# A SOLDIER'S SEARCH

## OVER BLACK.

SHOUTING. SCREAMING. GUNFIRE. The unmistakable sound of war.

Then... an EXPLOSION.

Everything goes quiet other than a constant RINGING. As it slowly fades away, we --

#### FADE IN ON:

DAVID, 30s, sprawled out on the ground in torn fatigues, cuts and scrapes everywhere. His face blackened from fire.

He pushes himself up through the pain and rubs at his ears -- BLOOD trickles from both.

## NOTE TO READER: EVERYTHING IS M.O.S (WITHOUT SOUND)

Finally, he opens his eyes and surveys the --

## EXT. UNKNOWN SURROUNDINGS - DAY

Tall trees, massive flowers -- the Amazon on steroids. He peers up and squints at the sky and more notably -- TWO SUNS.

David turns away -- too bright for the human eye -- and finds his broken SUNGLASSES... he slips them on and gawks --

- -- LEFT -- A MARINE fires a machine gun --
- -- BACK ON DAVID -- as blood pellets on his face --
- -- The Marine's body splits apart and hits the wet ground after a brutal attack.

David spins --

-- RIGHT -- A PLATOON gets overrun by CREATURES -- all different shapes and sizes but sharing one thing in common...

DEADLY KILLING MACHINES.

One of the smaller Creatures -- claws and teeth on four legs - breaks away -- heading straight for David.

David doesn't move, either lost in the chaos or unable. Either way -- he's about to meet his doom before...

The Creature gets barraged by gunfire from behind David -- it falls back dead as another SQUAD attacks.

David's lifted to his feet aggressively by --

BANKS, 40s, born and bred to fight in the military. A cigar dangles from his moving lips...

Which David focuses on as Banks continues. Not one for patience, Banks slaps David across the face and points back to where he and his team came from.

David gets the message and leans down for his weapon. Upon coming back up, he's met by Bank's cigar but nothing else --

HALF OF BANK'S HEAD HAS BEEN SLICED OFF.

A FLYING MONSTER zooms away into the sky as Bank's body crumbles to the mud.

David peers back at Bank's Squad as they are attacked repeatedly -- blood and body parts everywhere -- a massacre.

A calmness comes over David as he watches --

## INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY - [FLASHBACK]

The sun shines in through blinds, highlighting AMY, 30s, a constant smile that never fades. She chops vegetables as --

David watches from the breakfast bar. He moves his head in unison with the chopping -- a serenity to it all, which is a far cry from --

NOW -- as David flings himself to floor to avoid another attack from the Flying Monster.

Taken from his trance, David's quick to his feet as he tears off through the --

## DENSE TALL TREES

Amazingly tight space as David weaves around the trees, having to jump every so often over fallen SOLDIERS.

His breathing labors as fatigue sets in but he won't dare look behind -- his affliction making it even more terrifying.

David breaks free from the trees into a --

## DESERT

A graveyard of death and destruction meets him. Thousands of bodies and damaged artillery cover the dry cracked ground.

David takes in the horror as behind him, the trees ruffle... before finally SNAPPING APART like twigs...

Something BIG moves through them.

David spots a BRIGHT LIGHT -- a doorway -- in the distance.

He jogs for it as a GIANT BEAST rips through the remaining trees -

-- Ten legs around a massive abdomen like a mutated spider. A dozen green eyes lock down on David...

Who's unaware of the immediate fucking threat that's chasing after him, gaining ground fast.

The light gets closer... 30 feet... 25... 20.

But so does the Giant Beast as its shadow lurks over David.

David notices and jumps away just in time as the Giant Beast blasts goo from its mouth that SIZZLES the ground.

David rises and the two face off -- Giant Beast against Man -- a mismatch if there was any.

He runs for it... the Giant Beast follows --

-- David gets within inches of the doorway and jumps -- the Beast throws out a SPIKY leg as David hits the light --

## EXT. LONDON BRIDGE - NIGHT

-- and lands hard on the concrete. David screams and holds a SLASH across his thigh -- It hurts but he'll live. He stands to be met by --

LONDON ON FIRE!

The CREATURES storm the city as the battle continues on the streets. It's war and the human race is losing badly.

The light ripples, and a familiar SPIKY leg protrudes through and CRUNCHES down on the asphalt beside David --

-- He jumps back and bolts away from the doorway.

## EXT. TOOLEY STREET - NIGHT

David limps by the waterfront, the adrenaline wearing off.

Across the Thames -- LONDON TOWER is ablaze.

He watches as the UNION JACK flag burns. David turns, glares at a massive --

BILLBOARD -- A macho MARINE salutes beside the slogan...

# "Defend yourself, family and world. We need your service. October 31st - 1st November"

A small CREATURE with SPINES on its back rolls in front of David. It watches him curiously as David steps past --

-- He's in the clear until he turns the corner... where a whole horde of the little Spiny's turn to him... Oh Shit!

They fire the spines on their backs like arrows, just missing David as he darts down another --

## SIDE ALLEY

Spines WHIZ past him as he charges into doors -- all locked.

They inch closer to David when he's swiftly dragged into a --

## INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

David slams into a fridge as NIGEL, 40s, kicks the door shut and throws a cabinet in front.

Spines pierce the door as the Creatures attack outside.

After a moment it stops. Both men share a look of relief.

Nigel speaks but David doesn't understand and gestures to his ears.

Nigel understands and directs David into the --

#### LIVING ROOM

Candles light a vast array of emergency supplies.

Two girls -- MARY, 16, and VERONICA, 9, faces covered in dirt, sit huddled together -- a family surviving.

On a couch lies an unconscious MAN, 20s, a wet cloth draped over his forehead.

David looks to Nigel who shrugs "no idea" in response. He clearly mouths the word "help". David nods.

Nigel points to the girls and then to himself -- an introduction. Mary shouts at Nigel so he points to his ears.

David gestures to an empty chair. Nigel nods his acceptance so David collapses on it, exhausted.

He watches Nigel comfort the girls before closing his eyes...

## INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Shaded spots mask the wall where furniture and picture frames were once kept. The room's empty other than a --

Small table that David and Amy sit around with CLAIRE, 9. Plates of food in front of each.

They hold hands over the table and close their eyes -- a prayer for the food they're about to receive?

David opens one of his eyes -- catches Claire doing the same. They laugh and as Claire goes to talk...

## INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM (PRESENT)

David gasps awake and falls from the chair. He's quick to check the surroundings -- it's safe.

Nigel places a hand on his shoulder and gives a reassuring smile.

He helps David up, and gestures to the kitchen. With a quick glance at the Man, they exit...

Which is exactly when the Man SHAKES VIOLENTLY.

#### KITCHEN

Veronica draws on paper with some crayons at the table.

Nigel fills a glass with water from the faucet and offers it to David.

As he drinks, Nigel examines David -- the cuts, bruises and dirty clothes.

He turns to Veronica and after a brief exchange, Nigel scribbles on her paper with a crayon...

David watches on curiously as Nigel lifts the paper  $\ensuremath{\text{--}}$  a message  $\ensuremath{\text{--}}$ 

## "Were you on the other side?"

David nods as Nigel leans on the table and jots away again...

## "How bad is it?"

David peers to the floor before shaking his head "it's bad"

The life drains away from Nigel. He glances back at his innocent little girl -- it's going be tough to protect them.

After a moment, Nigel writes another note --

## "Your family?"

But there's no time to answer as Nigel bolts back into the --

#### LIVING ROOM

Mary's cornered by the Man -- he's manic, raged and closing in on her.

David sprints in beside Nigel. They move quick and grab the Man, throwing him to the floor.

And that's when they see them --

-- BUG SIZE CRITTERS -- with large, jagged MANDIBLES.

They dig and tear their way out of the Man -- through his eyes, nose, ears, mouth -- his skin bulges.

He coughs out Critters and holds his neck, choking.

Sadly, that would be the better way to go as the Critters rip through his skin... crimson floods everywhere.

Nigel panics and grabs Mary, hoping to escape but the Critters are blocking their path and that's when he see's --

VERONICA -- on the other side of the room -- the Critters creeping closer and closer...

Nigel peers at David -- desperation in his eyes.

David dashes over the horde of nasty Critters -- they cling to his legs as he jumps over the Man and hits a --

CABINET -- bottles of SPIRITS stare back at him.

He grabs one and smashes it on the Man's body, now the Critters nest.

The Critters turn their attention on David -- like they know their nest is under attack.

As they take the bait, Nigel and Mary sneak to Veronica -- they spin to --

- -- David, who's legs are covered by Critters. He snatches one of the candles and swings it around his legs --
- -- The Critters retreat as --
- -- David throws the candle...

It hits the nest and fire ENGULFS IT.

## KITCHEN

Nigel and the girls grab their ears at once -- a high pitch SHRIEKING -- that drops them to the floor in pain.

Unaffected, David hurls the obstacle from the kitchen door before he helps the family escape into the --

## SIDE ALLEY

David pushes the door shut and leans against it while checking the area -- all clear.

He leans down to check on Nigel, Mary and Veronica.

Nigel grabs David's shoulder and stares at him -- "thanks"

David rises and again inspects the alley.

Nigel gets the hint -- not safe out here -- and pushes himself up. Mary, crying, and Veronica reluctantly follow.

## INT. FACTORY - LATER

Large machines spread around. Normally busy but on this night, deserted.

David leads the group to a small corner --

#### OFFICE

Veronica and Mary cuddle up on an old couch as Nigel surveys the room... after a moment he turns back to David who remains by the doorway.

Nigel speaks... David notices the odd word... going... family... Enough to know that Nigel realizes.

David steps over and they shake hands -- a mutual respect between the two.

Nigel mouths "good luck".

As David leaves, he glances back at Nigel and his girls -- a family still together --

# EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Buses line the street as FAMILIES say their good-byes.

David waves to one of the departing buses -- Amy and Claire lean out a window and wave back.

Once the bus is out of view, David rubs his eyes to hold back tears -- unsure if he'll ever see them again.

A bus passes behind him -- the sign reads --

## EXT. RICHMOND PARK REFUGE - NIGHT (PRESENT)

A beautiful nature reserve turned into a safety zone. Makeshift tents as far as the eye can see.

David trudges over a hill, but any hope he had is short-lived as he sets his eyes on the refuge --

-- A dead zone. The refuge was hit and hit HARD. The white tents covered in blood, bodies litter the "royal park"

David stumbles and falls down the hill, landing in a cluster of corpses -- he struggles to break free and has to drag himself from the death pit.

Once free, he sinks his head into the turf -- all hope lost.

He lifts his head and with watery eyes  $\--$  a FIGURE catches his attention  $\--$ 

But not just any Figure -- someone familiar to David.

All the pain's gone as David sprints toward the --

-- Figure, who's stopped, and stares back at David... Amy.

They run towards one another and embrace -- they could stay like this forever, but David pulls out and signals to the tents.

Amy calms David down and holds his face in her hands -- the cuts and dried blood -- she licks her thumb and cleans his cheek.

A sweet, tender and loving moment until...

A SHADOW looms over them.

As they glance up...

SWOOSH.

A trickle of blood falls from Amy's mouth as a SPIKE protrudes through her stomach.

David reaches out but Amy's thrust high into air, revealing --

THE GIANT BEAST!

It throws Amy and she CRASHES into one of the tents.

David spots a GUN beside a dead Soldier.

He leaps out the way as the Beast attacks with one of its spiky legs --

-- and picks up the gun. David FIRES every mother fucking round in the chamber, but it barely makes a dent on it.

The Giant Beast bounds in for the kill.

David glances at the sunken tent where Amy lies. He grits his teeth and holds the gun like a bat "I'm not going down without a fight."

As the Beast gets closer -- an EXPLOSION... then another one.

David jumps to the ground as --

-- a EUROFIGHTER TYPHOON -- a delta wing fighter jet -- fires missiles at the Giant Beast as it WHOOSHES overhead.

A moment passes as the dust settles.

He peers at the Beast -- it's annihilated, green gunk covering it.

David doesn't hesitate and rushes over to the --

#### FALLEN TENT

He steps over the fabric and finds Amy. She's alive but barely as she coughs up blood.

David holds Amy's hand and kneels down. She squeezes back briefly before the grip loosens... and her eyes close.

He sobs over his dead wife's body.

## EXT. RICHMOND PARK REFUGE - DAWN

David's a mess as he struggles up the hill away from his nightmare.

On the horizon -- FIRST LIGHT.

And that's when David HEARS it...

Birds TWEETING. The WIND. SIRENS in the distance but most importantly... a faint voice.

He whirls around, frantic. Attempts to locate the voice as it gets louder...

CLAIRE (O.S.)

DAD!

Claire runs through the smoke at the bottom of the hill.

David can't believe it and falls to his knees.

Shock, pain and exhaustion.

Claire bounds up the hill and falls into her father's arms. This time David won't ever let go...

Behind them -- The city starts to glow under the hazy sun. Smoke fills the air and EXPLOSIONS echo out in the distance.

There's almost a beauty to it all as we --

FADE TO BLACK.