

Regent of the Sun

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EXT. THE UNIVERISE

A swift voyage through the COSMOS leads to EARTH.

EXT. MOUNTAINOUS VOLCANO - NIGHT

The volcano's erupting. RAIN and HAIL fall from the sky. At the top of the mountain a ferocious BATTLE takes place.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
Upon the birth of mankind, a battle
was waged between *Wraiths of the Dark*
and *Regents of the Light*.

Hundreds of creatures (WRAITHS, cobalt-black snake-scaled SKIN, with BLACK WINGS), defend the volcano's PEAK. Their primary WEAPONS are CRIMSON RED SPEARS.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
The Wraiths hungered to enslave this
new race; For it was in their nature,
to feed the ravenous Dark.

4 WARRIORS (REGENTS), armed with GILDED DAGGERS, GOLDEN SWORDS, wearing PEARL-COLORED ARMOR, fight their way up.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
The Regents fought to defend man; For
it was in their nature, to safeguard
life nurtured by the Light.

Thousands of dead Wraiths and dozens of dead Regents speckle the mountaintop.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
The Wraiths were all but destroyed.

Only 4 Wraiths remain; Their PRINCES. Each has a their own weapon: TRIDENT with a spiked handle, BATTLE AXE, Curved SABRE, and a Double-Bladed KATANA SPEAR.

The Wraith Princes nod in agreement. Launch their weapons, with super strength, North, East, South, and West. Then, they DIVE into the volcano. Their bodies are VAPORIZED.

Seconds later, a preternatural GATEWAY opens in the sky. 3 of the 4 Regents morph into ethereal, tubular BEAMS of OPAL-BLUE LIGHTS and ascend through the gateway.

One Regent stays--morphs into a BEAM of OPAL-BLUE LIGHT , then SPIRALS on a JOURNEY across the land. Until it splits; One, an OPAL, WHITE LIGHT. The other, a WISPY, GREY LIGHT.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
Man was fragile. So, one celestial
power was divided into two spirits.

The Opal White Light reaches a cave. Enters the body of a

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sleeping WOMAN. The woman's EYES open, aglow in WHITE LIGHT, then they return to normal. She sleeps. Oblivious.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
A *Guardian*.

The Wispy Grey Light arrives at a BEACH, Where a YOUNG GIRL splashes in the water. The Grey Light merges with the Child.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
And a *Herald*.

The little Girl's eyes SHINE GREY, but then return to normal.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)
As each generation passed, the
Guardian and *Herald* would inhabit new
hosts... Forever vigilant, should the
Darkness return.

INT. SCIENTIFIC LABRATORY - DAY

Super: The year: 2281

CLARA, (early-20s), is strapped to a GURNEY. She's scared. Next to her is a small POD containing a BABY BOY. 3 MEN and 1 WOMAN encircle the pod.

One man is BASTIAN (early-40s, robust, sinister, scary). By his his side is GIBBONS (early-50s, average build, thin moustache and a snake-like demeanor.) They wear GREY SUITS.

The other two are SCIENTISTS in their mid-20s. One is a WOMAN and the other is BRADLEY, (wearing BLACK-FRAME GLASSES.)

Bastian stares at the baby. Looks at Bradley, questioningly.

BRADLEY
Results were positive, Sir.

Bastian sighs, grins. Gibbons remains emotionless.

BASTIAN
(To the Baby)
Now, the exiled can return.

Gibbons looks at Bradley.

GIBBONS
I hear the lab was compromised.

BRADLEY
A magnetic processer malfunctioned.

Bradley RUBS THE BACK OF HIS NECK.

GIBBONS
Malfunctioned?

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BRADLEY
Inconsequential, Sir.

BASTIAN
Run the tests again.

BRADLEY
I can assure-
(Swallows)
Forthwith, Sir.

Bastian starts to leave with Gibbons by his side. Bradley glances at Clara. TEARS STREAM down her eyes.

BRADLEY
Once completed... what of the child?

GIBBONS
Put the 'vessel' on 'ice'.

Bradley rubs the back of his neck again.

BRADLEY
And the woman?

BASTIAN
The *Breeder* remains here. In case of another... '*malfunction*'.

Bastian and Gibbons exit.

BRADLEY
I'll embalm the *Vessel* for Cryogenic conservation. Please handle storage.

The Female Scientist nods back, unemotional.

Clara cries. A sadness crosses Bradley's face.

INT. SCIENCE LAB, NURSERY - NIGHT

A large, sterile room. Filled to the brim with HUNDREDS of 30x20-inch white BOXES, with GLASS FRONTS.

Each Box HOLDS A CRYO-FROZEN BABY. Labels read: SPECIMEN - (*Followed by Roman Numeral Numbers*).

Along one Wall is an EMPTY SPACE. The Female Scientist slots a RED BOX in to the open space. It also contains a FROZEN BABY, and a LABEL: "SPECIMEN - ALPHA".

As she slots the box in to place, ALARM SIRENS BLARE.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Clara rushes down a HALLWAY toward a DOOR. By the door, is Bradley. He hands Clara her BABY, and CLOTHES.

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ALAMRS keep BLARING loudly. Then, they hear the STOMPING of MEN running. A voice blaes over a KLAXON.

RADIO (VO)
*The 'Breeder' has escaped. Paladin
 squad 4-3 to G1, forthwith.*

Clara puts on the clothes. She looks at Bradley, confused.

CLARA
 Why are you doing this?

Bradley opens the DOOR. Hands Clara the card and a KNIFE.

BRADLEY
 Go west 3 blocks to the *Hudson Gate*.
 This will get you through. Go.

CLARA
 Thank you. I...

Clara pockets the knife. Exits. The door closes. Bradley squats against the wall, perturbed and disoriented.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Clara runs along a CREEK, as a squad of Paladins pursue her.

She finds cove, to hide from view. She smiles at her Baby, then GRIMACES in pain. Sees her hand's covered with BLOOD.

EXT. RIVER BY THE WOODS - DAY

A few days have passed. Clara's barely alive. But no longer pursued by Paladins. She's made CAMP next to a RIVER.

She's carved a makeshift CRIB from a TREE TRUNK. The crib's packed with straw and her hospital GOWN. She places the Baby into the crib, walks it out into the middle of the river.

Clara's life is slowly draining away.

CLARA
*"O, great River. O, great Wind. Carry
 him along River. Guide him home with
 the Wind."*

Clara RELEASES THE CRIB. The river carries it away. The baby looks back, as Clara descends under the water... Dead.

EXT. RIVER, CREEK, LAKES AND PONDS - PASSAGE OF TIME

The BABY in the crib MORPHS into a PLASTIC BABY DOLL.

It lolls along various WATERWAYS over 30 years.

A FJORD - a FINELY DRESSED DOLL passes an INDIGENOUS TRIBE by a fire, cooking FISH with a 6 year-OLD BOY.

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A CREEK - the raggedly dressed DOLL passes a middle-aged INDIGENOUS WOMAN, teaching an 8 year-OLD BOY to HUNT.

A POND - the naked DOLL drifts past a group of middle-aged INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, as they hand a 9 year-OLD BOY to a GROUP of PEOPLE wearing BLACK TRENCHCOATS, and HOODIES.

A LAKE - the DOLL-getting moldy-passes a 14 year-OLD BOY, being trained in hand-to-hand combat by a MAN [60s).

A COVE - the DOLL passes a 24 year-OLD MAN, with 8 other black-clad FIGHTERS, protecting a small fishing village from a vicious gang of BRIGANDS.

HUDSON RIVER - BARNACLES and MOLD cover the DOLL. It FLOATS toward a CRAGGY SHORE, gets JAMMED between 2 LARGE ROCKS.

A large LEATHER BOOT STOMPS down in front of the DOLL.

EXT. HUDSON RIVERFRONT - CONTINUOUS

KANA, (mid-30s, dark-skinned, tall, strong), stares at the BABY DOLL. He wears a BLACK TRENCHCOAT. He's a fearsome man, with an underlying melancholy about him.

2 miles away, is a gleaming CITY, encircled by a monolithic white marble WALL. To Kana's right is a crumbling BRIDGE, and a half-submerged, broken, STATUE OF LIBERTY.

Kana takes a BOTTLE from a SATCHEL goes to fill it, when-

THWUMP

A small STONE hits Kana's SHOULDER. Kana pounces up. 20 yards away he sees a teenage girl; ALINA, (14, part feral, part fearless, part fragile). She holds a paltry SLINGSHOT.

KANA

Sure you wanna do this?

Alina steps toward Kana and points at the WATER, makes a cutting gesture across her throat. Kana follows her eyes and 30-ft away sees a dead DOG bobbling along downriver.

KANA

(Exhales. Thrown off kilter)
Mm, thanks for the... uh, warning.

Alina points to Kana's BOTTLE and makes a drinking gesture.

KANA

You know where to get clear water?

Alina nods enthusiastically and ushers Kana to follow her into the remains of a derelict CITY, forgotten by time.

Kana is wary, but decides to follow her.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kana and Alina arrive at a 4x4-ft STREET GRATE. Alina gestures for Kana to open the grate. Kana peeks around, before picking up the heavy grate with ease.

Below the grate is a 6x6-ft WATER PIPELINE, labelled: 'DAGON CORPORATION'. A *make-shift* FAUCET is tapped into the PIPE.

KANA

That's clever. And, dangerous.

Alina shrugs. Looks away, impishly. Kana opens the FAUCET-

MALE VOICE (OS)

Hey! Shitchisel! Whaddya doin'?

Kana peers down the alley, sees 5 fearsome MEN.

DROOGS.

They all wear TAN PANTS, BROWN TURTLENECKS and dark GREEN DERBY HATS. A black SASH hangs from their BLACK BELTS. Except for the tallest-the leader-he wears a RED SASH. Plus, they all carry 3-ft walking CANES.

Kana scowls at Alina.

KANA

Droogs?

Kana can see Alina is genuinely SCARED. He faces the Droogs.

KANA

Just passing through, Boys.

The Leader steps forward.

LEAD DROOG

'*Passin' thru*', huh? '*Passin' thru*'.
Hmm. Don't think so. Nah, this here's
a swindle. And that there's my H2O.

KANA

My mistake. We can trade, yea?

The Droogs glare at Kana. Then they ogle Alina, depraved.

DROOG TWO

His jacket's a dandy.

KANA

The jacket? Sure.

LEAD DROOG

And the babygirl.

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CONTINUED:

KANA

The girl?

LEAD DROOG

Yeah, the Broad. See, only got one left, but she's a skank.

(Nods toward Alina)

But she... she's fresh. Ripe, ya know?

KANA

Just take the jacket... and leave.

The Droogs LAUGH. Alina's terrified.

Kana removes his JACKET, calmly hands it to Alina.

KANA

(Quietly to Alina)

Please close your eyes.

Alina closes her eyes. Tight. Very tight.

KANA

(To the Droogs)

Look, you seem like reasonable... fellas. So, let's be reasonable.

The Leader smiles, devilishly.

LEAD DROOG

Get a load'a this Palooka, Boys.

The Droog's *Leader* nods to his men. They draw SABRE BLADES from their Walking Canes. They RUSH at Kana.

KANA

(Despondent, to himself)

Should've taken the jacket.

Kana pulls out 2 OBSIDIAN, *CURVED KARAMBIT DAGGERS*. Each handle has a SILVER HOWLING WOLF effigy. Switches into a different mode. *A mode, primed to kill.*

Kana moves like a *Panther*. He kills the 1st *Droog* by slicing his FEMORAL ARTERY. The 2nd *Droog* has his JUGULAR slashed.

Kana thrusts his blade up and through the 3rd *Droog's* JAW, into his BRAIN. Then, Kana throws his SECOND DAGGER at the 4th *Droog*, piercing his HEART.

The *Droog Leader* belts out a WAR CRY and charges Kana.

Kana catches the Leader's HAND, SNAPS his wrist. The *Droog* drops his sabre. Then, Kana buries his Dagger through the top of the *Droog's* Green Bowler Hat and into his head.

Kana removes the knife. All 5 Droogs are dead.

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CONTINUED:

Kana goes back to Alina, wiping his blades off with the red sash, shaking his head. He sees Alina's TREMBLING.

Kana takes his jacket from Alina. Alina opens her eyes, tries to see the CARNAGE. But Kana gently turns her head away.

KANA
Food for nightmares, *Mika Nukka*.

Alina doesn't understand the words, but gets the intent.

KANA
You have a safe place to go?

Alina points down a street. They walk, turn a corner.

KANA
What were you doin' out here any-

PHWOOSH, THUD

Kana stops mid-sentence. Looks down and sees an ARROW BOLT lodged in his CHEST. He looks up and sees 6 late-TEEN BOYS. All dressed in rags like Alina, holding CROSS-BOWS.

Kana falls to a KNEE. Breathes heavily.

Alina looks at the Boys and WILDLY gesticulates (in SIGN LANGUAGE). DRAKE (19, street smart), moves toward Alina.

DRAKE
Why? 'Cos you forgot something.

Drake plops a BASEBALL CAP on Alina's head. Alina blushes.

DRAKE
(Looks at Kana)
Who's the stray?

Alina *Signs* something to Drake that piques his interest.

DRAKE
6 *Droogs*? By himself.
(Off of something Alina's *signing*)
A... a '*Mercario*'?

Drake is in awe. Alina *signs* again, imploring Drake.

DRAKE
Ok. Ok, fine. But when Gregor gets madder than a mule... that's on you.

Alina nods, happily. Meanwhile, Kana passes out.

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

Kana's being carried through a TUNNEL.

INT. HATCHWAY ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Kana's dragged up steep metal STAIRS through a HATCHWAY.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kana's on a STRETCHER, moving through a passageway. A woman (SOFIA, late-30s, intelligent and kind) hovers over him.

SOFIA

We're gonna get you patched up, ok?

Kana hears a gravelly voice of a MAN, somewhere behind him.

MAN (OS)

He killed 7 *Droogs*?

(a beat)

A '*Mercario*'? And you bring him here?

Kana then hears the soothing voice of an OLDER MAN.

OLDER MAN (OS)

You forgot your hat, my dear.

Kana succumbs to the darkness.

INT. LAB/SICK BAY - DAY

Kana wakes. Sees Sofia in front of a COMPUTER, surrounded by various LAB equipment. Alina sits on a CHAIR next to Kana's bed, READING. She looks up at Kana, smiles. Kana smiles back.

Sofia turns.

SOFIA

You're awake.

Sofia pours Kana a GLASS of water, as Kana looks at the bandages on his chest.

KANA

Shit. Kid got me dead to rights.

Sofia checks Kana's chest wound. She's baffled.

SOFIA

The wound's mostly healed... It's remarkable actually. I've never-

The DOOR opens. In enters GREGOR (mid-40s, a battle-weary protector, calloused by hardship). Gregor looks at Sofia.

SOFIA

He just woke up.

Gregor scrutinizes Kana. *Friend or Foe?*

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GREGOR
Got a name?

KANA
Yep.

GREGOR
Why were you in *subskirts*?

KANA
Saving one of your people.

Gregor goes to a TABLE, unlocks a hidden draw. Pulls Kana's WEAPONS out: A set of Karambit Knives (*Mercario Blades*) and a sheathed GILDED DAGGER. Kana tenses.

Gregor picks up to the *Mercario Blades*.

GREGOR
A *Mercario*? Took down 8 *Droogs*? Like they were nothin' more than kittens.

KANA
I love kittens. Hate bowler hats.

GREGOR
You huntin' solo?

KANA
Do hunters normally get shot?

GREGOR
Hmm. *The Nine* hunt as a pack. No lone wolves. So either you stole these, or *The Nine's* down to *One*.

Kana seems distant. Sad. Sofia can see he's also tiring.

SOFIA
He needs rest, G.

GREGOR
He needs to go.

EXT. LAB/SICK BAY - NIGHT

Kana WAKES. Hears voices. Sees Alina asleep. He then sees Sofia and BRADLEY, (now mid-60s, socially Spock-esque) studying something via a MICROSCOPE.

SOFIA
He's completely immune to the virus.

BRADLEY
(Looking through *microscope*)
Substantiated. And... incredible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA
Incredible? Sure. Breakthrough? No.

BRADLEY
We need a *Thermal Fusion Processor* to run replication testing.

Sofia sighs, disappointed.

BRADLEY
Going to New-Hallah is perilous. But most scientific breakthroughs are the result of risk-taking, Sofia.

KANA (OS)
You have a way into the city?

Both Sofia and Bradley turn simultaneously.

BRADLEY
Good evening. My name is Bradley.
(Points to Alina)
Alina's guardian. Thank you for-

KANA
Could you get me into New-Hallah?

Bradley analyses Kana.

BRADLEY
I hear you terminated 8 Droogs?

SOFIA
Bradley. We, we don't know this man.

KANA
I can help lower the 'risk' factor.

Bradley studies Kana again. Contemplating.

BRADLEY
Perhaps we can agree to-

Alina starts to talk loudly in her sleep. Various languages. All incomprehensible. Kana holds his head, in INTENSE PAIN.

Bradley wakes Alina. Kana's pain stops. Alina's disoriented.

BRADLEY
Sorry. She gets nightmares-

SOFIA
Are you okay?

KANA
Yeah. It's... uh, probably the meds.

Both Bradley and Sofia are puzzled, as Kana looks at Alina,

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

disconcerted.

BRADLEY
 (To Alina)
 Gregor's summoned you.
 (To Kana)
 We'll speak in the morning.

Alina gets up. Looks at Kana, plaintively.

KANA
 Thanks for the water, *Mika Nukka*.

Alina smiles, leaves with Bradley.

Kana notices Sofia staring at him, warily.

Sofia sighs, hesitantly. She turns back to her work. Kana rubs his head... still in pain.

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Bastian, donned in a flowing BLACK VELVET ROBE, sits at a table, spooning FOOD from an oversized BOILED EGG CUP.

Standing in the corners of this chamber, are Bastian's mountainous ELITE PALADIN GUARDS, differentiated by their MONK-like uniforms. They carry BLACK SPEARS.

Gibbons, enters this room, carrying a TABLET computer. He faces Bastian. *Neither man has aged a day in 30 years.*

GIBBONS
 There was a disturbance in the sub skirts yesterday. A security drone captured footage of the event.

Gibbons approaches Bastian with the TABLET.

GIBBONS
 Retina recognition detected an anomaly. THE anomaly.

He shows Bastian video footage of *Kana killing the Droogs*. Bastian analyzes the images... slowly smiles.

BASTIAN
 Hiding in plain sight.

Gibbons allows himself a small smile.

GIBBONS
 Auspicious timing, my Lord.

BASTIAN
 The *Alignment* occurs in four days. Make the necessary preparations.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gibbons dutifully nods. Exits the chamber.

Bastian returns eating: The *Egg Cup* contains a *HUMAN HEAD*, with the TOP CUT OFF. Bastian sups on the BRAINS.

EXT. BRADLEY'S ROOM - MORNING

Kana wears a HOOD. Door closes, hood's removed. Kana's sees his clothes and weapons are on Bradley's DESK.

The room's packed with BOOKS, PAPERS and academic ARTIFACTS. Along the WALLS are MAPS, images of GLYPHS and SIGILS, old black and white PHOTOS of historical figures. Scientific jargon and sketches also litter the wall. A RED THREAD connects the various images.

In the corner of the room is a BUNK BED. On top is Alina. Hair tied back with a BLUE SCRUNCHY. She smiles at Kana.

Flanking Kana is VIC (early-40s, big, burly) and NICKY (mid-30s, sinewy). Half his face is SCARRED. Vic glares at Kana. Nicky wears a cavalier smile.

KANA
(To Bradley)
So, what's the verdict?

Bradley evaluates Kana, again.

BRADLEY
You accompany me. But on my terms.

KANA
Which are?

VIC
Do what he says. When he says it.

Nicky walks toward Bradley's desk. Looks at Kana's knives.

KANA
And you are?

NICKY
Nicky.

BRADLEY
Gregor's brother.

KANA
(To Vic)
And what are you?

VIC
The guy who'll cut your throat, if-

BRADLEY
Victor is our head of security.

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CONTINUED:

Bradley is distracted, grabbing CLOTHES from a CHEST.

Nicky holds up Kana's *Mercario Blades*.

NICKY

A *Mercario*? Took out 9 *Droogs*, like...
 (Snaps his fingers)
 ...wham bam, thank ya ma'am.

KANA

So I keep hearing.

Nicky notices a SHEATHED, Gilded DAGGER, nuzzled into a leather SHOULDER HOLDER. He puts his hand on it-

KANA

(Threatening)
 Curiosity killed the cat.

Nicky holds up his palms, placating.

NICKY

Good thing I got nine lives.

Bradley tosses Kana a UNIFORM. It's dark grey, with GREEN trim. A PATCH reads: **Research Lead - DAGON, Inc.**

BRADLEY

Get dressed. We leave in 5 minutes.

Kana looks at the uniform, drops his PANTS.

EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM - VENUS - N/A

A large COMET, shrouded in gaseous debris, passes Venus.

EXT. SUBSKIRTS OF NEW-HALLAH - DAY

Kana's HOOD is removed. He sees they're beneath an underpass of a broken BRIDGE, next to the Hudson River. He's with Vic, Nicky, and Bradley. A quarter a mile away is, NEW-HALLAH.

Vic aggressively nudges Kana toward Bradley.

VIC

Make it quick.

BRADLEY

We're entering via the *Hudson Gate*.
 (To Kana)
 You'll accompany me to the *Biological Research Center*, where I'll procure a small device. Once we return you can go back via the same way we entered.

Kana feels something inside the BACK COLLAR of his Uniform.

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CONTINUED:

KANA
Stigma's in the collar?

BRADLEY
We'll pass through security
undetected. Trust me.

Nicky and Vic hold Kana's belongings. Kana grabs his Gilded Dagger. Hides it in his jacket. Bradley shakes his head.

BRADLEY
They have metal detectors.

KANA
It'll pass through security.
(Firm)
Trust me.

Bradley walks away carrying a BRIEFCASE. Kana follows and notices Alina's BLUE SCRUNCHY on Bradley's wrist. He smiles.

EXT. NEW HALLAH, HUDSON GATE - DAY

Kana and Bradley approach the BORDER GATE into *New-Hallah*. The Gate is big enough to fit 2 ROADS, and 2 WALKWAYS.

Protecting the border are PALADINS. Their UNIFORMS are a dark charcoal color with a crimson trim. Their carbon-fiber HELMETS are a contemporary version of a VIKING helmet.

Each side of the walkways and roads are CHECK POINTS. Bradley and Kana prepare to pass through the INGRESS check point.

In front of them, a middle-aged MALE TRADER attempts to pass through, but sets off a DETECTOR. A light FLASHES YELLOW. Two Paladins promptly surround the TRADER. One of the Paladins uses a GADGET to SCAN the petrified Trader's NECK.

PALADIN 1
No Stigma.

TRADER
But, but, but, I do, I do, I-

The 2nd Paladin grabs the Trader and holds him against a WALL. Checks his JACKET and pulls out a small MICROCHIP.

PALADIN 2
Stigma fraud is a criminal violation,
in accordance to Dagon Civil Decree,
section one eight point four. Prepare
for processing and sentencing.

TRADER
It was a mistake. I'm, I'm sorry. We
just need food. We're starving.

The Paladin FLIPS the scanning GADGET around and holds it

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CONTINUED:

against the Trader's neck. The Paladin presses a TRIGGER and a Stigma is inserted into the Trader's NECK.

TRADER

My family. They, they need me. Please-

2 different PALADINS lead the Trader away. He looks at Kana, desperate. Kana's *fists clench*. Bradley gives Kana a tiny *shake of the head* as they approach the ENTRANCEWAY.

The walk slowly. Very slowly. Each step, life or death.

Unlike the Trader, they pass through without a problem. Still, the 2 Paladin Guards glare at Kana. Kana glares back.

EXT. NEW-HALLAH STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Kana follows Bradley, who seems to know his way around.

New-Hallah is a cross between DUBAI SKY-SCRAPER aesthetics and old ROMAN ARCHITECTURE. It's a stunning marvel.

They pass across a long, narrow PARKWAY MALL (similar to the *DC National Mall*). At the end of the *Parkway* is a grandiose CATHEDRAL, with a 200x200-ft RETRACTABLE BRONZE DOME.

The CITIZENS are paragons of physical perfection. All wear similar, prosaic clothes.

KANA

So, what are we looking for?

BRADLEY

(Pointing)

That.

A large BUILDING (much like the *NYC Public Library*). Next to the Building is a tall, thin COMMS TOWER. Capped by a PYRAMID ENCLOSURE coated in shiny GREY HEXAGONAL TILES, and topped with a GLASS CAPSTONE.

Bradley ushers Kana toward the: *DAGON BIO-RESEARCH CENTER*.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Kana follows Bradley down corridors. They turn a corner...

FEMALE SCIENTIST (OS)

John? John?

Bradley pauses. Removes his GLASSES. Turns. (The FEMALE SCIENTIST is the same from 30+ years ago--mid-60s now).

BRADLEY

Uh, you're mistaken. I'm Bradley.

FEMALE SCIENTIST

You look just like a scientist who-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kana TRAPS HER in NECK HOLD. She PASSES OUT. He picks her up.

KANA
No time for reunions.

Bradley swallows down a calming breath, moves forward.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER, LAB - CONTINUOUS

They enter a ROOM filled with LAP EQUIPMENT. Kana places the Female Scientist on the floor. Bradley looks at her, worried.

BRADLEY
Is she dead?

KANA
She's napping.

Bradley finds the *Device*, puts it into his Briefcase. Nods to Kana. They head to the door. But Bradley pauses, looks at the Woman, seems worried.

KANA
She's fine. Unlike us, if we don't go.

EXT. NEW-HALLAH STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Kana points to Bradley's Briefcase.

KANA
So, what's this gizmo do?

BRADLEY
It can recalibrate genes within the DNA of any living organism.

KANA
'Living organism'? You mean, *human*?

BRADLEY
Well... yes. To develop an elixir.

KANA
What for?

BRADLEY
Fertility Suppression Virus; FSV.

KANA
(Sardonic chuckle)
Ahh. I see. A miracle cure for a 40 year old pandemic? Hmm. Okay.

BRADLEY
I understand your cynicism. After all, every attempt to find a cure has failed. But recently we uncovered a transformational anomaly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA

Where?

(Off of Bradley's look)

Me? You think I'm the key to reopening the '*baby factory*'? Are-

A LOUD BURST of regal TRUMPETS disrupt their conversation.

Kana realizes they're slap-dab in the middle of the *Parkway*.

All CITIZENS stop in unison, and face the *Cathedral*. The DOME retracts to reveal a PODIUM, flanked by two small STAGES, veiled by BLACK CURTAINS. 2 VIDEO SCREENS materialize.

The FLAG of DAGON is raised above the podium. *Dagon's SYMBOL is a CIRCLE made up of inverted HAMMERS (THOR'S RUNE) and in the middle of the circle, an upside down STAR, with a RED EYE, with a YELLOW PUPIL, in the center.*

Standing at the Podium is, Bastian.

BASTIAN

Citizens of *New-Hallah*, we are joined today by your Aryan family from Lo-Hallah, To-Hallah and Jo-Hallah for a vital new proclamation.

The video screens show similar Cathedrals and *Parkway Malls* from the 3 other STATH-HALLAHS. (**L**ondon, **T**okyo, **J**oburg).

BASTIAN

We have tried to be patient with the primitive '*Unterman Species*'. But our benevolent overtures for aid and support must end. For their dying race has become too dangerous. And, as history has taught us, when the *Unterman* feels threatened they resort to cruelty and violence.

The two screens broadcast BLOODY IMAGES of eight DEAD Dagon SCIENTISTS, on the leafy ground, of a woods. The Crowd GASP.

BASTIAN

Just yesterday, a group of our scientists were killed by an *Unterman* mob without cause or provocation.

(Draw a deep, regretful breath)

So, it is with deep sorrow that we must enact a zero tolerance policy, effective within 72 hours. After this, any *Unterman* found within 200 miles of a *Stath-Hallah*, will be apprehended and sent to a reformation camp.

Bastian turns his head, nods to Gibbons.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN

However, the most violent among them cannot be reformed. Instead, they'll meet the same fate as those who killed our innocent Scientists.

Gibbons nods to another MAN, and the BLACK CURTAIN over the LEFT stage open; 8 men are hanging, disemboweled. 5 of which are the DROOGS killed by Kana. The crowd GASP, applause.

The RIGHT stage CURTAIN FALLS. Shows 6 MEN and 2 WOMEN hanging, disemboweled. All wear similar clothing. Bradley notices Kana's JAW and FISTS CLENCH.

BASTIAN

With the *Alignment* merely days away... rest assured, your safety is our paramount concern. For nothing will compromise our vision of everlasting prosperity: '*Peace and Perfection.*'

The Crowd chant back: '*Peace & Perfection*'.

EXT. NEW-HALLAH, OUTSIDE THE HUDSON GATES - DAY

Kana and Bradley are 300 yards from the Gates. Walking quick.

BRADLEY

Will you return?

KANA

I got my answers.
(Quietly)
They were hanging on the stage.

Bradley looks at Kana.

KANA

Now I have different questions.

EXT. SUBSKIRTS OF NEW-HALLAH - CONTINUOUS

Nicky and Vic wait for them under the BRIDGE.

NICKY

We heard the broadcast. Somethin' has 'em riled and ready to rumble.

Bradley nods. Kana grabs his stuff. Vic stares at Kana.

VIC

On your way, Mercario.

Kana glares at Vic, squares up, ready to fight, when-

PALADIN CAPTAIN (OS)

Identify yourselves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They see a squad of 7 Paladins. In the middle of the Squad is their CAPTAIN. The Squad simultaneously draw their WEAPONS.

PALADIN CAPTAIN
Get on your knees.

Nicky looks at Bradley and Vic. Speaks softly to them.

NICKY
We gotta skin-out.

Kana's unmoved.

BRADLEY
Nicholas is correct. Our optimal chance for survival, is to run.

PALADIN CAPTAIN
I said get on your knees, NOW!

Kana's blinded by the Red Mist of revenge.

BRADLEY
Kana. Please... stop.

Kana kicks up an old STOP SIGN from the street, and then FRISBEES it at the Paladin Captain with such ferocity, it knocks the Captain half way back to his childhood.

Kana take out his Gilded Dagger and throws it at one of the Paladins, in the CHEST. The remaining Paladins open fire.

Nicky, Vic and Bradley TAKE COVER and watch Kana go to work.

Kana moves quickly, dodging bullets. He retrieves his Dagger from the first Paladin he killed, then seemingly bounces it off the ground and up into the throat of a 2nd Paladin.

Again, Kana zig-zags to fetch his Dagger. When he gets to it this time, the Dagger seemingly JUMPS from the Paladin's neck, up into his hand. Like they're kinetically connected.

Kana kills the remaining Paladins. His Dagger pinging off of walls, the street, cars, scrap metal, to slay each target.

Kana returns to the others, cleaning his Dagger with a RAG.

VIC
You just made us a target, Ratfucker.

KANA
If you ran, they'd catch you. Then torture you. Then learn everything.

NICKY
He ain't wrong, Vic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIC

Maybe. Or maybe he just made it worse.

Bradley stares at the carnage. Looks at Kana.

BRADLEY

We can offer shelter.

Kana thinks. Then, spots Alina's blue SCRUNCHY. He nods. Vic stares angrily at Bradley.

VIC

Bullshit. This psycho can't be privy to where we privy.

Kana points to the middle of the HUDSON RIVER. Where there is a stationary AIRCRAFT CARRIER. 200 yards to portside of the Carrier is a half-submerged FERRY. And 300 yards from the starboard side is a rusted-out FISHING TRAWLER.

KANA

Old *Lincoln Tunnel* to *The Intrepid*?

NICKY

(Sighs. Looks at Vic)

Told ya he clocked it.

(Looking at Kana)

Besides, we could use the iron. The guy just single-handedly took down a Paladin platoon and killed 10 Droogs.

Kana's walking in front of Nicky and Vic.

KANA

For the record, it was 5 Droogs.

Bradley quietly GRABS the RAG Kana used clean his Dagger with.

INT. THE INTREPID, PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Kana walks through a set of passageways aboard the USS Intrepid, Aircraft Carrier. (*What was an old Naval Museum*) Now, converted into a home for hundreds of humans.

Kana follows Bradley into a CONFERENCE ROOM.

INT. THE INTREPID, READY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Inside the room are a dozen COUNCIL LEADERS.

Sargent-at-Arms, BIG T, (early-50s). Medical Officer, MONI (early-60s,). Head Engineer, JOE (late-50s). Next to Joe is his daughter, JULES (late-20s, plucky and lewd)

Gregor sits at the head of the TABLE, with, Nicky, Sofia and Vic on either side of him. Tension is heavy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONI
You're talking genocide.

SOFIA
We're going extinct. So, why the rush?

KANA
Maybe it's taking too long.

MONI
We abide by their laws. Surely we can reach an agreement. A bargain.

KANA
Dagon doesn't bargain.

BIG T
Disease. Disaster. Death. Done that.
But this place... it's a home.

JOE
Only piece of peace we've ever known.

MONI
A safe haven.

GREGOR
So, y'all wanna dig in?

KANA
Then you'll lose. Everything.

VIC
Shut your ass, *Mercario*.

GREGOR
Hey. Hey. Settle down.
(To Nicky)
Why so tight lipped, Kid?

NICKY
Bein' honest, I think they aim to clear the board, top to bottom, G.

A few grumble in agreement. Jules looks at Nick, he smiles.

BRADLEY
Nicholas is correct. There's been a paradigm shift. A change that requires any and all threats be removed.

JULES
A threat? Us? Gimme a fuckin' break.

NICKY
Hey, this pretty face is a bad ass.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULES

That pretty face is all show, no go.

Bradley turns his attention to Kana.

BRADLEY

Please share what *really* happened to your Sect.

KANA

(A beat)

Week ago, we were called for an op. We were ambushed. No one survived.

VIC

Reap what you sow.

Kana looks menacingly at Vic.

KANA

Run that mouth again, and you'll reap the whirlwind.

BRADLEY

(Raised voice)

The executed on display; Some were *Droogs*. But the others...?

KANA

Were executed far from New-Hallah.

GREGOR

(To Himself)

'*All warfare is based on deception.*'

JOE

Get real, people. We're not a threat like the *Nine*.

KANA

'*Sacrificum Est Salvum*'

Kana nods to a TATTOO on Gregor's forearm: *Double-Headed BLACK EAGLE*, *Sword in one Talon*, and *a Gun in the other*. Encircled by the Latin phrase: '*Sacrificum Est Salvum*'.

KANA

To '*Sacrifice is to Save*'? Isn't that the motto of the *Jersey Dragoons*? The little army that fought the great *Mizzou Militia* for 7 years, before Dagon forced a disarmament.

(Seeing their reaction)

Half of you were *Dragoons*. Hmm?

Gregor, Nicky, Sofia, Big T, Joe - all have the same *Tattoo*.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA

If I know. They know.

BIG T

Hung up our guns. We're civvies now.

KANA

Once a soldier. Always a soldier.

GREGOR

Ok. We gotta weigh our druthers.

KANA

Be me you, I'd scuttle this floating
kill box. Cut 'n run.

JOE

Don't worry, Son. This *Old Girl* has a
few tricks up her sleeve.

KANA

Tricks?

(Shakes his head)

Tricks.

Kana abruptly leaves. As he exits, he sees Alina and Drake
EAVESDROPPING outside the DOOR. Kana walks away.

INT. THE INTREPID, BRADLEY'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Kana faces the wall with the PHOTOS, MAPS, and DRAWINGS.

As Bradley quietly enters, he notices a BIRTH MARK/SIGIL on
Kana's back: A *Triangle* on top of a *Cross*, with an image of
the *Sun* inside the *Triangle*, bookended by *White Wings*.

Kana grabs a old PHOTO from the wall, hands it to Bradley.

KANA

Who are they?

INSERT PICTURE: HITLER, GORING and HIMMLER, with 4 SS
OFFICERS. One is '*Bastian*'. A RED CIRCLE rings his face.
Another red circle rings *Himmler's* face. 'GIBBONS' FACE.

BRADLEY

There was once a crusade. Based on an
ideological doctrine; proclaiming
there was only one pure faction of
humanity. All other kind and creed,
were impure aberrations. And mankind
could only achieve perfection, if the
abominations were removed... forever.

KANA

What happened?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY

The 'impure' fought back and won. As for the the leaders of this 'pure race'; they killed themselves.

KANA

'Cept these two.

BRADLEY

The founders of Dagon.

KANA

How old are they?

BRADLEY

Old enough to be an abomination.

INT. THE INTREPID, ENGINE ROOM DECK - NIGHT

Vic's wearing a a ragged PEACOCK and HOODIE. He silently approaches the LINCOLN TUNNEL HATCHWAY.

DEEDEE (OS)

Evening, Chief.

SGT. DEEDEE (mid-30s, tough, Moni's daughter) is with Cpl. WALT (late-40s). Both are SMOKING. Vic's surprised.

VIC

Headin' out on a reccy.

WALT

Need wingmen, Chief?

VIC

Sargent, would you kindly remind Corporal Dipshit, what's the Number One rule of *stealth recon*?

DEEDEE

"*Less is more.*"

Vic's fierce expression, prompts Walt to open the Hatchway. Vic descends downward. Walt closes the Hatchway. Glances at DeeDee, perplexed. She's reciprocates

INT. THE INTREPID, BRADLEY'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Kana's looking at other imagery on Bradley's *wall of weird*:

Kana points to 2 SIGILS. One looks exactly like the mark on his back. The other, is a *TRIANGLE*, bookended by *BLACK TRUMPETS*, with a *CROSS* in the middle, with an eye on top.

KANA

Do you know what they mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY

Not specifically. All I know, is that versions these symbols have been around for thousands of years, through hundreds of civilizations.

Kana points to the SIGIL with the BLACK TRUMPETS.

KANA

This one's familiar. Not sure why.

A small COUGH comes from the door. Alina's in the room. She the Sigil, then lifts up her SHIRT. Bradley stops her.

BRADLEY

You're not a little girl, anymore.

Alina is embarrassed. When she turns around, Bradley pulls Alina's HAIR into a PONYTAIL with the *Blue Scrunchy*. Alina then lifts her shirt to reveal a SIGIL on her back.

This is the one framed by the *Black Trumpets*.

BRADLEY

It's a birth mark.

Alina signs to Bradley, points to Kana's back.

BRADLEY

Yes. Very similar.

Kana sees a picture of a CAVE wall, with Sigils and Glyphs.

KANA

I know this place. I've seen it.

BRADLEY

(Animated)

Where? These Glyphs are the key to understanding Sigils. I'm sure of it.

KANA

(A beat)

Who's 'John'?

Bradley inhales. *It's time to tell the truth.*

EXT. THE INTREPID, FORE DECK - NIGHT

Kana follows Bradley around *The Intrepid's* deck.

This is also the first time Kana has seen the community. CANOPIES and MARQUEES. CROPS and FRUIT gardens. Gathering areas for eating or trading goods.

BRADLEY

John was a genetic engineer, who developed the formula for producing

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
flawless anthropoids.

KANA
You perfected test tube babies.

BRADLEY
An oversimplification, but... yes.

KANA
You're one of 'em?

BRADLEY
Lab born? Yes. An early version.

KANA
How did you perfect the formula?

BRADLEY
Gibbons gave us an infant whose
genomes could mutate other DNA at the
molecular level.

KANA
Mutate into what?

BRADLEY
Unknown. Our job was to develop a
viral delivery system. Then...
(A beat)
A lab accident damaged my Stigma. I
started to feel... different.

KANA
Stigmas control feelings, right?

BRADLEY
The infant... and, and it's mother.
(Bradley stops walking)
I helped them escape. Because it felt...
I felt...

KANA
Wrong.

Bradley nods. Looks away.

KANA
What happened to them?

BRADLEY
The mother died. The baby...

Bradley glances at Kana. Adjusts his glasses.

BRADLEY
The infant's genetic structure was an
anomaly. He was also born with an
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
unusual birthmark. Until 2 days ago,
his whereabouts were unknown.

Kana ruffles his brow. Bradley stares back at him, nods.

INT. THE INTREPID, LAB/SICK BAY - NIGHT

Sofia, Bradley, and Kana gathered around a COMPUTER MONITOR.

SOFIA
Kana... your DNA contains a mutated
gene that makes you immune to FSV.
But... I just found the same markers
in the blood of the dead Paladins.

BRADLEY
Dagon replicated a variant DNA
mutation. Then utilized our viral
delivery system on.... on everyone.

KANA
Any idea why or what for?

BRADLEY
No. Just that the mutation is dormant.

Sofia shows a different screen, displaying a STRAND OF DNA.

SOFIA
DNA is basically an organism's genetic
blueprint. But, we're looking at a
latent molecule in this DNA. We don't
know how it'll change the blueprint,
if it's activated. I've tried various
triggers. But so far... zilch.

Kana pauses, looks at Bradley.

KANA
The cave wall? It's in a place I once
called *home*.

INT. THE INTREPID, READY ROOM - NIGHT

Gregor is with Nicky, Joe and Big T, planning. Sofia, Bradley
and Kana are debating with Gregor.

SOFIA
He needs to warn his people.

GREGOR
We can't spare any resources.

SOFIA
It'll take a day, max.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR

Why you so lathered up?

BRADLEY

Because we need to accompany him.

GREGOR

Oh, the hell you do.

Bradley looks around the room.

BRADLEY

Some privacy, please.

LATER - Only Gregor, Nicky, Sofia and Bradley remain.

GREGOR

Okay then. Let's have it.

SOFIA

Dagon makes a borderline genocidal policy change, outta the blue? There's a bigger picture we're not seeing.

NICKY

Hey, we knew this day'd come. We been plannin' on it. That's the picture.

SOFIA

We see what they want us to see. But what if we knew there were secretly juicing their people with a genetic formula. And what if that formula was a threat? We'd need data. Lots of it.

GREGOR

From Kana's home?

BRADLEY

His home contains information, that can clarify this bigger picture.

SOFIA

We're effectively blind right now.

A silence blankets the group.

GREGOR

"If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you'll also suffer a defeat."

NICKY

(To Bradley, annoyed)

Ugh. You never shoulda given him that Art of horseshit mumbo jumbo.

Sofia places her hand on Gregor's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR

Okay. But Vic and Drake chaperone.

NICKY

I gotta rotten-ass feelin' 'bout this.

Sofia leans his head toward Gregors. Rubs his head.

EXT. SUBSKIRTS OF NEW-HALLAH, MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Gibbons enters the old THEATER. Vic is waiting.

Gibbons approaches Vic, with his Paladin guards. They aim their GUNS at him. Gibbons and Vic speak. Gibbons hands the VIC a SMALL GADGET. Vic nods.

Gibbons walks away, and exits the theater, smiling.

EXT. HIGH SPEED HOVERCRAFT (THE NEMO) - EARLY MORNING

Kana's with Drake, Vic, Bradley and Alina as they travel along the Hudson River, in a 40ft long, super-fast 'HYDRO-JUMPER'. Drake has a STAFF and a CROSSBOW. Vic has a MACHETE.

DRAKE

(To Kana)

300 miles North? Tundria?

Kana nods back. Looks around the boat.

KANA

This *Hydro-Jumper's* military-grade.
Where'd you find it?

DRAKE

The ol' Naval stations down South are
fulla toys. We even found a Rail-

VIC

Shut your glory hole, boy.

Drake zips up. Sheepishly walks away. Kana and Vic glare at each other. Bradley gestures for Kana to follow him up front.

KANA

(Nods at Vic)

He always such a prick?

BRADLEY

Your Sect killed his brother.

KANA

"Defend the vulnerable. Punish the
wicked." That's the Nine's one rule.

BRADLEY

Vic's brother was a man of... carnage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then they reach the front of the boat. Alina's wrapped in BLANKETS. Drake next to her. They laugh and giggle.

DRAKE

(Noticing Kana)

Hey... Is it true *Mercario's* start their training at the age of 9?

KANA

(A beat)

The *Elder* trains the *Cub* for 9 years. Then they hunt with the *Pack*. The *Elder* rests. And the cycle repeats. Or, it did. Last *Cub* was 18 years ago.

DRAKE

I heard legends about the *Nine*; Like the stand at *Roanoke*. The attack on *Newberry*. The defense of *Allentown*.

(Looks at Vic)

Vic thinks the *Nine* are murderers. But, I say they're true warriors.

Kana looks out to the water and beyond, pensive.

KANA

Where I'm from the challenges are different. No gangs or bandits to fight or fear. There's only the environment. And surviving it, is the challenge of the *Senaquois*.

(Recalling a past event)

One year, a barren harvest is followed by a bitter winter. So, a brave woman hikes 50 miles from her village, in search of food for their survival.

(Swallows)

After two days she reaches a ravine overlooking a river. And somehow, over the roar of the water, she hears a baby crying. She leans over the ridge for a closer look. But the ridge gives way, and she slips down the slope, breaking her leg.

Drake and now Alina are facing Kana. Enthralled.

KANA

She ignores her injury. Searches for the baby. Eventually finds it by the river's edge, barely alive. Then, without hesitation, the woman sets her leg, swaddles the infant, and decides, against all logic and hope, to climb back up the ravine. And... and even if they somehow survive the climb, she knew very well, that the elements or disease or starvation, would likely

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA (CONT'D)

kill them. In other words, she knew, they couldn't survive. So, why try?

(Takes a deep breath)

I know this woman. I was that baby.

(Rubs his eyes)

Um, despite her pain she, she willed herself to the top of the ridge.

And... and then, she... she set out again into the blinding snow, and hiked back to her village. All to save a baby boy who should've been left to die by the river. But to her, this was a gift. To her, there was no greater honor than being chosen to safeguard the light of a new life.

(Looks directly at Drake)

That's.... that's a true warrior.

Drake nods to himself. Alina stares at Kana, sympathetically.

Drake twirls his Staff around, shadow fighting.

DRAKE

I could be a *Mercario*.

Drake clumsily DROPS his staff. He stares at it, embarrassed, and then back at Kana. Kana breaks the silence by laughing. Bradley and Drake also laugh, and Alina grins.

Meanwhile at the back: Vic places small METAL BUTTON under the STEERING WHEEL. The button starts to FLASH RED.

EXT. RIVER ALCOVE/TUNDRIA TERRITORY - DAWN

The boat pulls up to a DOCK. In front of a snow blanketed FOREST. A WATERFALL is on the other side of the Cove.

Kana and crew set foot on the rocky waterfront.

VIC

Where you taking us? I'm freezin-

Kana suddenly puts up his HAND to SILENCE Vic.

KANA

Put down your weapons... slowly.

VIC

Fucking trap. Knew it.

Vic reluctantly drops his Machete.

A TRIBE of elderly MEN and WOMEN emerge from the FOREST, in WHITE FURS. They have BOWS & ARROWS. They're the *Senaquois*.

KANA

Sekoa en'nasha keyori kenonta.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The OLDEST WOMAN walks up to Kana.

ELDER WOMAN
Ónhka ní'se'?

KANA
'K'enka O'anya.' Sekoh kahi... 'Kana'.

The Elder Woman studies Kana's face... SMILES, embraces him. They touch foreheads. The Elder Woman SPEAKS to her people:

ELDER WOMAN
Ka'hui ehar, 'K'enka O'anya'.

The SMILES, at ease. They approach Kana's RAG-TAG GROUP.

BRADLEY
What did you tell them?

KANA
We're on a quest to speak to their
chieftain... My mother; 'K'enka.'

EXT. SENAQUOIS TRIBAL VILLAGE - DAY

Kana's weary crew emerge from the FOREST into the SENAQUOIS TRIBAL village. The Village is essentially built in front of a large CAVE. It's modest, but busy. TENTS, GARDENS, CARPENTRY stations, CRAFTING areas, and a SWEAT LODGE.

No one in the Tribe is below the age of 40.

The biggest TENT is that of the Chieftan. The crew approach that tent. Kana's mother; K'ENKA O'ANYA (80s, poised, elegant and wise), emerges in her CHIEFTAN GARB, with a walking CANE.

She walks with a LIMP, over to Kana. She looks at him a hint of sorrow. But when Kana smiles, her sorrow fades away. He holds her, pulls her in close and kisses her forehead.

Soon many of the *Senaquois Tribe* surround the visitors. They fawn over the visitors, putting them at ease.

INT. SENAQUOIS CAVE - DAY

Kana and crew sit with *Senaquois* ELDERS. Vic's at the front of the Cave, continuously checking a WATCH on his WRIST.

The CAVE WALLS match the images from Bradley's room. K'enka speaks to Kana in her *native tongue*.

KANA
These are legends passed down
generation to generation over
thousands of moons. So, it's 'iffy'.
(K'enka speaks again)
Alina's Sigil might mean... *Messenger*,
Summoner... or even *Herald*.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY
And yours?

KANA
Guardian. Prince. Regent... 'iffy'.

Bradley looks at a section of the wall with different words.

BRADLEY
This is *Aramaic*; An ancient language,
once used to write a very powerful
religious manuscript.

KANA
What does it say?

BRADLEY
It references *'Four Archangels;*
Gabrael, Michael, Raphael and Urael.
Protectors of man.

Alina stands, points to her Sigil with the same language.

BRADLEY
It's a name; *Yaweh. 'The Word of God'.*

Alina nods. She then touches an IMAGE on the Wall, of STARS
in the NIGHT SKY. She *signs* something to Drake.

DRAKE
She thinks all the different words and
symbols refer to an ability to *speak*
to, or *summon* something... *celestial*?

Alina nods, then notices a different IMAGE of an OBJECT in
the NIGHT SKY image. It *spooks* her. She *signs* to Drake.

DRAKE
She thinks this might be the *Zaravan*
Comet. But it's not a comet. It's a
'transport' or a *'vessel'*?

Alina *signs* again to Drake.

DRAKE
She sees the *Comet* in her nightmares.
Says it's filled with... *'Monsters'*?

VIC
Monsters now? Fuck this fantasy shit.

Alina touches the Wall, fearfully. K'enka goes to Alina.
Touches her arm and speaks. Kana translates.

KANA
I also have nightmares... I sense
millions of lost souls trapped behind
a veil. I can hear their wailing in
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA (CONT'D)

the wind. Taste their tears in the
rain. See their sorrow in the Sun.
Feel their fear in the dark.

(Leans in, closer to Alina)

Maybe, our dreams are the same. But,
one skims the water's surface, while
the other lingers beneath.

K'enka can still sense acute fear in Alina. She holds her
hand, and speaks once more. Kana smiles.

KANA

*"When it feels like the stars are all
fading, kindle the cosmos with the
sparkle of your smile".*

(a beat)

It's an old Inuit proverb.

K'enka takes a BEADED BRACELET from her wrist and puts it on
Alina's arm. Alina nods a gesture of 'thanks'.

While this occurs, Kana studies the wall with his Sigil. It
also includes an INDENTED ENGRAVING, in the shape of a
DAGGER. Above, is a similar engraving, but for a SWORD.

INT. THE INTREPID, LAB/SICK BAY - DAY

Sofia's using the *Thermal Fusion Processer* to run tests and
examine results. She's blowing on a hot CUP OF TEA, when-

Her COMPUTER SCREEN flashes a new test RESULT. Sofia reviews
the data. Her eyes widen, in horror. Her cup of tea FALLS to
the floor. She holds a hand to her mouth...

EXT. SENAQUOIS TRIBAL VILLAGE - DAY

Evening approaches. Food is shared around a CAMPFIRE, while
Bradley confers with the Elders and K'enka.

Drake teaches Alina how to use his CROSS-BOW. Aiming at a
TREE with a small CIRCLE carved on the TRUNK, Drake
demonstrates his excellent marksmanship.

Drake looks up, sees Kana watching them.

DRAKE

Hey, show us what ya, got... *Guardian!*

Kana pulls out his *Dagger*-while looking at Drake-HURLS it at
the TREE, SPLITTING the BOLT through the middle.

DRAKE

Okay, that's just showin' off.

Alina glance over at Kana's mother. She signs to Drake.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DRAKE

(To Kana)

Why did they send you to the *Nine*?

KANA

I, I was different. They knew bad men would eventually find me. Men they couldn't stop. So I needed protection. And learn how to protect myself.

Alina looks at Kana, sympathetically.

Kana grabs his *Dagger* from the Tree. Hands it to Alina. Gestures for her to try. Alina takes the *Dagger*. Focuses on the tree, throws... and MISSES. She's embarrassed.

K'enka HOBBLER over. Looks at Kana and then Alina. To Kana-

K'ENKA

Mika Nukka?

Kana nods. Alina impatiently tugs Kana's sleeve, exasperated.

KANA

It means: '*little sister*'.

Alina's face LIGHTS UP. K'enka takes Alina's hand, smiles.

K'ENKA

Bind the *Dagger* to your arm.

Drake hands Alina the *Dagger*. Alina looks at her hand.

KANA

Oh... and put your back into it!

Alina takes a deep breath, Sharply exhales. Hurls the *Dagger* at the tree: BOOM - BULLSEYE. K'enka laughs. Alina smiles.

KANA

(To his mother)

Good to be home and see you happy.

K'enka faces Kana. Holds his arms and shakes her head.

K'ENKA

A man... but still a boy.

Kana's bemused. K'enka looks at Kana's friends.

K'ENKA

My spirit shines, because my Boy has found where he belongs.

Before he responds, he feels a slight FLUTTER in the WIND.

THWHOOSH

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kana's face's SPLATTERED with BLOOD. His Mother has a BLACK SPEAR impaled her chest. She slides down the SPEAR, dead.

Paladins emerge from the FOREST. Including Bastian's *Elite Bodyguard*. They hold BLACK SPEARS. They lower their HOODS.

They're bald, with PAINTED FOREHEADS. All RED, except for one. His is BLACK. His SPEAR's stuck in K'enka's chest. His eyes an emotionless abyss of darkness and death.

THEN... ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.

GUNS blaze. BULLETS scythe down the tribespeople. Kana fights back. Drake too. But they're outnumbered. Meanwhile, Bradley grabs Alina, hides behind a small BOULDER. Then, Vic appears.

BRADLEY

Help them, Victor!

Vic KICKS Bradley in the HEAD, PUNCHES Alina in the FACE. Picks her up and runs to the Forest--toward the Paladins.

Drake notices, chases after Vic.

DRAKE

(Shouting to Kana)

Vic's got Alina.

Kana sees his tribe all dead or dying. He chases after Vic, but is delayed by more Paladins. A GRENADE EXPLODES.

Everything is blurry, muffled. Kana regains focus, Bradley's over him. The SHOOTING has stopped.

KANA

Where'd they go?

BRADLEY

(Pointing at the Forest)

That direction.

KANA

They're heading to the *Falls*. Only place big enough to land an *AirHawk*.

(Looks at the dying, then Bradley)

Help as many as you can.

Kana grabs his *Dagger* and a GUN from a dead Paladin.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

TOP OF THE WATERFALL

Drake chases the Paladins/Vic. Dodging GUNFIRE, he takes out a few Paladins with his CROSS-BOW, until he's out of BOLTS.

He turns to his STAFF and sees off another 3 Paladins, then arrives at a rocky CREST above a large WATERFALL. To one

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

side, is a Paladin TRANSPORT (AIRHAWK).

The *Elite Bodyguards* place Alina on board.

Vic stands on a large BOULDER. Waiting for Drake.

FOREST

Kana is 200 yards behind, manically trying to catch up. He reaches a clearing along the a ridge. He sees Alina on the *Airhawk*. And he sees Vic squaring up to Drake.

TOP OF THE WATERFALL

Vic signals for the other Paladins to stand down. Alina watches with a look of desperation and fear.

VIC

Leave this little runt to me.

Vic holds up his MACHETE. Drake rushes Vic. Vic brushes off Drake's attempts to land a blow. However, Drake does manage to strike Vic's cheek. Drawing blood. Makes Vic very mad.

Vic attacks. BREAKS Drake's Staff in half. Slashes Drake across his chest and legs. Drake stumbles. He bravely picks himself up, but Vic STABS his Machete through Drake's NECK.

Blood BUBBLES in Drake's mouth. He looks over at Alina, CRYING. Then Vic KICKS Drake over the edge of the WATERFALL.

20 YARDS AWAY

Kana sees this horrific scene unfold.

KANA

No!

Kana dashes to the *AirHawk*. Kills more Paladins with the GUN. Runs out of AMMO. Kills another Paladin with his *Dagger*.

Kana, reaches the Crest... where *The Elite Bodyguards* await. Meanwhile, Vic has boarded the *AirHawk*.

Unlike other Paladins, the *Elites* are tougher. But Kana still manages to SLICE and CLEAVE most of them to death.

Only, one *Elite* stands. The one who killed Kana's Mother.

Kana then lunges at the *Lead Guard*, and uses the Pole of the *Guard's Spear* to LEAP-FROGS over him. Once behind, Kana CRUSHES the *Guard's LARYNX* using the pole of the *Spear*.

Then PLUNGES the SPEAR through the *Elite's* head.

The *AirHawk* is LEAVING. Kana runs toward it. But Vic FIRES a GRENADE, that BLOWS KANA OFF THE RIDGE, over the WATERFALL. Kana HITS THE WATER, unconscious. Sinks to the bottom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

His unconscious mind conjures a blurry memory of CLARA.

CLARA (VO)

*"O, great River. O, great Wind. Carry
him along River. Guide him home with
the Wind."*

Kana's EYES OPEN.

EXT. SENAQUOIS TRIBAL VILLAGE - NIGHT (SUN IS SETTING)

It's a BLOOD-BATH. No one's alive. Bradley sees Kana emerge from the Forest. He's carries DRAKE'S BODY.

Kana absorbs the full extent of the MASSACRE; Fires burn all around. His tribe are dead. His mother, is dead.

Kana's chest heaves in-and-out. His face, frozen in RAGE.

EXT. HIGH SPEED HOVERCRAFT (THE NEMO) - NIGHT

Bradley's at the helm. Drake's BODY is wrapped in a TARP.

KANA

Tell me why they took Alina.

Bradley faces Kana, can see the fury in his eyes.

BRADLEY

(Slowly exhales)

Years ago, Gibbons developed a way to search for 'Vessels'; Humans who hosted benign symbiotic entities of... of unknown origin.

(A beat)

Using years of research, he discovered a pattern in the data. Within decades, he was able to approximate where and when a new 'Vessel' would arise. That's how he located your Mother.

(beat)

When I ran, I stole their data to search for the 'other' Vessel.

KANA

You got there before them? How?

BRADLEY

As I said, the data was an estimate of when and where. The 'where' was West. So there I went. Where I assumed the identity of Doctor near a busy trading post.

KANA

Why a doctor?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY

Statistically speaking it was the most logical way to intercept the 'Vessel', as there were no Healers within 200 miles.

(beat)

After 14 months, a pregnant Woman came to my door. Having walked 6 days to find me, she was malnourished and barely conscious.

KANA

So... you... You delivered Alina?

BRADLEY

Yes. And once I saw the markings on the baby, I knew she was a *Vessel*.

KANA

What about her mother?

BRADLEY

I told her the truth. Everything. I assumed she'd conclude I was insane. But she... she believed me.

KANA

Did you stay out west?

BRADLEY

For a few years, we lived on the edges of civilization. For a time, we were content. Then one day, Alina and I were fishing, and when we returned, raiders had come through. And... Suzy- I mean-Alina's Mother-was... dead.

FLASHBACK

An image of a younger Bradley and a 4-year old Alina. SUZY, the mother, lays in the grass, bloodied. The young Alina, pulls a BLUE SCRUNCHY from her hair.

END FLASHBACK

BRADLEY

I lacked the ability to keep her safe.

(A beat)

The Intrepid adopted us 12 years ago.

KANA

Hiding her under their noses. Clever.

BRADLEY

(Regretfully)

Until one forgets their *hat*, and a *Drone* identifies them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bradley looks away. Cleans his *glasses*.

EXT. DAGON TOWER, BALCONY - NIGHT

Bastian overlooks his city. Silent. Poised.

GIBBONS
Operational consummation, confirmed.

Bastian nods. Looks back out at the city.

BASTIAN
Once they return, usher her here.

Gibbons nods, exits, as Bastian closes his eyes, smiles.

EXT. THE INTREPID, DECK - NIGHT (NEAR DAWN)

A gaggle of folks are gathered on the DECK. Including Moni, Nicky, Gregor, Jules, Bradley, Sofia, and Kana.

A FLOTILLA + WOODEN PYRE drifts 30 yards down the River. Drake's body--wrapped in SHEETS--lays atop the pyre.

Nicky SHOTS a FLARE GUN toward the pyre. The FLARE strikes the WOOD, and the pyre is AFLAME. All watch in silence.

Kana-brimming with rage--strides away. But a hand reaches out. It's DEEDEE, with her Mother, Moni. She's troubled, angry.

DEEDEE
The Chief... Vic, he trained me. Saved my life more times that I can count. Never, never thought he'd... I... I don't understand. I'm... I'm sorry.

Kana doesn't have time for this.

INT. THE INTREPID, BRADLEY'S QUARTERS - MORNING

Kana packs his stuff. Bradley silently enters the room.

BRADLEY
What's your plan?

KANA
Get 'er back.

Gregor BURSTS into the room, grabs Kana by the NECK.

GREGOR
I trusted you. Now Drake's burnin' on a river. And they got Alina. ALINA!

Bradley places a calming hand on Gregor's shoulder.

BRADLEY
Vic betrayed us, not Kana.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gregor slowly loosens his grip. And get's a grip of himself.

KANA

He's right. I failed 'em.

SOFIA (OS)

No one failed anyone.

Sofia is standing in the doorway.

SOFIA

Put your pity party on hold. Right now, you need to see something.

EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM, MOON - N/A

The Zaravan Comet approaches the MOON. The *debris* and *gasses* fade, revealing what hides beneath: A 400 yard long, SILKY BLACK, CYLINDRICAL CAPSULE. RUBY RED VEINS, beneath the Capsule's surface, pulsate intermittently.

INT. LAB/SICK BAY - DAY

Sofia has set up a 3D HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR. She pulls up a map of the *Solar System* on the projector.

SOFIA

Bradley told me about the Cave. And Alina's reaction to the Comet. That's when something clicked.

Bradley points to the Comet on the holo-projected map.

SOFIA

The Comet entered our Solar System 180 years ago. And immediately settled into a precise elliptical orbit.

Sofia points to the hologram, showing how the Comet does a figure 8 orbit around the Sun, past Earth, then around Mars, back past Earth and around the Sun again.

GREGOR

So?

SOFIA

So... there's thousands of comets in our Solar System. And their parabolic trajectories are predictable, to a point. But *Zaravan's* is, meticulous.

BRADLEY

Which is how we know, to the second, that once every 6 years, the Comet, Sun and Moon are in perfect alignment.

SOFIA

And when that happens, the Comet
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA (CONT'D)
 absorbs magnetic energy from the Moon
 and Solar Radiation from the Sun,
 which it amalgamates, and then
 broadcasts a signal to Earth.

The hologram switches to a 3D map of *New-Hallah*. Sofia focuses on *Dagon Tower* and the *Cathedral*.

SOFIA
 The signal's directed at the Dome of
 the Dagon Cathedrals. Making them both
 receivers and amplifiers.

GREGOR
 What's this got to do with Alina?

SOFIA
 We'll get there.
 (To Kana)
 The dormant DNA markers I was trying
 to unlock. Well, I did it. Sort of.
 (Points to the computer)
 It seems that the mutation responds to
 the signal that comes from the Comet.
 But there's a catch; The Dome, like
 Kana's DNA, is inert. It requires a
 reciprocal signal to basically...
 (Snaps her fingers)
 ...switch it on.

BRADLEY
 Alina and Kana are connected. And
 based on what we learnt I think, Alina
 is linked to the Comet. So I asked
 Sofia to run her DNA.

Sofia brings up Alina's and Kana's *DNA*.

SOFIA
 Their DNA is similar. But his mutation
 is silent. While hers is... noisy.

KANA
 Noisy?

SOFIA
 Everything vibrates at subsonic
 frequency; Wood. Metal. Water. Skin.

BRADLEY
 Meaning, every molecule in our DNA has
 a distinct auditory signature.

SOFIA
 I think Alina's subsonic signature is
 some type of trigger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA

So, she's an alarm that can wake up whatever's napping in me.

BRADLEY

Along with all of the other Aryans. They need her to activate the Dome, to spread and amplify the signal.

SOFIA

To initiate a transformation.

GREGOR

Into what?

An eerie silence. Then, a LOUD KNOCK at the door. They all flinch. Then, Cpl. Walt enters the lab.

WALT

(To Gregor)

Sir... a word... it's urgent.

SOFIA

Hey, before you go there's also the virus. I found-

GREGOR

Gimme a few. Be right back, *Mitten*.

Gregor kisses Sofia on the cheek. Leaves with Walt.

KANA

I need a way into the city.

BRADLEY

Can't repeat what we did last time.

SOFIA

Security will be beefed up, plus Drones'll be watching from above.

Kana thinks... looks at a WATER BOTTLE Sofia's drinking.

KANA

Can't go through. Or above. What about below?

INT. THE INTREPID, ENGINE CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Sofia, Bradley and Kana speak with Joe.

JOE

Water systems? That's Jules speci-

JULES (OS)

You old piece 'o crap cock-sucker.

Loud CLANGING and SMASHING and CURSING.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOE
(Shouts)
Jules! Outta towners.

Jules appears between two large GENERATORS.

JULES
Oh... Hey ho.

JOE
Wanna know 'bout water delivery.

SOFIA
Our friend here has an insane idea.

JULES
Thay's my specialty.

KANA
Could a water delivery pipeline get us
into *New-Hallah*?

Jules laughs. Realizes she's the only one laughing.

JULES
Oh, you're serious?

Kana stares back, unflinching. Jules thinks.

JULES
New-Hallah's water comes from the
Croton Dam filtration plant. Get me in
their Control Room and pfft... maybe?

BRADLEY
Maybe?

JULES
That's my best and only offer.

KANA
'Maybe' works.

INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - DAY

An ancient, large CIRCULAR STONE TABLE is fixed to the middle of the GRAND CATHEDRAL. RUNES and SIGILS are carved into the table's surface. Bastian sits at the table. Eyes closed.

Large WOODEN DOORS at the back of the Cathedral OPEN. Three MEN--in silhouette--enter. All the same size and build.

The doors CLOSE. Bastian's eyes open. He smiles, slyly.

BASTIAN
Brothers.

INT. THE INTREPID, PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Kana follows Nicky and Gregor down a passageway.

GREGOR
Gonna get yourself killed.

KANA
Probably.

NICKY
(Nodding)
Boy throws down like nothin' I ever
seen. So, if anyone can, he can, G.

Gregor bites his lip. Looks at Nicky.

GREGOR
Never been big on suicide missions.
But, 'spose tryin' somethin' is
preferable to nothin'.

They reach a set of doors into:

INT. THE INTREPID, CIC - CONTINUOUS

The Intrepid CIC (Combat Information Center) is abuzz with various staff. One is Big T.

GREGOR
T, rustle us up a *Frogger*.

Big T folds his arms, sizes up Kana.

BIG T
So, ya gonna get our girl back?

KANA
You gonna talk... or measure?

Big T breaks into a grin. Looks at Gregor.

BIG T
He's your brother-from-another mother.

Kana and Gregor look at each other, mutually insulted. Big T circles Kana.

BIG T
An F12'll get it done.

A female CIC WEAPONS OPERATOR (mid-30s) nods, moves over to a set of double-doors. Opens them up to reveal a LARGE ARMORY, stacked with modern WEAPONS and GEAR. Kana's impressed.

Nicky saunters into the ARMORY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA (OS)
Gonna need two more *Froggers*.

Kana and Gregor notice Sofia and Bradley.

GREGOR/KANA
Hell you do!

INT. THE INTREPID, BRADLEY'S QUARTERS - DAY

Bradley, Sofia, Kana and Gregor are huddled together.

GREGOR
UnUn. That hen don't cluck.

BRADLEY
We've learned much. But the original intent was a cure for *FSV*.

KANA
And I don't have time to babysit.

SOFIA
(A beat)
Look, we needed the *Fusion Processor* to get a closer look at Kana's DNA. Help us model and test solutions.
(Sighs)
I also got a closer look at the source of *FSV*. We assumed it was an organic virus. We were wrong. It's artificial. Built to look organic, but is actually a nanotech-based pathogen.

GREGOR
You reckon Dagon created it?

BRADLEY
Yes. And the formula could still be in Dagon's *Bio-Research Center*.

SOFIA
If we get the formula, we can try to reverse-engineer a cure.

GREGOR
Can Kana find it?

SOFIA
No offense, but it'd be like asking a dog to build a space ship.

Kana shrugs... *she's right*.

GREGOR
Stay. We try to survive together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA
Why survive today, if there's no
tomorrow?

Sofia goes to Gregor. Takes his hand.

SOFIA
(Tender)
I need a tomorrow.

Gregor looks over at Kana.

KANA
Given everyone'll be distracted... I'd
say it's tactically... doable.

GREGOR
This is some real cowboy shit.

A silence fills the room. Then - Nicky BURSTS IN. He's
wearing a pair of COWBOY SIX-SHOOTER PISTOLS.

NICKY
What I miss?

Kana looks at Nicky's get-up with incredulity.

NICKY
What? Not a fan of the classics?

Kana raises an eyebrow, walks past Nicky.

Gregor pulls Sofia close into him. She nestles into his neck.

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY

A sprawling ROTUNDA, filled with ANTIQES and RELICS. The
WALLS are covered with floor-to-ceiling TAPESTRIES.

There's also a grand FIRE PLACE, with a selection of fearsome
WEAPONS above the MANTLE.

Bastian is behind a large DESK. Gibbons, stands beside
Bastian. An IV LINE, attached to Bastian, TRANFUSES his BLOOD
through to a NEEDLE in Gibbons' arm.

The door to the Chambers open. In walks 3 Paladin GUARDS, and
Vic. Their COMMANDER, pushes Alina into the Chambers.

Alina's frightened. Her face has been bruised and bloodied.

Bastian yanks the IV Line from his arm, goes to greet Alina.
She strikes a defiant pose. This gesture makes Bastian smile,
warmly... not mockingly. Then he see the CUTS and BRUISES.

BASTIAN
(To the Paladin Commander)
Why's her face disfigured?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALADIN COMMANDER
She's feral, Sir. Required taming.

Bastian looks at the large Commander, and then at Alina.

BASTIAN
With me.

The Commander follows Bastian outside to the Balcony area.

Alina notices the creepy Gibbons, and his snake-like smile. Then she glares at Vic. Who in turn, seems a bit overwhelmed.

Alina hears a NOISE coming from the BALCONY.

She sees Bastian hold the Paladin Commander up with one hand and then THROWS HIM over the balcony railings.

After that, Bastian casually ambles back to Alina. Gestures for Gibbons to leave with Vic.

BASTIAN
I must offer you a heartfelt apology, my dear. Such a rare and precious being should be treated as a... a... Goddess? Mmm. No. A little excessive. How about... a Princess? Hmm?

Alina, looks away. Bastian hunches closer to Alina's face.

BASTIAN
What would you say to an Ice Cream Sundae, Princess? I bet you've never seen one let alone tasted one. My goodness. You're in for a treat. Let me tell you, in the grand scheme of the universe, your species is markedly unremarkable... with two exceptions: The Ice Cream Sundae and an unwavering devotion to ignorance.

Bastian flashes Alina a smile filled with mirth and dread.

INT. THE INTREPID, WELL DECK - DAY

This is an internal DOCK where they keep *The Nemo* and a gaggle of small DINGIES. The BOW DOORS open to the RIVER.

Kana's on *The Nemo*, with Nicky, Jules, and Bradley. While, Sofia's on the dock with Gregor. He hands her a COMMS DEVICE.

GREGOR
Only use it as a last resort.

Sofia nods, and places it in her BACKPACK. Grabs Gregor.

SOFIA
For tomorrow, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR

There is no tomorrow, 'less you get
yer ass back here, Mitten.

(To Nicky)

Do your thing, Kid.

Nicks winks, nods. Sofia kisses Gregor, and joins the others.

EXT. RIVERSIDE DOCK - DAY

Evening approaches as *The Nemo's* docked in front of an old,
decaying MANSION. The crew's moving up and past the mansion.

Less than 50 yards away is the GATE to the Croton Dam. It's
lightly guarded. They all crouch around Kana.

KANA

Hang back 'til we give the 'all
clear'.

Everyone nods. Kana and Nicky stand. They creep forward, as
the others stay a safe distance behind.

INT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - DAY

5 PEOPLE on the Bridge. Gregor speaks to Joe and Big T.

JOE

So, we only got enough juice to power
engines or weps.

BIG T

Meanin', we can't *run-n-gun*.

Gregor scratches his head. Sighs.

GREGOR

Round-up the Council.

Big T and Joe leave the bridge, as Gregor contemplates.

INT. CROTON DAM, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Jules, Sofia and Bradley enter the Control Room. It's filled
with smoke, blood, bullet casings, and gore. Lots of GORE.

JULES

(Grimaces)

What... the shit...

(Looking at Kana)

All this your handy work?

NICKY

Hey. Hey. Hey. See that guy.

(Points to a PALADIN GUARD)

That was all me.

'THAT GUY' suddenly whimpers, tries to sit up, but Nicky

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

whips out a Pistol and shoots the 'That Guy' in the head. Holsters his Pistol. All in the *blink-of-an-eye*.

Nicks looks back at Jules defiantly.

Kana gestures for Jules to join him at a CONTROL PANEL. Jules tip-toes over. When she reaches Kana, she examines the Control Panel. Then notices BRAINS splattered on the BUTTONS.

JULES
(To Kana)
Ever consider meditation?

Kana WIPES the panel down. Jules sits, and takes a THUMB DRIVE device-the size of a DOUBLE-A BATTERY-from her JACKET pocket. Inserts it into reciprocal PORT on the Panel.

JULES
Ok. *Little Pappilion*. Do your thing.
(More typing)
Right. Right. Ahhnd... That's that.

KANA
That's what?

JULES
I'm balls deep in their network.

BRADLEY
Splendid. Shall we crack on, then?

Nicky holds in a laugh. As does Jules. He winks at her.

INT. CROTON DAM, CISTERN - CONTINUOUS

They stand on a WALKWAY, elevated 50-ft above the FLOOR, overlooking a cavernous CISTERN, . Water spirals around and down the Cistern through and into a 6x6-ft PIPELINE.

Kana, Bradley, Sofia each wear WETSUITS, with small AIR TANKS, and BACKPACKS. Jules holds a COMPUTER TABLET.

JULES
Here's how it works. I'm gonna use hydraulic telemetry to guide the water to wherever you want out.

BRADLEY
Bio-Lab Research Center.

Jules checks her Tablet.

JULES
There's an outlet underneath a basement utility tunnel.

KANA
Time?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULES

10 minutes give or take.

SOFIA

If we overshoot or can't stop?

JULES

You'll be liquified in a waste water tank. 100% fucked.

(Off of their reaction)

But only, maybe a 20% chance that happens.

Kana nods to Jules. Jules taps on the Tablet screen. The Cistern water STOPS moving.

Kana, Bradley, and Sofia affix their masks and give Jules a 'Thumbs Up'. In turn, Jules restarts the WATER flow, which moves slowly to start. Nicky puts a hand on Kana.

NICKY

(Quietly)

You see Vic... make it hurt.

Kana nods. Then they each dive head first into the water. One behind the other. The water speed increases. GRAVITY naturally sucks them down into the 6x6-ft PIPELINE.

Once they're in the pipeline, the water's flowing at 60 MPH.

NICKY

20%? Not bad. Not great. But-

JULES

Fuck, no! More like, 60%.

Nicky purses his lips, and whistles plaintively.

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - DAY

Alina sits at a DINING TABLE, by the FIRE PLACE, with Bastian at the opposite end. FOOD SERVERS enter the chamber, with two DISHES. The contents are concealed by SILVER PLATE COVERS.

BASTIAN

A delightful surprise awaits.

Alina hesitantly removes the COVER, to reveal an ICE CREAM SUNDAE. Bastian also has one. He immediately digs in.

BASTIAN

Mm, heavenly. It's actually the perfect dessert when paired with my family's favorite cuisine; A rare delicacy which requires... very '*thoughtful*' preparation.

Alina takes a small scoop. She pokes out the tip of her

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TONGUE to taste the Ice Cream. She's surprised by the sweetness. Takes a bigger bite. For a second, she smiles.

BASTIAN

Ah... There... a pure moment of joy
deserving of a Princess.

Alina ignores Bastian. Starts STUFFING more into her mouth.

BASTIAN

Indulge until your heart's content.

Alina looks up at the TAPESTRIES that encircle the chamber. One tapestry depicts a battle on top of a VOLCANIC MOUNTAIN.

The Tapestry images seem to ANIMATE. She can see and hear the story of *when the REGENTS of Light defeated the WRAITHS*.

BASTIAN

Hmm... you have celestial senses.

Alina looks at Bastian, confused.

BASTIAN

You can materialize the story.
(Wipes his mouth)
Because the corporeal canvas is woven
from my flesh and blood.

Alina stops eating. Sees all the Tapestries can ANIMATE.

BASTIAN

These mosaics are our history.

All the mosaics have stories. One is BLANK. Alina notices.

BASTIAN

That historical montage will be
completed by you, Princess.

Alina draws in a sharp, anguished breath.

INT. THE INTREPID - MESS HALL - DAY

All-in-all there are 30 people in the room. Usual suspects.

Gregor raises his VOICE to address everyone.

GREGOR

I... I look around, and see familiar
faces. Some've known me since I was
yay high. Others, I known since they
were grasshoppers. That makes us kin.
And for family, truth is sacred.

The hot, sweaty, concerned faces nod in agreement.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR

Out there's our reckoning.

(A beat)

We've fought for years to protect what's ours. But this fight's different; It don't care for what we believe or what we hold dear. It's a fight for survival. Plain 'n simple.

(A beat)

We're outmanned 100 to 1. Outgunned 10,000 to 1. Their weapons are cutting edge. Ours are old 'n outta shape.

(Pats Big T's belly)

We're the ant. They're the boot.

Worried grumblings from the crowd.

GREGOR

Few hours from now's the *Alignment*. That's when they'll attack. So I wanna give you and yours a choice; leave or stay. None'll forsake those who go. We'll help any way we can. 'Cos free will is the unbreakable chain that makes us family. Free will, is the right to choose how to survive.

JOE

Pretty crappy choices.

GREGOR

But if you go... go now, while there's time for you to run and us to plan.

(Rubs his eyes)

If you stay... you're a *Dragoon*. That means you shoot 'til you're outta *Lead*. You slice 'til you're *Blade* breaks. You punch, kick 'n claw 'til you fall. That understood?

BIG T

'*Sacrificum est Salivum*'.

Scared, weary, worried and fierce faces peer back.

MONI

So, besides dying, what other assets do we possess? And Boy, don't you quote me that *Art of War* nonsense!

Gregor nods, with a slight grin.

GREGOR

Well, way I see it... we got 3 things:

(Holds up one finger)

The element of surprise.

(Holds up a second finger)

The art of smoke 'n mirrors.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR (CONT'D)
 (Holds up a third finger)
 But above all... they underestimate
 our desire to see the sun rise again.

More mutterings and murmurs. Moni nods to Gregor.

GREGOR
 Ok. You got 30 minutes.

Everyone disperses, except for Gregor. He goes to a window, watches the sun set behind *New-Hallah*.

INT. CROTON DAM, CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

INTERCUT - between the Control Room and the INTERCUT -
 between the Control Room and the Pipeline

Pipeline

Bradley, Kana, Sofia are rushing along with the water flow.

Control Room

Jules and Nicky monitor their progress via the tablet.

JULES
 Deceleration in 30 seconds. Look for
 Sub-Outlet 6-2-2.

Pipeline

Kana notices they just whizzed past 6-0-1.

Control Room

JULES
 Shit. Takin' too long to slow down.

NICKY
 Did you say '*boiled and liquified*'?.

SOFIA (OS)
 Your radio's still on, Nicky.

Pipeline

They fly past 6-1-2. The water is slowing, but they're still going too fast, and their OUTLET HATCH is coming up quick.

Kana flips to a VERTICAL position-like STARFISH, facing Sofia and Bradley... who in turn look confused.

KANA
 I'll grab the hatch. You grab me.

Control Room

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULES
Shit-Fuck. Still too fast.

Nicky stares at the screen, willing safe passage.

Pipeline

Kana sees outlet 6-2-1 go past. They're still moving rapidly.

KANA
Get ready.

Kana SNAGS HATCH 6-2-2. Bradley and Sofia each GRAB one of Kana's LEGS. Bradley has a tight grip. Sofia does not.

Control Room

JULES
Guys. You there?

Only STATIC.

JULES
Guys?

More static. Nicky glances at Jules, truly worried.

Pipeline

Sofia's grip on Kana's leg SLIPS. Bradley tries to snatch her arm, but then loses his grip too. Both are terrified.

Kana releases a hand from the HATCH and just as Sofia loses her grip, he catches her BACKPACK. Kana then pulls Bradley and Sofia up to grip his belt. All are visibly relieved.

Kana OPENS the HATCH: A CONCRETE MANHOLE with LADDER footholds lead to a MANHOLE COVER 10-ft up.

Kana pulls Sofia up into the Manhole.

Control Room

Jules is distressed. All she can hear is static.

NICKY
Probably outta range.

JULES
Or probably fuckin' dead.

NICKY
Kana's a super soldier. And lemme tell ya, Sofia's one tough bitch. She-

SOFIA (OS)
(Breathing heavily)
Your radio's still on, Nicky.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jules' eyes light up. Nicky smiles.

JULES
Everyone make it?

BRADLEY (OS)
All accounted for. Well done, Jules.

Nicky leans back in his chair, puts his feet up.

NICKY
See... piece 'a cake, right?

Jules KICKS Nicky's feet off the Panel.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER, BASEMENT - NIGHT

The basement area has 3 EGRESS TUNNELS. Bradley, Sofia, and Kana have removed their DIVING GEAR.

SOFIA
Hudson Gates, in 90 minutes?

All nod in agreement. Bradley leans closer to Kana. Quietly-

BRADLEY
She's the priority. Understand?

Kana nods, then takes off down one of the Tunnels.

SOFIA
Why'd that feel more like a *Goodbye*?

Bradley doesn't respond. Watches Kana go.

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Alina examines the tapestries. Bastian follows. She pauses in front of one. Like the others, the images ANIMATE.

INSERT - TAPESTRY ANIMATED GRAPHICS

She sees a depiction of NAZI SCIENTISTS, led by HIMMLER (Gibbons), working in a LAB, experimenting on FOUR MEN.

BASTIAN (VO)
They were Quadruplets. Their superior strength, speed, and intelligence was without equal. Hitler and Himmler saw them as the quintessential Aryan ideal. But they were still only human. Fallible as the next man to a bullet or a knife or disease.

The images transform into a MOUNTAINTOP. The BROTHERS, (faces obscured by HOODS) accompanied by SS SOLDIERS, Hitler and Himmler climb to the peak of the mountain. (The top is capped by the same Circular Stone Table seen in the CATHEDRAL.)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN (VO)

Hitler and his acolytes studied the occult and mysteries of the arcane. Himmler in particular, was obsessed.

Himmler arranges four WEAPONS around the table: Spike-handled TRIDENT, BATTLE-AXE, Curved SABRE, Double-Bladed KATANA.

BASTIAN (VO)

Himmler spent years hunting for set of legendary, all-powerful weapons.

The Four Brothers each lift a Weapon, DRAW BLOOD from their PALMS. Then hold their Weapons up over the table.

BASTIAN (VO)

Together, the weapons could allegedly summon an otherworldly force that would make the Brothers invincible.

The tip of the Weapons touch and their BLOOD blends, drips down to the center of the TABLE. Which, then COMES TO LIFE. RUBY VEINS light-up the RUNES and SIGIL carvings.

The mountain RUMBLES and a BLAST of RUBY-RED ENERGY erupts from the middle of the Table. The energy force merges with the Weapons held by the Brothers.

The energy force, then passes through their Weapons and into each of the Brothers. They CONVULSE WILDLY and SCREAM. Then, it all STOPS. Everything returns to normal. Silence.

An SS SOLDIER checks one of the Brothers. He puts a hand on their shoulder. The Brother FLINCHES, grabs the Soldier's hand and CRUSHES it. He then, picks up the Soldier and throws him-with SUPER-HUMAN strength-down the Mountain.

The Brother peels back his HOOD. His eyes shine RED: Bastian.

END INSERT - RETURN TO SCENE

BASTIAN

And so, in 1944, we were... re-born.

Alina swallows, lowers her eyes.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Sofia follows Bradley though a maze of corridors. They reach a junction. Bradley points to a CORRIDOR on their left.

WORKERS wheel 7-ft x 3-ft CYLINDRICAL CONTAINERS (comprised mostly of glass) though a set of DOUBLE-DOORS.

After the last WORKER goes through the doors, Bradley and Sofia move again. However, Sofia pauses at the double-doors.

Bradley tries to stop her from entering. But he's too late.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER, CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Sofia goes through the doors. Bradley reluctantly follows. The doors open up to a cold, COLOSSAL CAVERN, filled top-to-bottom with tens-of-thousands of the Cylindrical Containers.

They sneak behind a Container. The glass is FROSTED. So, Sofia uses her sleeve to wipe away the frost to look inside.

Sofia's horrified by what she sees. Bradley looks: It's a HUMAN FACE. A *familiar* one. It's the 'Trader' Bradley saw arrested at the *Hudson Gate* with Kana.

Bradley grabs Sofia's arm and forces her to move.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER, BASEMENT - NIGHT

They walk hastily away from the mysterious cavern.

SOFIA

What was that?

BRADLEY

Unclear. I know Dagon developed *Cryogenic Conservation* years ago. In fact, their leaders still believe infant Kana is: '*On Ice*'. But that did not look like *cryonic Conservation*.

SOFIA

No. It looked like a *meat locker*.

BRADLEY

One bridge at a time, Sofia.

INT. THE INTREPID, WELL DECK - NIGHT

Gregor greets WALT and 2 DIVERS disembarking a dingy.

WALT

32 mines set for remote release.

GREGOR

Debrief CIC and the others.

Walt nods, exits with the Divers, as Big T heads in. Gregor looks at Big T, and then his WATCH. Steels himself.

GREGOR

Okay. How bad's the medicine?

BIG T

As of 34 minutes ago there were 784 souls on the 'ol Lady.

(Looks over Gregor's shoulder)

Now we have 786.

Gregor follows Big T's eyes. '*The Nemo*' glides into the Well

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Deck dock. Gregor peers questioningly at Nicky.

NICKY
Easy peezy puddin' 'n pie.

Jules glares at Nicky. He smiles deadpan back at her then subtly nods at his brother, who's VISIBLY RELIEVED.

GREGOR
(To Jules)
Your Pops could use a hand.

JULES
His clumsy ass break somethin' again?

Gregor doesn't respond. He walks toward the doors.

GREGOR
Deck Two. 3 minutes.

Jules mockingly salutes Gregor as he leaves.

JULES
(To herself)
'Attagirl, Jules. Ya saved the day'.

Jules unleashes a barrage of curses under her breath.

EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM, EARTH - NIGHT

The Zaravan Comet makes its final approach to Earth.

The debris and gasses are gone. All that remains is the 400 yard long, cobalt black, vessel beneath. The ruby red veins, pulsate increasingly faster.

The Vessel smashes through--the abandoned--INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION as it nears its ultimate destination.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER / CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Bradley and Sofia creep along a corridor. Bradley pauses, points to a door. Sofia nods. They pull out STUN-GUNS.

They flank the door. Bradley KNOCKS. A MALE SCIENTIST opens the door, Bradley greets him with a genial smile.

MALE SCIENTIST
Who are-

BZZZZZ. The Scientist writhes, after getting hit by 50K volts. He then falls into Bradley's arms; unconscious. Sofia holds the door open. Bradley drags the man through.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER / GENETICS LAB - CONTINUOUS

They close the door behind them. Drop the Scientist.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

There's 4 other SCIENTISTS in the room. 3 are middle-aged MALE SCIENTISTS and 1 older, FEMALE. (*The one who recognized Bradley as 'John' from when they stole the Fusion Processor.*)

OLDER FEMALE SCIENTIST
Trigger the alarm!

Bradley hesitates. Sofia does not. She pounces and takes out all 3 of the Male Scientists with her Stun-Gun.

Bradley reaches the Female Scientist. She struggles as he tries to STUN her. She SLIPS, and the STUN-BLAST hits the back of her NECK. She falls, unconscious.

Bradley notices Sofia's 'work'. He looks at her, surprised.

SOFIA
Once a Dragoon...

Sofia approaches a HOLOGRAPHIC COMPUTER.

BRADLEY
So, what's next?

SOFIA
We grab a Haystack.

Sofia pulls a BADGE from one of the Scientists. and taps the badge on a SCANNER, which ACTIVATES the COMPUTER.

SOFIA
(Typing)
And now we search for the Needle.

Bradley glances at the Female Scientist. *Something's off.*

INT. THE INTREPID, DECK TWO - NIGHT

Jules enters a cramped space, taken-up by a large RAIL GUN, BOLTED to a circular PLATFORM. The platform's latched to PISTONS, SHEATHS, and GUIDE RAILS; It goes up and down.

A RETRACTABLE HATCH above opens to the DECK.

Joe's fretfully assesses the MACHINE with Gregor.

JULES
So, what's what, Pops?

GREGOR
Needle's got him ruffled.

JOE
Ruffled? Hm, let's see: We got a brittle 100 pound steel projectile, that's launched by a hyper-charged electro magnetic pulse, powered by a rickety atomic core. And, we've never
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOE (CONT'D)
 tested the son-of-a-bitch before.

GREGORY
 Be that true, will it work?

Joe grunts back, frustrated.

JULES
 Think Pops is sayin' maybe it works.
 Or, maybe we vaporize the fuck outta
 everything within fifty miles.

Gregor exhales, folds his arms.

GREGOR
 Should it all go sideways it won't
 much matter if it works or not.

JOE
 (Sighs, looks at Jules)
 Let's hammer it out, Sweet Pea.

Jules nods to her Dad.

GREGOR
 (To Jules)
 When you're finished here, need ya on
 the *The Nemo*.

Jules grunts an affirmative. She's already focused.

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Alina continues to explore the tapestries, Bastian follows.

INSERT TAPESTRY IMAGE

A World War 2 bunker. Hitler, his wife and Generals are
 congregated together. The Four Brothers are also there.

BASTIAN (VO)
 Adolf and his Aryan ideals were simply
 a means to an end. So, when he
 declared a desire to surrender...

The Four Brothers KILL EVERYONE in the bunker.

BASTIAN (VO)
 To stay in the shadows, all knowledge
 of our existence needed to be erased.

The only Officer that remains is Himmler (Gibbons).

BASTIAN (VO)
 The true architect of our liberation
 became our proxy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INSERT NEW ANIMATED TAPESTRY IMAGE

Passage of time from the 1950s through to the late 2020s.

BASTIAN (VO)
We patiently studied man's bottomless
appetite for self-destruction.

Wars. Bombs. Disease. Greed. Famine. Haves. Have nots.

BASTIAN (VO)
Do you know what's the opposite of
reason? Gullibility.

Homelessness. Racism. Starvation. Murder. Accidents.

BASTIAN (VO)
Mankind's need to rationalize the
irrational made them prone to blind
faith, xenophobia, and radicalization.

Protests. Riots. Floods. Forest fires. Ice Caps melting.

BASTIAN (VO)
So, with each tragedy, outrage, and
disaster, we'd fan the flames of pain
into an inferno of desperation.

The flags of Dagon rise like little DAISIES from ARID LAND,
MASS GRAVES, FLOODED STREETS, ASH-FILLED FORESTS.

BASTIAN (VO)
We facilitated their fall. So that
when hope did arise from the ashes,
they'd willingly acquiesce.

Babies born in a LAB. Grow into adults; ARYANS.

A WORLD map shows Dagon's *Stath-Hallahs* grow from the rubble.

BASTIAN (VO)
Finally we could step out of the
shadows, as the Earth was now ours.
Lest one last piece of the puzzle.

END INSERTS - RETURN TO SCENE

They've stopped in front of the *Blank Tapestry*. However, a
new IMAGE has appeared: *The Zaravan Comet*. Then, below the
Comet, another image materializes: *Dagon Cathedral*.

Bastian takes a knee, in front of Alina. He's genial, gentle.

BASTIAN
The *Alignment* will bring back my kind.
Stripped of form and function, they'll
be made whole again. And because of
man's enduring gullibility, a new age
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN (CONT'D)
of darkness will reign supreme.

Bastian stands, sweetly pats Alina on the head.

THE DOOR to the chamber OPENS. Gibbons enters with Bastian's *Elite Guard*. Gibbons seems irritated. Bastian goes to them.

Alina goes to the FIRST Tapestry: (When the Regents defeated the Wraiths). She sees the ETHEREAL GATEWAY open in the sky. The, how 3 Regents ascended. But One remained and transformed into BEAM OF LIGHT.

She sees the LIGHT of the One, SPLIT into TWO SPIRITS, that find TWO HUMAN HOSTS. Under the Hosts, she notices her, and Kana's SIGILS. Along with the GLYPHS from the SENAQUOIS CAVE.

The GLPHS start to move and morph. Alina watches closely, and then suddenly, she SMILES. She can read the Glyphs.

BASTIAN (OS)
Princess?

Alina FLINCHES. Bastian notices a look on her face. He glances at the Tapestry. He focuses on the SIGILS.

BASTIAN
Do you understand what those mean?

Alina shrugs and shakes her head. Bastian stares at her, and for a microsecond, he's worried. He quickly shakes it off.

GIBBONS (OS)
My lord?

BASTIAN
Yes. Yes, let's greet our guest.

Bastian feigns a bow, to Alina. Leaves with Gibbons & Guards.

Alina smiles. But the smile slips away because the ability to understand comes with the knowledge of what must be done.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER / GENETICS LAB - NIGHT

Sofia holds Jules' THUMB DRIVE. Inserts it into a PORT on a HOLOGRAPHIC COMPUTER.

SOFIA
Jules says her little *Papillion* thing can hack into anything... she thinks.

FILES appear. Sofia smiles, relieved. Bradley points to a specific FILE. 'PROJECT PERSES'

SOFIA
Perses? The Greek God of Destruction?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY
Gibbons enjoys his history and myths.

SOFIA
Almost as much as genocide.

They browse through the files of *PROJECT PERSES*. Sofia pauses at a FILE name: 'YERSINIA'

SOFIA
Yersinia? Yersinia...

BRADLEY
Hmm... Pestis?

SOFIA/BRADLEY
The Black Plague.

Sofia excitedly opens the File.

INT. THE INTREPID - MONTAGE

SERIES OF SHOTS: The crew prepare for the battle to come.

ENGINE ROOM - Joe + OTHERS build a 10x10-ft MESH CAGE.

MESS HALL - Moni + OTHERS convert it into a TRIAGE UNIT.

DECK - Drake's old Crew PAINT hundreds of SAND BAGS, Black.

FISHING TRAWLER - Nicky and Walt place ROMAN CANDLE Mortars on the ROOF. Plus, a computer-controlled RIFLE.

WELL DECK - Jules preps an EXPLOSIVE DEVICE on *The Nemo*.

CIC/ARMORY - Big T and DeeDee are arm SOLDIERS and CIVVIES with Guns, Swords, Knives. Anything that can KILL.

GREGOR'S ROOM - Gregor's at a DESK, reads ART OF WAR. A KNOCK at the door, Nicky bursts in. Gregor HIDES the book.

NICKY
They released the Kraken.

INT. ENTRANCEWAY OF DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

Two PALADINS guard the entrance into *Dagon Cathedral*. A long, CANDLE-LIT, Hallway leads to the entrance. A RADIO crackles:

PALADIN SOLDIER (OS)
Intruders on L4. We can't-

GUN SHOTS and SCREAMS come across the Radio. Both Guards look at one another, concerned. Further down the hallway, CANDLES are abruptly SNUFFED OUT. The Guards hold up their GUNS.

'SWISH' of OBJECTS moving through the Darkness. The Guards look down, see *Mercario Blades* in their CHESTS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kana steps out of the darkness, SPLATTERED in BLOOD.

INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - CONTINUOUS

Kana BREACHES the entrance of the Cathedral. VIC is on the other side. Not so cocky. Scared, even. Apologetic.

VIC

They promised, if I delivered the girl, they'd let us be.

(Swallows)

I did it to save my people. My family.

KANA

A wise woman once told me: "*To err is human. To forgive is divine.*"

(Fists clench)

Unfortunately for you, I'm neither.

Vic draws his MACHETE. Grits his teeth. Kana throws his Dagger, Viv blocks it... ricochets into the WALL.

Vic swings at Kana's, but misses. Kana, DISLOCATES Vic's KNEE. Vic swings again, Kana catches his WRIST, SNAPS Vic's ELBOW. Catches the machete. STABS it through Vic's neck. Vic gurgles, his own blood. Drops to his knees.

KANA

Reap the whirlwind.

(Kicks Vic down)

REAP IT!

LAUGHING. CHUCKLING. Bastian surfaces from the shadows, with a smile. He assesses the damage, impressed. Gibbons lurks creepily behind Bastian.

BASTIAN

My... what a fascinating specimen.

KANA

Where's the girl?

BASTIAN

Odd though. We neutralized your kind's access to bio-tech, years ago. Hmm.

Bastian circles Kana, sizing him up. Unfazed.

KANA

Where is she?

BASTIAN

A true *Lion* amongst men. Yet, to my kind, you're a merely a *Mouse*.

(Peeping over Kana's shoulder)

Mouse... meet the *Pride*.

Bastian's BROTHERS are behind Kana. He PUNCHES one's face. He

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

doesn't flinch. He HEADBUTTS Kana, knocking him senseless.

GIBBONS

Shall I have it disposed, my lord?

BASTIAN

Hmm. He means something to her.

(Beat)

Keep him close, in case she requires encouragement. Once we're done, I'd like to see what's under the hood.

Gibbons sneers, like a sadistic Cheshire Cat.

BASTIAN

Take him to the girl.

As the Paladins drag Kana out, Bastian notices Kana's *Dagger* planted in the wall. Takes it out. Examines it closely.

BASTIAN

Wait.

The Paladins STOP. Bastian shows the *Dagger* to Kana.

BASTIAN

Where'd you find this?

KANA

Uh, um, some old museum. It was in the, uh, '*go fuck yourself*' exhibit.

Bastian chuckles. Nods for the guards to take him away. Gives the *Dagger* to Gibbons, who nods, understanding what to do.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER / GENETICS LAB - CONTINUOUS

Sofia and Bradley's search is becoming frustrating.

SOFIA

There's nothing about FSV's formula.

BRADLEY

We'll keep looking. Must be here.

MALE SCIENTIST (OS)

It's... it's gone.

Sofia jolts up, GRABS the GROGGY man by his COLLAR.

SOFIA

The formula for FSV. Where is it?

MALE SCIENTIST

Gib... Gibbons... deleted the records.

The Male Scientist passes out. Sofia SLAPS the scientist.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA

No. No. No. He's lying. He's lying.

Bradley pulls Sofia off the ambulatory Scientist.

BRADLEY

His genetic design prohibits deceit.

SOFIA

What do we do?

Bradley glances at the unconscious Female Scientist.

BRADLEY

Maybe she can help. She was around
back when... the beginning.

Bradley goes to the Female Scientist. However.... she's dead.
Bradley examines her: Sees the Stun Blast STRUCK the area
where her Stigma would have been contained.

BRADLEY

The electric shock disabled her
Stigma. The Stigma controls the brain.
The brain operates the body. If the
Stigma's shut down, the body follows.

SOFIA

Which means what, exactly?

BRADLEY

We need to terminate the signal.

SOFIA

Signal? What about the formula? I-

The whole building shakes, because THE ALIGNMENT has begun.

BRADLEY

Sofia. Trust me when I tell you, we
haven't much time left to live.

INT. PALLADIN FLAG SHIP - NIGHT

The BRIDGE's filled with Paladin Navy SAILORS and MARINES.
The COMMANDER (Female, mid-50s) of the SHIP looks out of the
window at The Intrepid. Her arms folded behind her back.

A Paladin Marine CAPTAIN (Male, mid-30s), enters the Bridge
and stands next to the Commander.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER

You understand Rules of Engagement?

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN

Terminate resistors. Capture the rest
for re-processing, sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER

And?

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN

Kill clean, limit physical damage.

The Commander nods.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER

But first... we offer terms.

The Commander nods to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER. The Ship broadcasts loudly enough for those on The Intrepid to hear.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER

Inhabitants of the *Unterman* vessel;
Surrender now and earn the honor of
Aryan servitude. Comply. Or die.

Suddenly: STROBE LIGHTS FLASH from The Intrepid. And then very LOUD MUSIC blares from their SPEAKERS:

'SPIRIT IN THE SKY', by NORMAN GREENBAUM.

SONG

*When I die and they lay me to rest /
Gonna go to the place that's the best
/ When I lay me down to die / Goin' up
to the spirit in the sky.*

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN

Sir?

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER

They've rejected our terms.
(Looks at the Captain)
Make them regret their decision.

The Captain nods, exits the Bridge. The music continues.

EXT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - NIGHT

Big T, Nicky, Gregor, on the Bridge.

BIG T

Think they got the message?

Through BINOCULARS, Nicky sees 12 Paladin BOARDING CRAFTS.

NICKY

Loud 'n clear.

Nicky hands the binoculars to Gregor, who also takes a look.

GREGOR

Boarding party.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BIG T
Round up the sheep.

NICKY
And take out the shepherds.

GREGOR
As we predicted.

Gregor eyes the Boarding Crafts. Nicks speaks to him quietly.

NICKY
You got us through worse, G.

Gregor nods... even though... *they both know that's not true.*

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Guards CHAIN Kana to a PILLAR next to the fireplace. Gibbons places Kana's *Gilded Dagger* under the Golden SHORT-SWORD above the MANTLE. Kana notices the similarities.

Gibbons peeks around the Chamber.

GIBBONS
I've bought you a gift, *mein kleiner.*

Gibbons snickers, mockingly, then exits the Chamber.

Kana sees movement behind one of the TAPTESTRIES.

KANA
(Playful)
Hey... *sure you wanna do this?*

Alina looks from behind a Tapestry, and sees Kana. She runs to him. Smothers him with a HUG. Sees he is wounded.

KANA
I got 'em just where I want 'em.
(Grimaces)
We'll be okay, Alina.

Alina remembers something. Gets up, rushes to Bastian's desk. Looks for PAPER and PEN. Finds some. Returns to Kana.

Alina writes her and Kana's NAMES on the paper. Kana reads. Alina points to her name, then to herself, and gives a THUMBS UP. Points to Kana's name, then to him. CROSSES OUT his name.

KANA
Kana. Kana's... not... my name?

Alina nods, points to a TAPESTRY. It shows their SIGILS and GLYPHS from the cave. She draws a GLYPH under Kana's SIGIL.

KANA
That's my 'real' name?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alina writes again. Kana reads: "*I can read it.*"

KANA

Then, what is it?

Alina, more anguished, writes again: "*I can speak it.*"

Kana looks at the two FIGURES on the Tapestry. The One with Alina's Sigil is ROARING. The one with Kana's Sigil, has A LIGHT bursting from his chest... like an BOMB.

KANA

If you say my real name...

(Nods sympathetically)

The Herald summons The Guardian.

A tear runs down one of Alina's cheeks.

EXT. HUDSON RIVER - NIGHT

12 Dagon BOARDING CRAFTS descend on The Intrepid. Each craft is 100ft long, armed, and carry 50 PALADINS.

Meanwhile, *The Intrepid's* MUSIC and STROBE LIGHTS continue.

INT. LEAD PALADIN BOARDING CRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Paladin Marine Captain sits on a chair, in the middle of a the Bridge. He's leading and coordinating the attack.

A middle-aged MALE PALADIN MARINE LIEUTENANT is piloting. And a 20-something FEMALE PALADIN MARINE SERGENT is monitoring communications and activity coming from the Intrepid.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN

(Speaks into a comms device)

Valkyrie Groups A, B, and C in position, Commander.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER (OS)

(Over Radio, from the FLAGSHIP)

Targeted EMP Strike in 20 seconds.

EXT. PALADIN FLAGSHIP DECK - CONTINUOUS

A large, EMP CANNON is warming up, preparing to fire.

INT. THE INTREPID - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT - The Bridge, Engine Room, and **INTERCUT - The Bridge, Engine Room, and Deck**

Bridge

They can see the Paladin Flagship's EMP CANNON warming up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR
 (In to radio)
 EMP, t-minus ten.

Engine Room

Joe and Jules are inside the METAL MESH CAGE (*that was being constructed when The Intrepid was preparing for battle*), surrounded by a PANEL of computers and technical equipment.

Jules' thumb hovers over a RED BUTTON on the panel. DUCT TAPE above the button reads: 'DO NOT FUCKING TOUCH. EVER.'

JOE
 (In to radio)
 Standing by.

The Deck

DeeDee, Walt, SOLDIERS, CIVVIES, and Drake's old crew, have taken positions behind 4-ft SAND BAGS. From Aft to Stern.

6 narrow 30-ft WATCHTOWERS (with PORTICOS atop, capped by a BLACK CANOPY) are scattered across the deck. Inside each PORTICO is a SNIPER (SENTINELS).

DEEDEE
 (In to radio)
 Everyone... switch to analog.

All TURN OFF their electrical EQUIPMENT.

Bridge

The EMP CANNON BLASTS a focused laser-like BEAM at The Intrepid. And, just as it is about to hit the ship-

GREGOR
 (In to radio)
 Now.

Engine Room

Jules presses her thumb down on the RED BUTTON.

Exterior of The Intrepid

A second before the EMP beam strikes, The Intrepid GOES DARK.

Bridge

Nicky goes to a WALL at the back of the Bridge. There's an old IRON SPEAKING TUBE. He cups his mouth over the tube.

NICKY
 We still alive?

Engine Room

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

There's a corresponding SPEAKING TUBE the Metal Cage was built around. The equipment's running. Jules nods.

JOE
...and kicking.

NICKY (OS)
Shit. That *Faraway Cage* really worked?

JULES
I swear I'm gonna choke his ass.

NICKY (OS)
You're a beautiful genius, Julesey.

Jules smiles, despite herself.

Bridge

Nicky gives Gregor the *thumbs up*. Gregor looks out across the river. The Boarding Crafts are heading quickly toward them.

GREGOR
Time for some smoke 'n mirrors, Kid.

END INTERCUT

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER ROOF - NIGHT

A glass SKY BRIDGE leads to the DAGON COMMS TOWER, (a PYRAMID ENCLOSURE wrapped in shiny grey hexagonal tiles and capped by a glass CAPSTONE -- as seen by Kana, on his first visit)

ELEVATOR DOORS open at one end of the Bridge. Bradley and Sofia walk out, armed with GUNS. Two PALADIN GUARDS are slouched down on the elevator floor, dead.

The doors shut. Bradley walks purposefully across the Bridge. They reach the door for the *Enclosure*. Opens it with a Badge.

INT. DAGON COMMS TOWER ROOF ENCLOSURE - CONTINUOUS

The Enclosure is full of SERVERS. Bradley paces down a pathway, searching. Sofia follows, but is irritable.

SOFIA
What is this place?

BRADLEY
The mission's changed.

SOFIA
No. No. I'm not giving up.

Bradley pauses, faces Sofia. Looks at her sympathetically.

BRADLEY
Even if the odds of finding a cure are
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
 infinitesimal, hope remains. But only
 if we remain. And those odds are
 decreasing by the second.

Sofia exhales. As she's about to say something...

BRADLEY
 There it is.

Bradley stops in front of a white SERVER. He swipes his BADGE
 and a COMPUTER TERMINAL emerges.

BRADLEY
 Jules' 'butterfly key'?

Sofia reluctantly hands Bradley "*Little Papillion*". He
 inserts it into a PORT. A holographic IMAGE of Earth's ORBIT
 emerges along with Dagon's GLOBAL SATELLITE NETWORK.

SOFIA
 Is that Dagon's Satellite Network?

Bradley nods. They also focus on the 'Comet'.

SOFIA
 The Comet. It's a... Spaceship?

Bradley takes a deep breath, continues.

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Alina has her back turned to Kana. She's hunched over.

KANA
 Alina?

Alina doesn't move.

KANA
 Alina. Hey. Come on... look at me.

Alina faces Kana. Tears in her eyes. Terrified.

KANA
 You know, most my life I've had this
 fire in me. A need to understand what
 I am. Know why my mother died to
 protect me. Why my tribe broke their
 hearts to keep me safe. What made me
 so damn special?
 (Smiles to himself)
 Then you threw a rock at me. And ever
 since, I felt different. I guess, 'cos
 anger has always guided my journey.
 So, it took time to accept the
 destination wasn't what I expected.
 Took time to realize the journey was
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA (CONT'D)
 never about who I am, it was about
 finding where I belong. And, as crazy
 as it sounds, I think I'm meant to be
 right here. Right now. With you.

Alina swallows back tears. Writes something down.

"Meeca Newka"

KANA
 Little sister. That's right.
 (Squeezes Alina's hand tighter)
 Who knows why, the universe picked us.
 None of it makes sense. But I believe,
 there's a plan. And we have a part to
 play. But, what I believe counts for
 nothing 'less you're right there with
 me, *Mika Nukka*.

Alina tries to smile. Wipes away her tears. Then-
 The, DOORS OPEN. It's Gibbons, Moloch, Jegon and Turel.

INT. LEAD PALADIN BOARDING CRAFT - NIGHT

The Paladin Marine Sargent looks at the Marine Captain.

MARINE SARGENT
 Their power's disabled, Sir.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN
 Groups A, B and C... commence attack.

Suddenly, a concerto of ROMAN CANDLES explode in the SKY near
 the BOARDING CRAFTS. They're coming from: A FERRY and a
 FISHING TRAWLER to the left and right of The Intrepid.

The Boarding Crafts are also being struck with BUCKSHOT,
 small-caliber BULLETS, and CROSS-BOW BOLTS.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER (OS)
 Captain, report?

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN
 We're taking small-arms fire from
 scrap ships flanking the target.
 (Smiles at the *Roman Candles*)
 In addition to harmless mortars.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER (OS)
 Split the convoy. And remove their
 toys before they hurt themselves.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN
 Yes, Sir.

The Captain nods to the Sargent.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PALADIN MARINE SARGENT
 (In to Comms unit)
 Groups B and C engage secondary and
 tertiary hostile vessels.

The Paladin Marine Captain watches 2 sets of 4 Boarding
 Crafts break off and head toward the Ferry and Trawler.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN
Untermen... unevolved monkeys.

INT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Gregor watches the 3 Attack Groups split.

GREGOR
 Hook. Line. And sinker.

Gregor gives Nicky a nod. Nicky leans over the voice-pipe.

INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

Alina and Kana are ushered into the Cathedral.

The Four Brothers take their places around the *Stone Table*.

They hold up their respective weapons: *Moloch's Battle Axe*,
Jegon's Spike-handled Trident, *Bastian's Curved SABRE*, and
Turel's Double-bladed Katana Spear.

Kana and Alina are momentarily alone. Kana notices Alina
 fidgeting with the *beaded bracelet* Kana's Mother gave her.

KANA
 (Hushed)
*"To her, this was a gift. For there's
 no greater honor than being chosen to
 safeguard the light of a new life."*

Alina sniffs. Kana looks at her beseechingly. *Suddenly*,
 Gibbons looms over them. The moment is gone.

GIBBONS
 It's time, *mein kleiner*.

Gibbons drags a scared Alina away. Kana feels helpless.

EXT. THE INTREPID, DECK - NIGHT

Walt and a few Soldiers are using old SHOT GUNS to take POT-
 SHOTS at the Boarding Crafts.

Hiding behind the Sand Bags; An arsenal of AUTOMATIC WEAPONS
 and RIFLES. DeeDee holds up a FOGHORN. Emits 2 loud SALVOS.

At the Aft and Stern are 2 PHALANX C.I.W.S mounted to metal
 BASES, hidden under TARPS. Soldiers remove the tarps.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

(A *PHALANX Close-In-Weapon-System* is a Naval machine gun. Armed with 20MM GATLING GUNS, that fires 3K rounds per min, and use automated tracking system to target and shoot).

INT. THE INTREPID, ENGINE CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jules uses a COMPUTER to control and fire harmless RIFLES on the *Ferry* and *Trawler*, at the *Boarding Crafts*. She is also aiming and detonating Roman Candles at the Crafts.

On a different MONITOR is a RADAR IMAGE. It shows the position of The *Intrepid*, *Ferry*, and *Trawler* in relation to the oncoming *Boarding Crafts*.

Between the approaching *Paladins* and others vessels are 32 flashing TRIANGLE BLUE LIGHTS, perfectly spaced apart to form a CRESCENT SHAPE, ensnaring the *Boarding Crafts*.

Joe listens to Nicky on the Voice-Pipes.

JOE

They took the bait.

The *Crafts* are merely yards from the Triangle Lights.

JULES

Shit... Here goes nothing.

Jules presses a SWITCH next to the Radar Screen.

EXT. HUDSON RIVER - CONTINUOUS

At the BOTTOM of the *Hudson River*, are FLOATABLE SEA MINES, tethered to KETTLE BELLS by a ROBOTIC PINCHER.

A RED LED LIGHT on the Pincher turns to GREEN and the pinchers OPEN, releasing the Sea Mines.

INT. LEAD PALADIN BOARDING CRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Marine Sargent stares at her RADAR SCREEN, perplexed.

PALADIN MARINE SARGENT

32 small inanimate objects from the surface are ascending in unison.

The Paladin Marine Captain goes to the radar screen. Sees a crescent of SUBMERSIBLES rising through the water.

The Captain looks alarmingly out at the water: barely 20-ft away GREEN LED LIGHTS rise toward the surface. He panics.

PALADIN MARINE CAPTAIN

TAKE EVASIVE-

INT. PALLADIN FLAG SHIP - NIGHT

The COMMANGER watches her *Boarding Crafts*, with a smirk. But

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

that smirk swiftly slips away, when she sees each and every one of her Crafts EXPLODE IN A BALL OF MOLTEN FIRE.

PALADIN NAVY COMMANDER
 What just happened? Report? Report!
 WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

Two of the Brothers-Moloch and Jegon-take Alina from Gibbons and lay her out on the Stone Table. Her FEET and HANDS are bound to the Table with LEATHER RESTRAINTS.

All 4 brothers draw DAGGERS, as the Dome's ROOF RETRACTS.

EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM, EARTH

The Zaravan Comet (Vessel) has reached it's destination. The 400-yard long Vessel hovers menacingly in the THERMOSPHERE.

The dark Ruby colored Veins are fully aglow. The Vessel vibrates, burning brighter. Then, a powerful round BEAM of RUBY RED light BURSTS from the Vessel down toward Earth.

Then, smaller RED BEAMS of LIGHT thrust outward from the Vessel across the thermosphere, permeating a set of SATELITES, to form a gossamer mesh, blanketing the Earth.

Each Satellite has a name STENCILED on it: DAGON, INC.

INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - CONTINUOUS

The Brothers look up at the sky. As does a terrified Alina.

BASTIAN
Wraiths of the Dark. Wake from your
 bitter slumber. Rise again.

Alina writhes harder, afraid. The Brothers then use their Daggers to make small incisions on Alina's FEET and HANDS.

(Not the bloody sacrifice Alina was expecting)

Her BLOOD seeps through the Table's creviced ENGRAVINGS. Then, a RED BEAM OF LIGHT comes down from the sky, and ILLUMINATES the STONE TABLE.

The Dome's roof vibrates, as the Red Light suffuses the bronze outer shell, until it becomes a RED RIPPLING BUBBLE.

EXT. DAGON CATHEDRAL, PARK SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The CITIZENS of New-Hallah have paused in place.

All face the Cathedral. Their eyes fixed on the Dome.

INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - CONTINUOUS

The Brothers sheath their Daggers. Hold up their respective Weapons above Alina. Bastian looks at Alina with a smile.

BASTIAN
Now, 'Le Pièce De Résistance'. And for
that I need you to scream, Princess.

Alina refuses to comply. She glances at Kana. Bastian frowns.

BASTIAN
(To Gibbons)
A little encouragement, if you please?

GIBBONS
Yes, my Lord.

Gibbons, looks at Kana. Pulls out a LUGER, and SHOOTS Kana in the SHOULDER. Alina SCREAMS. Kana holds his head in AGONY.

Then, the Bubble over the Dome splinters into THOUSANDS of thin RED VEINY-LIGHTS, branching across the City.

EXT. DAGON CATHEDRAL, PARK SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The Red Veiny-Lights penetrate New-Hallah Citizens via the back of their heads. In turn, their STIGMAS glow RED under their skin. Which then spreads through their bodies.

Their bodies TRANSFORM into a WRAITH. Their skin turns into a snake-like BLACK SCALES. Dark WINGS burst forth from their backs.

INT. THE INTREPID - NIGHT**INTERCUT - The Bridge & Engine Room****The Bridge**

Crew on the Bridge CHEER as they watch the Paladin Boarding Crafts BURN. Big T walks in, *high fives* Nicky.

BIG T
And that, my brothers and sisters, is
what a plan up in smoke looks like!

NICKY
(Into the Speaking Tube)
It worked! You got 'em all, Darlin'!
(Realizes the mistake.) Oh- shit.

JULES (OS)
Did you just call me, 'Darling'?

Nicky wisely ignores Jules.

Engine Room

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Joe's hugging Jules.

JULES
'Darling'? Fuckin' dumbass cowpoke.

Jules grins.

The Bridge

Gregor stares intensely at the *Paladin Flagship*.

GREGOR
All we did is poke the Bear. Now the
Bear's gonna poke back.
(To Big T)
Ok... Thread the *Needle*, Big Guy.

BIG T
Gonna need the Lights back on.

Big T looks at Nicky and nods. Nicky shakes his head sheepishly. Big T takes two strides toward him.

BIG T
(To Nicky)
I'll clean your Diaper later. (Into
the Pipes.) Power up, please... Jules.
(To Nicky.) You need some lessons in-

Faint wisps of 'unnatural' Ruby Red Light burnish the Bridge.

Big T notices Nicky has crept toward a window. Along with the rest of the crew. All transfixed by a large RED CLOUD OF LIGHT and a RED VEINY LIGHTS over NEW-HALLAH.

The Red Veiny Lights flash and spiral out in all directions. Including the *Paladin The Flagship*, which goes DARK at the exact same time The Intrepid's POWER comes to life.

BIG T
What. The...

NICKY
Fuck?

END INTERCUT

INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

Kana watches Paladins transform into monstrous Wraiths. The Four Brothers also undergo a transformation of sorts; Their complexion darkens, like COAL. Their FLESH hardens like LEATHER. Their EYES glow RED with YELLOW PUPILS.

Only Alina, Kana and Gibbons haven't changed. Alina's looks at Kana for help. He nods to her, pleading.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANA
I'm ready, *Mika Nukka*.
(Firm)
Be the Herald.
(Beseeching)
And summon the Guardian.
(Fiercer)
...summon him.

Gibbons notices their chatter. Perplexed. Approaches Kana.

Alina exhales. Swallows. Small GUTTURAL SOUNDS come from her.

ALINA
(Faint)
I... I... sum... I summon...
(Whispers)
I summon you: *Princeps autem Lux*.
(With confidence)
I summon you: *Kidemónas des Galaxías*.
(Loudly)
I summon you: *Regent of the Sun*.
(Righteous fury)
Ureal... Ureal I SUMMON YOU!

Alina passes out. Bastian's looks at Alina, then Kana.

BASTIAN
No. No, no, it's not possible.

Gibbons approaches Kana. FIRES the CLIP of his LUGER into Kana's chest. Kana lurches over. His head rests against the MARBLE FLOOR. Blood spreads around him.

Gibbons approaches Kana. Notices the BIRTHMARK/SIGIL, top of Kana's BACK. Gibbons eyes widen. The SIGIL GLOWS a BLUE OPAL LIGHT. It spreads through Kana's body.

Gibbons FUNBLES, trying to load another CLIP into his GUN.

Kana's head moves an inch. Then, he fully RISES. His eyes, shine OPAL BLUE. BULLETS SPIT out of his chest.

'Kana/Ureal', snaps his restrains like they're a toothpick.

Gibbons' gun trembles in his hand. Kana/Ureal seizes the gun, crushes it. He then clutches Gibbons' throat, holds him in the air glances at the 4 Brothers. SNAPS Gibbons neck.

KANA/UREAL
(A deep, baritone voice)
Princes of the Dark. You're not
welcome here.

One of the *Paladin Guards* (now a *Wraith*). Attacks Kana/Ureal from behind with his SPEAR. Without looking, Kana/Ureal ducks the lunge, grabs the Guard by his CAPE, pulls the Guard back and PUNCHES A HOLE through it's CHEST.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kana/Ureal picks up the Guard's SPEAR. He points at Jegon.

KANA/UREAL
Your decimation will now commence.

Jegon smiles, arrogantly. Holds up his TRIDENT.

EXT. THE INTREPID, DECK - NIGHT

The Soldiers see the RED VEINY Sphere over New-Hallah is spreading... it's now enshrouded the *Paladin Flagship*.

DeeDee uses NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES and sees hundreds of dark silhouettes, launch from the *Paladin Flagship*, into the sky.

INTERCUT - Deck and the **INTERCUT - Deck and the Watchtowers**

Deck

DEEDEE
(In to her radio)
Sentinel 1. Those Drones?

Watchtowers

A SNIPER and SPOTTER use their SCOPES to look CLOSER.

SENTINEL 1
Do Drones have flappy wings?

Deck

Gregor comes over the radio.

GREGOR (OS)
Are those... birds?

DeeDee grabs a RIFLE, uses the SCOPE. The flying silhouettes heading at them becomes clearer.

DEEDEE
Birds aren't 6 feet long with fangs.

GREGOR (OS)
Come again? Did you say '*Fangs*'?

Watchtower

Through his SCOPE the SPOTTER sees hundreds of Wraiths.

SPOTTER
Holy shit. Look at the size of them.

The Wraiths UNSHEATH CRIMSON RED SPEARS directly from their SPINES. The SPOTTER starts to speak, but stops mid-sentence, as one of the Wraith Spears is LANCED through his head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENTINEL 1
(In to radio)
Airborne hostiles are engaging.

Deck

DEEDEE
Dragoons! Weapons free.

The demonic Wraiths descend on the deck, *like a plague of locusts sent straight from hell*. Everyone opens fire.

The Wraiths don't go down easily because of thick skin.

Watchtower

The Sniper takes out three Wraiths with HEADSHOTS.

SENTINEL 1
(Over his radio)
Focus on the head.

Deck

The Soldiers adjust their defense, aim for headshots.

Another 10,000 Wraiths head their way from New-Hallah.

END INTERCUT

INT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Big T's looking at a Radar Screen. Sees the flock of Wraiths.

INTERCUT between: Bridge, CIC, and **INTERCUT between: Bridge, CIC, and Deck.**

BIG T
(In to his radio)
CIC, incoming biological asymmetrical targets. Deploy Phallanx 1 and 2. Optimize for headshots.

CIC

The Female CIC WEAPONS OPERATOR, and five OTHERS man the CIC.

CIC WEAPONS OPERATOR
Phallanx 1 and 2, pre-set auto-targeting for cranial deconstruction.

BIG T (OS)
Fire at will.

SAILORS take to their STATIONS, and prepare for combat.

Deck

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A new SWARM of Wraiths descend on The Intrepid.

The Phalanxes SPRING to life. Their GATLING GUNS *pitch* and *swivel*, as they FIRE, auto-adjusting to hit each Wraith. But, even with the Phallanx guns, there's too many.

Bridge

Gregor watches his PEOPLE being SLAUGHTERED.

GREGOR
(In to his Radio)
Jules... get *The Nemo* on line.

Nothing comes back over the radio. Only GUNFIRE, SCREAMS. Nicky twitchily-taps his GUN handles. Gregor notices.

GREGOR
Time to skin those smoke wagons, Kid.

Nicky nods, serious. Grabs his WINCHESTER SHOTGUN. Swings it over his shoulder on to his back, quickly exits the Bridge.

CIC

CIC WEAPONS OPERATOR
(Over the radio)
Chief, we're down to 15% capacity.

Gregor and Big T look at each other, worried.

INT. DAGON CATHEDRAL - CONTINUOUS

Jegon heaves his Trident at Kana, but misses. His Trident SKEWERS the wall. The handle's sharp tip, juts outward.

Kana/Ureal throws his Spear, at an oncoming Jegon. It hits Jegon squarely through the CHEST, pinning him to a PILLAR. Jegon looks down at the Spear. Laughs, contemptuously.

JEQON
You forget, Regent. Only a Celestial
Weapon can kill a Celestial Prince.

Jegon removes the Spear. Runs at Kana/Ureal. Who ducks, and uses Jegon's momentum to FLIP HIM upside down, and HURL him over his head and backward. Kana/Ureal, turns. Sees Jegon inverted, and IMPALED by his Trident's razor sharp handle.

Bastian grabs Alina, and Turel follows. They exit the Cathedral. Moloch will now take the attack to Kana/Ureal.

Kana/Ureal approaches Moloch. Removes the Trident from the wall. Glances at Moloch. He stands square. Holds the Trident with two hands, horizontally in front of him.

KANA/UREAL
Something else I recall. A mistake.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dismayed, Moloch realizes what Kana/Ureal's doing. The Regent SNAPS Jeqon's Trident over his knee. Then... Both the Trident and Jeqon DISSIPATE into a RUSTY-RED gleaming DUST.

MOLOCH

(Furious)

I'll drink blood from your skull.

Kana/Ureal stands still. He looks at Moloch. Holds up a hand, beckons to him forward. *Come and get it.*

Moloch leaps on to the Stone Table. Kana/Ureal follows. They fight. Moloch takes mighty swings but to no effect. Kana dodges each attack. They kick. They punch. Until-

An almighty swing from Moloch misses The Regent, but hits the Stone Table. IMBEDDING one half of his Axe into the Stone.

The other half of the Axe juts outward. The fight becomes about who can get to the Axe first.

Both land HEFTY BLOWS. Moloch gets too close to Kana/Ureal, who strikes Moloch in the throat with his PALM, and then he KNEES Moloch in the stomach.

Kana/Ureal grabs Moloch's head, and LUNGES BACKWARD. They land on their chests, flat on Table's surface. Facing each other. Kana/Ureal still holds Moloch's head. But, Moloch's eyes have turned an ASHEN GREY.

Kana/Ureal releases Moloch's head. Which, then lazily rolls away from Moloch's body, and falls to the floor. Moloch: decapitated by the BLADE of his own double-sided Battle-Axe.

Kana/Ureal pulls the Axe from the Table, which CRUMBLES to pieces. Kana/Ureal then looks at where Bastian had fled.

INT. THE INTREPID, WELL DECK - NIGHT

Nicky arrives at the entrance of the WELL DECK. Drake's old crew are fending off an INFESTATION of Wraiths. Some are being picked off.

Jules is huddled into the NEMO. Working on something, but clearly scared of what's going on around her.

Nicky slides down METAL STAIRCASE. Hits the ground. And-

Nicky moves with a GRACEFUL cavalier cadence. *Wyatt, Jesse, Billy,* and the *Man with No Name* couldn't hold a candle.

Each shot finds a Wraith forehead or eyeball. And when he runs out of BULLETS for his PISTOLS, he HULA-HOOPS, his WINCHESTER from his back to his front. Kills 8 more.

Nicky looks over at Jules. She's focused on preparing A BOMB.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULES
Shit. Fuck. C'mon, work!

Nicky rushes into the Well Deck, dock area.

NICKY
Nemo got a hitch in her giddyup?

JULES
Autopilot's fragged from the EMP.

Over the radio, Gregor's voice;

GREGOR (OS)
We fixed to launch, Jules?

Before Jules can respond, Nicky grabs her radio.

NICKY
(In to the radio)
She's ready to cut 'n run, G.

JULES
What the shit are you doing?

Nicky JUMPS into the boat. Tosses Jules the RADIO.

JULES
Are you kidding?

NICKY
(Serious)
Detonator... Now.

Jules bites her lip, and throws a detonator KEY at Nicky.

JULES
Bomb needs 2 minutes to charge. Green means ready. You then get the fuck off the boat, and use the Key to detonate.

NICKY
Press charge button. Green means go. Jump in the chill. Pull trigger. Boom.

JULES
You're a fucking idiot.

NICKY
Tell me somethin' I don't know.

Jules grabs Nicky's face, kisses him.

JULES
Betcha didn't know that.

NICKY
Betcha I did... *Darlin'*.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nicks starts the engine of The Nemo. The Nemo speeds out.

EXT. HUDSON RIVER - NIGHT

Nicky speeds away from The Intrepid. A few Wraiths follow. Nicky presses a button on the BOMB, waits for it to CHARGE.

By the time Nicky's 300 yards from The Intrepid, he pulls out 2 FLARE GUNS, shoots them. They detonate. A yellow WEEPING WILLOW TREE of phosphorescent magnesium burns in the sky.

This gets the attention of a few hundred more Wraiths, who fly toward Nicky. Nicky watches them come.

NICKY
Come on you ugly buzzards.

The Wraiths get closer. Nicky can see the bomb's NOT CHARGED.

NICKY
Oh. Shit.

EXT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Gregor sees the flares go off from The Nemo. Then... nothing.

GREGOR
(In to his radio)
Jules. What's goin' on with Nemo?

A few seconds of silence.

JULES (OS)
Uh, her autopilot screwed the pooch.

GREGOR
Don't tell me he... he didn't...

JULES (OS)
He did.

Gregor cuts off the radio. Looks out at The Nemo, worried.

EXT. HUDSON RIVER - NIGHT

The Wraiths descend on The Nemo and Nicky. Nicky un-holsters his guns and goes to work, takes out as many as he can.

BLEEP

Nicky looks over at the bomb. Green light's ON. Nicky smiles, and attempts to JUMP OFF The Nemo, but is snatched back by a Wraith. He shoots the Wraith between the eyes. Gets up again.

As he jumps, he hears a TEAR. Looks down to see he's been impaled with a Wraith's spear. Nicky totters forward, the DETONATOR falls from his grasp and drops into the River.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nicky breathes heavily. Gathers what little energy he has to face the other 30 to 40 Wraiths that've now surrounded him.

He raises his gun to shoot, but he is struck with three more spears. The guns drop from Nicky's trembling hands. Nicky topples into the river. Sinks. Eyes closed.

Suddenly... a bright, PEARLY OPAL LIGHT emanates from the sky above. It illuminates the dark water surrounding Nicky.

Nicky opens his eyes. He can see silhouettes of the Wraiths on the boat above. Nicky looks to his side and sees the detonator floating next to him. Nicky grabs it. Smiles.

He looks up at the *Wraiths* above, grinning, gives them the middle finger and presses the detonator button.

EXT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The crew have noticed the PEARLY LIGHTS in the sky. But, Gregor's oblivious. He's watching The Nemo. Then... it EXPLODES. Evaporating everything within 100 yards.

GREGOR

Nicky!

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kana/Ureal purposefully walks up a flight of STAIRS to the HALLWAY leading to Bastian's chambers. Standing between Kana/Ureal is Turel, with his Double-Bladed KATANA spear.

Turel sees Kana/Ureal holds Moloch's bloody Battle-Axe.

Turel stays calm. Ready for attack. But instead, Kana/Ureal defiantly holds up the Battle-Axe, with a hand on each blade and TEARS IT IN HALF.

Like the Trident it dissolves into a RUSTY-RED gleaming DUST. Turel CHARGES at Kana/Ureal.

EXT. THE INTREPID, DECK - CONTINUOUS

DeeDee, Walt and a dozen SOLDIERS are backed into the STERN, next to the rear PHALLANX. They're fighting like mad. But they're losing. Then they see The Nemo explode.

WALT

Sarge! Should we go below deck?

DEEDEE

No... We keep the fight up-

DeeDee pauses. She notices PEARLY LIGHTS in the sky. The Wraiths have also paused. Looking up at the sky.

Suddenly, three tubular BEAMS of OPAL LIGHTS simultaneously hit the deck of The Intrepid, in front of the Soldiers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They all step-back. The tubular beams morph into three REGENTS; Armed with their GILDED DAGGERS, GOLDEN SHORT-SWORDS, and covered in their resplendent ARMOR.

WALT
 Seriously? More bad guys?

DEEDEE
 I... Don't... think... so.

DeeDee has noticed that The Wraiths seem SCARED.

Then, without a word, the Regents launch themselves at the Wraiths. They're faster, stronger, and more skilled. So, they cut through the Wraiths, like a hot knife through butter.

DeeDee holds up her GUN. Looks at the others.

DEEDEE
 Quit gawking, and get in the fight.

The soldiers start FIRING until all the Wraiths around them are dead. DeeDee looks over at one of the Regents.

DEEDEE
 What's your name, Soldier?

The Regent looks up at the sky, sees more Wraiths coming. He then slightly tilts his head toward DeeDee.

REGENT
 (Deep baritone voice)
 Your kind call me... Gabrael.

DEEDEE
 Copy that. My kind, call me 'Sarge.'
 And hey... welcome to the *Dragoons*.

Gabrael, responds with a small nod. He and his two brothers: (MICHAEL & RAPHAEL) throw themselves into the breach.

DEEDEE
 (In to her radio)
 Bridge... you seeing this?

BIG T (OS)
 Seeing? Yeah.

CUT TO:

INT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

BIG T
 (Under his breath)
 Believin's got some catchin' up to do.

Everyone's captivated by the Regents. Except for Gregor. Gregor's still staring at where Nicky died. Numb.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then Joe and Jules enter the Bridge. Jules' is in a very bad way. Big T looks at them all. They need leadership. So, Big T goes over to Gregor. Puts a hand on his back.

BIG T
(Quiet)
Tonight we fight. Tomorrow we grieve.

Gregor shakes his head like a RATTLE. Comes back to the now.

GREGOR
Don't go quotin' me to me.

Gregor then sees Jules. Joe shakes his head, worried for her. So, Gregor sucks in a deep breath and centers himself.

GREGOR
Okay. Sitrep and damage report. And...
(Notices the *Regents*)
Where the *white knights* come from?

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER / COMMS TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Bradley uses a Computer from the Server to get a 3D view of all Dagon's orbital SATELLITES.

BRADLEY
Every Stigma receives a universal signal, delivered by a network of satellites. Dagon did this to create hive control over their brains. Regulates their emotions, motor functions, memory, and intellect.

SOFIA
What happens if the signal stops?

BRADLEY
Stigmas are designed to shut down should the Signal be disrupted. The last thing Dagon wants, is a their entire population experiencing unilateral free will en masse.

SOFIA
So, take down the satellites and the Signal stops. Then, anyone with a Stigma will... expire.

Bradley keeps typing. Images on the holo-screen change.

SOFIA
But won't that mean you'd-

BRADLEY
(Focused on the screen)
Initiating decommission protocol for the whole Satellite network.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bradley stares at the screen. Whatever he tried didn't work.

BRADLEY
(Distressed)
Oh dear. That can't be correct.

SOFIA
What?

Bradley points to the holographic screen. It shows how the Comet/Vessel is CONNECTED to the Satellites.

BRADLEY
We're locked out. The Space Vessel's
in control of the Satellite network.

SOFIA
Has to be something we can do?

BRADLEY
Short of blowing up the Vessel...

The building vibrates. They look up at the Glass Capstone on the roof, and see WRAITHS flying. It's the first time they've noticed how the Veiny Red Lights have blanketed the sky.

BRADLEY
It's... we're too late.

Sofia stares at the holographic image, thinking.

SOFIA
(Under her breath)
Blow it up? No. No. We, we break it.

Sofia takes out the COMMS DEVICE Gregor gave her.

SOFIA
I think this constitutes as an
emergency, right?
(Switches on the Device)
Intrepid. Come in. This is LP 2, over.

GREGOR (OS)
Mitten? That you? Where-

GUN FIRE can be heard in the background, over the radio.

SOFIA
Listen. Did you use the *Needle*?

CUT TO:

INT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Joe, Jules, Gregor, Big T and others are on the Bridge. The fight against the Wraith army is relentless and ruthless. If not for the Regents, The Intrepid would be overrun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

But even they are struggling to keep the enemy at bay. Gregor holds the COMMS device, responding to Sofia.

GREGOR
No. Wouldn't help, anyhow.

SOFIA (OS)
That bad?

GREGOR
We've taken some hits. Bad hits...
What about Alina? The formula?

SOFIA (OS)
Unknown. And goose chase. So, change
of plan. I need Jules.

Gregor looks over at Jules. She's numb, crying.

GREGOR
She's not all there, Mitten.

SOFIA (OS)
Then tell her to get there.

Jules is unresponsive. Joe approaches her. Holds her.

JULES
They're monsters. We're dead. Dead...

JOE
What did Nana say 'bout fear?

Jules wipes away tears... remembers...

JULES
*"Only way to... to slay fear, is to...
to out monster, the monster."*

JOE
So, what's it gonna be, Sweet Pea?

Jules gathers herself. Grabs the radio from Gregor.

JULES
(In to the Radio)
How many times do I have to save your
ass in one day?

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Bastian is with Alina by the fireplace. One hand, on Alina's shoulder, the other on his sword. They can hear a RIOTOUS FIGHT coming from the HALLWAY, outside the door. METAL crashing against METAL. Walls shaking with each hit.

Bastian looks down at Alina. She no longer seems afraid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN

You see me as evil. A fiend.

Alina, boldly nods back.

BASTIAN

The notion of 'good versus evil' is a distinctly human construct. Sadly, your lizard brains evolved to prioritize reason and meaning above all. It's dictated your deeds and desires from the start.

The fighting outside the door gets louder.

BASTIAN

But here's the truth, Princess... The universe doesn't consider deeds. Or desire. Or reason. Or meaning. It's an infinite balancing act, of action and reaction. Like on Earth, you have opposites: Pestilence/panacea. Fire/ice. Rich/poor. Hell/heaven. Cats/dogs. Opposites. But balanced.

(a beat)

Dark & Light, each try to tip the balance. That, Alina... is the universe. Balance. And this planet... is but a speck of sand in an infinite desert of dispute. So, you tell me-

The DOORS of the Chamber EXPLODE inward.

Kana/Ureal stands between the doorway, holding Turel's double-sided Katan. Ten feet behind Kana/Ureal, is Turel--on his knees--grasping his throat, as BLOOD GUSHES OUT.

Turel FLOPS forward, face planted on the hallway floor, dead.

Bastian was expecting this. What he doesn't expect is when Kana/Ureal STABS one side of Turel's weapon into the floor, and then uses his heel to SMASH it in half. Turning the weapon and Turel into that RUSTY-RED gleaming DUST.

Bastian's eyes burn with rage. Kana/Ureal is calm. Ready.

INT. DAGON COMMS TOWER ROOF ENCLOSURE - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT: Between the Dagon Comms Tower Roof Enclosure and Between the Dagon Comms Tower Roof Enclosure and The Intrepid Bridge.

Comms Tower Roof Enclosure

SOFIA

Don't s'pose you got *Needle's* automated targeting system to work?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULES (OS)
You helped rebuild it, what do you think? Besides, what's there to hit?

SOFIA
The Comet. I mean... spaceship.

JULES (OS)
A what-the-fuck did you just say?

SOFIA
No time to explain.

JULES (OS)
An alien invasion? Motherfucker.

SOFIA
Front and center, Jules.

The Intrepid

JULES
(Scratches her head)
Ok. Uh. Without targeting it's like tryin' to hit a bullet with a dart.

SOFIA (OS)
It's possible... if you throw the dart at the exact speed, height, and time.

Jules looks at the radio with contempt.

JULES
Math?

SOFIA (OS)
Needle can aim at coordinates, right?

JULES
Yeah. But how-

SOFIA (OS)
Use the following... Lat: 482.877056.
Long: 2836.953539. Copy?

Jules has moved to the control system. Types.

JULES
Yeah. Okay. Now what?

SOFIA (OS)
Get her ready to fire on my mark.

Outside, toward the AFT, a portion of the deck opens, and 'Needle', (RAIL GUN) is lifted upward. The Wraiths turn their attention to the GUN. Gregor notices.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREGOR
(To Big T)
Time to throw down, Big Man.

They both grab GUNS and leave the Bridge.

JULES
(To herself)
Fate a'the world shit goin' down and
she's talkin' math? Fuckin' math!

SOFIA (OS)
Radio's still on, Jules.

JULES
I KNOW, dammit!

The Regents have sensed that the Rail Gun requires defending, so they position themselves around it, to fight away Wraiths. Gregor and others are also fighting with what little they have left. But time's running out.

INT. DAGON RESEARCH CENTER ROOF - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT between Research Center and **INTERCUT between
Research Center and Intrepid Bridge.**

Sofia, has a PEN in one hand, and is typing on the other. She writes EQUATIONS and SEQUENCES on the surface of the SERVER.

SOFIA
Need to account for spatial
variations, gravitational pull,
geostationary fluctuations, air speed,
propulsion degradation.

JULES (OS)
Don't forget kinetic velocity at
launch and projectile weight.

SOFIA
I know. I know. Just give me a sec-

SHRIEK. The sound of Wraith. Or, five to be exact, fly down through the Capstone, toward Jules. Bradley fires at them. But his aim is wayward. Still, it buys Sofia more time.

Bridge

Black spears fly through the windows. One just misses Jules. Another kills a A SOLDIER on the Bridge. She can see another 20,000 more approaching from *New-Hallah*.

JULES
Now or never, Sof. C'mon.

Research Center

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jules has made her final calculations. From her periphery of her eye she sees a Wraith approaching. She flips out a PISTOL and shots it between the eyes. Goes back to calculating while Bradley tries to hold off even more Wraiths coming through.

SOFIA
 Nearly... nearly... got it!

Bridge

The 20,000 Wraiths a minutes away. Everyone's overwhelmed. And the Phallanx guns are out of bullets.

JULES
 Sof... shit or get off time.

SOFIA (OS)
 Wait for it... wait for it...

Research Center

Sofia is watching her screen, monitoring all of the numbers and movement up in orbit.

SOFIA
 Okay. Okay... 'NOW'!

Bridge

Jules pushes a button. The fully charged RAIL GUN explodes into life; A FEROCIOUS RUPTURE of electro-magnetic power, DISCHARGES the Rail-Gun's steel projectile: All goes quiet.

Jules watches the screen, blocks out the noise. Focuses on the Projectile as it enters the upper atmosphere.

Research Center

Sofia is doing the same thing. Holding her breath.

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

As Kana/Ureal enters the chambers, Bastian is momentarily distracted by a PEARLY LIGHTS in the sky, over the Hudson. He shakes his head in frustration.

BASTIAN
 That gateway is for us. How dare they.

Alina signs words at Bastian. Kana/Ureal can understand them.

KANA/UREAL
 She says; '*When a gate opens, anything or anyone can come through.*'

Alina smiles, smugly back at Bastian. He replies by slapping her across the face. He then goes to the fireplace mantle, grabs the *Golden Short Sword*, next to Kana's *Gilded Dagger*.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He throws it at the feet of Kana/Ureal.

BASTIAN

You first. Then your brothers.

Kana/Ureal kicks the Sword up, into his hands. Bastian charges. They fight with passion. Equally matched. Kana/Ureal's every move is countered by Bastian. But after a while, Bastian starts to slow. He knows that this fight cannot continue on its current course otherwise he'll die.

Bastian notices that Kana/Ureal keeps glancing at Alina. He realizes something. Disengages from Kana/Ureal. And goes over to Alina. Tightly grabs her shoulders, and holds his Curved Blade over her throat.

BASTIAN

Yield. Or she dies.

Kana/Ureal stares blankly at Alina. Emotionless.

KANA/UREAL

The *Light* is bigger than one life.

BASTIAN

(Surprised)

Oh, that's cold. But... predictable.

(Looks at Alina)

Nothing personal, Princess. Glad we had a chance to share a Sundae.

Just as Bastian is about to cut Alina's throat, Kana/Ureal drops his sword to the floor, with a loud KLANG. Bastian's surprised. He smiles, and tosses Alina over to the fireplace.

BASTIAN

I guess even you can't overcome human sentimentality syndrome.

Bastian moves toward Kana/Ureal and holds his arms down, palms out, in a gesture of peace. He then looks at Alina.

KANA/UREAL

(Sounds more like Kana)

Food for nightmares.

Kana/Ureal turns his back to Alina. In turn, Alina stands, upright, filled with intent. Bastian hesitates, confused. Still, he THRUSTS his Sword through Kana/Ureal's back, and out his chest. Kana/Ureal coughs up blood, bends over.

KANA/UREAL

(Sounding like Kana)

Now, put your back into it.

Bastian hears a flutter of wind and then LURCHES forward in PAIN. He looks over his shoulder, sees Kana's Gilded Dagger EMBEDDED in his back. The Dagger was thrown by Alina.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BASTIAN
You little, bitch!

Bastian tries to get his hold of the Dagger. But can't reach it. He then notices Kana/Ureal is standing in front of him. Bastian's sword bulging from Kana/Ureal's chest.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOLAR SYSTEM, EARTH - CONTINUOUS

The Vessel pulsates it's lights via the spiderweb of beams meshing all of the Dagon Satellites.

A dark cylindrical Projectile, menacingly bursts through the Earth's atmosphere, into the silence of Space. The Projectile pierces the Vessel, splitting it in half. It's control over the Satellites immediately STOPS. The Signal... stops.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. DAGON TOWER, BASTIAN'S CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Kana/Ureal grabs Bastian's arms and squeezes him with a mighty BEAR HUG. IMPALING Bastian on his own sword.

Bastian looks at Kana/Ureal in the eyes, as they hold each other in a deathly embrace. Kana/Ureal pushes Bastian to the floor. Bastian slowly croaks in a lagoon of his own blood.

Kana reaches behind his back. Pulls out Bastian's sword. He then looks down at Bastian, and uses his fist to smash the sword in half. Turning the weapon and Bastian to dust.

He kneels momentarily. In great pain. Alina runs to him. Hugs him as hard as she can. She *signs* something to him.

KANA/UREAL
Yes. He's still here. And wants to know, if you'd like to fly?

Alina cocks her head, confused. Then, Kana/Ureal stands, and stunning, pearly-golden WINGS burst out of his BACK.

INT. THE INTREPID, BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Jules is fixated on the screen. She can't tell if the projectile hit or not. A hand touches her shoulder. She flinches. Sees it's her Dad.

JOE
You did it, Sweet Pea.

Jules looks around. Sees all the Wraiths have dropped dead.

On the deck, Gregor, Big T, DeeDee, Walt are still alive. And the Three Regents stand still at the Front of the Boat. They look out at the City. One of them flies toward it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jules takes a deep breath, grabs the radio.

JULES
Sof... Are you ok?

CUT TO:

INT. DAGON COMMS TOWER ROOF ENCLOSURE - CONTINUOUS

Bradley sits, against a server. He sees Sofia looking at the dead Wraiths. Weary and relieved, she responds to Jules.

SOFIA
(Over the radio)
Seems so.

Sofia turns to see Bradley, she smiles. Relieved he's okay.

BRADLEY
Well done, young lady. Well done.

SOFIA
For a second, I was worried you might-

BRADLEY
(Breathing heavily)
I am.

Sofia notices Bradley slouched, unnaturally. He holds the back of his neck. Where his Stigma is imbedded.

BRADLEY
Just... slower.

Sofia kneels in front of Bradley. Takes his hand. Crying.

BRADLEY
(Earnest, at Sofia)
Do... do... do you think 'test tube
humans' can have a soul?

SOFIA
You have a bigger heart, with more
humanity than any human I know.

Bradley's fading. He contemplates Sofia's words.

BRADLEY
This... this feeling, is '*faith*'?

SOFIA
Which is how I know, we'll meet again.

Life drains from Bradley's eyes. Sofia holds his hand tighter. Bradley's eyes brighten momentarily.

BRADLEY
Oh. This feeling, must be... '*bliss*'?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
 (Smiles. Looks past Sofia)
 Suzy...

Bradley fades into the VOID. Sofia holds back a sob, and closes his eyes. Yet his blissful smile remains.

Sofia hears a RUFFLING NOISE. She looks up at the Capstone, sees Kana/Ureal descending, cradling Alina in his arms.

Sofia looks at Kana/Ureal. His eyes. His wings. Confused. Then she notices Alina. Who upon hitting the ground, sees Bradley. She rushes to him. Holds him, crying.

Kana/Ureal stands still. Allows Alina a moment to grieve.

EXT. THE INTREPID, DECK - CONTINUOUS

The sun rises to greet the morning. The survivors are gathered on the deck. Some, in shock. Others, mournful.

Moni finds DeeDee on the deck, they hug. Joe holds on to Jules, letting her sob into his shoulder.

The two Regents at the front of the boat look up to the sky. Two FIGURES fly down to the deck. One is Kana/Ureal, holding Alina and Sofia. The other--Gabrael--is holding Bradley.

They set them down on the deck. Sofia runs into Gregor's arms. He holds her tightly. She then looks around, trying to find Nicky. Gregor shakes his head. Sofia holds his face close to hers. Gregor finally releases his grief, crying.

Kana/Ureal's slumped in the corner, badly injured. The Three Regents surround him. Silently conferring. Alina sits cross-legged, holding Kana/Ureal's hand. She looks at the Regents.

GABRAEL
 His Light fades. Only enough left to
 save his mortal self. But, he won't.

Alina looks, and sees Kana is Kana again. He smiles at her.

KANA
 This whole, Light thing is bigger than
 one measly life. Right, *Mika Nukka*?

Alina shakes her head. Unwilling to accept. Kana holds her hand and forces her to look at him. He leans closer to Alina and WHISPERS something only she can hear. Alina pulls back.

She pauses. Exhales. Then nods to Kana.

A small WHITE SPARK of light radiates from his chest. It then BURSTS from his BODY, into a GOLDEN CLOUD above the deck. Wispy, luminescent SNOWFLAKES cascade down, from the cloud. Blanketing everyone on the deck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kana closes his eyes. Sees CLARA standing in a RIVER.

CLARA (VO)
*"O, great River. O, great Wind. Carry
 him along River. Guide him home with
 the Wind."*

Alina looks at Kana. Realizes he's DEAD. She holds his hand.

The 3 Regents look up to the sky; PEARLY GATEWAY opens. They morph into tubular beams of light, and LEAVE.

Alina is joined by Gregor and Sofia. They hold each other tightly, awash in the melancholy glow of the MORNING SUN.

EXT. ISLAND BEACH - MORNING

SUPER: 10 Years Later

The crew of the The Intrepid have made a new home on a small ISLAND. The Intrepid sits idle, in the bay.

In the hills of the island there are small HUTS and ENCAMPMENTS. Familiar characters appear here and there in a cheerful collage of everyday life.

Alina (now 26) is stocking a large FISHING BOAT. Food. Medical equipment. FISHING poles. And a BOOMBOX.

ALINA (VO)
 A new world was born that day. A world
 of peace. Love. Unity. Light.

(The FEMALE VOICE at the beginning of the story was **The FEMALE VOICE at the beginning of the story was Alina.**)

Alina waves to Gregor and Sofia who are playing with their young CHILDREN. Indeed, there are children everywhere.

ALINA (VO)
 We don't understand how it worked. We
 just know Kana's death, was the cure.

Big T, Walt, and Jules help Alina with the boat. Jules has a baby strapped to her chest. Walt kisses her forehead.

ALINA (VO)
 I can feel people out there. They're
 alone. Confused. Scared. So, I'll
 search for them. Bring them home.

Alina's Boat sets a course directed toward the RISING SUN. She waves GOODBYE to her friends. Her tribe. Her family.

A small OBJECT wrapped in cloth sits on her lap. She opens it: Kana's *Gilded Dagger*. She SHEATHES it to her BELT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALINA (VO)
On the dark days, he appears in my
dreams. And I hear his final words;

KANA (VO)
(Whispering)
*"When it feels like the stars are all
fading, kindle the cosmos with the
sparkle of your smile".*

Alina reaches over to the old BoomBox. Presses PLAY. The
Music Starts: "**Here Comes the Sun**" - by, The Beatles.

MUSIC
*Here comes the sun / Here comes the
sun / And I say, it's alright...*

Alina faces the sun. Bathes in its glow. Her boat sails into
the world beyond, in search of family. Of hope. Of light.

END