STRANDED

"Welcome to Deimos"

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTER SPACE

A broken, metallic hull HURLS through space. The word SURVIVOR etched on its side.

Engines SPUTTER to a stop; blown out. The rest of the ship’s engulfed in a fireball.

INT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT

ALARMS blare.

JAIME PROTCHKE (late 20s), beautiful and the leader helps MICHAEL (27) to his feet. He quickly stands and it’s obvious there’s something ‘different’ about him.

Together they exit the cockpit and seal the door behind them.

INT. SPACESHIP - MID DECK - NIGHT

Jaime gasps!

BILLY PLUMMER (late 20’s), independent and angry stares at a control panel in shock, but somehow doesn’t have a bruise on him. His force-field helmet has deployed.

Smoke fills the air and fire burns toward the back. Control panels SNAP, CRACKLE and threaten to overload.

Through a window, the rear of the shuttle can be seen – part of it is missing.

JAIME
Damage report?

Michael’s human appearance gives way and he interfaces briefly with the ship computers via a flash-drive built into his index finger.

MICHAEL
Jinx Corporate’s crew are lucky you tricked ‘em into staying on Earth because part of the ship has been destroyed. They’d be dead.
JAIME
Sounds like you care, Michael.
Didn’t know androids had feelings.

MICHAEL
Surprise, but if we don’t move fast, we’re next.

He points out the window where Jaime spots the fire. At the same time, a control panel erupts into flames that shoot through the compartment.

JAIME
Extinguishers!

Billy rebounds from the shock and flips a switch, which extinguishes the hull fire with a blast of foam. He quickly gets up and puts out the panel fire with an extinguisher.

Michael and Jaime choke back the smoke. Michael checks a monitor.

JAIME
Status of deck one?

MICHAEL
Can’t tell. I’m not getting a reading, but we need to get out of here. Last I heard, smoke inhalation and humans don’t mix.

Smoke continues to fill the compartment.

JAIME
Shit, Billy go and check.

Billy doesn’t blink and heads down to the level below. As he hits the stairs he grabs hold of a rail a second before stepping into the abyss of empty space.

BILLY
It’s gone!

Jaime and Michael glance down the staircase and help Billy back into the compartment. Billy resumes his post. Jaime checks instruments. Michael brings up a solar system schematic.

JAIME
Where’d that come from?

MICHAEL
It’s a planet, but it shouldn’t be there.
Jaime & Michael look out the window and see an orange planet.

MICHAEL
The engines are gone.

JAIME
If I transfer cockpit controls, I might be able to glide us in.

Jaime moves to a panel, takes a seat and begins making the adjustments.

EXT. OUTER SPACE – NIGHT

The spaceship slowly turns on its new course, sparking and smoking.

INT. SPACESHIP – NIGHT

Michael stares at the orange planet through the window.

MICHAEL
But what is it?

JAIME
No time to speculate. Give me a life sign reading.

MICHAEL’S POV

A sonar forms in Michael’s retinas and the image of the planet appears and a scan begins. He checks the planet for life signs.

BACK TO SCENE

MICHAEL
No life signs, but the planet’s atmosphere could be blocking my sonar. I’d caution against an approach. We need more information.

JAIME
We can’t wait! We’re landing!

Jaime takes the controls and the spaceship hits the atmosphere.

END TEASER
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT

Billy bursts into the room, scaring everyone.

BILLY
You got to see this.

JAIME
Kinda busy right now --

BILLY
Come on!

She grudgingly gets up.

JAIME
(to Michael)
Keep her under control.

MICHAEL
Yes, ma’am.

INT. SPACESHIP - MID-DECK - NIGHT

Billy and Jaime head down the broken stairs. Jaime adjusts headphones and taps the microphone. Billy does the same.

BILLY
Hold on to the railing.

JAIME
I know, the lower deck’s gone!

Billy leads Jaime to the bottom of the stairs where the stars shine. A shimmering blue force-field is visible below.

The ship rockets through space at great speed.

BILLY
The force field should hold, but we’re going too fast. We’re going to miss the planet.

Explosions rock the ship. Michael’s voice rings through the intercom:

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Ten minutes before she blows.
JAIME
(into headset)
How close are we?

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Not close enough.

JAIME
(into headset)
Reduce speed and fire thrusters.

Billy looks back in shock at Jaime.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Are you sure that’s a good idea?
(reminds her)
We have no engines.

JAIME
(into headset)
Yes, I’m positive. We don’t have much choice.

Billy points to the force field.

BILLY
Once those thrusters go on, we’re probably going to have to jump. The force field won’t hold with the hull breach.

JAIME
Are you sure?

Billy nods.

BILLY
The ship is coming apart. Once the field’s gone, we’re toast.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Once I start these thrusters hold onto something tight.

JAIME
(into headset)
And get down here, fast!

Jaime and Billy secure helmets and breathing gear.
EXT. OUTER SPACE

The thrusters fire up and the shuttle breaks into pieces.

Michael makes a superhuman LEAP from his area and joins Billy and Jaime.

Jaime and Billy start to drift off. Michael is able to hold onto both of them. The planet approaches fast.

   BILLY
   (into headset)
   This is gonna hurt.

   MICHAEL
   (into headset)
   That’s a distinct possibility.

A small piece of debris hits them and they go spinning down out of the sky toward the planet.

   FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. ARIZONA DESERT - DAY

TITLE: ARIZONA 2130

A barren wasteland drops off to a canyon. A tent’s erected overlooking the site. SCIENTIST-LOOKING TYPES sit in the crowd listening to a JINX CORP SPEAKER (50s) wearing a uniformed, blue top with the logo patch: JINX CORP overlapping a spaceship.

   JINX CORP SPEAKER
   The hot, barren terrain provides protection while we await the Mars shuttle’s confirmation that it’s a go for evacuation to the red planet.

Jaime sits among the Scientists when DON JACkSON (42) approaches her.

   DON
   Excuse ma’am, you can’t be here.
   Jinx personnel only.

   JAIME
   I’m a pilot...

Jaime suddenly stops mid-sentence and smiles.
JAIME
Don. What the hell are you doing here?

He motions for her to follow him. She slips out of the crowd and walks with Don down a sandy aisle.

DON
Let’s talk.

EXT. ARIZONA DESERT – DUSK

Don and Jaime stand behind an empty, dusty field. The wind picks up and forms mini sand tornadoes that quickly fade into the distance.

DON
We lost contact with the Exodus two days ago.

Jaime glances over at the crowd where the Jinx Corp Speaker continues to speak enthusiastically about the lost shuttle.

JAIME
You’re joking?

DON
Jinx needs to send up a new shuttle as soon as possible. We want you to take command.

Jaime steps back, unprepared for this revelation.

JAIME
A rescue mission? That’s a bit out of my league, wouldn’t you say? Surely, you have more qualified astronauts?

Don shakes his head. He’s clearly not getting his point across.

DON
The Exodus has been declared lost in space. You’d be starting over. A new mission to secure the red planet for earth’s evacuation.

Jaime shakes her head. Don takes her roughly by the arm.
DON
Surely you understand by now that earth has less than two hundred days?

Jaime pulls away from him.

JAIME
Then you can’t afford to waste another minute finding a qualified pilot.

DON
I’m afraid I wasn’t asking, Jaime.

JAIME
Find someone else.

DON
You’d risk your spouse and your lovely daughter?

JAIME
They’re not infected.

Don smirks at her.

JAIME
What have you done?

DON
What I had to do. Secure the red planet and your family goes to the top of the list. They’d be cured. You have my word.

JAIME
If you have an antidote, then you use it! Why risk the entire population on a far fetched mass exodus to another world?

Don lowers his voice and becomes dead serious.

DON
We can’t reproduce the formula and there’s only enough for a select few. They’ll join those uninflected and we’ll start a new world. Don’t let your family miss out on this opportunity -- you have limited days, Ms. Protchke, I suggest you use them wisely.
She’s stone-faced as she watches him walk off.

EXT. GARAGE OUTPOST – NIGHT

SUPER: EARTH’s FINAL OUTPOST – ARIZONA

A warehouse-sized garage sits in the middle of a huge dusty field. The wind HOWLS. Tumbleweeds roll past.

A Humvee approaches at high speed kicking up dust and dirt before coming to a stop. Jaime steps out. Don’s right behind her.

INT. GARAGE OUTPOST – NIGHT

Six JINX SCIENTISTS in blue jumpsuits work along side six CONVICTS in orange jumpsuits wearing ankle monitors.

They are building android robots -- just as lifelike as humans. One stands out - a completed model sealed in gel.

They all look up as Jaime and Don enter the room, then quickly return to work.

JAIME
(to Don)
Prisoners? Are you getting desperate or running out of qualified people?

DON
White collar tech geniuses. Most should’ve been working for the government. Greed has no limits. This is their chance for redemption and a clean slate.

JAIME
Good to know they weren’t in the slammer for violent crimes.

DON
I didn’t say that.

Jaime stops a beat and stares at Don.

JAIME
No way I’m working with--
DON
(pointing)
Jinx’s scientists will accompany
you along with a high-end android
on the Survivor mission.

A prisoner catches Jaime’s eye. She walks over to him.

JAIME
Billy Plummer? Jaime Protchke, I
don’t know if you remember me from
Professor Goldstein’s class at
M.I.T.? He called you the best
propulsion engineer he’d ever
trained.

Billy stares at her dumbfounded. Jaime pulls Don aside.

JAIME
He’s perfect for the mission. He
knows rocket schematics inside and
out. He could show NASA how to run
things.

Don shakes his head.

DON
He’s a wild card.

JAIME
Plummer could run circles around
Jinx’s so-called scientists.
(awkward beat)
If you want me to save the world,
then I’m doing it my way.

Don removes a tool from his pocket and unsnaps Billy’s ankle
monitor.

DON
(to Billy)
She’s your boss. I hear of the
slightest hint of insubordination
and I’ll have you shipped to Gitmo.

BILLY
That’s a one-way ticket to infected
hell.

DON
Glad we understand one another.
(to Jaime)
I hope you know what you’re doing.
(MORE)
DON (CONT'D)
This mission leaves no margin for error.

Don walks off.

Jaime glances over at Michael encased in the gel. He’s a fully-formed android.

BILLY
(confirming)
Michael – no last name – a.k.a., Android 1002, an artificial intelligence model upgraded from the Stephen Hawkings’ era.

JAIME
Good, we’ll need all the help we can muster.

Billy laughs.

BILLY
Now I remember you. You prefer to work with a small one-to-three men team and you don’t trust scientists.

Jaime glances over at the Jinx Corp Scientists busy at work.

JAIME
Any chance we could--?

BILLY
Ditch ‘em?
(grinning)
Next week’s daylight’s savings time. Who says we have to arrive an hour later?

JAIME
What ‘bout Houston’s override controls?

Billy shakes his head and whispers to her:

BILLY
Dismantled five months ago and I can -- let’s say ‘interfere’ with the systems they have in place here.

Jaime smiles and gives him a nod to go for it.
BILLY
You don’t mind? Have you read my
case file? I’m in for--

JAIME
Doesn’t matter -- right now we need
to stay focused on the mission. One
day you can tell me, okay?

He nods, but seems concerned. Her smile gives him comfort.

JAIME
(glances at Michael)
We’re going to make a great team.

END ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. REMOTE PLANET – DAY

The sun sits high in the red sky. Jaime, Michael and Billy are lying in the sand face up. Perfectly untouched.

Billy opens his eyes and jerks up, he is shaking and is looking around. His and Jaime’s helmets have disappeared. He takes a deep breath of fresh air.

BILLY
Damn. The sweet release of death.

Michael’s eyes pop open. He jolts to life and sits straight up.

MICHAEL
A.I.’s can’t die, so you are wrong.

Billy looks over at Michael, who then looks at Jaime. She is not moving or responding. Billy attempts to stand up but can’t... he falls back down.

BILLY
Is she? Oh shit is she...?

MICHAEL
Do not try to form full sentences. Human brains aren’t hard wired for traumatic injuries.

Michael quickly gets to his feet and looks around. Sand Dunes surround them on each side. Hills with no trees. Each dune leads to some kind of world.

A true sand world. Yet a hint of life – birds CHIRP in the distance.

Michael gently lifts Jaime and checks for a pulse.

MICHAEL
She has survived.

Billy slowly gets up, completely drenched in sweat.

BILLY
Great. How the hell did we survive?
MICHAEL
It would seem your suits were quite efficient.

Michael glances around and spots a concrete platform. An orange snake camouflaged in the sand slithers by them.

Jaime slowly starts to fidget and opens her eyes.

JAIME
Shit. That’s the worst hangover I’ve ever had.

Jaime attempts to sit up. It takes her three tries, but she finally succeeds. She looks around.

MICHAEL
Look who decided to join us.

Jaime is drenched in sweat. She is very pale.

JAIME
Water?

BILLY
Guess there wasn’t time to bring supplies, huh?

Billy and Jaime glance around at the smoldering hot terrain. Things don’t look good for them.

MICHAEL
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to hell.

Jaime suddenly jumps back. A trail of fire ants with ‘actual fire’, carrying bits of metal, stream past her and disappear into an ant hole.

JAIME
Wreckage! From our ship?

BILLY
Couldn’t be. It disintegrated in space. Any debris making it into the atmosphere would’ve burnt up.

MICHAEL
The metal was tarnished. We’re not the first to crash land here.

JAIME
The Exodus?
BILLY
Could they have survived?

JAIME
I’m not sure, but at least we know what happened to the missing shuttle.

MICHAEL
Do we?

BILLY
They might have made it down like we did.

Michael walks over and examines the concrete slab. He takes a few readings when the slab beings to make a SCREECHING sound.

JAIME
What is it?

MICHAEL
My sensors are a bit hazy from the crash, but it might be the cover to a well.

JAIME
Water?!

The concrete platform raises and makes a LOUDER NOISE. Water flows out.

BILLY
Well, all right, Mr. Android. You made it happen!

Michael puts out his arm to stop Billy.

MICHAEL
Wait! It could be contaminated!

Jaime and Billy ignore the warning and jump in letting the water shower them. They drink it in while Michael rolls his eyes in disgust.

MICHAEL
No wonder your species is in danger of becoming extinct.

Michael, Billy and Jaime spot more of the fire ants. These ones look fiercer -- like Army ants.
BILLY
That’s one hell of a stinger, they’ve got there. I wonder what it
would be like to be stung by one of those bastards?

A funny-looking gecko crawls by them. -- and laps up some
fire ants with its long tongue.

Michael walks over to the water shower.

The gecko BURPS fire.

JAIME
Look out!

Michael jumps out of the way. The concrete platform sinks
into the ground and leaves Jaime and Billy standing in a
muddy pool of wet sand.

Michael’s index finger begins to BEEP.

JAIME
What is it?

MICHAEL
I’m getting a strange reading.

The ground beneath the three of them SHAKES.

JAIME
An earthquake?

MICHAEL
That’s strange -- I’m not
registering any tectonic plates on
this planet.

The concrete platform makes another CREAKING noise.

The ground beneath the three of them shakes even harder and
louder threatening to knock them off their feet.

BILLY
This isn’t a good sign at all. We
need to find shelter.

JAIME
Where?

The bright red sun disappears behind a massive, ominous
SHADOW.
MICHAEL
(looking up)
Run!

A giant bird approaches from the sky. Its wing span covers a third of the known sky.

It SWOOPS down to the concrete platform.

BILLY
Holy crap!
(realizing)
It’s a giant bird bath!

The Bird splashes around.

JAIME
(whispers)
Let’s get the hell out of here, follow me.

The three of them get up very slowly. They move out of the shadow and into the sun.

BILLY
And I was just starting to like this place.

MICHAEL
Beats an orange jumpsuit and a grizzly bear-of-a-man who thinks you’re arm candy, huh?

BILLY
At least I’m human.

JAIME
Knock if off you two.
(reminisces them)
We’re on the same team.

MICHAEL
Are we? How’d we lose the ship, huh?

BILLY
(defensive)
How would I know? You two were in the cockpit.

MICHAEL
You had control of the engines we lost.
JAIME
(low, but stern)
Knock it off. Something drew us in,
gutted our ship.

The Bird stops splashing around. The Bird makes a loud SCREECH that sounds like a T-Rex from Jurassic park.

MICHAEL
Shit, it’s spotted us.

The Bird flies over to the three of them. It lets out another mighty ROAR.

It lifts its wings leaving no where to run, then it squats and drops a giant, white egg.

The Bird repeats the process until Michael, Jaime and Billy each have an egg in front of them.

BILLY
You can take me back to jail now.

MICHAEL
What ‘bout the guy who thinks you’re arm candy?

JAIME
That’s enough! We have to get to Mars!

BILLY
Mars? We’ll be lucky to ever see Earth again -- odds are we’re going to be eaten by a giant bird and its offspring.

Jaime gives Billy an annoyed look.

JAIME
I didn’t bring you two with me to fly the ship. I want options. Now!

Billy and Michael exchange incredulous looks. Is she serious?

The Bird flies away and the red sun comes back out. They breathe a sigh of relief.

BILLY
Well, if we eat the eggs, we’d have enough sustenance for a week or more.
MICHAEL
You do realize there are beings in these eggs? They could very well eat us instead.

JAIME
I meant options for getting off this planet.

BILLY
(stern)
We have to survive this planet first.

MICHAEL
(pointing)
Look!

The eggs turn from white to grey, and each egg lets out a loud WHISTLE like an alarm.

It forces Jaime and Billy to cover their ears. Billy tries to holler, but the WHISTLING drowns him out.

Billy bends down into the sand and finds a rock.

JAIME
What the hell are you going to do?

Billy turns towards one of the big eggs and bashes the rock into it. The rock bounces off just missing Jaime’s face.

JAIME
Hey, watch it!

BILLY
I thought that would work.

MICHAEL
I believe you need something stronger than a single rock.

Michael picks up ten rocks.

BILLY
Hang on Mike, lets not do anything rash.

Mike throws the rocks as hard as he can. They all go flying in different directions like bullets from a gun. Both Jaime and Billy duck.

MICHAEL
This is a strange strong substance.
Jaime and Billy both exchange worried expressions.

The eggs transform from white to clear. They CRACK from the top.

    JAIME
    They are going to be quite hungry
    when they come out. Lets get out of
    here!

The first egg hatches and a huge naked baby bird lets out a SCREAM.

    MICHAEL
    The odds are in the favor of there
    being more than one bird.

Billy grabs Jaime and hollers to Michael:

    BILLY
    Agreed -- Run!

The red sun disappears and it becomes very dark.

There are three giant birds in the sky. They spot Michael, Jaime and Billy running.

The bird dive bomb inches from Billy and Jaime when Michael disconnects his arm and throws it at the bird. The arm projectile KILLS the bird. It lands on top of them!

    BILLY (O.S.)
    This thing smells like cotton
    candy.

    JAIME (O.S.)
    Michael! Get this damn thing off of
    us.

Michael watches the two bird circling, ready to dive.

    MICHAEL
    That would be a bad idea. Consider
    it a safe haven.

Michael runs over, grabs his arm and quickly reattaches it.

    MICHAEL
    Stay put a few more minutes.

The remaining eggs CRACK and hatch.
MICHAEL

Oh shit!

A baby bird leaps on top of Michael. He SLAMS to the ground knocking him unconscious.

BILLY (O.S.)
That didn’t sound good. We need to get this thing off of us.

The dead bird seems to be removing. The baby bird comes over to the dead bird and starts pecking away removing the skin.

The other baby bird joins in.

JAIME (O.S.)
What the hell is that noise?

BILLY (O.S.)
When I tell you, move out of the way. On the count of three…one, two...

A baby bird pecks through the dead bird’s flesh revealing Jaime’s head. She SCREAMS and turns a second before the beak rips the dead bird’s flesh next to her.

JAIME

Shit!

Jaime rolls out from under the dead bird, gets up and runs towards Michael. Two birds give chase.

Jaime looks for rocks, but can’t find any. A bird jumps up ready to pounce when a rock HITS its head and it wobbles off in pain.

Billy stands in the distance.

JAIME

Thanks.

BILLY

Hey, I’m just the engineer. We need you to fly us out of here.

JAIME

I only fly rocket ships, not birds.

They both laugh sharing a moment.

They start to head toward Michael when Billy’s knocked to the ground by a bird.
JAIME

No!

Jaime races to his rescue when she’s cut off by the two baby birds. They circle her while the adult birds fly overhead.

Billy’s bird opens its beak and he can see a row of sharp teeth.

BILLY

Okay.

Billy covers his face waiting for the worst.

Jaime eases past the baby birds and bends down to look at Michael. The baby birds both jump her at the same time.

Billy runs over, as the birds hit each other in the air, angry they get back up, but Billy is not having it. He pick out a sharp stick from under a rock pile and uses it like a baseball bat.

Suddenly, a bloody and bruised muscle man, JAY CARTWRIGHT (46), comes out of nowhere and drops a bird with a single boulder!

JAY

Hey! Hey! I’m over here you sons-of-bitches!

JAIME

Jay!?

The baby bird that is still alive rushes Jay. Jay waits patiently until it draws closer, then uses his fist and knocks the bird down with one punch. Jay looks up at the sky.

JAY

(to birds in sky)

Come on, you ass-holes!

The birds circle in the sky. They let out a mighty ROAR, like fingernails across a chalkboard.

This gives Billy a chance to make a run for...

BILLY

Michael!

Billy sits Michael up. He opens his chest and resets a mechanism.

The birds fly away and the red sun shines lower in the sky.
A circuit breaker KICKS in and Michael opens his eyes.

MICHAEL
(looking at Jay)
Who are you?

JAIME
The Exodus pilot.

JAY
(to Michael)
Name’s Jay Cartwright.
(to Jaime)
What the hell took you so long?

JAIME
Jay, we were headed to Mars.

JAY
Then you’re not the rescue party?

Jaime shakes her head.

JAIME
We crash landed, I’m assuming like you did.

JAY
The Exodus was on schedule when we veered off course. Next thing I know we’re here. Should’ve known that bastard Jackson wouldn’t send help.

MICHAEL
Where are we? What is this place? It wasn’t on the star maps.

JAY
Sure it is...or was. Welcome to Deimos.

MICHAEL
Deimos...
(struggling to bring up the data)
...that’s impossible. The planet Deimos blew up between Earth and Mars millions of millennia ago.

JAIME
Are you talking ‘bout the asteroid belt? How can that be? We’re on a solid planet.
Jay ignores her question and watches Michael shake sand from his chest cavity.

JAY
Better watch your android. Once they get sand in ‘em they tend to go haywire.

Jaime and Billy exchange glances. Michael gives Jay a dirty look.

Jay looks past them like he’s trying to spot something.

JAY
Where’s your ship?

BILLY
Disintegrated in orbit.

Jay takes a closer look at Billy.

JAY
Do I know you, boy?

BILLY
Billy Plummer.

JAIME
He’s a rocket engineer.

Jay picks up a rock and before anyone can stop him, he bashes Billy in the head with it. Billy’s down for the count.

JAIME
What are you doing!?

JAY
Rocket engineer, my ass. Do you know what this man did to my son?

Jay raises the rock to hit Billy again. Jaime stops him. Michael tries to help, but he can’t stand upright.

JAIME
What do you think you’re doing? These are my people.

JAY
Not anymore. The Exodus was first out in space. That means I’m in charge!
JAIME
The hell you are!

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. DEIMOS - DUSK

The sun sinks beyond the horizon. The dunes seem to have large, looming shadows cascading out of them.

Jay moves to strike Billy when Michael gains control of his torso and blocks him.

MICHAEL
As annoying as he may be, Billy knows his stuff.

JAIME
We can’t spare anyone.

Jay yanks his arm back and turns a few shades of red.

JAY
He murdered my son in cold blood.

Jaime clears her throat and forces herself to remind him of the factual pain of the situation:

JAIME
Your son was patient zero when the outbreak hit. If Billy didn’t do, someone else would have.

Jay face drops, disappointed in what he is hearing.

JAY
He was still my son. I...I never had a chance to stay good-bye.

JAIME
Billy’s done his time. If we’re going to survive, we have to move on. Work together to get off this planet.

JAY
After we get off this rock. I want him gone.

JAIME
He’s earned the right to survive. Lucky for you Mars is a big planet...
Jay glares at her like he doesn’t know what she’s talking about.

JAIME
(explaining)
...you two can avoid each other.

EXT. DEMIOS - NIGHT
Jaime, Michael, Jay and Billy sit around a roaring fire.

JAIME
No one survived?

Jay shakes his head.

JAY
I’m the only one.

MICHAEL
Are you sure? My sensors seemed to pick up--

JAY
No doubt. A few survived, but the birds got ‘em. Your sensors probably picked up their residual energy, that’s all.

Michael nods, but seems suspicious.

JAIME
We saw parts of your shuttle being carried off.

JAY
(confirming)
The ants.

JAIME
Any chance we can salvage the wreckage and use it to get out of here?

JAY
Now that I have help, it’s possible. Depends on how much is left.

Jay stares at Billy.

JAY
He’s not coming. Not on my ship.
JAIME
We go together.

JAY
You might be running the team, but
I’m the Captain of the Exodus and I
say who boards.

BILLY
(cocky)
Fine, but when you get to Mars
they’ll have your commission.
NASA’s motto is leave no man
behind.

Jay laughs at this and shrugs.

JAY
Yeah? Jaime said it herself, you
weren’t sent on a rescue mission.
They left my whole team behind.
Think they’ll give a shit if I
forget to bring you along?

Jaime warns Billy to stay quiet. They all stare into the
fire.

EXT. DUNE - DAY

Jay leads the way as Jaime, Billy and Michael climb over the
dune. The wind blows ever so slightly.

JAY
Keep up. We’ve got to move quickly.

But the going’s rough as the team sinks ankle deep in sand
with each step.

JAIME
Can’t we take another route?

JAY
This is the only path to the
shuttle unless you want to traverse
mile-deep canyons?

JAIME
Michael, how are your sensors
working? Maybe there’s another way
around?
MICHAEL
The main planetary sensor’s still
down, but the local sensor seems to
be working just fine.

Jay reaches the top of the dune, followed quickly by Jaime.

Jay laughs and spits toward Billy, just missing his feet.
Billy looks down as the spit sinks into the sand and is gone
within seconds.

JAIME
This place is a trap!

BILLY
We’ve got to move!

JAY
It only takes those who deserve it.

Jay tries to push Billy backwards into a sand wall, but
Michael intervenes.

JAIME
Enough! Stay focused on the ship.

The team moves ahead, but sinks up to their knees. Jaime’s
shorter than the men and quickly disappears up to her waist.

Jay hoists her to the top of his shoulders and carries her.
Billy and Michael lag behind, but keep Jay in sight as they
head over a secondary dune.

EXT. CANYON - DAY

Jaime gets put down, Michael and Billy rush over to see a
canyon full of bones.

JAY
I think this is where I last saw
the ship.

Jaime shoots Jay an incredulous look.

BILLY
None of those bones look human.

JAIME
I don’t like this one bit.

The four of them walk very slowly into the canyon. A brief
shadow crosses in front of the sun.
EXT. VALLEY OF THE DEAD - DAY

Rotting carcasses litter the area. A breeze rattles the bones.

MICHAEL
Glad I can turn off my smell receptors.

BILLY
Lucky you.

Jaime grimaces, but Jay shrugs his shoulders and brushes past Michael.

BILLY
The smell of death. Thought I left that odor back on earth.

In the distance, yellow birds fly overhead. They make an ominous CAW. Jaime keenly watches their every move.

MICHAEL
It’s the planet’s graveyard.

They move into a field of nothing but rock and bones. Jay looks around. Billy picks up a bone.

JAY
Do you have no respect for the dead?

BILLY
You don’t see it do you? They’re sharp. We can the bones as weapons.

Jaime slowly approaches the bone field. She bends down, hesitant to pick up a piece of bone. Michael stands back, sensing danger, but not wanting to spoil the fun.

JAIME
What kind of creatures were these?

BILLY
I don’t want to find out.

JAY
More of the birds, I’d guess.

JAIME
Billy’s right. We all saw what happened back there and...

(to Jay)
...your team might be alive if they could defend themselves.
Jay looks around and grows concerned.

JAY
Does any of this matter? What makes you think Mars will be taking anymore stragglers when we arrive?

JAIME
It’s the mission. (reminds him)
To move survivors to the new world.

Jay raises an eyebrow – this is news to him. Jaime’s about to question him when...

MICHAEL
I’m getting a read on something, but I don’t know if it’s human.

Jaime walks over from the bone field. She surveys some huge bones sticking up from the ground -- stuck in the hard rock.

JAIME
These must be millions of years old. Could they have had some kind of dinosaurs?

BILLY
They went extinct on earth, but may have survived here.

Michael nervously paces and scans the perimeter.

MICHAEL
Look at the size. I wouldn’t recommend we stay for long.

Jaime touches a bone and she jumps back.

JAIME
They’re warm.

A large bird dive bombs between Jay and Jaime who both leap out of the way.

JAIME
Gather the weapons and let’s get out of here!

The bird lands on a rock next to Michael. Its feet BURN INTO the rock.

MICHAEL
They’re full of acid!
They gather sharp pieces of bone, which irritates the bird. It leers at them with a fierce hunger that sends its beak pecking toward their flesh.

BILLY
Looks like it’s dinner time!

Jaime leads the way, gathering up sharp bones as she runs.

JAIME
This will have to do.

Suddenly, the bird flies away. All is silent. The three of them look around, wondering what the hell is going on.

JAIME
Run!

EXT. FIELD – DAY

Jaime, Jay, Michael and Billy run into a big sandy field. The red sun is up high in the sky and the wind picks up speed.

JAIME
(to Jay)
Where’s the Exodus?

JAY
I don’t know! The dunes look the same. We must have passed it.

JAIME
Michael, scan for metallic readings.

MICHAEL
I am sensing a metal object somewhere out in the field.

Billy squints to see it.

BILLY
There’s nothing out here.

At that exact moment, the wind picks up speed.

JAIME
What’s happening?

MICHAEL
A storm. A big one!

The sun disappears. Lightning STRIKES.
JAIME
Michael, get us out of here!

JAY
Leave him behind. He’ll draw the electromagnetic energy.

Lightning STRIKES a few feet in front of Michael. The wind HOWLS.

MICHAEL
We need to go back through the graveyard!

JAY
Are you insane?
(to Jaime)
He’ll get us all killed!

JAIME
He’s programmed to help us!

JAY
(shaking his head)
He’s artificial intelligence. He’ll help himself if it means survival.

Multiple bolts of lightning STRIKE igniting a fire around them. Michael forms a force field that surrounds them in a safe cocoon.

MICHAEL
(shouting)
I don’t know how long I can hold it!

JAIME
Get ready to run!

The force field drops and Michael collapses.

JAIME
Run!

BILLY
I’m not leaving him behind.

Billy tries to pick up an unconscious Michael, but he’s too heavy. To his surprise, Jay helps and together they carry Michael from the field.
EXT. LOST CITY - DAY

There are buildings that are completely submerged in sand. The four of them come upon the city.

JAY
(to Billy)
Can you get the android working?

Jay and Billy drop Michael in the sand. Billy bends down to work on Michael. Suddenly, the ground beneath their feet turns to QUICKSAND.

Jay jumps atop a dune to safety and watches the others sink. He laughs at their peril.

JAI ME
Jay!

JAY
This planet’s only big enough for one of us, Captain.

Jay starts to walk away as Jaime, Billy and Michael sink into the dune.

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. LOST CITY - DAY

Michael wakes up and enacts the force field. He uses its energy to form a vortex that WHIRLS and removes the sand enough to set them free.

JAIME
Hurry or we’ll lose him.

Suddenly, a sand storm overtakes them and they disappear from view.

INT. UNDERGROUND CITY - DAY

Jaime, Michael and Billy lay face down in the sand.

Next to them lies Jay and COLIN SIN (48), an African American of average build.

Above them the sand comes through the ceiling.

Billy is the first to wake up when he takes a deep breath and inhales sand that he coughs up.

BILLY
Shit!

Billy moves over to Jaime and nudges her. She looks around. It’s an entire city, but instead of roads there is sand. Its like the buildings were made in the sand. The buildings shine like they haven’t been touch.

BILLY
(points to Colin)
Who’s that?

Jaime crawls over and checks Colin for a pulse. She sees he’s wearing a crew uniform with a tag that reads: COLIN SIN

JAIME
One of Jay’s men.

BILLY
I thought they were dead?

Jaime nudges Jay. He stirs.
JAIME

Lying...

Billy looks around.

BILLY

There was a civilization here. What was this place?

Michael stirs and answers for Jaime as he scans the area:

MICHAEL

I’m getting life sign readings all over the place, but I think it’s residual.

JAIME

Then the civilization is gone? Extinct?

Michael nods and stands up. Jaime motions for him to help Colin and he begins trying to revive him.

Jay regains consciousness. He isn’t happy to see Jaime and her men still alive.

JAIME

(to Jay)

Seems your crew survived, Jay?

JAY

Yeah, I just found Colin before the storm hit.

BILLY

Sure you did. Maybe you tried to kill him like you did us. You seem to like having the place to yourself.

JAY

(to Jaime)

Since when does NASA run a three-man shuttle, Captain? You’re the one who needs to explain what happened to your crew, huh?

Jaime and Billy exchange nervous glances. Jay notices.

JAY

Ah, so I’m right. You ditched ‘em, didn’t you? Figured you’d command things your way.
JAIME
The circumstances are none of your business.

Michael lifts Colin’s up and carries him.

MICHAEL
This man needs medical attention. I think the building down the road was once a hospital.

Billy reminds Jaime:

BILLY
We don’t need him...
(nodding toward Jay)
...Michael can locate the shuttle.

Jay remains steadfast, but looks ready to pounce.

JAIME
We do this together, understood?

They all exit -- together.

INT. HOSPITAL – DAY

The floors are all gone and sand is covering everything. Darkness everywhere. An EYEBALL watches them from the sand.

Jaime, Billy and Jay walk behind Michael who’s still carrying Colin. They make their way to the front desk, which is computer and desk covered in sand.

Michael nods toward a set of metal doors at the far end of the room.

MICHAEL
Looks like there might have been a trauma center in there. Best place to find supplies, if any survived.

JAY
Hurry up and do it quickly or we have to leave him behind.

Jaime shoots him a look. The metal door swings open and a shark’s fin surfaces in the sand, then disappears.

BILLY
What the hell was that?
Jay turns in time to see two more fins appear from beneath the sand and begin to circle them.

JAIME
Hurry, find the medical supplies.

Jay quickly locates a room with syringes and other supplies.

MICHAEL
We have company!

The two metal fins break the sandy surface revealing the heads of METAL SHARKS.

BILLY
Metallic sand sharks? No way!

JAY
They messed with Mother Nature and she got her revenge.

The metal sharks BUMP into Michael causing him to drop Colin’s body into a sand pile.

The sharks swarm -- biting Colin in half. He bleeds out. Jay watches in horror, but makes no move to help his crew mate.

JAIME
NO! Fall back.

The team eases back through the metal doors and Billy SLAMS them shut behind them leaving a frenzy of sharks devouring Colin’s lifeless body.

MICHAEL
We should take supplies!

JAIME
There’s no time. Move out!

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Jaime, Michael, Jay and Billy rush out with two fins hot on their tails.

JAY
Wait! Stop, don’t move.

Jay stops and allows the sharks to swim past him.

BILLY
What the hell are you doing?
JAIME
(guessing)
They’re set for motion detection.

Jay nods.

The metal fins stop circling and all go underground.

JAY
Alright, I admit. I lost it.

They stop and stare at him.

JAY
The Endeavor. I’m not sure which
direction. The dunes look the same
and shift daily.

JAIME
Michael, can you locate the
wreckage?

MICHAEL
(to Jay)
If I’m going to get a fix, we need
to be at the highest point around
here.

Jay nods.

JAY
The skyscraper.

They follow Jay out.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER – DAY

Jaime, Jay, Michael and Billy approach a skyscraper. It’s
covered on one side with enough sand to allow them to walk
straight to the top floor via the dune.

BILLY
I don’t like this. Last time he
lead us into a trap.

Jaime stops and considers Billy’s words.

JAIME
Try to get cute again, Jay and
we’ll take the Endeavor and leave
you here.
JAY
May want to reconsider, Captain.
Mars might not be what you’re expecting. You might need a man like me around if you plan to survive.

Jay grins at her and enters the building first. Billy reluctantly follows and the others do the same.

INT. SKYSCRAPER - DAY
Jaime stops Jay near an elevator shaft.

JAIME
Let’s just walk up the side.

Jay shakes his head.

JAY
Quick sand.

Billy presses the up button and it lights up. Michael scans the area.

MICHAEL
I’m getting some very strange interference.

The elevator doors open and an entire field of electricity is blocking the entrance.

BILLY
I guess we are taking the stairs.

INT. SKYSCRAPER STAIRWELL - DAY
Sand barely leaves the stairwell passable. Jaime follows close behind Jay, while Billy and Michael hang back a bit and watch for trouble.

JAIME
(to Jay)
Why didn’t they do it, Jay?

JAY
What?

JAIME
Send us to rescue you? You had a point. NASA never leaves an astronaut behind.
Jay laughs.

JAY
Look in the mirror lately? We’re not astronauts. We’re expendables.

Jaime stops Jay roughly by the arm.

JAIME
What was your mission?

JAY
To place the Mars station in lockdown. No more survivors would be welcomed. A smaller number assures better odds of long-term survival of the species.

JAIME
(shocked)
You’re lying! We were to prepare the station for a mass exodus from Earth -- there were tens of thousands waiting...my family.

Jay shakes his head. Jaime looks into his eyes -- she believes him.

JAY
Jinx executives would be the last to arrive. They’re probably there already.

Jaime fumes and marches ahead of Jay, determined to get off this planet!

A MINUTE LATER

They reach the top of the stairs and Billy grabs the doorknob when a VOLT of electricity surges through his body and knocks him out.

Michael grabs him and slowly lowers him to the sandy floor.

JAIME
Electrified.
(to Jay)
Did you know?

JAY
No, I swear. It wasn’t like this before.
MICHAEL
Opening the trauma center might have triggered some kind of intruder alarm in the surrounding buildings.

JAIME
(to Michael)
Can you...?

Michael takes a deep breath and touches the doorknob, absorbing the electricity.

BILLY (O.S.)
Way to go, Michael!

Michael glances down at Billy still lying on the sandy floor. He helps him up.

JAIME
You okay?

BILLY
(rubbing his hand)
Yeah, I think so.
(to Michael)
Glad you’re with us.

MICHAEL
Hey, being an android isn’t human, but it has its advantages.

They keep moving.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER - ROOFTOP - DAY
Jaime, Michael, Jay and Billy stand on the sandy roof overlooking a sea of sand.

JAIME
See anything?

BILLY
Nothing.

JAY
Told you. She’s lost.

JAIME
Michael?
MICHAEL
I’m not sure. The sand’s crystallized. It’s giving off false readings.

JAY
Shit, now what do we do?

JAIME
(to Michael)
You nullified the electricity.
Reverse polarity.

MICHAEL
(hesitant)
But?

JAIME
Would you rather stay here?

Michael does as ordered by turning on a switch in his arm. His arm SHOOTS up and MAGNIFIES. It drags him off in one direction.

JAY
The shuttle!

JAIME
Or a whole shitload of metal sharks.

They take off across the sand following the magnetic force to an unknown metallic destination.

FADE OUT:

END ACT FOUR
ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. VALLEY OF THE DEAD - DAY

Jaime, Billy and Jay race to keep up with Michael as the magnetic arm leads them to their destination.

A dune of bones glimmers in the light.

BILLY
Bones? This can’t be good.

A RUMBLING that starts out quiet and slowly gets louder and louder. Michael’s arm suddenly stops and drops to his side.

MICHAEL
Listen!

The RUMBLING gets super loud. They all stop and listen.

A shadow crosses over them. Blink and you’d miss it.

JAIME
Another storm?

Jay shakes his head.

JAY
Run, just Run!

The ground QUAKEs bringing everyone to their knees.

The rumbling stops, but they remain kneeling, frozen in fear. FOOTSTEPS now come from many different directions. Sounds like a beat box.

Then all around a loud MOANING and GROANING is heard. It gets progressively louder.

JAIME
Michael, any sign of the shuttle? We need to get out of here!

All Michael can do is shake his head and rub his arm.

MICHAEL
It appears that we have awakened something.

BILLY
What?
The sand CHURNS and the bones CREATE LIFE FORMS. PEOPLE without skin and they look pissed.

BILLY
If this is the afterlife, I want to go back to jail.

Jaime grabs one of the bones to uses it as a weapon and is about to throw it -- but a skeleton hand GRABS her.

JAIME
Son of a bitch!

The undead begin to surround the group in a circle. Michael breaks off the hand. The undead GROWLS and jumps on Michael.

BILLY
Killed by zombie things isn’t on my to do list!

JAIME
(to Jay)
Why didn’t you tell us?!

JAY
I’ve never seen these things before, I swear!

Billy jumps on top of the undead atop of Michael. He slams it with a bone -- the thing turns on him and jumps on him instead.

Jay fights back and tries to keep the undead from jumping him.

It starts strangling Billy with skeleton fingers. The rest of the undead watch eagerly.

JAY
I have an idea but I need....

Michael slowly rises to his feet and grabs the undead off of Billy -- BODY SLAMS it into the ground.

BILLY
(coughing)
Holy shit.

A seething ARMY of the undead advances quickly towards them. THUNDER CLAPS above them drawing Michael’s attention.

MICHAEL
This may seem like an inopportune time, it looks like it might rain.
The clouds have taken over in the sky.
The undead close in rapidly from all sides. They back into each other -- trapped.

    JAY
    It’s no use. If we fight one more will come.

Michael suddenly spots something glistens along the horizon.

    MICHAEL
    (pointing)
    The shuttle!

    JAIME
    We can make a run for it.

    JAY
    Not happening. They’d be on us in two seconds.

    JAIME
    It’s your call, Jay! Get us out of here! We’ll make it to Mars and take over the damn station -- show ‘em who’s really in charge.

Jay smiles -- he likes this idea.

    JAY
    I have an idea, but it’s risky.

    JAIME
    Do it!

    JAY
    (to Michael)
    A.I. - form a bridge.

    BILLY
    Say what?

Michael nods and begins lifting the undead, hurling them over his head and SLAMMING them into a pile that forms a bridge.

    JAY
    Holy crap it’s working.

Jaime jumps up and down.

    BILLY
    Wherever we go. Whatever we do. This android’s going with us.
JAIME
You bet your ass he is.

Michael smiles.

JAIME
(to Michael)
Which way to the shuttle?

More undead rise up from the ground -- twice as many as before!

BILLY
Run!

Michael points the way and they run across the undead bridge. Bony arms try to stop them. They dodge the onslaught!

The ground rumbles again, but they make it to safety at the top of the dune.

EXT. DUNE - DUSK

The sun begins to set in the distance. A valley of undead awaits behind them. In front of them a sea of sand.

No way out!

BILLY
Where’s the ship?

JAIME
It was here. We all saw it.

JAY
It’s here, but we could spend years looking for it.

The ground RUMBLES again.

Michael focuses in on something.

MICHAEL’S SONAR POV

A schematic of the planet pops up and information feeds into a display.

BACK TO SCENE

JAIME
Michael?
BILLY
(guessing)
He got his full sensors back.

MICHAEL
Fully functioning.

JAIME
What do you see?

MICHAEL
I don’t know.

JAY
What the hell do you mean, ‘you don’t know?’ Tell us what you see!

MICHAEL
This is the planet that broke up into the asteroid belt.

JAY
Yeah, so?

JAIME
We’ve travelled back in time?

Michael nods. Billy suddenly realizes.

BILLY
Even if we get off this dead planet, we’re millions of years in the past.

MICHAEL
It’s worse than that.

JAIME
What?

MICHAEL
I’d estimate we have a month before the planet breaks up. And I’m not even sure it is Deimos.

JAY
What the hell does that mean?

MICHAEL
It’s too big.

A screen pops up from Michael’s forehead revealing the schematic to the group.
ON SCREEN

A huge desert planet three times the size of earth glimmers
the only light in dark space.

BACK TO SCENE

Jaime, Billy and Jay stare at it, dumbfounded.

JAY
What the hell is that?

MICHAEL
Ground zero.

BILLY
I don’t think that’s Deimos.

JAY
And it isn’t earth.

JAIME
Oh my God...it’s Mars.

JAY
The two crash landing must’ve
changed it’s trajectory.

JAIME
And unless we get back to the
present, the survivors of earth
will have no where to go because
Mars won’t be there.

They stare at each other as fate sinks in.

JAIME
Gentlemen...we can longer afford to
be stranded.

They all nod in agreement.

FADE OUT.