

PROJECT: REEDEN

by

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. DREAMY WOODLAND - DAY 1

Light filters through trees and woodland, fading in and out. The branches sway gently, a breeze flowing through them.

REEDEN (V.O.)

We moved around a lot when I was young. From system to system, tropical planets to cold space stations. My parents never seemed settled, until we found a tiny planet. Dangerous, but in the right way, so they said, real freedom. I think it was more dangerous than they expected.

SHANI (V.O.)

But you learned quickly.

We explore the ethereal woodland, settling on two GRAVES with an INSCRIBED STONE in the centre, "Two loving parents, we miss you - Reeden and Braith". The lettering is sloppy. A small boy places a flower in front of the stone.

REEDEN (V.O.)

Not quickly enough.

REEDEN 18, skinny and scruffy, places his hand on his brother's shoulder, tears in his eyes. SHANI 23, tall, strong but elegant, consoles REEDEN who collapses into her in tears. BRAITH looks sad but a little confused.

The screen begins to break down and distort into a blue noise.

REEDEN (CONT'D)

But life kept moving, for me and Braith, my brother. We weren't left with much.

SHANI appears on the fuzz gazing lovingly but sadly into the camera.

SHANI (V.O.)

You had me.

REEDEN (V.O.)

Did I?

Her eyes drop slightly, looking past the camera.

REEDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 It was never simple, but life never  
 stands still. And when it changes--

SHANI looks directly into camera.

SHANI (V.O.)  
 It happens-- suddenly.

CUT TO:

2 INT. MEDICAL FACILITY - NIGHT 2

REEDEN screaming pain, hands covered in blood. Implants and metal sticking out of arms. Sat in a dark room, a bright light beaming down on him. TWO MASKED DOCTORS appear and restrain him violently.

CUT TO:

1. Black
2. Images of Earth uniting under a single banner.
3. Emerging S.E.A logos and propaganda.
4. Marches and festivals
5. International government meetings (U.N.)

REEDEN (V.O.)  
 Long ago, we finally developed the  
 technology to travel between the  
 stars. The Earth united as we took  
 our first unsteady steps into deep  
 space.

6. Images of the changing solar system.
7. A colonized moon
8. Colonized Mars
9. Giant factories on other planets

REEDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 We harnessed the resources of the  
 Solar System under the banner of  
 the *Solar Earth Alliance*, the  
 S.E.A, A "democratic" world  
 government.

10. Protest marches

11. Anti S.E.A banners

12. Terrorism

REEDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Of course, not all of Earth was happy with this new peace. As we began to colonise other worlds, those people were given the chance to leave, forming long surviving colonies all over the galaxy free of S.E.A rule. The dream did not last however.

(beat)

Eighty seven years ago, the Earth was destroyed. Today, few of those early colonies still exist. They have been systematically wiped out.

FADE TO:

3 INT. NEWS BROADCAST 3

The NEWS REPORTER, female, has a distinctive style, speaking in a personal tone, slight condescension. She stand on a video background segmented into news options. Explosions and images of battles are layered.

NEWS REPORTER

On this, the 87th anniversary of Earth, assaults on the non S.E.A outer colonies suspected of harbouring terrorists continue as more are apprehended. See our heroes in action?

STATIC.

NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

Intelligence confirms we are closing in on the violent terrorist Edwin Blake, mastermind of a grave series of attacks against our people. Senator Gerart has issued this statement to all regions of S.E.A space.

GERART, an tall imposing man, wears an S.E.A symbol proudly. He stands at a podium during a presidential style press conference.

GERART

Anybody who has had contact with Edwin Blake MUST report to the nearest S.E.A outpost. Do not approach, he is considered armed, dangerous and wanted alive. He must stand trial for his crimes against humanity and solar civilization.

STATIC.

NEWS REPORTER

Edwin Blake is accused of taking over three hundred civilian lives. See Edwin Blakes crimes?

The news reporter smiling, filling half the screen with a hypnotic S.E.A symbol.

NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

This report brought to you from the Solar Earth Alliance, for your safety and a peaceful future.

CUT TO:

4 SPLIT SCREEN - INT. MEDICAL FACILITY/EXT. ORBIT NEW EARTH 4

TITLE OVER:

Gilese-C (New Earth)

Solar Earth Alliance Territory  
Earth Year 3263

REEDEN lays on a metal table unconscious. Circuits and scars run all over his pale veiny body. We explore them slowly.

NEW EARTH, fading in closer, into the atmosphere, across the city, purple hue sky, a large building.

SHANI (V.O.)

I can't stay here, not for you, not for dad, I need my life Reeden.

REEDEN (V.O.)

It's the things you don't truly see that I miss. The way branches and leaves sway in the wind, the formations of birds in flight, the tiny movements and emotional twitches of people you love.

(MORE)

REEDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 On my adopted planet I was a hunter  
 and a scout; spy and assassin.

SHANI (V.O.)  
 Hot headed and over confident.

REEDEN (V.O.)  
 Yeah I was good. Maybe it's why I  
 was chosen?

SOUND ONLY - EXPLOSION. PLASMA GUNFIRE, MULTIPLE EXPLOSIONS,  
 SCREAMING and SHOUTING fill the air, the sounds of a large  
 scale assault on a populated area.

ALARMS sound muffled and distant.

BRAITH  
 REEDEN! REEDEN!!

SOUND ONLY - A nearby EXPLOSION and GRINDING METAL deafens.  
 HEAVY FOOTSTEPS as the building is stormed.

REEDEN twitches and turns on the hard metal table top,  
 flinching to his nightmare. The circuits in his body  
 occasionally flash blue with life.

The ALARMS are more audible getting closer.

SOLDIERS  
 (militaristic, electronic)  
 ON THE GROUND! FACE DOWN, HANDS ON  
 HEAD! DO IT, DO IT NOW!

REEDEN  
 Braith stay calm, get on the floor  
 and don't move, it'll be okay.

SOLDIER 1  
 Grab the kid.

REEDEN  
 DON'T TOUCH HIM!

BRAITH  
 (dragged off)  
 GET OFF! GET OFF ME!

SCUFFLING.

SOLDIER 1  
 PIN HIM.

REEDEN  
 BRAITH! I'M COMING, I PROMISE!  
 (muffled)  
 Braith!

A SMACK of a gun butt. ALARMS swelling.

5 INT. MEDICAL LAB - NIGHT 5

REEDEN throws open his ELECTRONIC EYES, they move and WHIR frantically. ALARMS are piercing our eardrums. SHANI appears over him as if from nowhere, frantic.

SHANI  
 Reeden wake up, we have to go now!  
 Come on!

Shani helps haul him up and drags him towards the dark.

REEDEN (V.O.)  
 It happened fast. When the S.E.A  
 arrive, there is nothing to be  
 done. Fight and die, cooperate and  
 live.  
 (beat)  
 I have no issues with dying.  
 (beat)  
 But I'm not the only consideration.

SHANI (V.O.)  
 But I'm free from that now Reeden,  
 surely you can understand that.

REEDEN (V.O.)  
 No. I don't.

6 EXT. URBAN STREETS - NIGHT 6

ALARMS are fading into the distance. REEDEN and SHANI race through the streets. Its claustrophobic and blurred, arms flail and feet move frantically as they escape. CCTV CAMERAS watch every movement and warp REEDENS vision painfully.

REEDEN (V.O.)  
 In hindsight we got away too  
 easily.

LOUD NOISES and MEDIA overwhelm REEDEN. Fast cuts of various media, communications, adverts, web conversation, fiction etc. REEDENS eyes are wide and flickering with activity.

SHANI

Come on! Reeden, focus on me, we  
have to go, they're coming.

REEDEN (V.O.)

I couldn't handle it, all the noise  
in my head, infiltrating every  
synapse. My eyes no longer my own.  
But then it changed.

7 EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

7

They escape from under the street lights into a dark alley.  
The light seeping in casts long shadows as REEDEN collapses.  
SHANI crouches down over REEDEN, touch him gently.

SHANI

You're going to be fine.

REEDEN

(gasping)  
I can't--  
(beat)

The noise in REEDEN'S head slowly dissipates. Sensing  
something REEDEN hauls himself up. A shadowy figure emerges  
from the dark. REEDEN instinctively protects SHANI and  
approaching the shadow. Behind him, SHANI disappears.

JANNINGS

Patient 149534, Reeden, be calm. Do  
not be afraid, I'm here to help  
you.

JANNINGS reaches forward and injects something into REEDEN'S  
neck. REEDEN passes out.

FADE TO:

8 INT. JANNINGS BUNKER - NIGHT

8

REEDEN lays in bed in a dank windowless room. LIGHTS flicker,  
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT litter the surfaces. JANNINGS, 50+,  
limping and self neglected, sits across the room humming a  
HYPNOTIC TUNE next to a RADIO playing music. MONITORS strewn  
everywhere.

JANNINGS

Ah you're awake.  
(beat)  
Don't worry, you're safe here,  
you've been through a lot.

REEDEN  
 (coughing)  
 Really.  
 (V.O)  
 Despite his penchant for pointing  
 out the obvious, he was a clever  
 guy. Ex S.E.A. science.

JANNINGS limps over to REEDENS bed.

JANNINGS  
 Bio-Electronic engineering.  
 (beat)  
 My name is Jannings. I invented  
 you.

JANNINGS helps REEDEN up. He notices the CCTV camera in the  
 corner causing flashing pain.

JANNINGS (CONT'D)  
 You've been engineered Reeden, the  
 latest in a line of bio-electronic  
 operatives they've been perfecting  
 for decades. I believe maybe now  
 they have achieved it. Maybe now it  
 will stop.

REEDEN  
 The engineering?

JANNINGS working work frantically, on his equipment, his eyes  
 tired.

JANNINGS  
 Lives have been lost to create you  
 Reeden. Many lives.

REEDEN (V.O.)  
 It seems rumors of the S.E.A Were  
 not exaggerated.

Images of MASS GRAVES, human farming and testing, S.E.A  
 horrors flash by quickly. JANNINGS looking disturbed,  
 distraught, sitting alone in his lab coat.

JANNINGS struggles to his feet and places a hand on REEDENS  
 shoulder. They carefully inspect REEDENS alterations  
 together, JANNINGS scribbling hundreds of notes.

REEDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 I couldn't hate him. Who knows how  
 long he'd been hiding alone down  
 there. Was he misguided? Ignorant?  
 Scared? It hardly mattered now.  
 (MORE)

REEDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(beat)

He showed me my implants, taught me  
how to use them.

SHANI (V.O.)

And how to reach me.

REEDEN (V.O.)

But it got worse.

After much study, JANNINGS turns to REEDEN.

JANNINGS

You can control any electronics  
from a distance, interrupt energy  
flow, see through any cameras,  
receive any wireless transmission  
AND it seems you can alter your  
skin pigments. Hm, that part's new.

REEDEN begins to switch monitors on and off with his mind. He  
takes control of the CCTV, dimming lights before a video  
monitor takes his attention.

REEDEN approaches, gazing into the monitor. Endless monitors  
twist and move like opposing mirrors.

JANNINGS (CONT'D)

Reeden your eyes are like a camera.  
Your visual feed travels straight  
to them. Outside of this bunker  
everything you see, they see, and  
they can make you see whatever they  
choose.

JANNINGS flicks a switch. SHANI appears over REEDEN'S  
shoulder, flickering and slightly transparent, like a bad  
video signal.

SHANI

Reeden. I miss you.

REEDEN (V.O.)

But it wasn't really her. If it had  
stayed like that I could deal with  
it. Still, I was drawn to her,  
always have been.

JANNINGS

Who is she?

REEDEN reaches out to SHANI, he can touch her, feel her skin.  
She reacts to him, wanting to be held.

REEDEN

Shani. She was always so ambitious.  
Always wanted to get here. Become a  
real doctor.

SHANI (V.O.)

I'm sorry.

REEDEN (V.O.)

You're not.

JANNINGS

She's still alive Reeden, so is  
Braith. You're supposed to find  
them, it's in your programming, but  
you aren't supposed to know what  
you do, what I've told you.

REEDEN

This is going to get better isn't  
it?

JANNINGS

There's only one way to stop them  
controlling you. I can sever the  
connection.

(beat)

But you will lose your natural  
sight.

JANNINGS flicks a switch, SHANI disappears. REEDEN stands  
alone, mortified, JANNINGS distant behind him.

JANNINGS (CONT'D)

I want you to fight them Reeden. I  
want you to end it. This planet is  
sick. Figure out how; why can wait.  
Once you figure it out, find Edwin  
Blake. He's the key.

Sometime later, REEDEN is getting onto the operating table,  
preparing himself for the surgery. JANNINGS straps him down  
tightly.

REEDEN (V.O.)

That name again. Edwin Blake. It  
won't be the last time either. I  
hate him already.

JANNINGS

Sorry, this may be uncomfortable.

REEDEN screams in pain from the operation. JANNINGS leans over him, pulling down a pair of goggles. SPARKS fly, JANNINGS leans over him, lit up by the surgery.

FADE TO BLACK.

JANNINGS (CONT'D)

Find your brother Reeden, go to the holding facility on the far side of the city, they'll know you're coming.

REEDEN

What about you?

JANNINGS

They will find me soon.

(beat)

Reeden, have you ever noticed how quiet it is?

FADE IN:

9

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

9

Blue noise POV. A control panel opens up on the fuzz. We see through a CCTV camera. The streets are empty.

REEDEN (V.O.)

On the street, only the cameras could guide me. Every inch of space watched constantly, the silence horrifying. I set to work on the planets "sickness".

VIDEO communications are slowed down, the NEWS BROADCASTS are pulled apart revealing HIDDEN MESSAGES. Subliminal signals telling people to stay indoors accompanied by the same HYPNOTIC TUNE.

REEDEN (CONT'D)

The realization. The people of New Earth weren't just quiet,

(beat)

They were completely enslaved.

(long beat)

...But I could use this to my advantage for now. Finding my brother would be the easy part.

REEDEN'S eyes glow, as he tenses. VIDEO and communications warp and shutdown, CCTV is cut and ends whenever REEDEN passes by.

RADIO panic fills the airwaves from the military abuzz with stories of, media shutting down, an augmented soldier gone dark. Citizens beginning to filter out into the streets, freed from their digital shackles.

Again the screen fades to a BLUE FUZZ.

REEDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
It's never easy, compromising  
yourself. Here I am though. Utterly  
compromised, but alive. I have what  
is most important to me.

SHANI steps out of the fuzz and gently kisses REEDEN.

REEDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
But lost more than I gained.

SHANI looks apologetically into REEDEN'S eyes.

SHANI (V.O.)  
You didn't lose me.

REEDEN (V.O.)  
You're right. You lost me.

REEDEN disappears and she is left alone, shrinking into the BLUE STATIC.

Navigating himself using the CCTV and MAP, REEDEN eventually makes his way to the front of the holding facility.

10 EXT. HOLDING FACILITY - MORNING

10

The holding facility is large and derelict. In the front of it stand a group. SHANI is stood next to GERART, holding BRAITH reassuringly. Armed officers point guns at the blind but dangerous escaped patient.

GERART  
You made it. We made a large  
investment in you Reeden. No matter  
where you go, we're there,  
watching.

REEDEN  
--What's the deal?

GERART  
It's simple really. There's an  
orphan colony we will put you in  
contact with, take Braith.  
(MORE)

GERART (CONT'D)

He will live safely, no danger and  
you can stay there with him, no  
harm done.

REEDEN

Apart from my disfigurement you  
mean--

GERART

In return you report back to us  
about every tiny little detail  
about that colony, especially one  
Edwin Blake.

BRAITH is released and runs to REEDENS side.

REEDEN

--And Shani?

GERART

Sure thing, Shani, go ahead.

SHANI looks imploringly at REEDEN.

SHANI

Reeden they offered me complete  
medical training, they said I'm  
gifted. I have opportunities here--

REEDEN

...Shani, look at what they've done  
to these people, what they did to  
ours, to me! This is what their  
science and medicine has provided.

SHANI

I'm sorry, I've waited for this. I  
promise I'll find you when I'm  
done.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

11 INT. SHUTTLE - ORBIT

11

The small shuttle leaves the atmosphere for orbit of the  
planet. REEDEN stands over BRAITH, a calming hand on his  
shoulder.

REEDEN (V.O.)  
So here we are. Me and Braith,  
seeking Edwin Blake. The key...  
apparently.

REEDEN looks down at his brother.

REEDEN (CONT'D)  
We're going on an adventure right  
Braith?

BRAITH  
Right! --What about Shani?

REEDEN  
--I have a feeling we'll be back.

FADE OUT.