

Princess

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FADE IN-

EXT. CAMEROON - WEST AFRICA, 1998 - REFUGEE CAMP - DAY

Children run around playful.

Mothers converse with one another as they braid their children hair.

Soldiers hold their AK-47 while they stand guard as others patrol.

Kids play with the soldiers.

INT. REFUGEE CAMP, PRINCESS' TENT - DAY

A MOTHER(40's)in distraught holds her one year old baby boy in her arms as a medical DOCTOR(50's) examines him.

DOCTOR

He is burning up and dehydrated. He needs IV. We can take him to the tent and treat him there.

He puts his stethoscope back in his bag.

MOTHER

We can do that. I don't know what else to do.

She hands the baby to the doctor as he wraps him up in a cloth and carries him outside.

The mother turns her focus on her daughter, PRINCESS(15)who is fixated on her brother's condition.

MOTHER

Princess, why don't you go find your brother and get some water at the well. We are running out.

Princess nods her head in silent as she puts her head down. Mother gently puts her hand underneath Princess' chin to lift her head.

MOTHER

(with a smile)
Hey...it will be okay. Samuel will be just fine...princess warrior.

Princess brings out a smile, she leaves the tent.

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP, PRINCESS' TENT - DAY

She picks up a bucket just outside of her tent.

Children play soccer competitively.

She notices a group of excited teenagers in the distance.

Curious, she walks toward the crowd.

She moves through the crowd to get to the front. Her brother, EBENEZER(18)tall, slim individual fights another boy(17).

Ebenezer throws a right hook, CONNECTS with the boy to the face as he falls to the ground unconscious.

He raises both his hands in victory as the kids go wild.

The referee(17) boy, raises Ebenezers arm in victory.

REFEREE

The winner is...Ebenezer.

The crowd again goes wild; children dance around him as they chant 'champion.'

Ebenezer walks away out of breath; feeling good about his victory.

PRINCESS

(yells)

Ebenezer!

She gets his attention.

PRINCESS

Mother said you have to come with me to get water.

EBENEZER

Not now. I'm exhausted. Can it wait?

PRINCESS

No...we have to get some now.

EBENEZER

Go on without me. I will catch up, okay...okay?

He notices a girl in a conversation with her friends.

She makes eye contact with a flirtatious smile.

Love struck, he smiles back.

PRINCESS

Hey!

Ebenezer turns to Princess as his concentration is broken.

EBENEZER

(annoyed)

Look, I said to get out of here! I'll
catch up with you later!

He gives her a small shove.

She storms away.

EXT. BUSHES - DAY

Princess walks through the bushes, puts her bucket down to shadow box.

She raises her arms in the air as if she just won a match.

PRINCESS

(to herself)

The champion wins again! Yaaay!

She then picks up her bucket, continues to walk while whistling a tune to herself.

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP - DAY

Ebenezer chats with the girl, when a gunfire goes off in the distance.

People scream in panic; run for cover as Ebenezer looks around to see where the noise came from.

Not worried one bit, he turns to continue his conversation with the girl.

She gives an expressionless look, drops to her knees and falls down dead with a bullet wound to her chest.

He scurries out of the area.

Gunshots go off in the background as people run for their lives.

EXT. THE WELL - DAY

Princess fills her bucket with water.

She turns off the well, grabs her bucket, heads down the trail back to her camp.

She walks down the path, TRIPS over a rock as water spills from the bucket.

She gets up to kick the bucket.

CUT TO:

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP - DAY

People run for cover to hide as the militia continue their onslaught.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WELL - DAY

Princess fills her bucket with water.

Picks it up, walks down a path.

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP - DAY

Bodies lie everywhere.

Tents burned down, wounded people gasp for air.

Paralyzed from the sight, Princess DROPS her bucket of water.

She treads pass the bodies to her tent.

INT. PRINCESS' TENT - DAY

She looks around as all have perished.

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP - DAY

She walks to the medical tent.

INT. REFUGEE CAMP, MEDICAL TENT - DAY

Bodies are spread out through the tent.

She spots her mother motionless in the distance on a cot holding her baby brother.

Both are dead.

PRINCESS

(yells)

Mother!

She hurries to her mother - puts her hand on her mothers chest - places her head on her stomach to weep.

INT. REFUGEE CAMP, MEDICAL TENT - NIGHT

She wakes up; glances around the tent.

She gets up, stares at her mom and baby brother not saying a word, but a closure.

As she turns to leave a group of militia men block her way out.

MILITIA LEADER

You...small girl. You are suppose to be dead.

She remains silent, but ready for battle with clinched fists.

MILITIA LEADER

What is your name?

Still remain self-contained.

MILITIA LEADER

Do not let me repeat myself. What is your name?

She refuses to speak a word at the leader.

The leader approaches Princess; reloads his gun and points it at her.

MILITIA GENERAL(B.G.)

(yells)

Stop!

The leader slowly puts his gun down.

The general, MUBARAK(40's)smug look, afro, passes through the militia group, stands in front of Princess with a smirk on his face.

MUBARAK

Do not kill her. We can use her. Look

at her eyes. She has no fear of men...no fear of dying.

MILITIA LEADER
Sir, she did not answer--

MUBARAK
(turns to his men)
--I don't care if she didn't answer you. She has more courage than all of you.

He turns back to her impressed with her courageous spirit.

MUBARAK(CONT.D)
I am Mubarak; the leader of this group. As you can see my men can be a little trigger happy when I give them the freedom to kill. They follow my commands.

Princess remains quiet.

Mubarak walks up to Princess, bends over to get eye level with her.

MUBARAK
As you can see...there is nobody here...all dead...gone.

Princess stares at him with hate in her eyes, but remains quiet.

MUBARAK
I have power to give life...and power to take away. Which one do you want?

Not a single word comes out of her mouth.

Mubarak laughs in a sinister way.

He stands up.

MUBARAK
(excited)
You see! This is what I like! Come we take care of you!

As he walks away two men grab her by the arms as they walk out of the tent.

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP - NIGHT

Mubarak gets in his vehicle with the men.

MUBARAK

We will take care of you. We need your
tenacity and hunger for killing in our
army.

He signals his men to get her in the truck.

The men force her into the back of a pick-up truck.

MUBARAK

(to militia leader)

Burn this place.

The militia leader signal his men to burn the place.

They bring out flame throwers.

EXT. DIRT PATH - NIGHT

Mubarak, with his men ride on a dirt road in the truck with
convoys leading from the front.

MUBARAK

There are other girls there your age.
You will fit in with them...make new
friends.

Princess in silence looks up at sky as a haze of smoke covers
it.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - NIGHT

The convoy pulls up to their camp.

Mubarak gets out as two soldiers grab Princess from behind
the truck.

They walk her into the camp.

The men shove her to the ground.

Mubarak approaches to pick her up from the ground by the arm.

MUBARAK

I suggest...you quickly make friends
here. This will be home.

He turns to his men.

MUBARAK

(yells)

Listen! Tomorrow we go out and fight
for freedom! Against those who stand
against us. Against
government...against the weak! Eat now
and rest!

As the men yell in celebration, Princess looks around lost in thought.

Mubarak looks at Princess with a smile as he takes a puff of his cigar.

A militia man grabs Princess by the arm to escort her to a sleeping quarter.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTER - NIGHT

The man release her arm as he walks out the door.

Television sound in the background; Princess looks around the room.

A door opens as IGBO(40's)dingy shirt, unkempt hair, looks like he hadn't bathed in days, in a calm manner walks out of a room smoking a cigarette.

MAN

I am Igbo...what is yours?

Princess looks at him in silence.

Igbo, in a calm manner approaches her.

IGBO

When I ask a question, you answer...do
you understand?

Not saying a word, she remains self-controlled.

He puffs smoke, puts his cigarette down to back hand her in the face.

She falls to the ground.

He continues to smoke his cigarette as she slowly gets up from the floor - eyes glazed over.

She stands up and glares at Igbo with anger.

Igbo back hands her again as she CRASHES to the floor.

IGBO

(yells)

Do not look at me like that! I demand respect! Do you understand? You answer my question! What is your name?

Princess gets up to her feet with blood on her lip as she CLENCHES her fists.

PRINCESS

My name...is...Princess.

Igbo takes a puff, throws his cigarette on the floor to put it out with his foot.

IGBO

You know...it is wise to answer questions when your husband asks them.

Lost for words, she stares at him; dumbfounded.

He bellows out with laughter.

IGBO

(excited)

Yes! You are my wife! You should be thankful we didn't kill you.

Taken aback; She backs up slowly.

IGBO

But, before we start our journey...I need to teach you some manners.

Princess takes a swing at Igbo, HITS him on the face, causing him to bleed on the mouth.

With swiftness, he grabs her by the hair to drag her into a room, as she yells.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTER, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Princess falls, hits her head on the side of the bed.

FLASHBACK SCENE

Super: 4 years ago

INT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND, CAMEROON - DAY

Ebenezer(14), shows Princess(11), how to throw proper jabs.

EBENEZER

Left hand up to block your face. Throw your right punch; make sure you use your hips and twist.

Princess copies his movements.

EBENEZER

Okay, keep doing that. I will put my hand up so you can hit it.

Ebenezer puts up his right hand as she hits it.

EBENEZER

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Okay. Are you good? Ready?

PRINCESS

Yes!

EBENEZER

Let's go.

They both walk down the hallway, open the doors to go outside.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS, CAMEROON - DAY

School kids cheer as they dance in joy.

As Princess walks into the open center her opponent who has been prepared to fight takes off her back pack.

Princess shifts her feet in a nervous manner as she rotates her neck.

Ebenezer walks up to Princess.

EBENEZER

Ok...remember. One, two, four to the body. You'll be able to get her down with that.

Princess nods her head in agreement; turns to walk toward her opponent FRANCES(14).

Frances takes a swing with her left that connects with

Princess' face.

She stumble backwards.

The crowd cheers louder as Princess moves to the left and jabs at Frances' face; which cause blood to drip from her nose.

EBENEZER

(yells)

That's it, one, two, four!

Princess steps back as Frances throws a right hook to her body, but misses.

Princess counters and delivers a left hook, right hook to Frances' face, then an uppercut to her body, which drops her to the floor.

Princess moves backwards to catch her breath as Ebenezer makes the count.

EBENEZER

One...two...three...four...five...six
...seven..

Frances gets up as she holds her body.

Princess in a calm manner approaches Frances with her guard up.

Frances with SPEED delivers a body shot, an uppercut to Princesses jaw, which drops her backwards to the ground.

EBENEZER

One...two...three...four...five...six
...seven...eight...nine..

Princess lay on the ground, eyes half open.

BACK TO:

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

Bruise with blood on her face, Princess in pain, slowly sits up.

Confused where she's at she looks over to her left.

Soldiers load carts and bags onto the back of a truck.

They get inside of the truck and drive off.

She turns to her sleeping quarter.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess walks in with a limp as she holds her head in pain. Igbo sits on the couch watching TV.

Princess walks into the bathroom, kneels down, puts her hands in the bucket of water to wash her face.

She looks at her hand as it shakes nervously.

Igbo aggressively opens the door.

IGBO

Eh! Why are you in here? You need to make food. I am hungry.

Princess puts her hand in the water bucket, scoops up water, washes her face.

IGBO

(angry tone)

Did you hear me? I said I want food!

He takes a puff of his cigarette, slams the door as he stands over her.

IGBO

You better answer.

He rolls up his sleeves.

PRINCESS

Yes...sir.

He takes another puff of his cigarette as he walks out.

Princess takes another scoop of water to wash her face.

She gets up, walks out of the bathroom.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Igbo sits on the couch smokes his cigarette as he watches the television.

Princess walks by as he turns to look at her.

EXT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess chase after the chickens around the yard.

She stops to take a breather. She catches her breathes;
continues to chase them.

She plucks the feathers off a chicken.

She cooks the chickens over fire.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

She brings a plate of food to Igbo as he takes a puff of his
cigarette.

She puts the plate on the table, walks away.

IGBO

Hey! Are you not hungry?

PRINCESS

I'm going outside.

EXT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

She sits down on a step, puts her face on her lap.

She hears hissing in the background.

Princess lifts her head to see where the noise is coming
from.

She turns to the bushes, sees MARY(15) signaling Princess to
come over in the midst of the tall grasses.

Princess sighs, stands up. She limps her way to Mary.

MARY

Hi!

Princess doesn't greet her.

MARY

My name is Mary. What is yours?

Still no response from Princess.

MARY

Do you have a name?

Princess nods her head.

MARY
Well, what is it?

PRINCESS
Princess.

MARY
Princess...I like that.

She doesn't respond to her comment.

MARY
Where are you from?

PRINCESS
I...I don't know. From the east.

MARY
I forgot where I'm from too. It's been
too long.

Princess looks away for a second, looks back at Mary.

MARY
What do you like to do?

PRINCESS
I...like to draw.

MARY
(with a smile)
I like to draw too. I use to draw the
ocean and mountains. I no longer do
that.

PRINCESS
Why?

Mary lifts up her right arm with a missing hand.

Princess gasps.

MARY
I was caught stealing
food...punishment was to lose my arm
or hand.

PRINCESS
I am sorry for your pain.

MARY
(laughs nervously)
Well, I learned really quick not to do
that again.

PRINCESS
Well...I--

Igbo calls out to Princess.

Princess turns around.

MARY
Is that your husband?

Princess nods her head.

MARY
You make sure you are careful around
these people. They do not like any of
us.

Princess nods her head again, turns around to walk towards
the house.

Igbo watches her as she gets into the house. He looks up at
Mary as she doesn't make eye contact.

He walks inside the house.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

He walks in, slams the door.

IGBO
I didn't like your food...it taste
like shit.

She keeps quiet by his insults.

Frustrated, he takes the plate, throws it at the wall as it
shatters.

IGBO
(yells)
Did you not here what I said? I said
it tastes like shit!

PRINCESS
I'm sorry.

IGBO
You're sorry! You're sorry?

He takes off his belt.

IGBO
I will show you sorry.
(yells)
Get out of here!

She walks pass him as he swings his belt connecting her on the back.

She crumples to the ground.

IGBO
(yells)
Get up! Get up!

She gets up, goes into the room.

Convoy pulls up.

Igbo puts his belt back on, heads outside.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Men with guns get out of the trucks with small children(5-10) along with teenagers(13-18).

Mubarak gets out of a truck.

Igbo approaches him.

MUBARAK
You seem upset, Igbo. What's your problem?

IGBO
(irritated)
Foolish wife doesn't know how to cook.

MUBARAK
Oh?

IGBO
She forgot to put salt on the chicken and-and the rice was still hard.

Mubarak laughs.

MUBARAK

You expect a young girl like her to make you a five star dinner.

IGBO

I expect my food to be cooked right.

MUBARAK

Help take these children to the shooting ground.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess looks out the window as she watches Igbo remove children from the truck.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Igbo with some of the men take the children to the shooting range.

IGBO

Today, you are soldiers! You have now left your family to become men! You are no longer children, but men of the future!

EXT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess leaves the house to head down where the children were at.

She watches from afar.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

IGBO

I want to introduce to you your leader. General Mubarak.

Mubarak moves his men out of the way as he walks through.

MUBARAK

Yes! I am your leader, General Mubarak! I will be guiding you to your destiny and mold you into what you are suppose to be!

A young boy(6) cries.

Mubarak walks up to the child.

MUBARAK

Hey! What is wrong? What is your name?

The child continues to cry.

MUBARAK

Small boy, I'm talking to you! Look at me! Look at me!

The boy calms down to look at Mubarak.

Mubarak smiles.

MUBARAK

See. That is better. Today is your lucky day. Do you want to be a man?

The boy nods his head.

MUBARAK

(to the man next to him)
Bring him!

The men bring a man out, blind-folded, scared and confused.

Mubarak stands up, picks up a gun, hands it to the little boy.

MUBARAK

There are responsibilities of being a man! One is to take control of your territory! Those who do not belong on your territory will be killed!

Mubarak looks at the boy.

MUBARAK

This man was in your territory...kill him.

The boy slowly raises the gun, points it at the man.

The blind fold comes off of the mans face(30's). He makes eye contact with the boy pointing the gun at him. He gets on his knees.

Princess watches from afar.

MAN

Please do not kill me...son.

Mubarak smiles.

MUBARAK

Come now. To be a man of the house,
you have to kill the one before you.
For all the pain he has caused
you...spanking you...yelling at
you...called you stupid and dumb...

Mubarak walks over to the boy.

MUBARAK

(whispers to the boy)
You see...this is the kind of man that
is weak. He shows lack of
strength...he is not a good father.

The father is shaking with fear.

MAN

Please Michael...I-I beg of you...do
not shoot me...please.

MILITIA BOY 1

He needs to die. Shoot him.

MILITIA BOY 2

Yes, shoot him.

The men chant to shoot him.

MAN

Please, don't.

Mubarak lifts up his hand for the men to be silent.

They are silent.

MUBARAK

(annoyed)
You are taking a long time! I am not
going to say it again! If you don't, I--

BANG BANG!

The man drops dead.

MUBARAK

(surprised)
Shit...I didn't think you would do it.

Mubarak takes out a cigarette, lights it up, smokes it.

He walks around the body to examine.

MUBARAK

Yes...he's dead.

He looks at Michael.

MUBARAK

You really must have hated him.

Mubarak laughs.

The men cheer.

Princess a bit shaken up from what she witnessed ducks out of the way.

Mubarak looks up in the distance as he notices Princess. He signals Igbo to come over.

MUBARAK

Is that your girl?

IGBO

Yes. She is not suppose to be here.

Just as Igbo was about to go get her, Mubarak puts his hand on Igbo's chest to stop him from going.

Mubarak signals Princess to come down from the hill.

She takes her time down the hill.

IGBO

(yells near Mubarak)

Hurry up!

Mubarak looks at Igbo like an idiot that he is.

Princess hurry down the hill; stands in front of the two men.

MUBARAK

Did you see that?

Princess nods her head.

MUBARAK

Good. I can show you how to do that.

Would you like to learn?

Princess remains quiet.

MUBARAK

I'll take that as a yes. This is better than cooking bad food for this idiot next to me. Come I want you to meet somebody.

He puts his arm around her.

MUBARAK

(yells)

Mamba!

A boy pushes his way through the crowd to get to the front where Mubarak stands.

Her eyes widen as she is surprised to see it's her brother.

Mamba stands at attention to salute.

EBENEZER/MAMBA

You called, sir?

MUBARAK

(delighted)

Ahh, yes! This is Mamba. He is the scout leader. Even though I've only had him for a few days, I know that he is mature enough to carry out orders.

EBENEZER

You can count on me, sir!

MUBARAK

Good. Well, this is Princess. She will be training with you. Build her up to be strong.

EBENEZER

Yes, sir.

MUBARAK

Ok. Take her. You two take the body and bury it. The rest of you come with me.

The soldiers walk away as Ebenezer assists Princess to take the body.

They carry the body away.

PRINCESS

I-I thought you were dead? My brother--

EBENEZER

--Shh! You have to keep it down here.
I really don't want people to know
that.

PRINCESS

Why?

EBENEZER

Because, if they find out it will
create problems. They will think we
are plotting to escape.

She drops her side of the body.

EBENEZER

(frustrated)

Hey...what...pick him up!

PRINCESS

(breathing hard)

I-I can't. I'm tired.

She sits on the ground.

EBENEZER

Come on. Let's get moving...let this
be a part of your training.

PRINCESS

Carrying this body is my training?
What?

EBENEZER

No...not only this. But everything
that goes on here, Princess. This is
not a good place...

Princess stands up, crosses her arms.

EBENEZER

It is going to get difficult for
us...welcome to hell.

She sighs.

EBENEZER

Are you willing to kill? If not...you better have that in your head. Ready to fight.

PRINCESS

I already know how to fight.

EBENEZER

No, you have to kill. This is survival.

PRINCESS

I cannot kill a human. Why...how?

Ebenezer takes a break as he tries to catch his breath.

EBENEZER

Look...I don't expect you to understand this, but I do expect you to do what you are told. You do what you are told...that's it. All of the things we have spoken about growing up and boxing...forget it.

Princess stares at him with disappointment.

EBENEZER

Boxing...is no more. Not here, not ever. Give up your dream...do what you can here, because we are going to die here.

Ebenezer picks up the body, drags him as Princess stands by with her head held low.

EXT. US MILITARY CAMP - DAY

US Military soldiers in convoys patrol the premise.

INT. US MILITARY CAMP - DAY

A soldier enters a tent, hands a folder to the commanding officer, BRADEN(50's)salt pepper hair.

COLONEL BRADEN

Thank you.

He opens the folder, skims through, sets it on the table.

COLONEL BRADEN

So just got word that the north village was hit heavily by the militia - kidnappings and burned the place to the ground.

LIEUTENANT BRYCE

So the northeast zone has been a major priority with these guys. They have expanded their territory making close contact with the border.

SERGEANT FISK

How can we put our men into an area that is overtaken by them. Not to mention they are constantly recruiting boys from villages?

COLONEL BRADEN

(angry tone)

I don't know. They keep growing like annoying weeds. We take one out and ten more pop up.

Braden walks away.

SERGEANT FISK

Can't we just send an airstrike?

LIEUTENANT BRYCE

No...that's just clumsy. Remember, they also kidnapped school girls. Innocent children. No remorse...just wanting to recruit more.

SERGEANT FISK

Our men from the border can engage with these guys. We can easily send convoys.

LIEUTENANT BRYCE

Right, but we are going to need assistance from the surrounding regions. Chad and Niger are our allies. We can reach General Faison to make an agreement. Let's talk to the Colonel about this.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

As Mary eat, she notices her husband, BERNARD(30's) hold a

baby, about three months old.

He puts the baby down on a table, picks up a machete.

As he raises the machete, Mary jumps up.

MARY

(yells)

Do not do it! Do not kill the baby!

He turns to her.

BERNARD

I am tired of this thing! I don't want
it anymore!

He again raises the machete, but she pushes him.

He cracks his knuckles.

BERNARD

You dare to touch me? You will suffer
for that!

He back hands her as she falls to the ground. She holds her
face in pain.

He picks her up.

SMACK.

She falls down in tears.

BERNARD

Shut up! You fool! I am done with this
thing!

He raises the machete again when a gun goes off in the
background.

Bernard's arm is gone.

He rolls on the ground as he screams in pain.

Mubarak walks up to Bernard.

MUBARAK

One of the rules in this camp is to
not harm babies in your care. You made
a choice of taking the baby and now
you don't want him? What kind of man

are you?

BERNARD

(in pain)

I-I-I'm sorry, sir! Aaahh!

MUBARAK

I don't know if you can be useful to me, now that you are a handicap.

BERNARD

I can be useful, sir! I-I promise!
Aahh!

MUBARAK

No...I don't think so. With one arm you can't handle a gun...or hold a baby. You are useless.

Mubarak points the gun at Bernard, shoots him dead.

Mary looks on with disbelief.

Mubarak picks up the baby; hands him over to Mary as she cries.

MUBARAK

Watch over him. His time will come soon when he will be of good use.

Mary takes the baby, walks back to the house as Mubarak looks on.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Militia group in convoys ride in the dusty road.

EXT. MARKET PLACE - DAY

People conversate among themselves.

Children play.

People laugh.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE MARKET PLACE - DAY

BAKARI

So Mamba. Are you ready for some blood.

EBENEZER

Why such a question? You know I am ready.

BAKARI

(smirks)

Ok. We shall see. Get out.

The militia group exit their convoys, place clips in their guns, shoot at the people.

People SCREAM in panic.

Civilians fall down dead, others scream as they run for safety.

As a mother picks up her kid to run, she is shot in the back.

The militia men continue to shoot at civilians.

One soldier walks up to a child that's in tears, aims his gun at him, pulls the trigger, but his gun is jammed.

He falls down dead as a stray bullet hits him.

Militia men fall down dead as the civilians return fire.

A convoy of U.S. soldiers arrive, soldiers get out to shoot at the militia.

EBENEZER

(to Bakari)

This is too much! We will die!

BAKARI

No! We must kill them!

EBENEZER

Those are US soldiers! They will kill us all!

BAKARI

Shut up and kill!

The militia continue to fire as the civilians, US soldiers return fire.

Ebenezer backs up as he continues to fire.

Bakari looks at him confused.

BAKARI

Hey! What are you doing?

EBENEZER

I'm retreating...this is too much!

Ebenezer rushes back to the truck as he yells to the others to stand down.

The others cease fire as a few of them are shot dead.

EBENEZER

Let's go!

The others rush back to their trucks as Bakari is the last one to retreat.

The militia escape in their vehicles.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

BAKARI

(angry tone)

What is wrong with you? Are you scared? You're stupid, you know that?

EBENEZER

I am not! You are a fool if you want to fight all of them and die!

BAKARI

We are winning!

EBENEZER

No, we were losing! Too many people!

BAKARI

You wait and see when the general hears how scared you were. He will not like it. Our code is to never retreat.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - NIGHT

Princess enter Mary's house as the baby cries.

INT. MARY'S HOUSE, MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

Princess enters, looks over to the corner of the room where Mary, in distress holds the baby.

He continues to cry.

Mary exhausted, stares off into space.

Princess approaches, sits next to her.

MARY

I do not know what to do with him...I
am lost...confused...I have no food to
feed myself or this baby.

Princess reaches over, takes the baby from Mary as she
cuddles him.

The baby immediately calms down.

MARY

You are good. How did you do that?

Princess doesn't say a word as she focuses on the baby.

MARY

He seems to like you. He's looking at
you...like you are his mother.

Princess looks at Mary with a smile as she stands up to rock
the baby.

MARY

I saved him from being killed by my
husband. He was going to cut him up
with a machete.

Princess continues to rock the baby.

MARY

I couldn't allow him too, so I tried
to stop him. He turned and hit
me...twice.

She continues to calm the baby.

PRINCESS

What is his name?

MARY

His name is Elai...it means...He is my
God.

PRINCESS

It's a good name.

MARY

The general...he saved his life...he saved my life too.

The front doors open, Mubarak walks in.

Princess looks over at him.

Mubarak sets the water and baby food on the table. He walks over to Princess, with gentle care takes the baby out of her arms.

MUBARAK

You see, I am not a bad person. I care for my people...especially babies. I never had a child...I have always wanted one.

He walks over to the couch to sit.

MUBARAK

My ex-wife and I couldn't have any. We tried and tried, but nothing...then she became really sick. It was bad.

MARY

What happened to her?

MUBARAK

Hmph. I don't need to explain anything to you. But I will tell you anyways. She became so sick that the elders of the village threw us out of town...like animals, because she was contagious or-or diseased.

Mubarak looks down at Elai; makes baby sounds to get him to smile.

Elai smiles.

Mary sits down on the floor.

MUBARAK

I begged and begged if they can help us...to help her. But they didn't care. Don't care. They just threw us out.

Mubarak glances at Princess.

MUBARAK

We traveled to different towns and villages, but nobody could help her...I stayed with her until she died.

MARY

I-I...

MUBARAK

...so that is why I went back and killed the people in my village...the elders, doctors...everybody. Then I went over to the other village and killed them too...heh!

Mubarak looks at Elai.

MUBARAK

(baby tone)

Yes...I killed all the bad people.
Yes, I did...yes, I did.

Elai smiles.

Mary looks at Princess.

MUBARAK

The only thing I have to remember my wife is this necklace she gave me few minutes before she passed.

Convoy noise in the background. Vehicle doors close as an argument erupts.

Mubarak hands the baby to Mary to walk outside.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - NIGHT

Ebenezer, Bakari yell at each other.

Bakari shoves Ebenezer.

Ebenezer shoves back.

People gather round to watch the fight.

Bakari punch Ebenzers face. Ebenezer gets up, throws a punch, but misses. Bakari counters, throws a right hook at Ebenzers face, connects with him.

Ebenezer tackles Bakari to the ground.

He throws a barrage of punches at his face.

Mubarak takes out his gun, shoots in the air.

The two stop fighting.

Both girls come out of the house as the baby cries.

Mubarak puts his gun away, approaches the two boys.

MUBARAK

Because of you two...I made the baby cry. What is wrong with you two?

BAKARI

Sir, this foolish boy told everybody here to retreat. We were winning.

EBENEZER

Yes I did. The civilians and the US soldiers were shooting back at us. They had more men than we did. We lost a bit.

Mubarak smiles.

MUBARAK

So you retreated, because the opposition was too much. Is that it?

EBENEZER

Yes, sir.

Confused, Mubarak looks at both of them as they catch their breath.

MUBARAK

Ok. That is all. You are still alive. Those who didn't run fast enough...are dead. Good job.

Bakari confused.

BAKARI

What?

MUBARAK

Is there a problem?

BAKARI

Sir, we had back up coming to help us.
We should've stayed and fight.

MUBARAK

Did they show up?

BAKARI

...No...they did not--

MUBARAK

--Well then, you guys can run. Ha, ha,
ha!

BAKARI

I don't get it, sir.

Mubarak gets close to Bakari, stares down at him.

MUBARAK

You like to fight?

BAKARI

Yes.

MUBARAK

Then fight him. You win, you take his
spot as my right hand boy. Tomorrow
morning.

Mubarak looks at Ebenezer.

MUBARAK

Did you hear me? You fight tomorrow.

EBENEZER

Yes sir.

MUBARAK

Now I am going back. Don't bother me.

Mubarak walks away.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

Ebenezer walks out of his tent. Soldiers form a tunnel;
facing each other while they cheer.

Ebenezer walks through the tunnel as men PUSH him, SMACK him
on the back as dust comes off.

Bakari walks out with some men, meets Ebenezer in the center of the camp. A crowd of people cheer in excitement.

Bakari yells in excitement as he hurries to meet Ebenezer.

Mubarak walks out of his tent, stands in between the boys.

MUBARAK

(yelling)

This is where boys turn into men! To
see who is the lion! Who will prevail
in this animal fight?

The crowd cheers louder.

MUBARAK

Are you ready? Let's fight!

With speed Bakari throws a punch at Ebenzers face, but misses.

Ebenezer throws an uppercut, CONNECTS with Bakaris jaw that drops him to the ground. He holds his jaw.

Surprised, Bakari gets up, throws a left, a right hook at Ebenezer, but manages to miss as he dodges both punches.

Princess watch the fight from the crowd.

Bakari KICKS Ebenezer in the stomach, punches him in the face that drops him to the ground.

With quickness he mounts Ebenezer, throws punches at him. Ebenezer covers up his face to block.

Ebenezer rolls over, mounts Bakari, throws punches, connecting him in the face.

The crowd cheer Ebenzers name as he continues to rain down blows to Bakaris face.

Bakari pushes Ebenezer off. Dazed and a bloody face he gets up.

Ebenezer runs at Bakari, delivers an uppercut to the jaw putting him back on the ground.

Ebenezer mounts on Bakari, deliver blows to his face as the crowd cheers his name.

Mubarak stands by as he watches Ebenezer destroy his

opponent.

Exhausted, Ebenezer finally gets up as Mubarak raises his hand in victory. The crowd CHEER his name as Princess stands in the crowd with a smile on her face.

Battered, Bakari lays on the floor exhausted. Mubarak looks at Bakari in disgust.

MUBARAK

Look at you...a disgrace. You lost to a child.

Eyes swollen shut, Bakari forces one to open.

BAKARI

Wha...what, sir? I-I'm sorry.

Mubarak takes out his gun, points it at Bakari.

The crowd backs up in fear.

BAKARI

(afraid)

Sir...please...don't kill me.

Mubarak pulls the trigger, but it doesn't go off.

MUBARAK

I will spare you...only, because you got your ass kicked. But get my men killed again...I will kill you. As a matter of fact.

Mubarak walks over to Ebenezer.

MUBARAK

(to the crowd)

Listen up! I have made Mamba the commander! You listen to him and him only!

The crowd erupts as they cheer his name. Bakari lays on the ground defeated.

Ebenezer walks away as two men drag Bakari away.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: 1 year later

Princess vomits in the bathroom bucket.

She takes the bucket, walks outside.

EXT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

She tosses the vomit on the ground where the chickens eat.

She walks back inside.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Igbo approaches Princess.

IGBO

I have told you before not to throw
your filth outside like that. Why? Why
do you not listen?

PRINCESS

I did not know where to throw it--

IGBO

--don't lie to me! I told you to throw
your filth over that fence. Now I have
to smell it...the chicken are eating
it...When I eat the chickens, I don't
want to eat your filth.

Igbo slaps her on the face.

IGBO

Don't do that again. Next time it will
be different with you. Wait and see.

PRINCESS

I'm sorry.

IGBO

Shut up and go fetch some water.

EXT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess leaves with two buckets.

At the well she sees Ebenezer sharpening his knife.

EBENEZER

What happened to you?

Frustrated, she doesn't say a word to him.

EBENEZER

I wish I can help you, but I am in no position--

PRINCESS

(frustrated tone)

--yes you can! You are the right hand man! You should go and kill him right now! You are my brother. Can't you protect me?

EBENEZER

Shh! You don't want people to know that we are related. It can be bad.

PRINCESS

What is bad, huh!? This is bad! I wish I was dead. I wanted to be a fighter not a slave girl.

EBENEZER

I know that. Nobody ask for this, I didn't ask for this either. But we have to survive until something good happens.

Frustrated, she SLAMS a bucket down and turns on the faucet.

PRINCESS

What do you mean something good? Like what? Like death.

EBENEZER

We were fighting US Soldiers when we attacked that village. Maybe they can help us.

PRINCESS

How can the enemy help us? They were shooting at you.

EBENEZER

Yes, I know, but I think they can get us out of here.

PRINCESS

By running away.

EBENEZER

No. We will be shot if they find us. I can change the radio frequency and

receive their channels. If I can do that, I can tell them who I am and where we are.

PRINCESS

But if Mubarak finds out you did it, he can kill you. You will be a traitor.

EBENEZER

He will not find out, because you will not say anything. This is between me and you.

PRINCESS

What about Mary?

She switches the bucket.

EBENEZER

No! Nobody. I do not want you to say anything. Just like when you told mum I took her money.

PRINCESS

You stole from her.

EBENEZER

I know, but it was for a good cause. I needed to buy her that chicken I accidentally killed.

They both laugh at the statement.

INT. MUBARAK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The baby cries as Mary tries to comfort him.

She sits down to rock the baby.

Mubarak walks in, takes the baby. He walks around the main room with the baby as he calms him down.

MUBARAK

You see. It just takes patience. He will respond better if you are patient.

MARY

Yes, sir.

MUBARAK

Hey! Don't feel discouraged. You are young and still learning.

He gives the baby back to Mary.

The baby cries.

She sings him a song.

The baby winds down.

MUBARAK

You see. It just takes time. He will get use to you. After all we are his parents now. We have to raise him right.

She walks away into the other room.

Mubarak walks over to the couch to sit. He lets out a deep sigh.

He takes out a cigarette, lights it up to smoke.

He takes out a picture of his wife from his shirt pocket, stares at it.

MUBARAK

(to himself)

You see...I have a family. Something you couldn't give me. But now...I am married, have a beautiful wife and a beautiful baby boy.

He leans back on the couch to relax; takes a hit of his cigarette.

MUBARAK

(to himself)

What did you say? You want me to kill my wife? I can't do that, I love her. I just met her. We are in love.

He stands up with the picture still in his hand.

MUBARAK

(to himself)

I don't agree with you. I think you're jealous, because I found somebody that needs me and can give me a

family...okay, okay, you are the boss.

He pulls out his gun, points it at the room where Mary and the baby is at. Looks back at the picture.

MUBARAK

(to himself)

No? You say you don't want her to die this way? Then what do you want?

EXT. MILITIA CAMP FIELD - DAY

Princess is out cutting the bushes.

Collects berries.

She turns to throw up.

She looks up at the sun drenched in sweat.

She falls to her knees dizzy, exhausted. She falls backwards almost unconscious looking at the sun.

As she slips into unconsciousness, a figure stands over her.

DREAM

EXT. MILITIA CAMP FIELD - DAY

WOMAN

(echoed voice)

Princess.

Princess glances over to the figure.

WOMAN

Princess...get up.

Princess stands up to realize her clothes are clean. She looks at the woman.

PRINCESS

Mama!

Elated, she runs to her mom to hug her.

They both laugh in joy.

PRINCESS

I'm glad you finally came to see me.

PRINCESS' MOM
Of course.

PRINCESS
I knew you weren't dead.

PRINCESS' MOM
Princess I have something to tell you.
Walk with me.

The two walk down the field.

PRINCESS
Where's Samuel, mother?

PRINCESS' MOM
Princess...we are dead.

Confused, Princess stops, looks at her mother.

PRINCESS
What do you mean? You're right here. I
am holding your hand...I am looking at
you.

Princess' mom laughs.

PRINCESS' MOM
I know. I am right here.

PRINCESS
So how can you be dead?

PRINCESS' MOM
I was killed Princess. I am in a new
place.

Confused, she backs away.

PRINCESS
You...are real.

PRINCESS' MOM
Yes.

PRINCESS
So...am I dead?

She laughs.

PRINCESS' MOM

No, you are not.

PRINCESS

Then how am I seeing you?

PRINCESS' MOM

You are unconscious. I figured I come to you when you're out.

Princess lets out a sigh in disappointment.

PRINCESS

...I want to die. I don't want to be here.

PRINCESS' MOM

Princess, do not speak such a thing. You have many more days ahead of you.

PRINCESS

I...can't take this anymore. Too many killing...death and sickness. I want to be where you are.

Princess' mother steps forward, gives Princess a kiss on the forehead.

PRINCESS' MOM

My child. I named you Princess, because you will inherit the kingdom. There are so many things for you. You are a fighter...and as you continue to fight, people will see that you are a champion. You will be an inspiration for many. Your story will be heard.

PRINCESS

Not everything comes easy in life...I understand.

PRINCESS' MOM

Mubarak...he is the man that shot me. I went to sleep...no pain.

Princess' mother looks around at the trees with smile.

Birds chirp in the background.

PRINCESS' MOM

In the midst of pain, there is peace.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

They translate to a cliff to watch the waves crash in the ocean.

Birds fly over.

Princess looks at her surroundings.

PRINCESS

Where are we?

PRINCESS' MOM

This is what I use to dream about. I have never been near the waters like this in my life, but I usually have dreams that I am standing here...very peaceful.

In awe, Princess directs her gaze at the waves.

PRINCESS' MOM

Now this is a reality to me...to you too. Let this be your reality.

BACK TO:

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Princess' eyes open, sits up, scouts around to see that her mother is gone.

With his back turned, Igbo is on the couch watching the news as he takes a drink of his beer.

She holds her head in pain.

She gets out of bed, falls to the ground.

Igbo turns around to look at her.

She struggles to stand up.

He turns to watch the television.

She stumbles to the main room.

IGBO

You're finally awake...should have left you out there to die.

PRINCESS
You should've.

Irritated Igbo stands up.

IGBO
What did you say?

PRINCESS
I should've died.

Surprised at her comment he walks over to her, stands in front of her to take a drink.

IGBO
You're right...next time I'll leave you.

He walks back to the couch.

IGBO
You need to go back out there and get more of the fruits.

PRINCESS
How? It's dark. Can't it wait until tomorrow?

IGBO
No. I want more fruit. The ones we have now is not enough. Go and do not argue with me.

PRINCESS
But, I do not feel--

IGBO
(yells)
--Go!

Princess walks out of the house.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP, FIELD - NIGHT

As she is collecting the fruits, she sees Mary by a tree.

Princess walks toward her.

PRINCESS
Mary.

MARY

What are you doing here at night?

PRINCESS

Being a slave...what about you? You shouldn't be out here.

MARY

I am taking a break. I can't really be in there.

PRINCESS

I know...I'm sorry.

MARY

What do you think about...

PRINCESS

...about what?

MARY

Do you think, death would be good?

Dumbfounded, Princess sets her bucket down.

MARY

Everyday, I look forward to dying.

PRINCESS

But...we can make it out of here...just wait.

MARY

No...this is too much.

PRINCESS

What about Mubarak and Elai? He needs you.

MARY

(loud tone)

No...look at me! I am only fifteen! I can't take care of a baby! I should be home with my mother and my brothers! They are all dead! Why didn't I get shot? Why am I alive?

PRINCESS

Because, you have good things ahead of you. Just like what my mother told me.

MARY

But, that is your mother, not mine.
What she says to you is for you not
me.

PRINCESS

Look...look at me. My mother told me
there is a path to get out of here. I
saw her.

MARY

Princess...

PRINCESS

No...I am serious. I saw her. She says
there is a path....I don't know what
she means, but we can escape.

MARY

Escape? We will be shot and killed if
we escape...I don't know what to do.

PRINCESS

Just focus...okay!
(sigh)
Think about the baby. He needs you.

Princess stands up to pick up the bucket.

MARY

Princess promise me something.

PRINCESS

What?

MARY

...that you would look after the baby
if anything was to happen to me.

PRINCESS

Nothing is going--

MARY

(yells)
--just promise me!

PRINCESS

...okay...

MARY

The baby deserves a better life than

this. I do not want Mubarak or anybody else taking that baby.

Mary stands up.

MARY

Thank you...my friend.

Mary walks away as Princess moves along to pick fruits.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

Ebenezer quietly sneaks into a secluded area where there's no-one around.

He takes out his radio and transmitter.

He switches the channels and gets a scrambled frequency.

He looks to his left over bushes and see men talking to each other.

He focuses back on what he was doing.

EXT. US CAMP - DAY

A Humvee pulls up as Lieutenant Bryce exits the vehicle. He walks into the tent.

INT. US CAMP, TENT - DAY

SERGEANT FISK

So as the Chad army arrives we will split into four groups and take the corners of the river.

US SOLDIER 1

When will that take place?

SERGEANT FISK

(sarcastic tone)

...as soon as their general gets his money from their government. Seems like the government holds back on funding the military.

LIEUTENANT BRYCE

So who else can we rely on then?

SERGEANT FISK

Well, we have the Nigerian army, but

they have their own wolves to hunt.
Chad seems to be running on fumes as
well so it's a no go.

Bryce lights up a cigarette.

SERGEANT FISK

Maybe we can start recruiting.

LIEUTENANT BRYCE

No...come on man, let's think. We
don't have time to train these guys -
three quarters of them, probably don't
know a lick of English.

SERGEANT FISK

What do you propose, sir?

LIEUTENANT BRYCE

Don't know. A miracle. Their fearless
leader Mubarak is probably having wine
and a cigar, while watching his men
take advantage of the hopeless.

Bryce looks over at the picture of Mubarak. He walks over to
it, puts his cigarette out on the picture.

LIEUTENANT BRYCE

Dead or alive, it doesn't matter to
me. We are on a time crunch so we need
to catch this piece of shit
immediately.

The radio frequencies are going off.

RADIO MAN 1

Sir, I'm picking up an unexpected
frequency...don't recognize it.

Radio man 1 pushes buttons and turns up the volume.

RADIO MAN 1

Can't hear much...just a disruption.

EBENEZER(V.O)

Hello...

RADIO MAN 1

I'm picking something
up...sounds...I...I can't get
anything.

Bryce walks out of the tent.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

Frustrated, Ebenezer slams the radio on the ground.

Looks over the bushes to see the men still having a conversation.

He gets up to walk away.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess comes out of the bathroom exhausted.

Looks over to see Igbo watching boxing on the television.

Igbo notice she's watching the television.

IGBO
You like boxing?

She focuses on the television as she ignores the question.

IGBO
Come...sit down and watch with me.

PRINCESS
I'm okay standing--

IGBO
--I said sit.

She slowly makes her way to the couch. She sits at the end.

He looks over at her.

IGBO
You can sit closer...I don't bite.

PRINCESS
Who is fighting?

IGBO
This is Mike Tyson. Greatest fighter
in the world.

They both watch in silent.

IGBO
You know this guy...if you look at his

life...he had to work to be at this level.

PRINCESS

Oh.

IGBO

He was a drug addict and a criminal. Until he got his life together. Now look at him...he is a heavyweight champion of the world...undefeated. Nobody can beat him.

Princess watches in silent.

IGBO

Look at the way he moves...he slips inside and gives them hooks. He never throws a jab. Doesn't have time for those. He comes into the ring and devours his opponents like a lion.

He looks over at Princess.

IGBO

Can you fight like that?

Princess looks over at him, looks back at the television.

Igbo smiles.

IGBO

You are a girl. How can you fight like that? You can't fight anyways...because you're small...and weak.

He takes a drink of his beer.

He gets up to walk towards her.

IGBO

You're a piece of dog shit. You will die here...with me.

He grabs her by the hair.

IGBO

(yells)

Do you understand me?

PRINCESS

Yes...yes.

He lets go of her, walks away into the other room.

She continues to watch the fight.

She gets up, positions herself in a fight stance, throws hay-makers.

INT. MUBARAK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mubarak puts on his clothes while Mary is holding the baby.

MARY

(to the baby)

You are such a good boy. You are actually listening to me.

Mubarak takes a seat on the couch as he watches Mary speak to the baby.

Mary hands the baby to Mubarak.

MUBARAK

He's a warrior.

Mary walks away.

MUBARAK

Mary.

She turns to him.

MUBARAK

Tomorrow morning will be the day you prove your loyalty to me.

MARY

What is it?

MUBARAK

Tomorrow you and the others will make us proud...you will make Elai proud.

Confused look on her face.

MUBARAK

The moment has come...when blood will be poured on the streets. These infidels will feel my power.

Mubarak stands up.

MUBARAK
Lives will be changed.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

Convoy roll in through the camp. Men line up in formation.

Militia men gather the girls, eighteen years of age, dressed in hooded robes.

The girls scream, cry as the men force them to line up.

Princess is forced into the group.

Mubarak comes out of his house with a cigarette in his mouth.

He smiles.

MUBARAK
Ahh, yes! My children. This is the day
that the Lord has made...I will
rejoice and be glad.

The girls are terrified.

MUBARAK
No...Don't be terrified. You will be
martyrs for my wife. You should not be
afraid.

Ebenezer, in a panic, rush through the men to see what is going on.

He spots Princess in the group.

He goes to Mubarak.

EBENEZER
What are you doing?

MUBARAK
Fulfilling their destinies to be
martyrs.

EBENEZER
Why? those two are just children...you
can't do that.

MUBARAK

Are you really questioning me? This day you cannot stop it. It is the will of my wife.

EBENEZER

I thought you will not hurt children...that is your code.

MUBARAK

Well, in this situation, I have to use them.

EBENEZER

I-I...

Mubarak moves him out of the way.

MUBARAK

(yells)

Ok...get them in the truck and let's move out!

The men gather the girls in the truck as they scream in fear.

One girl tries to escape, but is shot dead in the back by a militia man.

Upset, Mubarak walks toward the man.

MUBARAK

Ok, you fool. You take her spot.

Mubarak walks over to the girl, takes off her vest bomb, straps it on the man.

MUBARAK

Congratulations. You will be the martyr today.

Mubarak pats him on the back, gets in the truck.

EXT. VILLAGE MARKET - DAY

A crowd of people walk around the markets.

People laugh, music fill the air, people perform ceremonial dances.

A man on a megaphone speak Arabic.

INT. MILITIA TRUCK - DAY

The girls are terrified, except for Mary..

Mary sits across from Princess with a smile.

Princess, terrified.

Mary reaches over to hold her hand.

Mary smiles.

MARY

Princess...do not worry.

PRINCESS

I-I don't want this. My mother said it is not my time...it is not your time.

MARY

This is meant for us.

PRINCESS

No...no.

A militia man interrupts.

MILITIA MAN 2

Hey, you two be quiet and be prepared!

EXT. VILLAGE MARKETPLACE - DAY

Convoy arrives on a hill.

The girls are taken out of the truck by the men.

They gather in a group as they continue to scream.

MUBARAK

(yells)

Shut up!

The girls are quiet.

MUBARAK

There are sixteen of you. I expect sixteen explosions. Do you understand.

He looks at the man with the vest bomb.

MUBARAK
Do you understand?

Frightened, the man nods his head.

MUBARAK
I release you...go.

The girls make their way into the market place.

Both girls walk together holding hands.

MARY
Princess...Princess!

Princess looks at Mary as tears run down her face.

MARY
This is it, Princess. We will be
together. No pain...no suffering.

PRINCESS
Mary...I-I...don't want this to
happen! What about the baby?

MARY
Elai will understand when he grows up.

PRINCESS
No...no. I refuse to do this.

Mary holds Princess, kisses her on the forehead.

Mary walks away into the crowd.

Princess watches her in despair, Mary stops to look at her.

Mary OPENS up her robe as the vest is exposed.

She takes out the detonator as people run for their lives.

Mary looks over, smiles at Princess.

She PUSHES the button.

FLASHBACK

EXT. MILITIA CAMP, CAMEROON - DAY

SUPER: 1 year ago.

Mary walks in the field with Princess as she holds Elai.

MARY

This is the only place that seems so peaceful.

PRINCESS

This is where I come...when Igbo sends me out of the house.

MARY

For cooking bad food.

Both laugh at the statement.

She puts the baby down as he crawls off.

PRINCESS

Starting to crawl already? Time goes by fast.

MARY

I'm glad I have him. He keeps me normal.

PRINCESS

Do you miss your family?

MARY

All the time. I think about them all the time...the laughs...joking...games...

PRINCESS

I'm sorry.

MARY

I wanted to be a professional soccer player one of these days...I always had good feet...scoring goals.

PRINCESS

Oh really! How good were you?

MARY

Really good. They called me the magician.

Princess laughs.

MARY

What did you want to be?

PRINCESS

(sigh)

I wanted to be a boxing champion.

MARY

Boxing...that is different.

PRINCESS

Yes. My brother was the best in our village. He has never lost a fight. I always looked up to him. I always wanted to be like him.

MARY

But you are just a girl. I don't think people will take you seriously.

PRINCESS

One of these days. I will be a champion. I will show the world that I am the best.

Mary gets into a fight stance. She shadow boxes.

Princess laughs.

PRINCESS

No, you're doing it wrong. Your left leg should be forward. You need to cover your face.

Princess puts her hands up.

MARY

Now how do I punch somebody?

PRINCESS

It should be like this.

Mary looks around to notice Elai is gone.

MARY

Hey...where's the baby?

PRINCESS

I don't know...

(yells)

Elai! Elai!

MARY
(panicking)
Elai! Elai!

The girls look around for Elai. While searching they hear him cry in the distance.

In a panic, they rush to the sound of his cry.

They find him.

Mary picks him up.

MARY
I have you...I have you, my son.

PRINCESS
He's okay, Mary.

Mary snuggles him.

Princess stares off into the distance, sees the beauty of the land.

Mary calms Elai down.

MARY
What are you looking at?

PRINCESS
This is beautiful. I can look at this forever.

PRINCESS(CONT.D)
Why can't we just be at peace?

MARY
I do not know. When we get out...we will live our dreams. A one-handed soccer player and a boxing champion.

Princess looks at Mary with a smile.

PRINCESS
We will be friends forever.

They both look out at the field.

The shock wave of an EXPLOSION knocks over the girls.

Princess covers her face as she screams.

BACK TO:

EXT. MARKET PLACE - DAY

People scream as they run from the explosion.

PRINCESS
(yells)
Mary! Mary!

More explosions go off as people continue to run for their lives.

People fly through the air from the explosions.

Militia men shoot at the civilians.

Princess closes her eyes, mumbles to herself in fear.

She PUSHES the button, but the bomb doesn't go off.

Confused she gets up to run.

The suicide bombers continue to blow themselves up as people run for safety.

The militia men shoot at civilians.

People die.

Princess runs away as one of the militia men grab her.

She screams as he puts her over his shoulder, walks to Mubarak.

He puts her down.

MUBARAK
(elated)
You are the miracle child. You
should've died, but a higher power is
watching over you.

Ebenezer takes Princess into the truck.

He grabs his gun, goes to the marketplace, shoots civilians.

Mubarak orders his men to get back into the truck.

The men jump back into their vehicles to head out.

Ebenezer gets into the back of the truck with Princess.

EBENEZER
Princess...are you--

PRINCESS
(yelling)
--Leave me alone! You are crazy, don't
look at me!

EBENEZER
I have to do this! I have to--

PRINCESS
(yelling)
--No, you do not! How can you kill
these innocent people? How can you!

EBENEZER
Because, I have to! Otherwise I will
die! I do not want to do this, but I
have to do it for survival.

Princess breaks down in tears.

Ebenezer looks on with sadness.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY

Billows of dark smoke rise to the skies.

Lifeless bodies lie everywhere on the streets.

People scream in pain, calling for help.

A child(3), sits on the ground, try to wake her mother up as
she lays lifeless on the ground.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

A convoy arrives on sight.

Militia men get out of their vehicles.

Ebenezer gets out of the truck as well with Princess.

She walks away in tears.

Ebenezer yells out for her, but she runs into the woods.

She cries hysterically.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - NIGHT

Princess opens her eyes; gazes around.

She sits up, hears the sound of men celebrate as music blares.

She stands up, sees in the distance the men in a happy mood.

She walks over to where the celebration is going on.

Mubarak sits in the corner as he smiles with an alcohol beverage in hand.

Mubarak gets up, blows a horn to get their attention.

MUBARAK

Tonight...we celebrate those that have gone before us. They have sacrificed their lives to give us victory.

The men cheer, bang on drums as guns go off.

MUBARAK

If it wasn't for them...we wouldn't be here. They are now at peace...and forever we will hold them in our hearts.

Princess glares at Mubarak.

MUBARAK

But for now...for the martyrs...they will want us to celebrate.

The men cheer as music blares throughout the area.

MUBARAK

(yell)
Let us celebrate!

Mubarak walks over to Princess as she gives him a disgust look.

MUBARAK

You have something special. You need to seek what it is...who knows...maybe you can be my next wife.

He takes a drink of his alcohol as he sulks in the excitement.

MUBARAK

I am sorry about your friend. It was her destiny. She served me well.

PRINCESS

She has a baby. How can you kill her?

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - NIGHT

Ebenezer walks away from the party to distance himself from the area.

He looks back to see if he's being followed.

Bakari notices that Ebenezer walks away. He follows Ebenezer from a good distance.

Ebenezer takes out his radio, changes the channel.

EBENEZER

(whisper)

Hello...is anybody there?

The frequency has mixed signals.

EBENEZER

(whisper)

Is anybody there? Can you hear me?

The signal is static.

EBENEZER

(to himself)

Damn it. Why can't I get them?

OPERATOR(V.O.)

Who is this?

Ebenezer excited, walks further away from the camp.

EBENEZER

I need help...can you save us?

OPERATOR(V.O.)

Identify yourself.

EBENEZER

My name is Ebenezer. I am with a group of militia men. Very bad men.

OPERATOR(V.O.)
How did you get this channel?

EBENEZER
I just need your help. Our camp is by
the northern river. Hurry up and get
here.

The radio receives mix signals.

Ebenezer is frustrated.

EBENEZER
(whispering)
Hello...hello.

He throws the radio on the floor, lets out a big sigh.

He picks it back up, walks away.

Bakari watches from a distance.

EXT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess wakes up, walks to the bathroom to vomit.

She appears to be very tired.

Igbo, sits on the couch turns to her.

IGBO
I don't like my breakfast being late.

Princess walks to the door, opens it to see men run up the
hill.

She steps outside to see what's going on.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

She continues to see men run to the middle of the camp.

Curious, she follows the men with a light jog.

She notices the crowds excitement, but can not see what they
are excited about.

She walks through the crowd of men to see what is going on.

As she gets through, two militia men hold each of Ebenezer's
arm as Bakari punch him in the face.

Ebenezer battered, he spits blood at Bakari.

Bakari wipes the spit off; punches Ebenezer in the face again as the men cheer in excitement.

Princess yells for Bakari to stop through the crowd.

He ignores her, PUNCHES him in the face again.

Mubarak steps in, moves Bakari aside.

MUBARAK

Princess...it is nice of you to join us.

PRINCESS

This is not a fair fight! Let him go and fight him fair.

Mubarak laughs.

MUBARAK

Traitors do not deserve a fair fight.

PRINCESS

Traitor?

MUBARAK

Yes...your brother is a traitor.

Princess falls to her knees as sickness kicks in.

MUBARAK

Oh. You didn't think I would find out?
Of course I know you two are related.
It's very obvious.

Sweat pours from her face as she lock eyes with her brother.

EBENEZER

I didn't tell him anything.

MUBARAK

No, no, no you didn't have to.
What...you think that all I do is just go around killing people. I study people...their emotions...actions--

PRINCESS

--What do you want?

Mubarak stares at Princess.

MUBARAK

...You didn't let me finish. Now if you were talking and I interrupted you, would you like that? Would you?

Princess shakes her head.

MUBARAK

Okay...so don't do that.

He takes out a cigarette, lights it to take a hit.

MUBARAK

Man this is good. What was I saying? Ah, never mind...I forgot.

He pulls out his gun.

Princess takes a few step back.

EBENEZER

Please...please do not kill me...please.

MUBARAK

This is pathetic. Look at you...crying and begging for your life. I trusted you. Mamba...that was you.

Ebenezer hangs his head in shame.

He cries.

MUBARAK

Bakari. Come here.

He walks over to Mubarak as he hands him the gun.

MUBARAK

Shoot him.

Bakari turns to pull the trigger.

The gun doesn't go off.

PRINCESS

It's a miracle.

MUBARAK

Huh! Oh...no no no, I forgot to load
it.

Mubarak takes the gun back, puts the clip in the gun, loads
it, hands it back to Bakari.

Bakari points the gun at Ebenezer.

MUBARAK

Stop! Don't shoot!

Bakari gives him a look of confusion.

MUBARAK

Give me the gun.

Bakari hands him the gun.

MUBARAK

I have someone in mind who can do
this.

He briskly walks to Princess.

MUBARAK

You...will finish him.

PRINCESS

(yelling)

No, no, no! I will not do it! No I
will not do it!

MUBARAK

(yelling)

You will do it! Do you understand me!
You will prove your loyalty to me!
Take the gun and shoot him!

PRINCESS

No...I can't kill my brother.

MUBARAK

You will and you will do it now!

With force he grabs her by the hand; places the gun in her
grip.

With gut wrenching pain, she drops the gun.

MUBARAK

Pick it up...point it at him.

He helps to lift her arm up.

MUBARAK

Pull the trigger.

EBENZER

Princess...it's okay. You will be safe.

MUBARAK

You are taking too long...pull the trigger!

PRINCESS

I can't...I can't.

EBENEZER

Princess it's--

Bakari PUNCHES him in the face.

BAKARI

Shut up you traitor! Sir, I want to kill him!

MUBARAK

No! She needs to do it. Maybe this will help.

He takes out his knife, walks up to Princess.

MUBARAK

You see this blade? This will go into your stomach killing you and your baby. Would you like that?

Princess shakes her head in disgust.

MUBARAK

Good. We have an understanding.

He puts the tip of the blade to her stomach.

MUBARAK

I will count down to one. If I do not see a hole in his head, you and your unborn child will meet your family in the afterlife.

Igbo walks out of the house as he sees what is going on.

IGBO

Sir, why do you have a knife to her stomach?

MUBARAK

Ten...

PRINCESS

Please...I can't kill...

MUBARAK

...Nine...

EBENEZER

It's okay...just do it. You will be fine...

MUBARAK

...Eight...

IGBO

Princess, you shoot him now! I do not want my baby to die!

MUBARAK

...Seven...Six...Five...

Princess stands in silent as tears well up in her eyes.

MUBARAK

...Four...

EBENEZER

Hey, remember...remember what I have taught you...always shift and slide the jab, then hook...

PRINCESS

No...I can't.

MUBARAK

...Three...

PRINCESS

I don't know how to win...I can't win.

EBENEZER

Yes...you can...show the world who you are. Make your greatest enemies fear

you.

MUBARAK

...Two...

PRINCESS

I love you brother...

EBENEZER

I love you, sissy...

Princess pulls the trigger.

Ebenezer drops dead.

The men talk among themselves.

Bakari LAUGHS hysterically.

Princess stands in front of the body shocked.

Mubarak moves his knife away from Princess with a smirk on his face.

Princess, then turns the gun towards Bakari, SHOOTS him in the head - killing him.

The men become silent with shock at what just happened.

Surprised, Mubarak looks at Princess.

MUBARAK

Ha! I knew you had it in you! I told you!

Princess turns the gun to Mubarak.

The men take out their guns, point it at Princess.

MUBARAK

Go ahead...pull the trigger.

She pulls the trigger with no ammo in the chamber.

Mubarak walks up to her, takes the gun away.

MUBARAK

Ha ha! You see...again...I am not stupid. I figure things out here. Knowing that you would shoot your brother and turn on me. I had to take

a gamble after you killed him...shoot
Bakari or me.

PRINCESS

(yelling)

Nooo! You shit! I kill you!

Two men hold her back from attacking Mubarak.

MUBARAK

I know how upset you would be with
Bakari for wanting to kill your
brother and beating him up that you
would kill him first...It's all common
sense and a well thought out plan.

Mubarak signals the men to let her go.

MUBARAK

Now...because of your behavior this is
what you will do. You will bury your
brother and Bakari down the fields.
Some of my men will go with you so you
do not escape. When you are done you
will be put in a hole for a
while...until you can co-operate then
we will let you out.

Princess is silent.

MUBARAK

Oh...my men will not help you carry
the bodies. You have to do it
yourself. Good-bye.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - NIGHT

The two men that watched over Princess, escort her to the
hole; an underground holding cell.

MUBARAK

You'll be in here for awhile.

She goes down the ladder into the hole. The men close the
cell doors.

She looks up at Mubarak; the moon creates a silhouette.

MUBARAK

I wish you can understand where I am
coming from. I'm actually a nice guy

once you get to know me.

He walks away as Princess shivers in the cold cell.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

Princess vomits.

She stands up to gasp for air.

PRINCESS

Help...somebody...please, help me!

She lays on the floor exhausted.

PRINCESS

Somebody...help me, please!

One of the men arrive to see her on the floor.

He calls over another man to assist him.

Princess burst into tears.

PRINCESS

I need your help...please...the baby is coming.

MILITIA MAN 2

(to militia man 3)

Open the door.

Militia man 3 opens the door.

MILITIA MAN 2

What is your problem? Why are you acting like this?

PRINCESS

The baby is coming...I-I need help.

One of the men run to find Mubarak.

Mubarak returns with Igbo and a physician.

MUBARAK

Ok bring her out.

The men bring her out of the hole.

They lay her on a mat.

PHYSICIAN 2

Ok so we need water...can you relax
and breathe.

Princess nods her head.

Her breathing slows down.

PHYSICIAN 2

I am going to need some towels or
anything...quickly.

Some of the men fetch for towels.

PHYSICIAN 2

So this is going to be quick. When I
tell you to push...you push.

Princess nods her head.

PHYSICIAN 2

Okay...one, two, three push.

Princess pushes.

PHYSICIAN 2

I want you to push again...one, two,
three push.

She pushes again.

IGBO

This baby is stubborn.

Physician glances at Igbo.

PHYSICIAN 2

How long has she been in here?

IGBO

Few days.

PHYSICIAN 2

A few days? What the hell is wrong
with you?

IGBO

Watch your mouth and deliver the baby.

PHYSICIAN 2

Ok, let us get this baby out...one,

two, three push.

The baby comes out with a push.

The baby shows no sign of life.

The men come back with rags, cloths and towels.

IGBO

The baby is suppose to be crying...why
is he not crying?

PHYSICIAN

Just wait and shut up!

Princess breaks down into tears.

The baby is lifeless as the physician smacks the baby on the
bottom.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess lie in bed.

Igbo walks into the room, sits on the bed in a calm manner.

He lets out a deep sigh.

IGBO

It is a shame...a big shame.

He makes eye contact with her.

He then looks away from Princess in disgust.

IGBO

Even during birth you can't seem to
get it right. You killed my
son...killed a baby...and for that I
hate you. I wish you will die...and go
to hell where the rest of your family
are at.

He gets up, takes a knife out of his sheath, places it on the
bed.

IGBO

Do what's best for everyone and kill
yourself.

She sits up, looks at the knife and takes it.

Thoughts run through her mind about committing suicide.

She places the knife on her wrist as the voices get intense.

She decides not to follow through, throws the knife across the room.

She yells, breaks down in tears.

EXT. MUBARAK'S HOUSE - DAY

Mubarak holds Elai.

Someone knocks on the door.

MUBARAK

Enter.

Militia man 1 walks in.

MILITIA MAN 1

Sir...you have to come and see this.

MUBARAK

What is it?

MILITIA MAN 1

We have a problem.

EXT. MUBARAK'S HOUSE - DAY

There are boys, men and girls lined up.

MUBARAK

What is this? What do you want?

MAN 1

We cannot be here anymore...we have run out of food.

GIRL 1

I am tired of this violence. I do not want to raise my child in this environment.

BOY 1

We are running out of ammo too. How can I defend myself and others?

The people express their concerns at the same time.

MUBARAK

Hey...hey, shut up! I said--

He takes out his gun, shoots man 1 in the arm.

He falls to the ground as he screams in pain.

MUBARAK

(yells)

Who are you to tell me what to do? I don't care about your concerns! I take care of you just fine! If you don't like it then get the hell out of here!

The sound of an aircraft is heard in the distance.

MUBARAK

What is that sound?

MILITIA MAN 1

I don't know. It sounds like an airplane.

The people stop to hear the airplane as it gets closer.

MUBARAK

Damn it!

A militia man grabs a rocket launcher, shoots at the plane, misses it as it pass over.

MUBARAK

You idiot!

He shoots the militia man in the chest, killing him.

MUBARAK

This is all Ebenezer's fault...he did this.

(to his men)

You guys get to your posts and be prepared for an attack!

The men scatter to their posts.

A few men take Man 1 away to be treated.

Igbo comes out of his house.

IGBO

What is going on?

MUBARAK

The enemy...they have found us.

IGBO

What...how?

Frustrated, Mubarak climbs up the watch tower ladder, takes the binoculars.

He searches the perimeters to no avail.

MUBARAK

I'm not seeing anything.

IGBO

Are you okay? You are just shooting people left and right. You cannot kill your own--

MUBARAK

(yells)

--Shut up and leave me! Go back to your wife!

IGBO

(yells)

She is dead to me! I do not want her!

Mubarak climbs down.

MUBARAK

Keep your eyes open. They are coming.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - NIGHT

Princess collects sticks.

She looks up, sees a figure in the distance.

She walks closer to the image.

She notices the figure is someone she knows.

As she walks closer the figure disappears.

Confused, she backs away to resume picking up sticks.

Igbo approaches her.

IGBO

I see you didn't go along with killing

yourself.

Princess looks at him with intent.

IGBO

The boss wants to see you.

She walks to the tent where Mubarak sits.

MUBARAK

You're brother did this. He has me messed up. Now I'm paranoid...shooting my own men and shit.

Princess is silent.

MUBARAK

I called you here, because there is going to be a war. Whatever military is out there coming at us, we will fight.

MUBARAK(CONT.D)

What I am asking of you is to put our differences aside...and fight for a good cause. We can then move forward...deal?

He extends his hand out for a handshake.

She looks at his hand, hesitates to shake.

MUBARAK

We have a deal.

She walks away.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

As the men eat, they chat among themselves.

Igbo walks up to a chicken, grabs it, takes it to a chopping block.

Princess collect eggs.

Mubarak smokes a cigarette.

He heads over to the watch tower.

MUBARAK
(yells to the guard)
Anything yet?

WATCHTOWER GUARD
No...not yet!

He walks over to where the men eat.

MUBARAK
(to the men)
When you are done eating, get ready.

The men acknowledge his demands.

He walks over to where Igbo is working.

MUBARAK
What are you doing? That is not how
you kill a chicken.

The watch tower guard falls from the tower dead.

Concerned, Mubarak walks over to where the guard fell.

Some of the men that are eating are shot dead by a sniper.

Mubarak panics.

MUBARAK
(yells)
They are here! Grab your weapons and
fight!

The men scatter, grab their weapons. They scan the area and see nobody.

MILITIA MAN 1
Where are they?

Militia man 1 is shot dead. The rest of the men scatter to find the shooter.

Some of the men are shot dead.

MUBARAK
These are snipers!

Helicopters fly over the camp.

Convoys pull up to the camp as soldiers get out of the truck

and fire.

The militia men return fire.

Afraid, Princess runs to her house to watch from the window.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

She slumps down in a closet, breaks down in tears.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

The battle continues as militia men shoot at the troops.

Militia trucks pull up, more men jump out to attack the troops.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Igbo rushes in, goes to the closet, grabs an AK-47.

He looks at Princess.

IGBO
(yells)
Why are you sitting there? Get up and
fight...now!

He runs outside.

EXT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

He shoots a few soldiers dead.

He runs, hides behind a tree. He shoots at the soldiers.

Mubarak hides behind a tree, turns to shoot at the soldiers.

More troops arrive to combat the militia.

INT. IGBO'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess gets up, runs out of the door.

EXT. MILITIA'S - DAY

She ducks and cover behind a tree.

Both forces are engaged in heavy combat.

Princess darts over to Mubarak's house.

INT. MUBARAK'S HOUSE - DAY

She sprints into the bedroom; spots Elai in bed asleep.

She grabs him, wraps him up in a blanket, heads out of the house.

EXT. MILITIA CAMP - DAY

As the battle continues, Princess heads over to a tree to hide.

She moves away from the tree, sprints as Mubarak spots her.

MUBARAK

(yells)

Hey! Come back here with my baby!

He looks at one of the men, signals for him to go after Princess.

He takes off after her as bullets pass him.

Unable to think she looks for a way to escape.

She pursues another tree to hide as Elai cries.

PRINCESS

It's okay...shh!

She glances over to spot a familiar figure at a distance.

PRINCESS

(to herself)

Who is that? I have seen her before.

She runs towards the familiar figure.

PRINCESS

(startled)

M-Mary...Mary, it's you.

The ghost of Mary points down a path for Princess to escape.

She reluctantly looks down the path.

Looks back at Mary, but she is no longer present.

Puzzled about what she just saw, she rushes down the pathway as a gunshot goes off behind her.

She falls to the ground, drops Elai as he cries.

She looks back to see a militia man pointing a gun at her.

MILITIA MAN 1

Where are you running to? Hmm?

In a panic, she locks eyes with him as he intends to pull the trigger.

MILITIA MAN 1

You will stay to fight and die with us. That is the--

A stray bullet hits him. He falls down dead.

Surprised, she grabs the gun, picks up Elai and runs.

The US troops continue to arrive at the camp to combat the militia.

Mubarak drops his gun, gets on his knees to surrender.

Igbo impose on Mubarak infuriated.

IGBO

What are you doing? Get up and fight with us!

MUBARAK

It is no good. Our men are getting killed. The resistance is too much.

A bullet hits Igbo in the ear, which drops him to the ground as he screams in pain.

He wallows on the ground as blood runs down his face.

As the troops approach Mubarak, he picks up a pistol.

US TROOP 1

(yells)

Put the gun down, now! Put it down!

Mubarak in a calm manner points the gun to Igbo as the men yell at him to drop the weapon.

Bang.

Igbo is dead.

MUBARAK

He is useless. He wouldn't have heard you if you asked him questions.

He drops the gun, places his hands behind his head.

Colonel Braden walks up to Mubarak.

COLONEL BRADEN

How can an ugly shit bag like you create so much hell?

Amused, Mubarak breaks out in laughter.

COLONEL BRADEN

Pick him up.

The men stand him up.

MUBARAK

Congratulations, my friend. You have finally caught me. After all these years I was right underneath your nose.

He laughs.

Colonel Braden hits him on the face with a punch.

He drops to the floor and laughs.

COLONEL BRADEN

(annoyed)

Get his ass up and take him to the truck.

The men pick him up to escort him to the truck.

INT. HOUSE OF A CIVILIAN - DAY

Television is on as the news is broadcasting the capture of General Mubarak.

EXT. MEAT MARKET SHOP - DAY

The news continue to broadcast the capture of Mubarak and a few of his men.

People are gathered on the streets celebrating - car horns are honking.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Her eyes open up to see US troops surround her.

She sits up with Elai in her arms.

US SOLDIER 2

We are not here to hurt you.

US soldier 2 calls over the radio.

US SOLDIER 2

(to the radio)

We found a survivor here with a child...we will bring her back.

(to Princess)

You are safe...we would like to watch over you and the child.

Princess unable to think stands up.

US SOLDIER 2

We have food and shelter for you...come with us.

She breaks down crying in distraught.

Falls to her knees as she gives Elai to one of the soldiers.

She continues to weep.

US SOLDIER 3

So much trauma in her life. She needs help, sir.

US Soldier 2 walks up to her, puts his hand on her back to comfort her.

INT. US MILITARY TRUCK - DAY

Princess stares out the window as the truck moves down the road.

Workers are in the field tending animals.

Kids play in the pond.

She cracks a quick smile as tears well up.

EXT. US MILITARY CAMP - DAY

The trucks come to a stop.

The men get out of their vehicles.

Princess gets out of the vehicle as soldiers escort her to the tent.

INT. US MILITARY CAMP - DAY

Princess walks into a medical camp with soldiers.

She looks around to see that there are other children and adults that are being treated for their wounds.

An examiner approaches her and takes her by the hand.

EXAMINER

I want you to have a seat here. You will be examined.

She sits on a gurney as she waits to be treated.

She watch as patients lay on their bed, physicians examine children.

A physician arrives to examine Princess.

PHYSICIAN 3

Hello. My name is Dr. Anderson and I'll be examining your health...making sure you're okay.

PRINCESS

...Okay.

DR. ANDERSON

What is your name?

PRINCESS

...My name...

DR. ANDERSON

...Yes.

PRINCESS

My name...is Princess.

DR. ANDERSON

That's a nice name.

Dr. Anderson puts a stethoscope on to check her heart.

Princess continues to look around the room figuring out where she is.

PRINCESS

These people...who are they?

Dr. Anderson takes off the stethoscope.

DR. ANDERSON

They are survivors of the terror attacks in their village.

PRINCESS

Survivors?

DR. ANDERSON

Yes...but, hopefully there should be no more fighting. They have caught the terrorist, Mubarak.

Caught off guard she looks at the physician.

PRINCESS

He is alive?

DR. ANDERSON

Yes...They caught him, yesterday. There was a battle that went on in their camp. Everybody in the group died...except for him and two others.

PRINCESS

How? He is suppose to be dead...he needs to die.

DR. ANDERSON

He will get what he deserves. What is amazing, though is that somebody in his group called our base. We tracked down the signals with out satellites and found their hiding spot. We've been looking for him for many years. He has murdered thousands.

Princess smiles as tears well up.

PRINCESS

It...it was my brother.

DR. ANDERSON

Who?

PRINCESS

It was my brother. He knew that I would be safe if you guys came.

DR. ANDERSON

(confused)

Oh...I'm sorry for your lost.

Princess weeps bitterly.

DR. ANDERSON

I am sorry. Health wise you are fine. I will leave you. Rest here and if you need anything just let us know. We will do more check ups.

DREAM

INT. HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Mubarak sits on the floor singing.

In the background a door opens and closes.

The sound of FOOTSTEPS get closer.

He stands up and walks to the cell bars. He looks over and sees a soldier.

SOLDIER 1

You have a visitor. She was in your camp.

Princess walks over to Mubarak.

Sinister smile overtakes his face.

MUBARAK

You miss me already?

Princess doesn't say a word.

MUBARAK

Like always...stone face...you look like a monkey who refuses to listen to their master.

PRINCESS

You made me kill my brother.

MUBARAK

Oh, Ha ha! That wasn't me, no no no!

He sits on the bed.

MUBARAK

That was you. The gun was in your
hand, you pull the trigger and bang
(he claps his hand)
That is it.

PRINCESS

You take no fault for what you speak
of.

MUBARAK

Everything that has been going on was
done by the hands of men that listened
to me.

PRINCESS

What about children?

MUBARAK

...I didn't mean for any of the kids
to get hurt...you know...sometimes if
you want something to be accomplished,
the innocent must suffer...and I am
sorry.

Not saying a word, Princess stares at him with hatred.

MUBARAK

It's a war...people are going to die.
I have accomplished what my father
thought I couldn't do...gain respect.

US SOLDIER 1

You have two minutes.

MUBARAK

Gaining respect means you have
control. My father expected nothing of
me...just that I was an accident. I
couldn't become a lawyer...or a police
man...or a doctor.

Princess continues to stare with hatred.

MUBARAK

But...there is one thing he thought I'll be good at...being in the military. Because, I took his physical abuse and yelling and punishments...I would fit right in. Guess what I did. I became the general of the people. I am known around the world. I make more money than lawyers and doctors. Shit, they even work for me. I owned half of the northwest regions. Everybody respected me.

PRINCESS

People pretended to respect you...they hated you.

US SOLDIER 1

One minute.

MUBARAK

No...they love me. They hated the government. I did things to help people. If they despise me, then they don't need to be around. I take over their land and recruit more fighters. Easy.

PRINCESS

There is one thing I know you're father was right about...you are a waste.

Triggered, he gets up, walks toward the front of the cell.

He laughs in a sinister way.

MUBARAK

Look...you. I admire you're bravery. You are strong. that is why I enjoyed being around you...ha ha, you shot and killed Bakari and you didn't even care. I love it. I wish I had your strength, your courage.

PRINCESS

You deserve death.

MUBARAK

Not unless you die first.

He pulls out a gun, shoots Princess.

END OF DREAM

INT. MILITARY CAMP, MEDICAL TENT - NIGHT

Princess WAKES up in a cold sweat as she catches her breath.

She looks around as people are sound asleep.

Her hands shake with fear as she gets up. She looks outside the window.

INT. MEDICAL CAMP - DAY

The physician makes his way to Princess' bed, but she is not there.

He looks around the area to see her by the window.

He heads over to her location.

Princess stands at the window fascinated with an individual PUNCH a heavy bag.

DR. ANDERSON

What are you looking at?

PRINCESS

That woman...how she hits the bag.

DR. ANDERSON

Who? Oh yes. That's Rachelle Brock. They call her 'The Assassin'. She is currently undefeated.

PRINCESS

Wow...can I meet her?

DR. ANDERSON

Yes. Let me get you set up.

EXT. US MILITARY CAMP - BOXING GYM - DAY

Princess and the Physician approaches Rachelle (30's), athletic build, as she continues to hit the heavy bag.

She stops what she does, gives her attention to Princess.

DR. ANDERSON

Ms. Brock, sorry for interrupting your

training. This girl thinks you're awesome.

RACHELLE

Well...do we have a future fighter here?

DR. ANDERSON

Not anytime soon. Probably, not ever. According to your eyesight the left eye is partially blind. I am sorry to inform you the bad news.

RACHELLE

Oh...well, that's too bad. You look like a fighter.

PRINCESS

My name is Princess.

RACHELLE

Oh that's cute.

PRINCESS

And yes one day I will be a fighter. A champion.

Rachelle laughs.

RACHELLE

Well, according to the doctor I don't know if you're able to go that route. Have you ever been in a fight before?

Without saying a word, Princess walks up to the heavy bag, gets in her fight stance.

She HITS the bag.

She shuffles her feet and slips JABS, HOOKS and UPPER CUTS.

Impressed, Rachelle holds the bag for her as she continues to hit.

Princess stops to catch her breath.

RACHELLE

I am very impressed. It looks like you've hit a few faces.

Princess cracks a smile.

DR. ANDERSON

Well, she needs to rest some more. You are dehydrated and need sleep. Thank you Rachelle and good luck this weekend to defend your title.

PRINCESS

Good-bye.

As they both walk away, Rachelle returns to hit the bag.

INT. US MILITARY CAMP, MEDICAL TENT - NIGHT

Princess wakes up, walks over to the window to see Rachelle jump rope.

She walks to the entrance of the tent, but is met by a guard.

GUARD 1

Hey! Where are you going? You can't leave.

PRINCESS

I need to use the bathroom...please.

GUARD 1

The bathrooms are on the other side. You can't leave.

PRINCESS

But, I really need to--

GUARD 1

--No! Go back to bed.

Princess grunts - storms back to her bed with folded arms - gets in bed.

INT. US MILITARY CAMP - BOXING GYM - DAY

Rachelle perform lunges, Princess walks in with a soldier.

She halts the work out to give her attention to Princess.

RACHELLE

You're back.

PRINCESS

Yes.

RACHELLE
What do you need?

PRINCESS
...I want to be like you.

Rachelle picks up her water bottle to drink.

PRINCESS
Can you train me...how to be a
champion.

Rachelle puts down her water bottle.

RACHELLE
No can do. Doctor said you're not
allowed.

PRINCESS
I don't care what the doctor says. He
doesn't understand what I am capable
of.

RACHELLE
You're going to get hurt--

PRINCESS
--I am already hurt. I am use to it. I
have knocked on deaths door plenty of
time. I am not afraid of pain...or
death.

Rachelle looks at Princess with amazement.

RACHELLE
How old are you?

PRINCESS
(confused)
...I-I don't really know...I have lost
track of my age...I think I'm
sixteen...I don't know.

RACHELLE
Oh...well...I'm sorry...so tell me,
where did you learn to fight.

PRINCESS
...my brother.

RACHELLE
He must be a good fighter.

Princess is silent.

RACHELLE
Come...show me what you have.

They walk over to a speed bag.

RACHELLE
Have you seen this before?

PRINCESS
Yes...on television.

RACHELLE
Ok...good. This helps with your speed
and co-ordination.

Rachelle hits the speed bag.

Princess smiles as she watches her hit the speed bag.

RACHELLE
Okay...your turn.

Princess walks up to the bag, hits it a few times.

She mis-hits the bag a few times.

RACHELLE
Take a deep breath...focus...go slow,
then move fast.

Princess takes a deep breath, hits the bag again.

A flash of Mubarak's face appears in her thoughts.

She messes up again as she's frustrated.

RACHELLE
It's okay...it's okay. It takes time.
We can move on to the heavy bag.

They move over to the heavy bag.

Rachelle holds the bag.

RACHELLE
Okay...yesterday, I saw some juice

flowing. Do it again.

Princess hits the bag.

She works up to harder hits.

RACHELLE

Okay now move around the bag. Cover the angles.

Princess moves around the bag to deliver heavy blows.

Mubarak's face flashes in her thoughts as she's angry. She hits the bag harder.

RACHELLE

Use the anger to channel more power.

Princess grunts in anger.

RACHELLE

Okay...take a break.

Princess stops to catch her breath.

RACHELLE

If your serious about becoming a champion I need commitment from you. I will sign off on your waivers and bring you in.

PRINCESS

Okay.

RACHELLE

There is one thing I ask of you.

Exhausted with hands on her hips, Princess looks at her.

RACHELLE

You come to my fight tomorrow. Watch me defend my title.

PRINCESS

(with a smile)

Yes. I can be there.

Rachelle continues her training with the heavy bag.

The soldier walks out with Princess.

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

Vehicles pull up to the parking lot to drop spectators off.

Crowds yell in excitement.

The atmosphere is loud.

Soldiers escort Princess through the back gates.

INT. STADIUM - NIGHT

Rachelle preps for her fight with combination on the mitts.

Princess arrives with soldiers.

RACHELLE

You made it.

PRINCESS

Yes. I do not want to miss this.

RACHELLE

(to her trainers)

Make sure she gets a good view.

COACH

Ok, let's keep working on this.

She turns to hit the mitts as soldiers escort Princess out of the locker room.

INT. MAIN STAGE - NIGHT

She finds a seat up front by the ring.

She waits in anticipation as the crowd goes wild for the fights.

Fighters combat in the ring as one gets knocked down with a PUNCH to the face.

The crowd erupts as the referee approaches the fighter, counts to ten.

The fighter did not respond as the crowd erupts again.

ANNOUNCER

And your winner by knockout...Alex
'The Cobra' Ngalani.

The crowd erupts again.

The fighters, officials and coaches leave the ring.

ANNOUNCER

And now for your main event that
everybody has been waiting for. The
women title bout.

INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

Rachelle shadow boxes, as she shifts her feet side to side.

She walks down the aisle with her trainers and security as
the crowd cheers for her.

They make their way to the ring as she jumps in.

INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

Her opponent walks down the aisle with security and trainers.

She approaches the ring to jump in.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen...this is the
moment you have been waiting for...

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE THE RING - NIGHT

The bell rings; the fighters make their way to the center of
the ring as they throw punches at each other.

Rachelle throws a right hook that lands.

She KNOCKS her opponent to the ground.

The crowd erupts as the referee counts.

The opponent gets up. They fight.

Rachelle throws a hook, but misses.

Her opponent throws an uppercut that sends her to the canvas.

The crowd erupts as the referee counts.

Rachelle is not able to get up.

The fight is over.

Physicians and trainers enter the ring to care for Rachelle.

She gets up to shake her opponents hand.

ANNOUNCER

Winner by knockout in the seventh
round and your new champion...Kayla
Vay!

The crowd goes wild as Princess looks on with disappointment.

The fighters walk out of the ring.

They head back to the locker room.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT

Princess is escorted back into the training room.

She sees Rachelle speak with doctors.

Rachelle looks over.

She signals her to come in.

RACHELLE

Princess, did you enjoy the fight.

PRINCESS

Not really...you lost.

RACHELLE

Well...sometimes things do not go the
way you plan it to be...This was my
first lost.

PRINCESS

I'm sorry.

RACHELLE

No...do not be. This is not the end of
the world. I will be back.

Rachelle smiles.

Princess is escorted back to the vehicle.

INT. US MILITARY CAMP, GYM - DAY

Princess is up early hitting the heavy bag.

Rachelle walks in.

Princess stops training.

RACHELLE
You're here early.

PRINCESS
I'm ready to do what I need to do.

Rachelle lets out a deep sigh.

RACHELLE
Sit down. I need to tell you something.

Princess sits on a chair.

RACHELLE
I have...some troubling news.

PRINCESS
What is it?

RACHELLE
Physicians told me...I can no longer fight.

PRINCESS
(surprised)
What? That is not right! Do not listen to them. They always give bad news...you can still fight.

RACHELLE
No...I can't. They are telling me the next hit I take can be permanent brain damage or death...I have had multiple brain surgeries for blood clots.

Princess hangs her head down in disappointment.

She lets out a sigh.

PRINCESS
So what's going to happen?

RACHELLE
Well, since I have to rest from

physical activities and retire...I can train you.

PRINCESS

Yes?

Rachelle nods her head.

Princess gives her a hug.

PRINCESS

This is real.

RACHELLE

One thing I ask of you...

PRINCESS

What is it?

RACHELLE

No whining or fussing. You listen to me and do what I tell you. There's a reason why I've been undefeated for eight years.

PRINCESS

I will make you proud...there is one goal I have.

RACHELLE

What is that?

PRINCESS

To beat the girl that beat you.

Rachelle smiles, pats her on the back.

RACHELLE

I think you can do that. She's not that much older than you. I think she will be around for awhile.

PRINCESS

You think so?

RACHELLE

Let me rephrase that...I know so.

Princess hits the heavy bag as Rachelle holds it.

She moves outside of the ring and does crunches.

INT. RACHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess and Rachelle enters.

RACHELLE

You will be living with me so I can monitor you.

Princess confused.

PRINCESS

What do you mean?

RACHELLE

I signed off as your guardian. I will be taking care of you.

Princess turns to give Rachelle a hug as they both laugh in joy.

They sit at a table and enjoy a good meal.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

Rachelle and Princess jog and wave at people.

Kids run after them as they cross a bridge.

INT. US MILITARY CAMP - GYM - DAY

Princess throws the medicine ball on the floor, drops to the ground, does a push-up.

Slams the medicine ball again, drops to do a push-up.

She shadow boxes in the ring.

INT. RACHELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Exhausted, Princess lays on the couch.

Rachelle walks in with papers in her hand.

RACHELLE

I got some news for you.

Princess sits up.

She hands the papers to her.

As she reads her face lights up with a smile.

PRINCESS

You've arranged a fight for me?

Rachelle smiles and nods her head.

Excited, she gets up to give her a hug.

PRINCESS

Oh, thank you! This is the best thing!

RACHELLE

I know you're ready...the question is...are you?

PRINCESS

Yes...I know I am.

RACHELLE

Good. Let's get moving.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Vehicles pull up to park.

People walk to the entrance of the building.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Princess HITS the mitts with Rachelle.

She stops to take a break.

PRINCESS

Need to work on my cardio.

RACHELLE

Don't worry about cardio. You have heavy hands. Get her in the first few rounds you will be okay. Quick finish.

Princess dances around a bit.

An official enters the training room.

OFFICIAL

You ready?

Princess nods her head.

She walks out with Rachelle and security personnel.

INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

They get to the ring as she enters.

The crowd cheers for her.

INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

Her opponent walks down the aisle with her trainer and security personnel.

They get to the ring as she enters.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen! Prepare yourself for combat!

The crowd gets excited, cheers out loud.

ANNOUNCER

In this corner in her debut standing five feet five inches tall weighing in at one hundred twenty pounds. Princess!

The crowd cheers.

ANNOUNCER

In this corner with a record of one win no losses, standing five feet four inches tall, weighing at one hundred twenty one pounds. Debra!

The crowd CHEERS.

The official signals the two fighters to meet in the middle of the ring.

They both step forward.

OFFICIAL

I want a clean fight. No hitting below the belt, back of the head. When I say break it up, you break it. Do you understand?

Princess nods in agreement.

OFFICIAL

Do you understand?

Debra nods her head in agreement.

OFFICIAL
Touch gloves and go back to your
corner.

They touch gloves and move back to their corners.

The crowd goes wild as the bell rings.

Both fighters move close to each other.

Debra takes a few swings at Princess as she dodges them.

She takes another swing that connects.

The two move around the ring testing each other.

Princess' get distracted as she sees a familiar face in the crowd.

Her brother Ebenezer sits in the crowd.

Debra takes a swing, HITS Princess on the face, which cause her to stumble towards the ropes.

Debra approaches her, throws multiple shots to the face and body as Princess covers up.

RACHELLE
(yells)
Get out of there!

CUT TO:

The bell rings as both fighters return to their corners.

Rachelle brings out the stool as Princess sits.

RACHELLE
What's happening out there? You're not
focused.

PRINCESS
I'm sorry...I'm--

RACHELLE
--Don't be. Just finish this and let's
go home.

The bell rings as the fighters get up to resume the fight.

Debra throws multiple punches as Princess dodges them all and catches her on the chin with a right hook, that drops her to the canvas.

The crowd cheers as the referee counts.

Debra is unconscious as the referee waves to stop the fight.

The crowd CHEERS louder as the fight is over.

Rachelle rushes into the ring and lifts Princess.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Rachelle cut the wraps off Princess' hand.

RACHELLE

You did it. Your first actual fight.
KO.

Princess is sad.

PRINCESS

Yeah.

Rachelle notice she's sad.

RACHELLE

What's the matter? Do you want to talk?

PRINCESS

Not really.

Rachelle continues to cut the wraps.

She walks out of the room.

INT. RACHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: 3 years later

Princess(20's), perform push-ups.

Rachelle walks through the door with a cupcake in her hand.

RACHELLE

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday
to you, Happy Birthday dear Princess,
Happy Birthday to you.

With a smile, Princess blows out the candle.

Rachelle cheers.

PRINCESS

I've never had this before.

RACHELLE

Well, you deserve it...I also got you two more surprises.

Princess smiles.

Rachelle takes out a piece of paper, hands it to Princess.

PRINCESS

What is this?

RACHELLE

Your eviction notice...I have to send you away.

Princess looks at her with seriousness.

RACHELLE

I'm just kidding. Read it.

Eyes and mouth wide open, Princess hugs Rachelle.

RACHELLE

This is what you've been waiting for.

PRINCESS

Yes...yes. I will make you happy.

RACHELLE

You already have...but...I know what will make you happier.

A man and a woman walk through the door with a little boy.

Princess looks at the boy intently to realize it is Elai(4)

PRINCESS

Elai?

She walks toward him, kneels down.

PRINCESS

Elai...do you remember me?

Elai is silent. He looks at Princess confused.

PRINCESS

I am Princess...your friend.

Tears well up in her eyes,

She gives him a hug.

INT. RACHELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Princess drinks tea.

Rachelle joins her.

PRINCESS

That was the best birthday I ever had.

RACHELLE

I figured you would like that.

PRINCESS

It blows my mind...how did you get that set up?

RACHELLE

Well, easy. You kept winning fights.

PRINCESS

No not that...how did you get Elai here?

RACHELLE

A friend of a friend helped me..

Princess smiles.

RACHELLE

...you never told me about what happened.

PRINCESS

What are you talking about?

RACHELLE

Three years ago...your debut. I asked if you were okay after the fight and you never spoke to me about it.

Princess sighs. She stands up to walk away from the table.

RACHELLE
What happened?

PRINCESS
...It's hard.

RACHELLE
I'm here to help.

PRINCESS
...I saw my brother.

Rachelle smiles.

RACHELLE
That's good. He watched your first
fight. That is--

PRINCESS
--He died...

Rachelle's countenance changes to remorse.

RACHELLE
...I...I'm sorry. I didn't know.

PRINCESS
He died when I was in the
militia...the leader Mubarak made me
kill him.

RACHELLE
...That's horrible...

PRINCESS
He was a fighter too. Nobody could
beat him...nobody.

PRINCESS(CONT.D)
He would be like Mohammed Ali. Dance,
dance and dance...then deliver hits.
(beat)
He was the one that taught me not to
be afraid. Not to be scared. To look
fear in the eyes and punch it right in
the nose. To laugh at death.

RACHELLE
Sounds like you had a brother who
could've been a champion.

Princess smiles.

PRINCESS

What are you talking about...he's
already a champion.

Rachelle stands up from the table, walks closer to Princess.

RACHELLE

He's proud of the woman you have
become.

PRINCESS

I don't know. I feel like he would
still pick on me.

They both chuckle.

RACHELLE

Yeah...here I want to give you
something.

She takes out a key, gives it to Princess.

PRINCESS

What is this?

RACHELLE

This is the key to my house in
Melbourne, Australia...I'm giving it
to you.

PRINCESS

Why?

RACHELLE

Just in case something happens to me.
You are taken care of.

PRINCESS

What do you mean if something happens?

RACHELLE

I'm sick, Princess. Anything can
happen to me anytime and I need to
make sure you're okay...you're like a
daughter to me.

Princess sighs, gives her a hug.

PRINCESS

Thank you...for everything...I don't
know what to say.

RACHELLE

Let's get training.

EXT. RACHELLE'S HOUSE - FIELD - DAY

Princess flips tires.

Runs with buckets of water.

She bear crawls across the field.

Jump ropes as Rachelle motivates her.

She hits the speed bag, the heavy bag and throws the medicine
ball.

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

People are moving towards the entrance.

A FIGHT breaks out in the parking lot, where security tries
to restrain individuals.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Princess hit the mitts.

Elai and the couple walks in.

She stops to see him.

PRINCESS

Elai...what...

MOM

He's been talking about you for a
while. I figured I surprise him by
having him watch you.

PRINCESS

Well...I guess he can watch.
(to Elai)
Do you want to see fighting?

ELAI

(excited)
Yes!

Princess smiles.

MOM

We will get good seats.

They walk away.

Princess turns and hits the mitts.

RACHELLE

Let's take a break. My body is acting up.

PRINCESS

(confused)

Oh...okay!? Are you okay?

Rachelle immediately passes out.

In a panic Princess rush to her.

PRINCESS

Rachelle!...Rachelle wake up!

She looks around in a state of panic.

PRINCESS

(yells)

Help! Somebody help!

Security personnel, medical staff and trainers immediately arrive to assist Princess.

MEDIC 1

Okay, we got it from here. Can you get back please?

Princess backs up, breaks down in tears.

PRINCESS

Call off the fight...I don't want to fight. I quit.

A trainer approaches Princess; gets in her face.

TRAINER 1

No...no! Listen to me! We will not call off this fight. We will do this. She would not want you to quit.

PRINCESS

Okay...okay.

Official arrives to see if Princess is ready.

OFFICIAL

Is everything okay here? Did you need me to call it off?

PRINCESS

No...We will fight.

OFFICIAL

Okay, you're up. Let's go.

Princess looks back as Rachelle is put on a gurney, wheeled out of the place.

TRAINER 1

Come on, let's go! Belt is waiting for you.

PRINCESS

(nervous)

Okay!

They both walk out.

INT. MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

The crowd ERUPTS in excitement as Princess makes her way to the ring with security personnel and trainers.

She steps inside of the ring as the crowd continues to cheer.

Her opponent Kayla Vay walks down the aisle with her trainers as the crowd ERUPTS in excitement.

She jumps into the ring as she raises her arms in the air.

The announcer walks to the middle of the ring.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen this is the moment you have been waiting for! The main event!

The crowd erupts.

ANNOUNCER

Standing to my left in the blue

corner! Standing five feet five inches tall, weighing in at one hundred and twenty one pounds, with an impressive record of fifteen wins and no losses, training at Rachelle's Gym! Princess!

She raises both her arms as the crowd goes WILD.

ANNOUNCER

And standing to my right, a fighter like no other! She stands five feet five inches tall, weighing in at one hundred and twenty pounds, with an impressive record of twenty nine wins and no losses, the undisputed, undefeated champion of the world...Kayla...The Hitman...Vay!

The crowd goes WILD, chant her name.

The two fighters meet in the center of the ring.

OFFICIAL

Okay, I want a clean fight. You know the rules. Touch gloves and go back.

The fighters touch gloves as they return to their corners.

The bell rings, they meet in the middle.

Kayla immediately goes for an uppercut that connects with Princess' face, but she shakes it off, throws hooks, but misses.

Kayla dominates the first round by landing the most hits.

The bell rings, both fighters return to their seats.

The crowd cheers for Kayla.

CUT TO:

The bell rings as both fighters meet in the middle.

Princess throws a few jabs as Kayla blocks and counters.

She catches Princess with a few jabs of her own.

Princess throws an uppercut, but misses, as Kayla returns an UPPERCUT that connects, which drops Princess to the canvas.

The official approaches Princess as she gets up.

OFFICIAL
Are you okay?

PRINCESS
Yes...I'm fine!

CUT TO:

The fighters meet in the middle as Kayla explodes in combos that connects with Princess' face.

The bell rings as both fighters return to their corners.

TRAINER 1
You're not doing good out there!

PRINCESS
She's very unorthodox. It's hard to read her.

TRAINER 1
I've been noticing her left. She will use it when she starts with a combo and finishes. As soon as she gets first hit she will go to town. Move out of her center of target to the outside. Then punish her.

PRINCESS
Okay.

The bell rings.

They have a slug-fest where both fighters connect with their punches.

Kayla throws a left that lands on Princess' face.

She continues with combos, throws an uppercut, which connects that makes Princess DIZZY.

She hits Princess on the gut that drops her.

Princess winces in pain as the official counts.

OFFICIAL
One...two...three...four...

Princess takes her time to get up as she's clutches her ribs.

OFFICIAL
Is that it? Can you continue?

PRINCESS
Yes...I can continue.

The bell rings.

Both fighters go to their corners.

TRAINER 1
You're not doing anything out there.

He cuts her eye, as blood pours.

PRINCESS
I keep seeing her face...is she okay?

TRAINER 1
I'll tell you later...get angry and focus.

PRINCESS
I...I don't know if I can--

TRAINER 1
(yells)
No doubts! You have lasted this long, now finish the fight so we can go see Rachele! If you want to go see her then finish this fight and get the hell out of here! I'm tired of you feeling sorry for yourself! Put your big girl panties up and fight! You've been in a lot more worse situations than this and you found a way out! Those people that died for you, that beat you and hurt you was in vain! Make it not in vain and for a meaning...dammit! Get out there!

Princess stands up.

TRAINER 1
(yells)
This girl hasn't gone through shit, she's nothing, make her suffer, let her know what pain is...break her!

Princess countenance changes as she clenches her jaw in anger.

The bell rings.

Princess walks to the middle of the ring.

Kayla throws a punch, misses as Princess counters with a mean UPPERCUT that sends Kayla to the canvas.

The crowd ROARS as the official approaches her and counts.

Surprised, Kayla gets up, shakes it off.

Princess walks toward Kayla with her guard down.

Kayla throws another punch as Princess dodge. Princess punishes Kayla with two heavy blows that sends her against the ropes.

Princess continues to throw heavy combos to Kayla's gut that drops her to her knees.

The crowd again CHEERS as Princess backs up. The official counts.

Kayla gets back up as Princess looks at her trainer.

TRAINER 1
(yells)
Punish her!

The bell rings as both fighter go to their corners.

The bell rings again as both fighters meet in the middle.

Princess pushes Kayla against the ropes, throws POWERFUL punches to the gut.

Kayla drops as the official counts.

She gets back up and slowly walks to Princess.

Princess throws a jab and makes her nose bleed.

She throws a one, two punch that sends Kayla to the ropes.

Kayla quickly moves from the ropes as Princess approaches her and delivers a kidney punch that moves Kayla backwards.

Princess delivers a HARD UPPERCUT to Kayla that sends her against the ropes.

Princess throws punches to the face and to the body multiple

times.

The crowd chants Princess' name as she continues to deliver blows to Kayla.

Kayla's corner throws in the towel as the official stops the fight.

The crowd ERUPTS as Princess drops to her knees and cries.

Her trainers jump in the ring and lifts her up in celebration.

The crowd cheers and applaud Princess.

Both fighters meet in the middle as the announcer gives the final statement.

ANNOUNCER

And the winner by stoppage...and new,
undefeated champion of the
world...Princess.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Princess rushes to change.

PRINCESS

I have to go and see her. What's the news?

Trainers and the physician gather around her.

PRINCESS

What...what is going on? Let's go see her!

PHYSICIAN

Princess...first off,
congratulations...second...

The physician looks at the trainers.

PHYSICIAN

...I'm sorry...

PRINCESS

What...What! You doctors...all my life
have been giving me bad news, but I
end up beating the odds!...

PHYSICIAN

...I'm sorry...she didn't make it...it was a blood clot...it was quick--

PRINCESS

(screaming and crying)

No! Don't give me that, shit! You guys are liars.

She falls to her knees and weeps as Trainer 1 puts his arms around her.

INT. RACHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Princess packs a bag.

She stops, sees a picture on the table with her and Rachele.

She picks it up, stares at it for awhile and puts it in her shirt pocket.

She continues to pack, when there's knocking on the door.

Confused, she walks over to the door, opens it.

To her surprise she sees Elai with his guardians.

GUARDIAN MOM

Hi...Princess.

PRINCESS

Hi.

GUARDIAN MOM

I wanted to say, first off, congratulations on your fight. Elai loved it.

Princess smiles.

GUARDIAN MOM

I'm also sorry about your friend's passing.

PRINCESS

Thank you...umm...I am packing right now and moving on. Can I help you with anything?

GUARDIAN MOM

Well, this may be a surprise, but...I

am leaving Elai with you.

She is at a lost for words.

GUARDIAN MOM

We have heard of your story and we feel like you will be the best mother to him than I. It's not fair to take him away from you...so we would like you to take him as a son.

Tears well up in her eyes.

PRINCESS

Oh...my...umm. Yes...yes, I will take him. Of course.

Guardian Mom smiles.

GUARDIAN MOM

Good. I knew you would. We have already arranged documents, birth certificates, green cards and all the important things...all you have to do is sign and I sign and we're done. I have a friend who will take care of this and make it official.

Princess laughs in excitement as she takes the pen and signs.

She picks up Elai and gives him a BIG hug.

INT. RACHELLE'S HOUSE, AUSTRALIA - DAY

Princess and Elai sit on a couch as they watch television.

NEWS ANCHOR(B.G.)

This is Breaking news. News that General Mubarak - a few of his men and US soldiers died in a plane crash on their way to transfer Mubarak for a court hearing.

Princess sits up in her chair.

NEWS ANCHOR(B.G.)(CONT.D)

The plane was shot down by rebels in northern Democratic Republic of Congo just a few hours ago. A fire team and other medical respondent arrive on scene and have stated that there are

no survivors.

Princess sighs and nods her head in disappointment.

The phone rings as she picks it up.

PRINCESS

Hello...yes this is her...You want to do what...an interview...for what? Where are you from...oh yes, I have heard of your publication company...well, okay...if it's going to inspire people...well, I will be here...tomorrow. Okay, bye.

She hangs up the phone as she smiles.

PRINCESS

(to Elai)

You want to go get ice cream?

ELAI

Yes!

PRINCESS

Okay, let's go.

EXT. COASTAL NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Princess and Elai walk together as he enjoys his ice cream.

Princess stops, looks to her right.

PRINCESS

Elai, let's go over here.

They both walk over to a cliff where the waves crash.

Albatross' fly over head, people walk by.

Princess smiles as tears well up.

PRINCESS

I have seen this exact place before.

ELAI

What is this place mom?

PRINCESS

This is peace...this is my reality.

120.

FADE OUT