Second Chance

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SKYLINE - NIGHT

Against pure darkness, two white lights slowly emerge. A woman is falling flailing her arms and legs as if she's falling from a rooftop or bridge. Only darkness can be seen all around her. She has wounds in her chest and on her body that resemble gunshot wounds.

WOMAN (V.O)
It's funny what you think about when you start to fall to your death. For me, I started thinking about what life would be like if I'd never been born.

The woman's body strikes the ground and jerks to an immediate stop. She lies motionless on the pavement as blood begins to run from the corners of her mouth. The wounds on her chest begin to stain her shirt even more.

WOMAN (V.O)
Some questions never get answered.

INT. ARENA - DAY

An arena is buzzing with people placing wagers on fighters and the remnants of other fights. One fight ends with a brutal punch to the face. Money is exchanged by many people in the crowd. Trainers rush to gather the lose from the mat and carry him away. His body is lifeless but it can't be determined if he's just unconscious or dead.

The arena is cleared. An announcer with the voice of a car salesman takes over the loudspeaker.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Now, the main event. This is what everyone's been waiting for. The best of the best face off in the center of the ring. Place your bets now.

A dozen soldiers are dressed in full combat pads, clubs, and staffs. Each seems to have their own style, but they are dressed in a uniform that they have modified to fit their personal tastes. All soldiers are wearing dark colors but some are missing sleeves, others are wearing bandanas.
ADHARA BONNET, a 23 year old marine standing in the middle of the group stands out in the crowd. She has a look on her face that says she does what she wants. Adhara has a wide stance and holds a metal staff in the ready to strike position. She is muscular and her arms and shoulders are revealed in her dirt-covered, white tank top. She has fashioned her dark shirt into a headband.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Fighters! Let the battle begin!

The crowd roars as the combatants move toward each other quickly. The soldiers charge in landing quick hard blows to Adhara's face and she quickly begins to fight back and catches one of the soldiers across the face with the staff, slamming him down to the ground.

Then the fight gets scrappy. As he kicks, misses, and swings his fist wildly. She dodges the blows and sweeps his legs out from underneath him. She takes on a few more soldiers and quickly takes them all down.

She turns to see the final combatant standing across the arena. He's much larger than her. He laughs and begins to walk toward her. He walks faster and faster until he's running.

Adhara stands still. As he drops his shoulder and lunges at her in a spear position, she spins out of the way, and comes down with a hammer fist on the back of his head, knocking him unconscious with a blow to the base of his skull.

The crowd is stunned. Half are silent and half are cheering wildly. The announcer returns.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
That's it for tonight's training activities. Please return to your barracks immediately.

Adhara stands on her own for a few moments while she claims her staff and begins to exit.
INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara exits and a brawny man, GUNNERY SERGEANT MCKINNEY, is leaning against the wall and begins slowly clapping. He's wearing military fatigues and he's larger than life. He looks worn by life and combat. At 52, he's seen his fair share of brutality in the world. His voice has a rattle of death and violence. There is mystery in his eyes and wisdom that can't be measured. He is a real man's man, but universally seen as handsome.

MCKINNEY
(applauding)
Now that's what I call a training exercise!

McKinney reaches for the large hunting knife that's attached to his leg. A marine walking by in the background flinches as he pulls the knife from its sheath. Adhara stands statuesque. McKinney

MCKINNEY
How's my favorite marine?

ADHARA
(proud, almost cocky)
I'd be better if you gave me some competition.

MCKINNEY
You really think you'd still be breathing?

ADHARA
(offended)
Fuck off!

MCKINNEY
(laughing)
That's the Adhara I love!

Adhara doesn't respond immediately. She's considering McKinney's comments. She never fully understood their relationship and it shows.

ADHARA
Are you being an asshole for any particular reason, or is it just because you're an asshole?
MCKINNEY

ADHARA
Good for you. He can figure out how to polish your boots by his damn self.

MCKINNEY
I want you to show him around, you know, give him a (breathes in deep, speaks in monosyllables) warm welcome.

ADHARA
(sighs)
What's in it for me?

MCKINNEY
Oh nothing. He's just the first Marine in your squad, Sergeant.

Adhara breathes a brief sigh of relief and almost smiles. This is how she learns of her promotion.

MCKINNEY (CONT.)
Thought you might want to put eyes on him first. Maybe your hands, too.

McKinney winks at her. She rolls her eyes and grabs her backpack, throwing it over her shoulder.

ADHARA
(irritated)
I will go meet him. But if I hear you say some bullshit like that again... I will that knife of yours and introduce it to your balls.

Adhara storms away. McKinney grins.

INT. BARRACKS - DAY

A gray steel door with the stenciled words "Frax Division" swings open. Adhara walks into the barracks to a flurry of activity. Marines are moving from place to place. A few of them are playing cards or swapping stories.
JARED CARTER, a young (24), dark-haired soldier stands at 6'2" with short hair and a muscled physique. He stands in line behind other soldiers that are waiting to "check-in" with squad leaders. Adhara stands behind him.

ADHARA
Carter?

JARED
(salutes)
Ma'am, yes ma'am.

ADHARA
(dismissively)
That's enough of that. Put your hand down.

JARED
Maybe you could help me. I'm looking for a Sergeant Bonnet.

ADHARA
(laughs)
Yeah, I'll introduce you.

JARED
Great. I just need to grab my bag and my room assignme-

ADHARA
Just leave your bag there. I'll have them bring it to your room later.

She starts walking away and he reluctantly follows. He begins walking fast to keep up, a bit out of place.

JARED
So, where is this Sergeant Bonnet?

ADHARA
You're lookin' at her.

JARED
Wait. You're a--

ADHARA
Yeah. Your CO is a girl.
JARED  
(nervous, studdering)  
No-- I mean-- Yeah you are--  
but--

ADHARA  
I'm used to it.

Carter is still nervously walking and trying to come up with an appropriate response. They arrive to a new set of doors that is labeled "CRYNER CHAMBER." Before entering, Adhara pauses and turns to Carter.

ADHARA  
Look, we're going to have to hit the ground running. I'm not going to harbor any hard feelings. Let's just move on.

JARED  
Of course. I mean, yes ma'am.

ADHARA  
Brace yourself. You're about to see some shit.

They enter the chamber.

INT. CHAMBER - MOMENTS LATER

They enter a dark room. The only light at first comes from the hallway as they open the door. The motion-activated lights begin to flicker on once they enter sensing their movement.

JARED

What is this place?

ADHARA  
Don't ask too many questions. I'll tell you what you need to know.

JARED  
Yes ma'am.

ADHARA  
This is the Cryner Chamber.
JARED
And what's that mean?

ADHARA
Think of it as a repair center.

JARED
I see. A work room. Looks like we've got some serious gear.

ADHARA
(smirking)
To say the least.

There are large caliber weapons, futuristic weapons, experimental munitions and other unknowns in different areas of the room. Some of them are legs and arms of the robots that have yet to be revealed. The weaponry is in different stages of disrepair.

ADHARA
(walking off)
There's more to see. Keep up.

Jared scurries to close the distance. Adhara pushes through another door that is marked RESTRICTED AREA.

This room houses a small collection of 8 foot tall robots that are equipped for battle. They seem to be stand alone robots that are absolute killing machines.

ADHARA
This is our latest invention. The GINX TH9.

JARED
Does it work?

ADHARA
They're prototypes. But yeah. They work.

JARED
What do they do?

ADHARA
Hard to say just yet. McKinney hasn't let us...

JARED
Gunnery Sergeant McKinney?
ADHARA

Yes. He hasn't let me take these for a ride yet.

JARED

What's the hold up?

Adhara looks away from Jared. She has to think about whether or not to share.

ADHARA

My father was a Gunnery Sergeant. He was in charge of the program.

JARED

Your dad is a gunny? That explains a lot.

ADHARA

He WAS a gunny. He disappeared.

JARED

Oh. I'm sorry.

ADHARA

It's not your fault. We just don't know what happened. Some people think it was a prototype malfunction. Who knows really?

An announcement interrupts the conversation.

WOMAN (V.O.)

All units report to the Canula Chamber for a briefing.

JARED

Should we go?

ADHARA

(shakes her head, begins walking)

They said all units.

Jared scurries after her.
INT. ATRIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara and Jared enter the room from the back. Everyone is already standing with their respective unit, awaiting instruction. McKinney and a few other high ranking officials are standing at the front of the room.

McKinney looks at the room and gives a steel look at everyone. He is bothered, but not showing it to anyone that doesn't know him well. There is an exchange of glances between Adhara and Jared and Adhara and McKinney in which the unspoken words between each pair is left hanging.

MCKINNEY
We've got some fresh meat here. Listen carefully. Just because you survived basic training doesn't mean you're a marine. You'll become a marine over the next few weeks. Some of you won't make it.

He pauses as those words settle with the young marines in the room.

MCKINNEY
This is your first mission. The government has labeled this a training exercise, but don't get caught up in the bullshit. This is a mission. You must recover a document for me. Do not damage the document in any way or you fail the mission and must return to civilian life.

McKinney motions toward a woman who walks toward him and stops in front of him a few steps.

MCKINNEY
This is Staff Sergeant Amanda Speller. Staff Sergeant Speller will assign your weapons and give you dossiers that have your objectives and protocol outlined in detail. Get some shut eye. Your work begins at 0400 hours. Dismissed.

The marines salute and begin to file out. As they file out of the room, McKinney calls to Adhara.
MCKINNEY

Bonnet!

Adhara and Jared both stop and turn.

ADHARA
(to Jared)
Go ahead. I'll catch up later.

Jared reluctantly goes through the back door, following the other soldiers to the barracks.

MCKINNEY
How's the newbie?

ADHARA
He'll be fine. A little wet behind the ears.

MCKINNEY
(sighs)
Baptism by fire. He'll have to learn on the mission.

ADHARA
What about the rest of my unit?

MCKINNEY
They'll be arriving soon enough.

ADHARA
Before this mission?

MCKINNEY
You'll be providing support for this mission.

ADHARA
Support? I'm support?

MCKINNEY
(grins)
That's where every CO starts. I know you want to be right in the action all the time. It just doesn't work that way.

ADHARA
(visibly upset)
How long am I on the sidelines?
MCKINNEY
Just for this first one. We are reassigning a few guys to you tomorrow.

ADHARA
How long until I have a full squad?

MCKINNEY
Tomorrow morning. You'll be a team of 4.

ADHARA
You're giving me 3 guys to command? I've been waiting for this for years.

MCKINNEY
It's a special ops unit. Trust me. This is what you have been waiting for.

ADHARA
What kind of special--

MCKINNEY
(raises his eyebrows)
Enough with the questions. Just give it a chance. You're dismissed soldier.

McKinney turns and heads the opposite direction leaving Adhara alone to reflect.

INT. SQUAD ROOM - NIGHT

Carter and other soldiers are gearing up. They are loading clips, adjusting stocks, assembling rifles, and generally bustling with gear.

Two other soldiers are sitting with Carter on the end of one bench in the locker room type environment. One is

JOHNSON, a massive guy with a scar across his face. He doesn't say much, but his stature is intimidating to almost anyone. The other is DRAXLER, a young marine wearing prescription goggles. He's skinny, almost too skinny to be a soldier. He seems like an outsider, and talks in a way that has no emotion in his voice. He speaks like a brainy person who thinks without feeling.
JARED
So, where are we going?

Johnson looks at Draxler.

DRAXLER
We are on support duty for the main squad. They are taking the risk. We are just providing cover and intel.

JARED
Another set of eyes?

DRAXLER
I suppose you could say that. There's almost no risk. This is a controlled environment. We have done this a thousand times before.

JARED
Not with this crew though.

DRAXLER
You're the new guy. We've worked with Bonnet for years. This isn't new. It's our next mission that will be a new experience for everyone.

Adhara enters. Johnson stands and hands her a rifle that he has assembled. He turns toward an open locker and grabs her flak jacket for her. She takes the gear silently and begins getting geared up for the flight.

JARED
Are you going to give us the rundown?

ADHARA
You were at the same briefing we were.

DRAXLER
The new guy is very inquisitive.

ADHARA
He asks too many questions.
JARED
Sorry. I haven't been doing this for the past 10 years.

DRAXLER
What was your previous assignment anyway?

JARED
Front lines. I saw action in the Taiwan conflict and during the expansion of the United Kingdom.

DRAXLER
That was gruesome. You've seen your fair share of violence and death.

JARED
I have.

JOHNSON
Then you're ready to join up with this squad.

Jared looks around at the others to see if there is any emotional response. Everyone continues to prepare weapons and get things prepared. Adhara, Johnson, and Draxler in unison shut their lockers. Adhara zips her last few pockets.

ADHARA
Load up.

Adhara exits, followed by Johnson and Draxler. Jared takes a look at the mirror on the inside of his locker. He takes a deep breath and closes his eyes. He slams the locker and turns to catch up with the squad.

EXT. FLIGHT DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara leads the team to toward the helicopter. The helicopter is already running with a pilot and co-pilot waiting to take off. Sergeant Speller stands by the helicopter holding a clipboard. Adhara walks by without acknowledging her at all. Johnson and Draxler salute Speller and board the helicopter. Jared stops to ask Speller a question.

JARED
Where are we going?
SPELLER
On a mission. You must be Carter.

JARED
How'd you know?

SPELLER
Because everything out of your mouth is a question.

Beat.

SPELLER
Load up Marine!

Jared gets on the helicopter.

INT. HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

Adhara straps in and waits for takeoff while Jared hurriedly gets in place. The helicopter takes off. Out the window, they watch Speller writing on the clipboard and then turn to walk back into the barracks.

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

Trees bend as the helicopter lands in a clearing. Dirt flies off the ground. The helicopter lands smoothly.

INT. HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

The pilot reaches up and hits some switches to kill the engines.

PILOT
Corporal Bonnet, we have arrived.

Adhara shoots him a look.

PILOT
Sergeant Bonnet. My apologies.

ADHARA
(looks around at the others)
Let's go.
Johnson opens the door of the helicopter and Adhara is the first one out.

EXT. WOODED AREA - SAME TIME

The others follow Adhara out. The Pilot and co-pilot join the crew. All are armed as if they are ready for a fire fight. Adhara makes her way toward the wooded area and follows an less traveled path through the woods.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara emerges from the edge of a wooded area. She holds up a fist to signal to the others to stop moving. She waves toward Draxler to step forward. Draxler grabs a set of night vision goggles and looks around the compound. The warehouse seems to be abandoned. Draxler holds up his open hand. Adhara points toward the warehouse with two fingers. The squad begins moving toward the abandoned warehouse.

The squad approaches the warehouse from the side door. They silently move toward the door. As Jared grabs the doorknob, a scream rings out from inside the warehouse. It sounds like a young girl screaming in fear.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - SECONDS LATER

The squad enters the warehouse and begins to clear the space shining lights and pointing weapons in various directions.

They begin to move in tight formation through the warehouse. The screams dissipate, fading away. Adhara moves quicker, leaving the team behind. She heads to the far end of the warehouse floor where there is a small room.

INT. SMALL ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Adhara enters the small room alone, leaving the rest of the squad to continue clearing the warehouse without her. She steps to the center of the room where she sees a dark shaft. The shaft is deep and the bottom can't be seen. It must be 300 feet deep. She shines her light into the shaft with no results. Darkness descends far beyond her light. The screaming has stopped completely.

Lights come on in the room and throughout the warehouse. Gy.Sgt. McKinney is standing behind her.
MCKINNEY
What are you doing here, Sergeant?

ADHARA
I was looking for the girl.

MCKINNEY
That was not the objective.

ADHARA
I'm just trying to do my job.

Jared enters the room and silently observes the rest of this conversation.

MCKINNEY
No, you're trying to do my job. Your job is to lead this squad, not leave them behind.

ADHARA
Yes, sir. It won't happen again.

MCKINNEY
You're right it won't happen again.

McKinney draws his pistol and fires on Adhara. He fires into her chest three times. Adhara is stunned. She looks down, sees the wounds in her chest, and falls backward into the shaft.

JARED
What? Nooo!

Jared draws his weapon and fires on McKinney as McKinney is still turning and raising his pistol to fire on Jared. Jared is too fast for McKinney. He releases a burst of gun fire, catching McKinney in the head and neck. One bullet rips through McKinney's eye.

Jared immediately jumps into the shaft after Adhara.

CUT TO:
INT. DARK SHAFT - SAME TIME

Adhara falls in silence down the shaft. She falls alone in slow motion. The darkness takes over and she fades into nothingness.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Adhara is asleep in a hospital room. Her eyes open and she doesn't know where she is. Carter is standing beside her bed. He's been there by her side the entire time.

JARED
Hey. Do you know where you are?

ADHARA
Not a clue. The last thing I remember--

JARED
Let's not worry about that right now. Can you walk?

ADHARA
Yeah. I think I can.

Jared starts to help her out of the bed.

ADHARA
Did I... die?

JARED
We're not going to talk about that right now. We're gonna take you to the Chino-Welch.

ADHARA
(confused)
I've never used it before.

JARED
It's a little scary the first time. But, this won't actually be your first time.

ADHARA
Wait. I've already been in there?
JARED
A couple of times. This should be the last time.

ADHARA
Three times in the Chino-Welch? I must have been dead.

JARED
Don't worry about it.

Jared helps her into a metal box that looks almost like a coffin. There are lasers, lights, and a control panel on the outside of the machine. Jared looks down at her as she rests her body on the plain metal surface.

JARED
It feels like a cold, steel coffin, but there's nothing to worry about. It's safe.

ADHARA
But--

Jared shuts the lid before hearing her protest. Lights and lasers begin to scan her body and there is a whirring of electronic activity.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Adhara is sitting alone in an empty cafeteria. The facility is bright and clean with no people around. There are machines that deliver food with automaticity. The food looks like expensive food that is prepared by a chef, but there is no human presence around. She pokes at her food, having eaten some, but not eating everything.

JARED
(smiling)
Now, you're the one with all the questions.

Adhara is caught off guard. She did not notice him approach as she stabbed at her food.

ADHARA
(confused)
Yeah. I guess so. Where are we?

JARED
You're in the cafeteria.
ADHARA
I know that much. What is this place?

JARED
Honestly, I'm not sure what the official name of this place is. It's an off books facility run by the Department of Defense. We just call it the Ranch.

ADHARA
The Ranch?

JARED
Yeah. It's mostly used for recovery. After a mission goes wrong. And of course some research which we'll be talking about a little bit later.

ADHARA
McKinney. He--

JARED
You don't need to worry about McKinney anymore.

ADHARA
Is he--

JARED
As far as we know, yes. He's dead.

ADHARA
(looks down at her plate)
He was the last connection I had to my father.

JARED
Then I guess you should know that we think he killed your father.

ADHARA
(shocked)
What? Who are you?
JARED
I'm Jared Carter. I'm just not Private Carter. I'm a Gunnery Sergeant. I'm investigating your father's disappearance for the Marines. And I'm involved with furthering his work.

Two other people approach. It's the pilot, JOSHUA, and the co-pilot, TIFFANY, that flew the helicopter.

ADHARA
What happened to Johnson and Draxler?

JARED
They're fine. They're here with us, too.

Adhara sits in silence as she takes everything in. Tiffany and Joshua get food from the robotic machines and take a seat near Adhara.

JARED
This is still your unit. I'm still assigned to you. The Master Sergeant has not changed our mission.

ADHARA
What exactly is our mission?

JARED
You're going to take over the project that your father left behind.

ADHARA
The machines.

JARED
That was his previous project. He and McKinney had a falling out when he changed directions.

Adhara gets quiet as she thinks about the past few years working with the man who killed her father.

ADHARA
I knew there was more.
JARED
Your father realized that the remote control wasn't enough. The robots were expendable to the controller. So, he made super soldier suits. Basically, the soldier and machine became one, creating a nearly unbeatable soldier.

ADHARA
Why was McKinney against this?

JARED
McKinney ultimately wanted to control an entire squadron by himself. One man, a thousand robots.

ADHARA
A real psychopath.

JARED
I think it's time for you to see your father's work.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara and Jared enter a perfectly clean and bright control room. There is a large glass window overlooking a large room the size of a basketball gymnasium. On the floor there are two large robots. Inside the robots are Johnson and Draxler. Each man is inside a robo-suit controlling every movement.

ADHARA
Is that--?

JARED
Yes. Johnson and Draxler. The whole team is here.

ADHARA
Who else is here?

JARED
Right now? No one. This is our place.
ADHARA
Like a secret base? This is too much like a video game or something.

JARED
It's a bit unreal. But trust me... it's real. There are 3 other tac teams here with us, they are just on a training exercise right now.

Johnson and Draxler begin battling each other. Adhara looks surprised.

ADHARA
(nervous)
They're going to kill each other.

JARED
(amused)
Don't worry. It's training.

Relieved, she sits in a chair. Jared sits in a chair beside her.

ADHARA
So, how long have I been out?

JARED
About a month.

ADHARA
I've got some catching up to do.

JARED
I'm sure you'll be fine. You were the best with the prototypes. That's why McKinney kept you around. He was learning from you.

ADHARA
Why'd he want to kill me?

JARED
He was going to kill you at some point. We didn't know it would be that night. I'm not sure he did either. He just knew he was losing control of you.
ADHARA
He never had control.

JARED
We think he's dead. Now we have to focus on the bigger picture.

ADHARA
He wasn't working alone.

JARED
Just the opposite. He was building an army for the New World Order.

ADHARA
I thought they were defeated.

JARED
Just in hiding. The whole time, building this army. With the prototypes, they could have an army of 500 quickly turn into half a million soldiers.

ADHARA
And I helped him do it.

JARED
There's no way you could've stopped him. He's been doing this since he worked with your father.

Adhara watches as Draxler parries away from a blow from Johnson and uses his own momentum to pin him down and get the win.

JARED
(laughs)
The suits seem to level the playing field. Draxler has gotten the best of him for the past two weeks.

ADHARA
I want to get in a suit.

JARED
We can make that happen.
INT. SQUAD ROOM - DAY

Adhara is wearing a morph suit. Her body hasn't been on display like this before. Jared enters.

JARED
(sheepishly looks away to avoid staring)
H-hey. Sorry, I didn't realize--

ADHARA
You just haven't seen me like this before. These morph suits are pretty form-fitting.

JARED
Yeah, they are.

ADHARA
(smiling while looking Jared up and down)
They don't leave much to the imagination.

JARED
No, they don't. If you're ready, we can check these things out.

Jared leads Adhara through the door.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jared leads Adhara to the robosuit. It has been customized for her exact dimensions and size. He explains the controls as he helps her get in. As she gets in the suit and looks around at the various comm screens and other information displayed, Jared begins to explain them to her.
JARED
This is the GX-9. It's been designed specifically for the user. In this case, that's you. We used the printouts from your work with the prototypes to customize the controls. It should be second nature to you at this point. On the left, you'll see the weapons on board. On the right, you'll have the specific controls. It's already set up for simultaneous fire with two weapons which seemed to be your preference.

Jared walks toward his own robosuit.

JARED
Today, we'll be working without the guns though. This is just to see how the suits operate.

Jared jumps high into the air and lands just in front of Adhara.

JARED
Go ahead, try it out.

He pushes Adhara over. She reacts quickly and catches herself, springing from her hands into a double kick to the chest. Jared flies back.

ADHARA
I like these things.

JARED
You get a much better feel for the battle than in a remote booth.

ADHARA
This is like combining real action with the simulated controls.

JARED
That's the idea. The best of both worlds.
They battle each other. Jared lands a few powerful strikes to the chest. Adhara counters with some kicks to the shoulder. Jared thinks he is winning easily until Adhara ultimately gains the advantage. She sweeps his legs and rolls on top of his back. Jared laughs.

**ADHARA**
I think you should surrender. This is the part where I start ripping out cables and stuff and ruin your suit.

**JARED**
(still laughing)
You got me. I told you it'd be easy for you.

**ADHARA**
Let's get out of here. I want to see the whole squad.

**INT. CAFETERIA - LATER IN THE DAY**

The whole team is gathered around a table with their trays. The cafeteria seems to have more life than Adhara's initial visits. The presence of others seems to change the entire drab appearance. The grayness of things has been transformed.

**JOHNSON**
Glad to have you back, Adhara.

**DRAXLER**
Things were different without you.

**ADHARA**
I'm glad to be back.

**JARED**
We'll be ready to roll out tomorrow.

**ADHARA**
I know there's a facility nearby where McKinney was storing hundreds of prototypes. We need to strike fast. Before they have time to move things.
JARED
We need to be ready to move at 0600 hours.

TIFFANY
This is exciting. We've been waiting for action for a month.

The team laugh and talk together as they prepare for the next day. They prepare weapons and body armor for a battle, the way typical soldiers would, but they also prepare by checking the robots and machinery that ensure everything runs smoothly.

ACT TWO

INT. HELICARRIER - DAY

The team are boarding the flight in order to attempt the mission. They are looking at maps and diagrams that show the facility. There are marks on where prototypes might be located with numbers and crews divided up.

ADHARA
When we arrive, we will be attempting an all out assault.

JARED
We split into two groups and attack through both entries of the facility.

TIFFANY
No one gets in or out.

JOHNSON
A smash job! I like this!

DRAXLER
(rolls his eyes)
What about captives?

Adhara and Jared exchange looks. They seem to know more than they are saying.

ADHARA
If anyone surrenders, we will consider that after the battle.
JARED
If someone surrenders use a non-fatal electropulse. We will deal with them after the assault is finished.

The helicarrier which is autopiloted now speaks to the crew.

HELICARRIER
Please prepare for landing. We are arriving at our destination in approximately 2 minutes.

The team gets into their mechsuits and prepares for the assault.

EXT. LANDING SITE - MOMENTS LATER

The team is exiting the helicarrier. As they exit, the helicarrier powers down completely and goes into sleep mode, which places it into a camouflage situation as well.

JARED
Adhara and I will attack from the front. The rest of you will breach the rear.

The group breaks into the two small teams and travels through the wooded area in different directions.

Jared and Adhara have a moment to finally speak about something in privacy, and they take full advantage. Though they are in their mechsuits, they set their comm devices to speak to just each other.

ADHARA
I'm nervous.

JARED
About McKinney?

ADHARA
I know too much now.

JARED
What's there to know? He killed your father and he tried to kill you.
ADHARA
But he practically raised me. For years, he was my father.

JARED
It's a pretty sick betrayal.

Silence lingers as Adhara processes the new information that is setting in for her.

ADHARA
I don't know what will happen if I come face to face with him. I am processing too many emotions.

JARED
When the time comes, your instincts will take over. You're trained.

The two of them arrive at their destination and switch their comm units back to the whole group.

ADHARA
Bravo, are you in position?

JOHNSON
Roger that, Alpha. Locked and loaded.

JARED
Prepare to breach. On my count.

Adhara and Jared approach the front entry. They begin a jetted sprint toward the doors.

JARED
3... 2... 1...

EXT. WAREHOUSE - SIMULTaneously

Bravo team breaches the back door at the same time. Johnson leads the group through the doors and takes a blast to the chest. Draxler is directly behind him and side steps his flying body. He does a combat roll and comes up shooting tactical shots in various directions taking out numerous threats.
Tiffany enters reluctantly after taking several quick breaths. She runs around the corner and enters the room with weapons drawn only to observe the smoke clearing while Draxler stands confidently and looks at her calmly. Johnson re-enters the room.

JOHNSON
Well, shit. I missed the fun.

DRAXLER
There will be plenty more. That's just the initial security team.

TIFFANY
There's more?

JOHNSON
I hate these damn suits. It makes it look like I don't know what the hell I'm doing.

DRAXLER
(patting him on the shoulder)
Fight smarter, not harder.

Draxler smiles and leads the group through the entry way and into the corridor to face another wave of soldiers.

INT. WAREHOUSE FRONT ENTRY - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Adhara and Jared have just finished clearing the front room of any threats. Jared stands as he finishes off a soldier.

JARED
Bravo team, what's your status?

The Bravo team responds from off screen.

DRAXLER (O.S.)
Entry cleared. We are proceeding into the corridor.

JARED
Roger that. We are proceeding into the front corridor now.

Jared waves his arm to signal Adhara to resume formation. They approach the hall toward the center of the complex.
TIFFANY (O.S.)
Holy shit!

ADHARA
(wide-eyed)
Yeah, we see it.

As they enter the complex, they realize that it is simply a huge warehouse where hundreds of prototypes are stored. As they have entered the hall at opposite ends, the robots begin powering on. None of these bots have humans inside, they are all robot soldiers.

The battle begins in the warehouse facility. The 5 soldiers take on a fleet of robots in complete and utter chaos. At one point, Adhara takes out a bot that seems to have a kill shot on Jared.

Tiffany is knocked down at due to her apprehension to fire, but Johnson rips a robot apart by punching it through the back. He throws another robot through a group of robots knocking them all down. Draxler methodically takes out countless robots. As the numbers of bots dwindle away, the robots seem to shift their commands from fight to flight.

The robots all begin to exit the facility by flying through the roof. They attempt to escape as quickly as possible. A few of them are shot down in their attempt to flee. However, more than a hundred of the robots are able to flee the warehouse leaving the 5 heroes standing amongst a mess of robotic body parts.

TIFFANY
Where do you think they're going?

ADHARA
There's probably another facility. I have a feeling this is just the beginning.

JARED
We've known that he's been doing this for years. If he's been able to clone the programming, there could be thousands.

JOHNSON
I'm not always a silver lining kind of guy, but at least we'll have plenty of ass to kick.
DRAXLER
Something tells me this is not going to be a few missions. This could be more like an ongoing armed conflict.

ADHARA
That just means we'll have to be ready.

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

McKinney is surrounded by Marines. He has a look of disgust on his face due to his most recent loss of a facility. There is a buzz around the room as they recover from the events of the evening.

MARINE
Sergeant, we have moved the prototypes to the another location.

MCKINNEY
(nonplussed)
Make sure the facility is secure.
Make sure they are all secure.

MARINE
Sir, yes sir.

The Marine runs off while McKinney stares at the screen in front of him. Another Sergeant enters the room behind McKinney. DONALDSON is a few years older than McKinney, but seems less war ridden. He is a Master Sergeant and seems to have more of a "desk job" in his later years. He seems to be in a disagreement with McKinney.

DONALDSON
Things are getting out of hand.

MCKINNEY
It's under control.

DONALDSON
You sure about that?

MCKINNEY
Just a rogue terrorist cell.
That's all.
DONALDSON
They didn't look like terrorists to me.

MCKINNEY
(confrontational)
What are you trying to say?

DONALDSON
(unfazed)
You said this wasn't personal.

MCKINNEY
It's not. It's business.

DONALDSON
Then why is a dead soldier haunting you from the grave?

MCKINNEY
Parlor tricks. It was a god damn terrorist cell.

DONALDSON
She sure moves like Bonnet.

MCKINNEY
(quiet)
It's not her. She's dead.

DONALDSON
Because you saw her die?

MCKINNEY
Yes.

DONALDSON
The way she's come back from the dead, I almost think you might've been the one to put a bullet in her.

MCKINNEY
(agitated, defensive)
Watch your god damn mouth! She was like a daughter to me!
DONALDSON
(straight faced)
You should be the one watching
your god damn mouth. If you fuck
this up it'll be the last thing
you fuck up.

Donaldson turns quickly and exits the room in haste. McKinney
grabs a paperweight from the desktop nearby and throws it
into a display screen.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - DAY

The group has assembled in the training room. Adhara
addresses the rest of the group while walking in front of
them. They are in formation.

ADHARA
We have to be smarter and faster
than the enemy. Strength is over
rated. No offense Johnson.

Johnson raises his eyebrows and rolls his eyes.

JOHNSON
I'm more than just brute force.

ADHARA
I know that. I just didn't want
you to take anything personally.

At this point, there are images of the group training.
Tiffany obviously starts off weak and progresses to become a
better fighter. The group faces off in one on one combat as
well as two on ones and other scenarios. Eventually, they are
graduating to simulated combat with entire battalions
successfully. During this sequence, Adhara's voiceover
continues.
ADHARA
We will face an enemy like none we've ever seen before. Many of these machines will be controlled remotely. Some will be completely autonomous. We will be facing trained combat experts with a knowledge of robotics that can make the difference. To defeat them, we have to learn programming, robotics, combat, advanced tactical maneuvers. We have to become the world's elite team of robot assassins.

We return to a closeup of Adhara.

ADHARA
So, let's go kick some ass, guys.

INT. WAR ROOM - DAY

McKinney and his inner circle are getting things in place. They are having planning meetings to discuss the next stages of defending the prototypes from future attacks.

MARINE
Sergeant, we have secured all the facilities.

MCKINNEY
Good. I know they'll be attacking soon. What do we know they know?

MARINE
(confused)
Sir?

MCKINNEY
In war, you have to know what your enemy knows. Some people say think like the enemy. I want to know what the enemy knows. Then I can think beyond what the enemy is thinking.

MARINE
We believe they have found 5 of our facilities. The other 10 are so remote that many of our own team don't know where they are.
MCKINNEY
Let's keep it that way. They'll be attacking. As early as tonight. Make sure all the facilities are on high alert.

MARINE
Sir, yes sir.

MCKINNEY
I want blood this time. Nothing less will do.

MARINE
Sir, yes sir.

The marine exits in order to deliver the updated commands.

INT. HELICARRIER - NIGHT

The team are gearing up for another assault. They are locking into their machines and beginning to turn on their comm units.

ADHARA
Fall in, soldiers!

JOHNSON
Locked and loaded.

DRAZLXR
Ready for combat.

TIFANY
Definitely ready.

JARED
Good. This is another facility we've found. We know now that he's got at least 5 of these facilities.

ADHARA
If we take out this fleet, we will have access to his internal systems. We could potentially take his entire army offline before he has a chance to attack anyone.
DRAXLER
The typical save the world kinda stuff. Right?

ADHARA
Actually? Yeah. Exactly that.

JARED
We know he was planning to use this army to leverage the UN for control over all world militaries.

TIFFANY
If he got the UN to yield to his authority, we really would have a New World Order.

ADHARA
Let's make sure that doesn't happen.

JOHNSON
Just get me close enough and we won't have anything to worry about.

JARED
I still don't like this idea.

ADHARA
We've trained for this moment. We're ready.

HELICARRIER
Prepare for landing in less than 30 seconds.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The team stands in front of a warehouse. They observe the facility and notice that things are eerily quiet this time. There is not the usual buzz that happens around the facility. This is a typical warehouse, but there seems to be no security.

ADHARA
I don't like this. We're sticking together this time.
JARED
We breach from the front.

JOHNSON
Smash and bash! I call dibs on the door.

The team begins moving toward the door. Johnson is excited, the others approach cautiously. Johnson looks back at Adara. She signals for him to enter. Johnson shoulder charges the door and it gives easily. There are no armed guards at all. A second later, Johnson pokes his head back out of the door and waves the others over.

JOHNSON
Come on. It looks abandoned.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The team enters the warehouse to find that the desks and office area are completely deserted. They move quietly through the area. Draxler finds the power and turns on the lights and computers. Things fire up and everything looks normal and functional.

JARED
Over here!

The team joins him. He has found the prototypes. Just like in the previous facility, there are hundreds of prototypes. This time, they have not been booted. There is no battle ensuing.

ADHARA
This is weird.

DRAXLER
I think we caught them off guard.

TIFFANY
Could we be so lucky?

The team all start to smile. They feel as though they have won a big victory.

JOHNSON
Didn't even have to fire a shot.
It's a bummer, but sometimes it's nice to have a day off.

They move about the facility, leaving Adhara alone in the center of the room to think.
ADHARA  
(to herself)  
Could it be so easy?

Tiffany and Draxler are booting up the computers and looking through the programming and other technical information for the prototypes.

DRAXLER  
It looks like they just took this facility offline this morning.

TIFFANY  
Yes. It says they were entering sleep mode. I have a memo here that orders it.

JARED  
Let me see that.

Jared reads the memo over Tiffany's shoulder.

JARED  
McKinney authorized this shutdown. It's a complete evacuation. He says to take the facilities offline due to an imminent threat.

JOHNSON  
So he is surrendering?

JARED  
Looks that way. He's listed the other 3 facilities on this memo, too.

ADHARA  
Pack up everything. We need to take it all.

TIFFANY  
I'll call in a procurement team. Should I send them to the other facilities?

JARED  
Send a tac team to check them out first. Let's not get stupid.
ADHARA
McKinney definitely plays head games. This doesn't feel like a head game though.

DRAFTER
(looking at computer)
There doesn't seem to be any hidden commands on here.

JOHNSON
What do you mean?

DRAFTER
I thought maybe it was a trap. Like as soon as we got the prototypes to our facility, they would become active or something.

ADHARA
Are you sure?

DRAFTER
Yes. They've all been taken offline. They have to be reconfigured.

JARED
Like a complete reboot?

DRAFTER
Basically.

ADHARA
This is not a surrender.

JARED
Then how do you explain it?

ADHARA
He's going forward with whatever plan he has come up with. He's just changing tactics. There's no way he's giving up what he's worked for for so long.

JARED
Either way, I think this calls for a bit of a celebration.

CUT TO:
INT. CAFETERIA - LATER THAT NIGHT

Glasses clink together. The group is celebrating their win. They have put an end to the prototype army, at least in their minds. The worries about the remainder of the plans are not on their minds anymore.

Johnson slams back his drink and slams the glass down.

JOHNSON
To victory!

TIFFANY
(struggling to finish a drink, coughs)
Whooo! We won, guys. I don't know what we won, or how we won... but it's over.

ADHARA
(too serious)
It's not over.

DRAXLER
(raising a glass)
We know it's not over. Just relax. Have a little fun for once in your life.

JARED
.puts arm around Adhara)
Lighten up. Let's just have a good time tonight.

ADHARA
(relaxing)
It's all about the small victories.

JARED
Exactly.

The team enjoys drinks and music. They start to dance and get a little wild. They play games and laugh together. A few other techs and soldiers join the celebration. Bottles are emptied and the music gets louder. Jared and Adhara begin dancing together.

ADHARA
You're right. We should be having fun.
JARED
Just for tonight. Back to work tomorrow. I promise.

ADHARA
Shhhh! Let's talk about that tomorrow.

JARED
Alright, alright.

ADHARA
I never got to finish telling you thank you.

JARED
For what?

ADHARA
You saved my life.

JARED
I was just doing my job.

ADHARA
But you made sure I survived. I should be dead.

JARED
But you're not. And neither is McKinney. I should've killed him.

ADHARA
We'll get him. Don't worry about that now.

JARED
Damn right we'll get him.

ADHARA
Hey, let's get out of here. I want to show you something.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Adhara and Jared enter the control room for the robosuits. She starts to run her hands across the controls.
ADHARA
(over her shoulder to Jared)
You know, I didn't know my father that well.

JARED
I'm sorry to hear that.

ADHARA
I'm not looking for pity. I'm just telling you something.

JARED
Sorry. Continue.

ADHARA
Working with these suits, I feel like I know him now.

JARED
I can understand that.

ADHARA
I mean, I know what kind of man he was. Now that I see what he was doing, I understand him better.

JARED
What do you think he was trying to accomplish?

ADHARA
I know he wanted to end war.

JARED
By building the most powerful weapons in the world?

ADHARA
(looking over the floor where the suits are stored)
Weapons we wouldn't have to use. I think he saw beyond these suits.

JARED
You mean how they could help make us so powerful that we couldn't fight each other.
ADHARA
More than that. I think he was
developing these suits for beyond
war.

JARED
Why do you say that?

ADHARA
Think about using these suits to
finally get to Mars. I mean,
we've talked about it for
centuries now.

JARED
They can't sustain flight--

ADHARA
I don't mean like that. They can
do things more than combat. They
can't sustain flight, but they
can sustain life.

JARED
(thinking)
Right. So they could actually be
the breakthrough that we need to
make everything happen.

ADHARA
Exactly. My father was more than
a soldier. He was always thinking
steps ahead of everyone else.

JARED
That's what makes you such a
great soldier. You have the same
mind.

ADHARA
I guess so. But now I understand
it. It's not about winning a
fight or even a battle.

JARED
It's more than that.

ADHARA
It's about changing the world.
It's about ending war for good.
Making the world a better place.
JARED
So you think your dad made these weapons to change the world.

ADHARA
I know he did.

JARED
Now that I'm thinking about it that way, I can think of all kinds of uses for these machines.

Jared is looking out the window admiring the machines, while Adhara is behind him.

ADHARA
I didn't bring you here just to show you that. I wanted you to see this.

Adhara has removed her shirt, leaving just her bra on. In the center of her chest, there is a scar from where she was shot.

Adhara takes Jared's hand and places it over her scar.

ADHARA
This is what is left of the wounded soldier you saved. Now, I'm different.

JARED
Different how?

ADHARA
Now, I see an end to all this. I want all this to end, so that I can have a life that is worth living.

JARED
What we're doing means something.

ADHARA
I know that. And I only know that because of you.

JARED
Adhara, we can't--
ADHARA
No, we can. That's what I'm telling you. After all this is over, I want this to matter.

JARED
It does matter.

ADHARA
You're right. But it only matters if we move on from all this.

JARED
I want to move on with you.

Adhara shoves him playfully.

ADHARA
That's my line!

They both laugh a little. Then they begin passionately kissing. The two make love for the first time. From the intensity, it seems to be the first time they've been with another person in a long time, possibly ever. They are intimate with each other in a way that is new and passionate.

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

McKinney and several of his soldiers are in a meeting around a table. The room is dark and there is a secretive vibe to the meeting.

MCKINNEY
We've surrendered the facilities they know about. Now is our opportunity.

MARINE
Sir, we are ready for phase 2 of the attack.

MARINE 2
We are preparing to seize the confiscated prototypes now.

MARINE
First, we are launching an attack on American soil. Small scale.

MCKINNEY
This is just to bait them, right?
MARINE
Yes, sir. We will have 4 teams standing by for support. The whole purpose is to weaken their forces.

MCKINNEY
Perfect. Let's put these plans in motion.

MARINE 2
As the attack is underway, we will seize the prototypes from their facility.

MCKINNEY
Great. Remember, absolute silence about this is crucial. The government doesn't know what we're up to, so we have no other support.

The entire group nods in agreement.

MCKINNEY
Dismissed!

The group departs the room in order to make the arrangements for the next phase of the attack.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Adhara wakes up and rolls over to see that Jared is no longer in bed with her. She shakes her head. As she sits up, Jared is standing there with a cup of coffee held out for her.

JARED
Two sugars, two creams, right?

ADHARA
(smiling)
I thought you left.

JARED
Just to get us coffee.

ADHARA
I could get used to this.

JARED
I hope you do. I hope we do.
The two sip on their coffee. Adhara gets out of the bed and joins him by the window where they look out at the jungle that surrounds them.

ADHARA
I don't want to ruin the moment, but we have to get back to work today.

JARED
I'm already on it. The team is assembling at 0800 hours.

ADHARA
I know McKinney is planning something. Probably today.

JARED
What do you think he's doing?

ADHARA
It's got to have something to do with the prototypes I'm sure.

JARED
We can check them out thoroughly with our techs.

ADHARA
You said 0800 hours?

JARED
Yeah.

ADHARA
That gives us 30 minutes.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - 30 MINUTES LATER

The team has assembled. They are joined by two computer techs and 3 other tactical teams. Each consists of 5 Marines. The training room is fully lit with several of the prototypes set up. There are a few prototypes from each facility which doesn't need to be stated directly.
TECH 1
There seems to be no malware of any kind on these prototypes. We've checked for encrypted files, hidden partitions, and everything we can think of. It looks like they've truly been abandoned.

TECH 2
There's nothing. These are perfectly good machines. There is one problem though.

ADHARA
What's that?

TECH 1
We don't have the software to control them.

JARED
How do we not have the software? We developed them here.

TECH 2
(cutting in)
We actually developed the mech suits. We never intended them to be fully operational without a human pilot.

DRAXLER
(from across the room)
That's a safety measure I would guess. I have an idea though.

TECH 1
What's that?

DRAXLER
I have been working on a program. I originally developed it for Raspberry Pi. I was going to make drones.

Both techs look at each other like there's an inside joke.
DRAXLER
Laugh if you want. The point is that this program could work to get these guys online. I doubt it would make them useful for combat, but we could at least see their functionality.

TECH 2
I think we have a pretty good idea about what they can do.

JARED
Yeah, we've got that figured out.

A Marine enters the training room in a hurry. He approaches Jared and the other squad leaders.

MARINE
There is an attack in progress.

JARED
What kind of attack?

MARINE
It appears to be some of the prototypes. They are attacking Washington, D.C.

JARED
Washington? That makes absolutely no sense.

ADHARA
Let's get to the briefing room.
Now. This is McKinney.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - SECONDS LATER

The squad leaders enter the room. HALL is about the same age as Jared, but shorter and a bit stocky. He seems solid, but looks like the type of person you could depend on in a fight. PORTER is tall and slim and doesn't look like much of a fighter, but he does seem like he'd be someone you'd want to have a drink with. SIMONSEN is older and seems more battle ridden.
ADHARA
This is McKinney. This is intentional. He planned this whole thing.

JARED
Did they check the prototypes for trackers?

SIMONSEN
This is McKinney. He's a maniacal asshole.

ADHARA
You know McKinney?

SIMONSEN
Yeah I know him. He is a real son of a bitch. He always did this sort of thing.

ADHARA
What sort of thing?

SIMONSEN
We always called it a rope a dope. He'd give the enemy enough to think they'd won, then he'd punch 'em right in the teeth.

JARED
And it worked?

SIMONSEN
Every damn time. I know this is part of his plan.

ADHARA
My thoughts exactly. Is there any way that he could link the attack with us?

PORTER
No. There are no trackers. That was my first question for the techs. I thought it was a con job from the get go.
HALL
I had my guys check everything before we loaded a damn one of those prototypes. There's nothing they can get us for.

ADHARA
What exactly do we do here?

PORTER
What do you mean?

ADHARA
I mean I'm new. I know what's going on here, but what does the rest of the world think we are doing here?

PORTER
Counterintelligence.

ADHARA
Is there any way they would think of us with this attack at all?

HALL
(looking around at the others)
Not that I can think of.

ADHARA
Is there any way that McKinney knows who we are? Do you think he knows that it's this counterintelligence unit that is catching up with him?

SIMONSEN
Doubtful. It wouldn't matter anyway. He's never going to knock on the front door. He always takes the enemy off guard.

JARED
I hate to be pushy, but we really need to take care of this attack.

HALL
We need more details.
PORTER
I've got the briefing info. It seems that the attack is in tourism areas only.

SIMONSEN
The monuments. What a smart bastard.

ADHARA
Why the monuments?

SIMONSEN
It's to invoke fear in the hearts of the every day man. This isn't a military attack. It's a public attack.

JARED
What else would he do?

SIMONSEN
There won't be any casualties. He's methodical. He's not a psychopath.

PORTER
So what's our play?

ADHARA
My team is going in. Your teams will wait in support.

SIMONSEN
It feels like an ambush.

ADHARA
That's why we're going in alone. I think it is an ambush.

HALL
Are you suicidal? Why give him what he wants?

ADHARA
We let him think that. Instead, the other teams are waiting to counter attack the ambush.
SIMONSEN
It's the smartest play we've got.

CUT TO:

INT. GEAR ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Adhara and her team are gearing up for an attack. The mech suits are being prepared and weapons are being loaded. Ammunitions are being checked and rechecked.

CUT TO:

INT. HELICARRIER - SECONDS LATER

Adhara and her team are preparing their comm units as they approach the landing area.

HEalicarrier
Prepare for landing in less than one minute.

Jared
Don't wait for us. Return to headquarters and await further instructions. Understood?

HElicarrier
Affirmative.

The conversation about tactics begin.

Adhara
When we arrive, we need to fight as a team.

Jared
We form a circle, back to back. No blind spots.

Tiffany
Is this a suicide mission?

Adhara
We have reason to believe that this is an ambush.

Johnson
Hell yeah! This is my kinda fight.
DRAXLER
Where is our backup?

JARED
The other three tac teams are standing by to provide cover.

ADHARA
They'll be in as soon as we get sight of any other squads.

Tiffany is starting to breathe hard. Johnson and Draxler try to calm her down.

JOHNSON
What's wrong kid?

TIFFANY
I don't want to die.

DRAXLER
You do realize we could've died on any of the other missions, right?

TIFFANY
Yeah, it just didn't seem likely.

JOHNSON
I'm here. It's not likely that anyone is going to die.

TIFFANY
That's reassuring.

JOHNSON
They'll have to kill me first, before they kill anyone else on my team.

DRAXLER
He's the tough guy. I'm just going to tell you that the odds are in our favor.

TIFFANY
How do you figure?

DRAXLER
The mech suits. I haven't seen anyone die in one yet.
The helicarrier jerks to a stop. The team reluctantly departs in a grouped formation.

EXT. LINCOLN MEMORIAL - DAY

The team exits the helicarrier. The helicarrier leaves. There are prototypes everywhere. The Lincoln Memorial has been destroyed.

The team begins to attack the prototypes. Johnson and Draxler are taking out robots methodically with Adhara and Jared bringing the flanks and Tiffany in the rear. They are ever watchful for incoming attacks.

As the team moves toward the monuments, they are picking off the prototypes quickly. Johnson is separated from the group when he sees a civilian running toward the statue that is the Lincoln Memorial. He chases after him. The rest of the team stays together.

ADHARA

Hold formation. Let him secure the civilian.

The others reluctantly follow her orders.

As he disappears from sight, the rest of the prototypes immediately lose power and fall to the ground lifeless.

INT. LINCOLN MEMORIAL - SIMULTANEOUSLY

The civilian turns with a phone toward Johnson. Johnson has his weapon drawn. The civilian starts to scream.

JOHNSON

Shut up! I'm here to help you.

CIVILIAN

No! He's trying to kill me! Who are you people?

JOHNSON

I'm a Marine. I'm here to help.

CIVILIAN

Get away from me you monster!
Johnson is confused and continues to look clear the area with his weapon drawn. The Civilian slips through an unseen door in the rear of the monument and Johnson is left standing alone.

The rest of the team comes to him. They approach with caution as he still seems to be in battle mode.

ADHARA
Johnson, stand down!

TIFFANY
The area is clear.

Johnson lowers his weapon. He stands in front of the Lincoln Memorial statue. We get a size comparison for the first time. In the mech suit, Johnson is above the president's knees, standing at roughly 10 feet tall.

JARED
Where's the civilian?

JOHNSON
He... got away.

JARED
Got away?

JOHNSON
Yeah, he just filmed me with his phone and ran from me.

ADHARA
Shit!

JARED
What?

ADHARA
That's the whole point. Did he see your face?

JOHNSON
Yeah, he filmed me straight on.

ADHARA
They've got us now. He knows who we are.
DRAXLER
More importantly, the media is going to know who we are. At least Johnson. The rest of us, too unless our records have been doctored.

ADHARA
Doubtful. I think that was his play the whole time.

JOHNSON
Did you take care of the other prototypes?

JARED
They powered off when you entered here.

JOHNSON
Then it was definitely part of his plan.

ADHARA
What did he say?

JOHNSON
He wouldn't speak to me. He just kept screaming. He made sure to film me and then slipped out a back door. (pause) Dammit!

ADHARA
What?

JOHNSON
I had my weapon drawn the whole damn time.

ADHARA
Let's get back to headquarters. This is going to get ugly. Fast.

JARED
I already signaled for the helicarrier.

Adhara puts her hand up to the side of her head and starts talking.
ADHARA
Bravo, Charlie, Delta. Stand
down. Return to HQ.

Muffled radio communication.

ADHARA
I don't have time to explain.
Reconvene at 0400 hours.

The team exits the monument.

INT. WAR ROOM - DAY

McKinney and his team are gathered around the table. They watch a video on a screen. The footage is first person footage from the vantage point of the civilian. You hear his screaming. Johnson's words have been overdubbed.

JOHNSON
When I find you, I will kill you.
We're here to take over the
United States. And we will take
over. The UN will be next.

The video stops.

MCKINNEY
Get this to all the media
outlets. Right now. We have to
get this out there. Give them all
the information they request.
Dockets on Johnson and his entire
squad.

MARINE
Even Bonnet?

MCKINNEY
Especially Adhara Bonnet?

MARINE
(typing into a laptop)
Anything else you want me to
provide?
MCKINNEY
Doctor their records to show that they went rogue on their last mission. We suspect they are working with a multinational terrorist group.

MARINE
(still typing, then stops)
Done. I'll get these out.

MCKINNEY
Good. Now let's move onto the next phase of the project. We are going to attack them. Did we get a location from the helicarrier?

MARINE 2
Sir, yes sir. We have their location.

MCKINNEY
Where are they?

MARINE 2
It's a counterintelligence facility outside Blacksburg.

MCKINNEY
Sneaky sons of bitches.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Johnson and the rest of the soldiers are breaking down all the equipment from the day. Draxler and Tiffany are missing from the group at the moment.

JOHNSON
(slams mech suit shut)
Dammit. I can't believe this bullshit.

MARINE
Forget about it. We win some, we lose some.

JOHNSON
Not me I don't. I win 'em all. And they got me this time.
Draxler and Tiffany enter the room.

DRAXLER
Well, we are fucked.

JOHNSON
What happened?

Draxler holds up a small device.

JOHNSON
What's that?

TIFFANY
A tracker.

DRAXLER
They know where we are.

JOHNSON
Then there's a chance we get to do battle right here!

DRAXLER
This is not the best place for a standoff.

JOHNSON
Right. But it sure beats the shit out of the streets of DC.

TIFFANY
Good point.

Draxler gets up to leave.

JOHNSON
Where are you going?

DRAXLER
To get the techs and to tell Adhara about this.

TIFFANY
They're in a meeting!

DRAXLER
(ignoring, walks out)
This is more important than the meeting.
INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Adhara, Jared, Hall, Simonsen, and Porter are all gathered around a conference table. They are discussing the events that have just unfolded before them.

SIMONSEN
I knew he was up to something. How long until the media has the footage?

PORTER
They've probably already got it.

HALL
I'll check now.

Hall begins typing away on a laptop, searching for information online. Draxler breaks into the room unannounced.

PORTER
Draxler, you can't just--

DRAXLER
(holding up the tracker)
This is important. They know where we are.

JARED
What is that?

DRAXLER
A tracker I just pulled off the helicarrier.

SIMONSEN
He's got us. Now it's just a matter of time.

HALL
Hate to ruin the moment, but uh...

Hall flips around the laptop he was using to search the web. The video is online already. The headline reads "Ex-Marine Behind Capitol Attack."

ADHARA
Draxler, I need you to leave.
DRAXLER
I'm planning on it. I have to get with the techs anyway. I just wanted you all to know that we're fucked.

Draxler exits. The others sit in silence for a few seconds.

ADHARA
(calmly)
This is not the end. This just means that they got the better of us.

SIMONSEN
Now you're starting to sound like McKinney. He was never willing to give up a fight.

JARED
So what do we do now?

ADHARA
Chances are, he's going to bring the fight to us.

HALL
Obviously.

ADHARA
So we beat him to it.

PORTER
You want us to attack a military base?

ADHARA
No. We are going to attack another monument.

JARED
What? Adhara, this can't be a real idea.

ADHARA
It's the only thing he won't expect. If he calls us terrorists, let's be terrorists. He expects us to be on the defensive. Let's go offensive.
SIMONSEN
By God, she's right. She's a god damn genius.

PORTER
Yeah, that actually makes sense. He wants us to sit here and fortify our position. Instead, we should attack.

HALL
(slowly, as if he realizes it)
But attack somewhere else.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB - SIMULTANEOUSLY

The drab computer lab is full technology but no color. It looks like a place that is designed for work and no fun. Draxler and the techs are staring at the tracking device.

TECH 1
There's no way we can hack it. He's already got the location.

DRAXLER
I know. I'm thinking about my program.

TECH 2
What about your program?

DRAXLER
Have you looked at it?

TECH 1
If by "look at it" you mean have I uploaded it, improved it, and figured out how to get it to run an entire army of militarized attack robots, then yes. I've looked at it.

DRAXLER
Wait, what?
TECH 2
You were right. Your programming was basic, but it did have all the requirements for mass producing weaponry.

DRAXLER
(elated)
Excellent. We might be able to defend this place.

TECH 1
We haven't uploaded it into the robots yet. Just this one.

Behind them, there is a mechsuit that has been slightly modified and is operational without a human.

DRAXLER
What can it do?

TECH 2
It understands weaponry and hand-to-hand combat, but it's pretty basic. It's not going to beat real soldiers.

TECH 1
At least not a lot of them.

DRAXLER
That's fine. We just need as many guns as possible.

TECH 1
(confused)
Earlier, did you say "defend this place"?

DRAXLER
Yes, I did.

TECH 2
Are we under attack?

DRAXLER
Not yet.

The techs look at each other?

TECH 2
Yet?
TECH 1
Hey look, I'm more of a tech. I'm not a combat kind of guy. I think I should probably get out of here.

TECH 2
Yeah, I don't think we're going to be much use in a fight.

DRAXLER
Not gonna happen. You're key to the whole thing. We need you now.

TECH 1
I don't like this.

DRAXLER
It's easy. You'll get used to it. I used to be a computer nerd just like you. I still am actually. I just know how to fire a gun.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - SIMULTANEously

The commanders have reached an agreement on a plan. This is now where we get the quick summary of how things are going to go down.

PORTER
So, we attack randomly in New York City.

HALL
At the same time, we fortify this place as best we can.

SIMONSEN
And then we go on the offensive against them on as many fronts as possible.

JARED
That's right. Once they are split, we will have them spread thin.
ADHARA
We have to assume they have more mechs. But I think our tech team can devise a way to shut them down.

Draxler has entered the room unbeknownst to them.

DRAXLER
I can do better than that. We can reprogram their mechs to fight alongside our own.

HALL
Draxler--

DRAXLER
(puts hand up to cut him off)
Not right now.

ADHARA
How can you do that?

DRAXLER
Our program is simplistic. All we need is an EMP to shut down their prototypes. By the time they reboot, we will be able to network to them all and reprogram them using our simpler program, thus replacing the complex stuff they've got in their heads right now.

JARED
And that's it?

DRAXLER
That's almost it. I mean, we'll have control of all the prototypes. (pause) We think.

JARED
We think? That's definitely not going to cut it.

DRAXLER
(nervously)
I mean. We know. We just... can't be sure. You know. Because it's never been done before.
ADHARA
I think we have to try. This makes our plans better.

SIMONSEN
Yeah. Now we need to do an all out assault on NYC. If McKinney wants to be a hero, I say we make him a hero.

HALL
That will draw him out. And his entire army, too.

ADHARA
It's our only shot. How long do you need Draxler?

DRAXLER
We will have the locals up in about an hour.

ADHARA
And in the field?

DRAXLER
We'll need about 10 minutes to over ride their programming completely.

JARED
I think we can do that. Let's get everyone ready. This is going to be our final stand, whether it works or not.

SIMONSEN
The shit's about to hit the fan folks.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB

Programs are running. Prototypes are firing up. One by one they start to come alive and moving around. The programming is simple, so the robots are given simple commands that make them respond to the squad leaders, rather than having specific locations and skills programmed in.
The prototypes are moving around doing basic movements, checking out weapons. It is almost like they have been given consciousness for the first time. They are getting familiar with their basic movements and weapons.

A robot makes his gun come from out of his arm and is taken aback. Another robot shoots him in defense. He flips over backwards.

DRAXLER
(intervening)
Let's play nice guys.

As he pushes the robots apart, they seem to have no memory of the events. They are mindless drones for the most part. They have no emotional attachment.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - SIMULTANEOUSLY

The various soldiers are gearing up for war. They are checking and rechecking the mech suits and doing calisthenics to prepare for the fight of a lifetime. A group of soldiers are shadowboxing. Others are doing kung fu kicks and punches.

ADHAROA
We have to be ready. He could strike at any moment.

JARED
I only hope that the others survive.

They reflect on this small conversation. They realize the gravity of the situation. They quickly change the subject.

ADHAROA
Our team has to be with the bots that attack.

JARED
They've already identified the rest of you.

ADHAROA
How did you avoid getting named with the rest of us.

JARED
I've been thinking about that. My guess is that they have a sinister reason.
ADHARA
It definitely can't be good.

JARED
It's less to explain. I haven't been in the unit long enough to have allegiances yet.

ADHARA
So you're either killed by us, or they just make you disappear after the battle ends.

JARED
(taken aback)
Yeah, I guess so.

ADHARA
I know it. I've watched McKinney do it. I just didn't realize that's what was going on until right now.

JARED
What'd you see him do?

ADHARA
(contemplative)
He shot a man in cold blood. He later told us he was a traitor.

JARED
It doesn't justify his actions.

ADHARA
There's no changing what he did. I can never erase that memory. I just always thought he held me in a higher regard than that.

JARED
It sucks to find out you're not as special as you thought.

They both sit down for a moment. There is an unspoken bond between them. Before they have a chance to discuss it any further, Tiffany interrupts them.

TIFFANY
I think Draxler and the techs are done with the bots.
JARED
Good. Let's load up.

TIFFANY
I think we're going to need more than just our helicarrier to get the --

ADHARA
We're not making plans for backup.

TIFFANY
What?

Adhara stands up. She puts a hand on Tiffany's shoulder.

ADHARA
This is new for you. That's why I chose you. You were raw.

Tiffany looks wide eyed. She hadn't considered the possibility of dying.

ADHARA
This is our last stand. If we don't stop him, the world is going to change. Not to sound cliche, but this is our last hope.

Tiffany looks down for a moment.

TIFFANY
(sullen)
I understand. All the helicarriers are going with us.

ADHARA
Yes. Most of the bots are going with us, too.

TIFFANY
What happens if we fail?

JARED
(approaching from behind)
Then the world ends.

CUT TO:
INT. HELICARRIER - MOMENTS LATER

Alpha squad (Adhara's unit) is departing in order to launch the attack. They are completely silent as they fly to their destination, which is Times Square.

As opposed to other helicarrier scenes, they do not speak to each other or have any jovial conversation. At one point, Johnson breaks the silence for a moment.

JOHNSON
Normally, this is where I try to talk some shit, but I just don't feel like it right now.

HELICARRIER
Arriving at destination in one minute.

ACT THREE

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - MID DAY

The team stands in front of the unmarked helicarrier. There are 4 other helicarrier loaded with hundreds of robots. They all exit the helicarriers. The markings from the helicarriers have been removed to maintain secrecy.

Pedestrians are taking pictures with their phones and running in every direction.

ADHARA
(yelling over the commotion)
Draxler, how do I get these things to do something?

DRAXLER
(yelling in response)
Just tell them very simple commands.

ADHARA
Do I have to call them something?

DRAXLER
Just say what you want them to do.

ADHARA
That's it?
DRAXLER
That's it. It's incredibly basic programming. I'm not a legitimate tech nerd.

ADHARA
Tear down some street signs.

The robots begin destroying street signs, traffic lights, crosswalk signals, and everything that is in sight. The destruction is fast and frightening.

Helicopters begin flying over. The media and police officers are already arriving on the scene.

A police car spins to a stop in front of a small group of robots. The cop props his door open and stands behind it with the CB in his hand.

POLICE OFFICER
(through the car megaphone)
Freeze! This is the NYPD! Stand down, and put down all your weapons.

CUT TO:

Adhara speaks softly through her comm unit.

ADHARA
Take out the threat, but don't harm the humans.

The group of robots interrupts the police officer's speech by grabbing the car and hurling it like a frisbee down the street. The police officer is left standing there, holding the CB in his hand, which has now been disconnected from the radio that was in the car.

POLICE OFFICER
Holy shit!

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM - SAME TIME

A marine busts into the room urgently. McKinney is sitting with Donaldson, having lunch. There seemed to be an awkward bit of tension in the air when the marine interrupted.
MARINE
(saluting)
Sir!

MCKINNEY
Oh cut the shit. What's going on?

MARINE
(looking awkwardly at Donaldson)
We should speak in private.

MCKINNEY
Out with it.

MARINE
There's an attack in Times Square.

MCKINNEY
(spits out something he just bit into)
What kind of attack?

MARINE
It's the prototypes, sir.

DONALDSON
(irate)
God, dammit! I told you to handle this McKinney!

McKinney turns toward Donaldson, glaring.

MCKINNEY
That's what I'm about to do.
Unlike you, I know when I need to get my hands dirty.

DONALDSON
What's that supposed to mean?

MCKINNEY
Don't give me that bullshit! I'm going to war. You get back in your limo and go back to your office.

McKinney storms out of the war room and the Marine goes with him. They continue this discussion in the hall.
MCKINNEY
(walking)
Who's attacking who?

MARINE
It seems to be a domestic attack.
It's the prototypes.

MCKINNEY
How many casualties?

MARINE
None confirmed at the moment.

MCKINNEY
Assemble every squadron we have available.

MARINE
What about the squads on special assignment?

MCKINNEY
Just send the one special ops team. All their support teams need to be in Times Square with us.

MARINE
So you want everyone--

MCKINNEY
Everyone! This is the last stand.
This is the OK Corral. This is the last stand right here.

McKinney pushes open a door that says "GX-9 Units: Security Clearance Required."

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - SAME TIME

There are police and media helicopters and vehicles everywhere. The robots are causing damage to buildings, vehicles and other property. They have not harmed any humans as per Adhara's orders.

Adhara and her team are observing and waiting for the arrival of McKinney's forces. As they are waiting for action, the SWAT team arrives.
JOHNSON
Looks like our queue to get involved.

ADHARA
Use non-lethal force.

Immediately, the robots begin subduing officers. Three SWAT officers go down on non-lethal shots from robots.

DRAXLER
I guess I should make the programming a bit more complex next time.

ADHARA
I'd say so.

JOHNSON
(laughing)
I don't know. I kinda like these guys.

CUT TO:

EXT. HEADQUARTERS - SAME TIME

Four Special Ops Marines are dressed in all black. They have black face paint smudged all over their faces. They are approaching the building from the rear kitchen entry. They are moving from dumpster to dumpster to avoid being spotted. They use hand signals to communicate.

The group converges slowly, clearing each inch of the exterior of the building. They finally reach the rear door that says "Deliveries only."

The soldier in the rear comes to the front by the door and plants a small explosive. The explosive blows the door open. The four of them slowly enter the building.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

As the Special Ops Marines enter the Kitchen, they raise their weapons and hear a cacophony of guns being loaded and cocked.

In front of them is a group of 20+ armed Marines.
JOSHUA
I'd say you're out numbered.

The four look frustrated.

PORTER
Throw down your weapons.

The soldiers throw down their weapons.

HALL
We are taking you into custody
until we clear up some things.
You'll be released.

Hall signals to his men to arrest them. The men are apprehended without incident and led away.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - SAME TIME

A helicarrier circles above the commotion and begins firing weapons immediately. Several of the robots are destroyed in the process. There are missiles and explosions everywhere.

ADHARA
Attack the helicarrier. Use all means necessary.

Jared looks at the robots begin firing on the helicarrier.

JARED
(smiling)
Don't get too used to this.

ADHARA
(smiling)
Don't give me a reason to use my robot army against you.

An explosion goes off just behind Adhara, knocking her to the ground. She rolls with the force naturally and catches herself on her feet.

She looks over her shoulder to see Jared engaged with some prototypes. It is impossible to tell which prototypes are McKinney's and which ones are Adhara's.
The battle intensifies. Weapons are being fired in every direction. Bullets are flying by Adhara, narrowly missing her. She returns fire at the robots she sees.

CUT TO:

Tiffany is struggling to fire her weapon. She is confused by the different robots that are around. She aims at one, then sees them firing at McKinney's helicarrier.

The helicarrier has now been struck and is smoking. The helicarrier lands roughly, but not fatally. The door pops open and McKinney walks out the door. There are a few other men in mech suits behind him.

MCKINNEY
(confidently)
Find and kill them all. Take no prisoners. Save nothing.

The other mechs move through the streets ready to fire at will. Tiffany raises her weapon and fires at one. She hits him, he stumbles back. The mech returns fire, hitting her in the legs. He fires a quick burst of gun fire, knocking off part of her arm unit.

Tiffany struggles to get to her feet. Her comm unit is flashing red, telling her that things are not in working condition. She tries to raise her left arm to fire, but she can't get there in time.

Just before she is shot fatally, the mech is shot and falls to the ground. She looks over to see that Draxler saved her. He helps her to her feet.

DRAXLER
Run diagnostics.

TIFFANY
(repeating)
Run diagnostics.

DRAXLER
It will automatically repair what needs to be fixed. We just have to keep you out of harms way.

They look around.

TIFFANY
Ok. Let's go.
Draxler carries Tiffany over one shoulder and helps her walk to safety to recover. As they round the corner, there are 15 robots waiting for them. They turn to aim.

Before they fire, Johnson grabs one of them from behind and throws him at a few of the other robots. In an instant, three of them are gone. He shoots another through the chest and it powers down slowly. The remaining robots begin firing at Johnson.

JOHNSON
(to Draxler)
Get her the hell out of here!

Tiffany and Draxler go into a storefront that has had all the windows busted out. They drag their way through the store and hide behind the checkout counter for a few moments.

Tiffany's comm unit tells her that repairs will be made in 1 minute.

COMM UNIT
1 minute remaining.

DRAXLER
Can you shut that thing up?

TIFFANY
I don't think anyone can hear us over the apocalypse.

They hear the sound of glass breaking under foot. A robot or mech is in the store with them. Draxler signals her to be quiet.

The tension is building. The two are visibly nervous about the intruder, hoping that they haven't been spotted. They hear the sound of glass under foot faintly. The intruder is leaving the store.

COMM UNIT
Repairs complete.

The footsteps stop. Tiffany and Draxler look at each other. Draxler counts silently.

DRAXLER
(mouthing)
Three - two - one.

On "one" they spring up and turn to face the intruder ready to fire. The mech is Johnson.
JOHNSON
(laughing)
You should see the look on your faces!

Just then, a mech suit Marine shoots a burst of fire into Johnson's back and hits him with a combat knife in the base of the skull.

Johnson slinks down in his mech suit, dead. He falls over. Tiffany is in shock.

Draxler opens fire and kills the mech suit with a rapid burst of fire and a small explosive.

They approach Johnson.

DRAXLER
Johnson! Johnson!

They are shaking him. He's dead.

Tiffany begins crying.

TIFFANY
No! He can't be dead. He's invincible.

DRAXLER
I'm afraid he's not.

TIFFANY
No!

DRAXLER
(to Adhara in Comm Unit)
I need a few robots over here now.

TIFFANY
What are they going to do?

DRAXLER
Get him out of here. No Marines get left behind. Breathe. He would want us to finish this.

Two robots enter the storefront. Tiffany draws her weapon ready to fire. She's frantic. Draxler holds up a hand and pushes her weapon down.
DRAXLER
(to the robots)
Take him to the helicarrier.

The robots get Johnson out of the mech suit and carry him away.

DRAXLER
(to Tiffany)
Now let's finish this. I need you to cover the store front.

TIFFANY
What are you doing? There's nothing here.

DRAXLER
I need this mech suit. I think I can get everything I need right here.

CUT TO:

Adhara and Jared are in a fire fight with several robots. They can't tell which ones are the good guys and which ones are the bad guys.

CUT TO:

McKinney is also taking down robots. He is now the only human left on his squad. He hasn't discovered that yet.

MCKINNEY
(into comm unit)
Blue team, check in.

McKinney blasts a prototype through a window of a store.

MCKINNEY
C'mon! Roll call!

McKinney turns and blasts another prototype through a light post.

MCKINNEY
I guess I'm on my own.

Adhara and Jared have separated again and have begun picking off prototypes that seem to be threatening.
ADHARA
(into comm unit)
Let us know how much longer you need.

JARED
(into comm unit)
I think we can hold them off for another minute or so.

Jared begins clearing an entire street single-handedly.

Adhara is clearing an adjacent street when she sees McKinney. She starts firing at him. He returns fire.

MCKINNEY
(yelling)
Is that you Adhara?

Adhara fires at him, narrowly missing his head.

MCKINNEY
(laughing)
Yeah, that's you. You know, I really am proud of you.

ADHARA
Shut up!

MCKINNEY
If you had just listened to me. If you were more reasonable. We could still be working together.

ADHARA
I will never work with a psychopath like you.

MCKINNEY
A psychopath? The Marines are the psychopaths. They want me to just keep killing everyone all over the world. I have a plan for peace.

ADHARA
A plan for peace? How is this peace? Keeping people living in fear?
MCKINNEY
You know, you can't make everyone happy. People don't know what's good for 'em anyway.

CUT TO:

Draxler is trying to program the robots. He has an auxillary cable running from his arm into the back of the mech suit of the dead Marine. There is a whirr of computer noises and there is code on his comm unit's display screen.

TIFFANY
How much longer is this going to take?

DRAXLER
I've almost got it.

There is a ding.

TIFFANY
What's that?

DRAXLER
The back door. I'm powering them down now.

TIFFANY
Oh my God, it's working.

CUT TO:

Jared is in the middle of fighting robots. As he pulls his weapon and turns to fire at a robot behind him, the robot's eyes go dark and it falls to the ground. He looks around to see that the other robots are falling. Some of the prototypes are unaffected.

JARED
(into comm unit)
Well, now we can tell which ones are on our side.

DRAXLER
(muffled)
Give me a minute. They're all about to be on our side.
JARED
(into comm unit)
Adhara, how are things over there?

CUT TO:

Adhara and McKinney are still firing shots at each other.

ADHARA
(into comm unit)
Just peachy.

CUT TO:

Draxler is finishing up the programming.

DRAXLER
That should do it.

He unplugs the cable and stands up.

Tiffany
That's it? It's over?

DRAXLER
Well, just about. There will be some loose ends to tie up.

CUT TO:

McKinney is laughing at Adhara's latest shot. Another shot whizzes by his head a bit too close.

MCKINNEY
(ducking)
Whoa!

Jared has arrived to help Adhara.

JARED
Give it up, McKinney! We've won!

MCKINNEY
You've won shit. I've got 3 more squads en route.

ADHARA
You sure about that?

JARED
The skies look pretty empty.
MCKINNEY
(not convinced)
They'll be here.

ADHARA
I sure hope so.

Adhara charges McKinney and flies through the air. She kicks him in the chest with both feet and jumps into a back flip. She lands flat footed as McKinney fires a rapid burst of gunfire at her feet.

The blast knocks her down. McKinney immediately springs to strike her. She rolls out of the way and comes up with guns drawn firing at him. She hits him twice in the arms.

McKinney's suit starts to leak.

MCKINNEY
(laughing)
Come on, Adhara. Let's settle this. Just you and me. Tell your little boyfriend to go away.

ADHARA
Fine by me. I just don't think he'll leave. He wants to make sure your dead just as much as I do.

MCKINNEY
Do we really have to kill each other?

ADHARA
You made that decision when you shot me in the chest?

MCKINNEY
(laughing)
Aww, did I break your heart?

ADHARA
Only literally. I only have to kill you so you won't kill me.

MCKINNEY
Let's just bury the hatchet. We can still fix this thing.
ADHARA
I think we both know we're way beyond that.

MCKINNEY
Is this because I killed your dad?

ADHARA
That's a pretty big part of it.

MCKINNEY
You always were such a daddy's girl.

ADHARA
Why don't you leave my family out of this?

MCKINNEY
Your dad's the one that made this personal. I just wanted to save the world.

McKinney fires at her, striking her in the arm. Adhara's suit is now leaking.

ADHARA
You wanted to control everyone by fear.

MCKINNEY
Control is control. If I eliminated all war and ensured world peace, how is that a bad thing?

ADHARA
Rule by fear never works. Have you every taken a history class?

MCKINNEY
A bunch of weak leaders that didn't know what they were doing. And they sure as shit didn't have a lethal army of robots.

Adhara and McKinney are now both leaking. Their mech suits are starting to malfunction. McKinney's suit is barely functioning.
ADHARA
Did you see how quickly my Marine just reprogrammed your entire army?

MCKINNEY
That's what this whole damn attack was about wasn't it?

ADHARA
I beat you at your own game.

MCKINNEY
That you did. I never expected you to become a terrorist.

ADHARA
I only did it to save the world. Right?

MCKINNEY
You are just like me.

ADHARA
No, I'm not.

MCKINNEY
Prove it.

McKinney powers down his mech suit and steps out.

MCKINNEY
You've got a choice. You can blow me away while you're in the safety of your suit, or you can get out and face me like a man.

After a moment of silence, Adhara powers down her suit.

JARED
Adhara no! You don't have to do this!

Adhara looks over at Jared as she steps out of the mech suit.

ADHARA
(to Jared first, then to McKinney)
It's fine. I know what I'm doing.
MCKINNEY
You still think one of us has to die?

Jared has now powered down his suit and exited. He is staying close by to monitor the fight. He wants to get involved, but he knows that Adhara must face McKinney on her own.

ADHARA
I don't think I have to die.

MCKINNEY
(laughing)
Oh, just me?

ADHARA
For the world to be a better place? Yes. You have to be dead.

McKinney draws a pistol from his leg and tries to fire at Adhara. As he reached for the pistol she already sprung up onto the balls of her feet and started charging him in a zigzag pattern.

McKinney fires at her, but misses to her left. She continues her run and shoulder charges through McKinney. She drills him into the ground and flips over him. She turns to face him again.

McKinney has lost his gun from the force of the strike. The two stand, staring at each other.

Adhara charges at him again. He parries to the left and catches her with a right hook, knocking her to the ground. He raises his boot to stomp on her but she rolls onto her back and catches his boot with her hands, pushing him up and away from her. McKinney stumbles back to catch his balance.

Adhara quickly gets to her feet. McKinney charges her this time, trying to land a bull punch. She sweeps his legs from underneath him and he crashes forward to the ground.

She rolls quickly on top of him and lands a flurry of punches. She picks up his head and slams it into the ground several times.

MCKINNEY
(laughing and girbling)
Kill me!
ADHARA
I will!

Adhara pulls her pistol and puts it against his head. She breathes a few times.

MCKINNEY
You having second thoughts?

ADHARA
Yeah. But not like you're thinking.

MCKINNEY
Oh I know! If you kill me, you are just like me!

Adhara stands up, still holding the gun.

ADHARA
I don't have to kill you.

MCKINNEY
You're gonna let me rot in a military prison for the rest of my god damn life?

ADHARA
No. I mean, I don't have to kill you.

MCKINNEY
You're not going to let someone else do it!

Adhara says nothing. She hands the gun to Jared and walks away.

Jared walks over to McKinney, and puts the gun in the center of his forehead.

JARED
It won't just be an eye this time.

MCKINNEY
You mother--

Jared fires.
Jared joins Adhara. The two embrace. Draxler and Tiffany join them in the center of Times Square. Robots begin picking up all the scraps of the other prototypes. They also begin taking the fallen Marines and their mechsuits. They start to clear the streets.

The team boards the helicarrier and the helicarrier departs. The other helicarriers are left behind for the prototypes to continue the clean up process that they just started.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

The nightly news is playing on the Televiewer.

FEMALE ANCHOR
The attacks in Washington DC and Times Square were carried out by militant cyber terrorists. It turns out that Mark Johnson was actually infiltrating the group from within. Let's get more on this story with

The television report fades into the background as Jared cleans some of Adhara's scrapes and cuts. He has a basin with some peroxide and a rag that he's using to clean her face.

ADHARA
Ow! Could you be more careful?

JARED
(playfully)
You know, you're pretty soft for a Marine.

ADHARA
(flirting)
Oh, shut up!

The door opens. Donaldson walks in. Adhara and Jared are both taken aback. Jared stands and salutes immediately. Adhara follows his lead reluctantly.

JARED
(saluting)
Hoo-rah, Sir!
Donaldson looks unimpressed. He sits down and motions at the chairs for them to sit, too. They look at each other awkwardly, then sit down.

DONALDSON
Let me introduce myself, Sgt. Bonnet.

ADHARA
You know me?

DONALDSON
(putting his hand out, they shake hands)
We all know you, Adhara. I just wish we'd known a bit more about what he was up to. I'm Master Sergeant Dave Donaldson.

ADHARA
(awkwardly tries to salute while still shaking his hand)
Sir, I don't know what to say.

DONALDSON
You don't have to say anything. I'm the one that should be doing the talking.

ADHARA
(stunned)
Yes, sir.

DONALDSON
This will all be buried. The Marines, the government, hell, the whole nation... we owe you and your team an inexpressible amount of gratitude.

ADHARA
Just doing what a good Marine does, sir.

DONALDSON
I'm deeply sorry for the loss of Corporal Johnson. He was a very good man and a damn fine Marine.
ADHARA
He was a good friend.

DONALDSON
I have no words that can make that better. What I can say is that your father's work is not dead. We are going to preserve his work. And we would like for you and Carter to stay on and run this thing.

ADHARA
I don't want to be in combat.

DONALDSON
This will be primarily for research and preservation. We don't expect you to do anymore combat at this point in your career.

ADHARA
Then I think I'll accept that offer, sir.

DONALDSON
(smiling)
You don't really have a choice, but I'm glad you're going to cooperate.

JARED
Sir, what are they doing with McKinney and his men?

DONALDSON
Well, most of them had no idea what he was doing, including myself. We intercepted his teams en route to Times Square. Once they were informed what was going on, they were shocked.

JARED
What about the others that were working with him directly?
DONALDSON
We believe we have them all. We're still investigating, but it looks like you killed most of them. You definitely saved us some time on the investigation, that's for sure.

JARED
You're welcome, sir.

DONALDSON
For now, you guys take your time recovering from these events. Things will work themselves out.

Donaldson stands to excuse himself.

ADHARA
Sir, did you know my father?

DONALDSON
I did.

ADHARA
Can you tell me about him?

DONALDSON
I worked with your father for years. I worked with McKinney for years.

ADHARA
Were they good men?

DONALDSON
Your father was a good man. McKinney I always wondered about until today. I knew he was rough around the edges, but I wasn't sure he was a complete waste of a person until today.

ADHARA
What about my father's weapons?
DONALDSON
We talked about that for a long
time. He was right. We needed to
keep these as mech suits. And we
are going to now. He always
wanted us to push to the next
level.

ADHARA
Space?

DONALDSON
(smiling and laughing)
Yeah. Mars actually.

Adhara and Jared look at each other.

JARED
You were right!

DONALDSON
Of course she was. He talked
about you all the time. He said
it was your idea to take them to
Mars.

ADHARA
Well, now we can try to do that.

DONALDSON
Best of luck to you both.

They both go to salute.

DONALDSON
Oh stop. It's me who should be
saluting you.

Donaldson exits, leaving the two of them there in a darkened
room. They look at each other. They embrace and share a deep
kiss.

FADE OUT.