on. Alex looks over his shoulder and sees the warriors splitting off.

ALEX

They're going after the girls!

WITCHDOCTOR

We not follow. They kill us!

ALEX

They will kill the girls!

WITCHDOCTOR

Come! I show you!

They run on. Suddenly the Witchdoctor turns behind a large tree and as Alex follows, he shoves Alex down. Alex tumbles into a large hole at the base of the tree.

## WITCHDOCTOR

Wait. They come, then you go for girl!

#### ALEX

But what are you ...?

## WITCHDOCTOR

I see you - later!

He runs off. Alex hunkers down, waiting. Soon, the warriors crash through the bush, right past the hole and follow the Witchdoctor. Alex waits a while, listening to the receding footsteps. He slowly rises, looking for the warriors who are out of sight. He leaps from the hole and turns back in the directions of the girls.

CUT TO

#### EXT. BUSH. NIGHT (CONT)

Rebecca and Nosipho run on. Branches slash across their faces and bodies. Rebecca trips and goes to ground. Nosipho turns back to help.

#### REBCCA

## No, Nosipho! Go! Go!

Nosipho looks back. The warriors are out if sight but can be heard charging through the bush. Rebecca struggles to get up but her foot is trapped between two roots.

#### REBECCA

## I'm stuck!

Nosipho tries to free her. She struggles as the roots dig into Rebecca's flesh. Rebecca screams in pain. Suddenly an arrow pierces the ground beside Rebecca's face. She gasps and looks back. The warriors are approaching with bows drawn and ready. The girls look at each other, then hopelessly back at the approaching warriors.

CUT TO

# EXT. BUSH. NIGHT (CONT)

Alex watches as the warriors manhandle the girls to their feet. Rebecca winces in pain. The warriors tie the girls' hands and shove them back toward the church. Alex can only watch.

## EXT. BUSH. NIGHT (CONT)

Alex watches from the clearing as Kangata approaches the prisoners. He is clearly very angry. He shouts into Rebecca's face. He moves to Nosipho, screaming at her, then slaps her violently. She drops to the ground. The warriors yank her up. Kangata shouts instructions and the warriors take the girls down the steps to the church. Alex watches and waits.

FADE TO

# EXT. BUSH. NIGHT. LATER

Alex suddenly snaps awake. He has fallen asleep at the edge of the clearing. He looks around. All is quiet. The warriors are asleep. He waits a while, making sure, then starts crawling into open space toward the steps.

CUT TO

## INT. CHURCH. NIGHT.

Rebecca and Nosipho are tied to a pillar inside the church. Kangata, Callum, the Nurse and some WITCHDOCTORS are gathered around. On the altar are several wicked knives. There are runnels in the stone slab that all collect at a central point where a small hole gapes through the hollow space beneath the altar. The WITCHDOCTORS wear evil looking masks and shuffle and dance around the girls, lunging at them occasionally with spears and knives. The girls stare in wide-eyed terror.

CALLUM

To Kangata

Please, show it to me.

Kangata looks at the priest, then the prisoners. Satisfied, he beckons for Callum to follow and they move off to a room at the back of the church. Rebecca watches them go and nudges Nosipho who also watches.

#### NOSIPHO

It is there. The world to end.

Rebecca stares, understanding.

# REBECCA

# We can't stop it!

As the group disappears, brilliant ray of light bursts from the room.

#### EXT. BUSH. NIGHT. FOLLOWING.

Alex is at the steps leading down to the church. As he starts sliding over the top step, he is grabbed from behind. He flips over, eyes wide, knife at the ready, but it is the witchdoctor.

## WITCHDOCTOR

Wait! You cannot go on your own, they will kill you. Go down stair and wait.

ALEX

Wait for what?

## WITCHDOCTOR

I take these warriors. Then you go.

ALEX

Understands. Nods. Holds out his hand and the Witchdoctor shakes it.

#### WITCHDOCTOR

Go!

He crawls off and Alex briefly watches him go, then slips over the steps and crawls down to the bottom. Now he is up against the base of the church wall with the rock face behind him. A narrow passage leads off to the church door. He sidles up to a window and pulls himself up. Looks in and sees the girls tied up and the witchdoctors dancing around them. At the back, he sees the brilliant shaft of light and his scar aches instantly. Hissing through his teeth he waits.

CUT TO

## EXT. CHURCH. FOLLOWING.

The Witchdoctor has crawled around the warriors to the edge of the bush. He takes a small pouch from his clothing, opens it and spits into it. He shakes it up and takes a deep breath. Stands to his full height.

## WITCHDOCTOR

Sons of dogs! Now the time is upon you!

The warriors see him and immediately grab their weapons. As they begin to attack, the Witchdoctor throws the pouch at them. It explodes in brilliant phosphorescence and the Witchdoctor makes a dash for the bush. The warriors stagger back, waiting for the smoke and fire to die down. When nothing else happens, the shout and give chase.

CUT TO

# EXT. CHURCH. FOLLOWING

Alexi creeps up to the door which is partially open. He gently nudges it and it creaks open softly. He holds his breath. It's too noisy inside for anyone to have heard. He crawls behind the pews and starts creeping beneath them to the girls. Kangata, Callum and the Nurse enter from the back. Callum is teary eyed.

CALLUM

It's so beautiful!

## NURSE

But for our purposes it is not beautiful. It blocks the way for the master.

#### KANGATA

Where is the third? We cannot open the door without the third!

## NURSE

He must be close. The others are here. He will not be far behind. I think they must already know the purpose.

## KANGATA

To Witchdoctors

Inchitela munyata bizanga fadwa chechati na inkwe!

(Go! Tell the others to bring me the boy.)

He Witchdoctors reluctantly bow and leave the church. Alex watches as their feet pass close to his face. He sidles forward.

## CALLUM

Can't we begin so long? I mean, in the end it's their mixed blood that opens the door, so does it matter...

#### KANGATA

No! All three must be sacrificed at the same time!

Alex is just out of their vision. He watches as they move back to the rear of the church. He judges them to be far enough away and scoots his knife across the floor to Rebecca. It bumps into her foot. She looks down and sees the knife. Her eyes widen and dart around the room. Alex waves from under the pew and she sees him. Gasps. Alex grins and starts crawling out. Rebecca wildly shakes her head but he ignores her. Kangata, Callum and Nurse enter the back room. Alex reaches the girls and begins sawing at the ropes. Rebecca and Nosipho frantically keep an eye on the back room. He has almost cut through Nosipho's ropes when Nurse re-enters. Rebecca hisses at him and as Alexi looks up, the Nurse sees him. He cuts the last of Nosipho's foot rope.

## NURSE

#### Screams

# He's here! He's here!

She leaps forward as Alexi rises to meet her, but as she passes Nosipho lashes out her foot. Nurse trips and falls head first into the front pew, smashing her nose. Blood sprays and she shrieks. Kangata enters and smiles wickedly through his burnt face. Pulls out his vicious dagger and begins stalking Alexi who whips up his pocket knife. Kangata roars with laughter.

#### REBECCA

## Run Alex! Run!

#### KANGATA

What do you plan to do with that little knife, white boy?

Alexi grabs the sobbing Nurse by the hair and holds the knife to her throat.

## ALEX

## You stay! I kill her!

Kangata laughs and keeps advancing.

## KANGATA

You are a boy, not a man, you cannot kill.

#### ALEX

Come closer and we will see.

Kangata suddenly grabs Rebecca by the hair and yanks her head back. He puts his blade to her throat and chuckles.

#### KANGATA

You can kill her, and I will kill this one? One for one.

He releases Rebecca and grabs Nosipho.

#### KANGATA

(Cont)

Then I kill this one. And who will you kill next?

Alexi doesn't know what to do.

#### REBECCA

Go, Alex! He's going to kill you.

ALEX

I cannot leave you!

REBECCA

He needs all three of us! Run! It won't work without you! Go!

Callum rushes forward and slaps a hand over Rebecca's mouth. She struggles.

#### CALLUM

#### Get him!

Nurse suddenly lashes out at Alexi, knocking his knife hand away. She tries to twist out of his grasp but he recovers and shoves the knife back at her throat, bringing her to a halt. Rebecca bites Callum's hand and he screams and lets go. Kangata watches in fascination.

ALEX

## I will kill her!

Kangata releases Nosipho. Grins at Alexi. Makes up his mind and suddenly lunges forward. Rebecca and Nosipho scream and Alexi shoves the Nurse at Kangata. He grabs her by the hair, spins her round to face Alexi.

#### KANGATA

# Killing is a job for a man.

He slits the Nurse's throat and drops her to the floor. Everyone stares in silent horror. Then Alexi roars and leaps at Kangata who fends him off. He pushes Alexi back. Alexi slips in the Nurse's blood and crashes into the front pew and Kangata is suddenly on him with his dagger in Alexi's face. Rebecca and Nosipho sob. Kangata grabs Alexi by the hair and drags him over to the girls. Throws him down at their feet.

KANGATA

To Callum

Tie them to the altar.

Callum leaps into action.

KANGATA

The three. At last.

While Callum hauls Alexi over to the altar, Kangata grabs the girls' arms and looks at their scars. Satisfied he holds up his dagger and licks the blood off the blade.

CUT TO

# EXT. BUSH. NIGHT

Witchdoctor races through the bush, pursued by the warriors. He zigs and zags as best he can, but they gain on him steadily. Suddenly he skids to a halt as a cliff yawns open in front of him. He is trapped. The warriors approach. He digs in his belt and pulls out another pouch, spits into it and rubs it. He begins chanting. The warriors keep a wary distance. One notches an arrow and takes aim. Witchdoctor's chants build in fury and as the arrow is released, he throws the pouch. The pouch and arrow pass each other in the air, and as the arrow pierces the Witchdoctor's chest, the pouch hits the ground and explodes. The warriors retreat and wait for the smoke to disappear. Finally it does. But the Witchdoctor is gone and the arrow sticks up in the ground.

CUT TO

## INT. CHURCH. LATER

Alexi, Rebecca and Nosipho are tied to the altar in such a way that their scarred arms are together. Kangata chants and Callum looks on, wide eyed.

ALEX

I am sorry...

#### REBECCA

It's OK, Alex. We all failed.

NOSIPHO

We no save...

## ALEX

#### No. We no save ...

Kangata ends his chanting and turns to the trio. He reaches over with his dagger and slices across the three scars. The kids scream and blood flows, slowly down the runnels and into the waiting bowl.

CUT TO

#### EXT. SPACE.

The bomb flies into the sun. There is a tremendous explosion and a huge solar flare bursts outward - a huge tsunami of fire racing across the sky toward Earth.

FADE TO

# INT. CHURCH. FOLLOWING.

Father Callum kneels and prays while Kangata continues his chanting. Finally, he is ready. He lifts the bowl of blood and drinks from it. Hands it to Callum who does the same. Then, with a final shout, he hurls the remaining blood into the air. At once the air shimmers and the door, dripping blood, takes shape. The children watch in horror. Kangata and Callum watch with glee. Slowly, the handle begins to turn and the door starts opening. Satan steps through, huge and ominous. He looks around.

.CALLUM

Master. You have come!

SATAN

Where is it?

# CALLUM

You would destroy it? So soon?

#### SATAN

For you it is soon. For me, it has been millennia! Where is it?

#### KANGATA

In the back.

#### SATAN

## Bring it.

Callum and Kangata rush to the back room.

#### SATAN

To the three. Simply.

You failed. Just like your God. You failed.

## ALEX

It is not over yet.

## SATAN

Brave words from an ignorant child.

He reaches his claws over and slashes the rope. The three drop to the floor, clutching their bleeding arms.

## SATAN

I will give you one chance to save yourselves and one chance only. Accept me as your god and you will be free.

# REBECCA

Not much of a freedom ...

#### SATAN

Why do you care about whom you worship?

#### REBECCA

It's not about who I worship. It's about choosing whether or not and what to worship.

## SATAN

Ha! That's the problem with your God-He gave you too much freedom.

## ALEX

At least we had freedom.

#### SATAN

I too offer you freedom. Freedom to do as you please as long as you do it in my name. That's not so difficult, is it?

Callum and Kangata struggle through from the back. They carry the ARK OF THE COVENANT between them. It is a beautiful golden chest with two angels on the lid, their wings thrust forward and almost touching. Satan steps back involuntarily. Recovers and watches. The children watch in awe as the men struggle to bring it forward. They finally put it down.

# REBECCA

The Ark! This is where it's been all the time.

## ALEX

It is...it is...

NOSIPHO

It is life for the world.

SATAN

Smiles

Not anymore, my dear.

## REBECCA

You're going to destroy it?

SATAN

You are the chosen three, but you have no idea what you are supposed to do. Typical.

CUT TO

## EXT. SPACE.

The solar flare crashes over Mars and the planet explodes

CUT TO

# INT. CHURCH. FOLLOWING

Satan picks up the dead Nurse with one hand. Looks at her quizzically.

#### SATAN

Humans. So...puny.

He digs a fingernail into her forehead and scoops out a small red crystal. Drops her.

SATAN

To Callum and Kangata

I am not ungracious. Thank you for your efforts. You have helped to bring about my return. Now come. Give me what is mine.

Callum scrambles back looking wildly for an escape route.

## CALLUM

Master! May we not serve you more?

## SATAN

You have served me well, father Callum. Your name will forever be remembered. Come.

Callum retreats into Kangata who shoves him forward into the altar. He grabs Nosipho and holds her in front of him.

#### CALLUM

Please! I did what you wanted me too!

#### SATAN

And you did it well. Don't negate all your work now.

## CALLUM

We gave you the three! That must count for something!

#### SATAN

Indeed. And they will die soon. Now come. I promise it will be swift.

Callum is in tears. Suddenly he hurls Nosipho at Satan and makes run for it. Nosipho screams and Alexi lunges for her before Satan can hit her away. Satan lifts a hand and Callum is suddenly levitated into the air. Higher and higher to the celling, screaming all the way.

#### SATAN

I did ask you nicely.

He drops his hand and Callum plunges to the ground, broken. He lies still, barely breathing as Satan lifts him with one hand. Callum watches as Satan's claw reaches for his skull and he shrieks one last time as the claw penetrates his forehead. His eyes roll as Satan withdraws the red crystal. Satan tosses him away without a second glance. Looks at the two crystals. Then at Kangata, smiling.

#### SATAN

## Your turn, brave warrior.

Kangata hesitates briefly, then steps forward, his face blank. He stops in front of Satan.

## SATAN

## Thank you. You will be rewarded.

He reaches out a claw to Kangata's head. Kangata is motionless until the claw touches his forehead, then he suddenly plunges his dagger into Satan's chest. Satan roars, staggers back. The crystals drop from his hand. He looks at the dagger stuck in his chest with disbelief. Alex grabs the girls.

## ALEX

#### Come!

Hey start to run. Kangata grabs another knife from the altar and stabs Satan again. The demon roars and the church shakes, plaster rains down from the ceiling. Suddenly the air shimmers and the door appears and Michael rolls out onto the floor.

#### NOSIPHO

#### Screams.

## Mike!

Alex and Rebecca stop and turn.

#### REBECCA

## Screams

## Mikey!

Satan pulls the daggers out and hurls both at Kangata. One sticks in his stomach and the other in his thigh. He screams. He lunges for Mike and Picks him up over his head.

#### REBECCA

#### Nooo!

Rebecca, Alexi and Nosipho all charge at the same time. Kangata throws Michael. Rebecca, Alexi and Nosipho dive and crash into Satan just before Michael collides with him. Satan is knocked forward into Kangata and the two of them crash into the Ark, knocking the lid askance. Brilliant white light shoots out and Satan roars again. More plaster rains down and a rafter crashes into the middle of the pews. Kangata rips the knife from his stomach as Satan grabs him by the neck. He plunges the dagger into Satan's eye. Satan roars again and more chaos rains down from above.

#### ALEX

# Suddenly knows what to do.

Come!

Rebecca and Nosipho follow. They dive for the Ark as Satan plunges his claw into Kangata's forehead. Kangata screams and twists the blade in Satan's eye. Alexi, Rebecca and Nosipho pull mightily at the heavy lid, dragging it off, releasing more brilliant light. Satan digs the last crystal out and Kangata goes limp. Satan flings him away, then turns to see the children opening the Ark, but he is too late. The lid crashes to the ground as Satan falls over the Ark. A tremendous bolt of light shoots out and envelopes the screaming Satan who begins to vaporise. The light blows the top off the church and shoots into the sky.

CUT TO

#### EXT. SPACE

The shaft of light shoots into Earth's atmosphere. As it goes into space, it spreads and forms a barrier around half the world. Even as it spreads, the solar flare collides with it and is deflected around the world into space, leaving Earth unharmed..

CUT TO

## INT. CHURCH. FOLLOWING.

The children stare up through the empty roof into space. They look at each other, devastated. They look at the Ark. Rebecca nods to them and they lift the lid and place it back on, shutting the light off.

# REBECCA

That's it.

ALEX

Is over.

Nosipho nods.

NOSIPHO

Mike!

They all turn. Michael struggles into a sitting position. They rush to him.

## REBECCA

# Mikey! You OK?

#### MICHAEL

Yeah. What the hell was...no, never mind, I don't want to know.

NOSIPHO

You make safe. This world.

## MICHAEL

Not me. You guys seemed to have it all under control.

# ALEX

No. It is your help that world is safe.

## MICHAEL

Cool.

# ALEX

Dude.

MICHAEL

Dude.

They grin at each other.

FADE TO

# EXT. BRANFORD. BEACH. DAWN.

Rebecca, Nosipho, Alexi and Michael are on the edge of the beach. Michael is in his chair. The door stands open in the sand close by.

#### REBECCA

Hands Alexi and Nosipho a slip of paper with her number and address

So, call...or write ... sometime.

# ALEX

Next time we have to save world?

NOSIPHO

No next time. Now is finished.

## ALEX

You send 501?

## REBECCA

Sure.

## MICHAEL

Maybe the door will come back again? Maybe we'll always be able to use it?

They look at him sceptically.

#### NOSIPHO

Maybe. Mike.

# MICHAEL

## Nosipho. Gift.

They stand around awkwardly for a bit, and then begin embracing. Slowly, like snow, golden flakes start falling from the sky. They look up in amazement. As far as they can see, golden flakes rain gently down on Earth. As a flake lands on each of them, it dissolves into their skin. Eventually, Alexi and Nosipho say farewell and walk back to the door. They turn; give a final wave and Alexi closes the door. Rebecca and Michael watch as the door shimmers and disappears.

#### REBECCA

Let's go home, hero.

MICHAEL

Speak for yourself.

Rebecca slowly pushes Michael through the golden snow.

# EXT. EARTH. MONTAGE.

We leave Rebecca and Michael and travel to various countries around the world - China, New-Zealand, South Africa, Chile, Norway, the South Pole, etc. The golden snow falls on just about everyone and everyone it lands on stands staring up at the sky with a big smile on their faces. In Uganda, the Witchdoctor holds out his hand and watches as the tiny flake lands and dissolves into his skin. He smiles. In Alaska, a tiny flake lands on the upturned face of an Eskimo toddler. It dissolves into the baby's skin. Inside the child, the liquid gold spreads and reveals its message, the DNA coding for peace and goodwill to all mankind.

# EXT. SPACE.

Earth floats peacefully in space. It has a golden Halo around it. The sun rises, brightening the atmosphere. There is a sudden blinding flash of light and when we can see again, the halo is gone and Earth is just Earth again - round and blue and green with a light blue atmospheric corona around it, floating peacefully in the vastness of space.

THE END.