

STARGAZERS:

The Phoenix Project

(Episode 1: Beginning Of)

by

Shoib Bin Rafiq

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

A star filled night sky with shooting stars looking over a city below.

SPEED UP TIME:

Dawn breaks and some hills in the distance come into view, overlooking a nice suburb.

ZOOM IN:

EXT. SUBURB - DAY

A young 9 years old African-American boy, DONOVAN, sits leaning against the wall next to a heavy wooden gate.

He quietly looks at a large moving company van pulling up in front of the house on the other side of the street.

The Caucasian family comes out to greet the movers. The father and his two sons are talking and laughing. The 12 years old daughter, ELIZA, looks at the boy.

Their eyes make contact and she moves away from her family and crosses the street to come over to him.

EXT. LUCAS HOUSE. FRONT GATE - DAY

The little girl stands in front of Donovan and her lips form such a sweet smile.

ELIZA
(Smiling)
Hey you.

DONOVAN
(Looks up at her
smiling)
Hey Eliza.
(Points to the van)
What's up?

ELIZA
(Sits down beside
Donovan)
My dad is getting transferred
back to England, so we're moving
back there.

DONOVAN
(Looks down at the
ground)
So, you're going for good then?

ELIZA
Until he gets transferred
somewhere else again, I guess.

DONOVAN
I guess. Where in England are you
guys going?

ELIZA
The GREAT London!

DONOVAN
(Chuckles)
You gonna stay at the GREAT
Windsor Castle?

ELIZA
(Laughs and nudges
Donovan)
No, the GREAT Buckingham Palace
of course!

Their laughter slowly dies out and they look at each other
with a creeping sadness.

DONOVAN
What about all your friends?
Aren't you gonna miss them?

ELIZA
(Looks into the
distance)
Of course I will. But I've got no
choice.

DONOVAN
(Looks down at his feet,
trying to hide his
face)
Will you miss me?

ELIZA
(Looks at him with a sad
smile)
What do you think?

DONOVAN
(Keeps looking down)
... .. I don't know.

ELIZA
(Rests her head on his
shoulder)
I will miss you the most.

DONOVAN
I will miss you too.

They stay quiet like that for few seconds until Eliza
breaks the silence.

ELIZA
Besides, I gotta get used to
moving around if I wanna become a
pilot.

DONOVAN
A pilot, that sounds cool! Flying
around like Superman!

ELIZA
More like Wonder Woman thank you!

DONOVAN
(Chuckles)
Yeah! Wonder Woman. My bad!

ELIZA
(Sits straight and looks
at his face)
What about you? What do you wanna
be?

DONOVAN
(Shrugs)
I don't know, but I don't wanna
be businessman like my dad.
(Pauses for a moment)
NEVER like my dad!

ELIZA
What kinda business is it?

DONOVAN
I don't know and I don't care! NO
ONE will call me crooked!

ELIZA
(Noticing his black eye)
What happened to your eye?

DONOVAN
(Raises hand to face
self-consciously)
I... walked into a door.

ELIZA

If you're not gonna tell me, it's ok, but don't lie.

DONOVAN

Ok. Will you send me a picture of you in the palace, or one with the queen?

ELIZA

I'll do better. I'll send you my address so we can write to each other.

DONOVAN

(Smiles and sits up, excited)

Yeah, I'd really like that!

From the background a male voice shouts, calling at Eliza. It was her oldest brother, JEFFERY.

The brothers are carrying boxes into the van. They are both pretty tall and physically fit.

JEFFERY

ELI, come and give us a hand please sis.

(Waves at them and smiles)

Hey Donovan.

CHRISTOPHER

Hey Donniboy, what up!?

DONOVAN

Hey Jeff, hey Chris.

CHRISTOPHER

(Starts to snicker)

Think your lazy bone girlfriend can carry a box?

JEFFERY

(Slaps his brother on the shoulder)

What's the matter with you? Stop being an ass!

CHRISTOPHER

WHAT? What'd I do? Just a joke! Chill!

ELIZA

Sorry, I've gotta go and help. You know Chris and Jeff. They won't shut up once they start.

DONOVAN

That's ok.

ELIZA

But I'll be back right after that
ok?

Donovan doesn't say anything and just nods. Eliza gets up and runs across the street while Donovan sits and watches.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM HOUSE. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Eliza runs straight for her brother Christopher, eyes focused, like a wolf ready to strike.

She punches him on the shoulder, clearly quite angry.

ELIZA

(Making a face)
You're a pig.

CHRISTOPHER

Ow! What's with the hitting!?
(Rubs his attacked
shoulder)
It was just a JOKE! What is up
with everyone!?

JEFFERY

Enough. C'mon Eli. The faster we
get this done. The faster you can
go.

CHRISTOPHER

Yeah, back to your boyfrie...
(Looks at Jeff giving a
stern look)
Awright! I'm quiet! I'm quiet!
Sheesh!

The siblings carry the boxes with nice teamwork.

JEFFERY

(Notices his sisters sad
face)
What's wrong sweetie?

ELIZA

Nothing.

JEFFERY

(Gives a soft smile)
Ok, you can go. We'll finish it
up.

ELIZA
 (Surprised look)
 REALLY?

CHRISTOPHER
 Yeah really! Scram! You're
 cramping our style!

ELIZA
 (Gives a big happy
 smile)
 OH THANK YOU THANK YOU!

Her words echo in the air as she runs like lightning.
 Wasting not a single moment to cross the street.

The brothers just look at each other and smile.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE. FRONT GATE - DAY

Donovan sees Eliza running back and he stands up with a
 smile.

DONOVAN
 That was quick.

ELIZA
 Yeah. They're almost done anyway.
 Don't need me.

DONOVAN
 I can't believe you're leaving.

ELIZA
 I know.

DONOVAN
 Oh wait. I have something for
 you.

He reaches into his pocket and takes out a small medal. He
 looks at it for a moment and then hands it to her.

ELIZA
 What is it?

DONOVAN
 Something so that you don't
 forget me.

Eliza just looks at the medal and a realization hits her.
 She runs back towards her house while shouting.

ELIZA
 Be right back. Just have to...

She doesn't even get to finish her sentence as she rushes past her father, ROBERT NOTTINGHAM, into the house.

INT. NOTTINGHAM HOUSE. HALLWAY - DAY

Mr. Nottingham moves out of the way of a speeding Eliza.

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM
Wow! Slow down kiddo!

The house is totally empty. Eliza runs up to her bedroom, dodging her mother, JENNIFER NOTTINGHAM, on the way.

JENNIFER NOTTINGHAM
Be careful Eli!

Christopher and Jefferey are standing there thinking which box to pick up next. Eliza runs through the gap between them and goes straight for her study table. She opens the drawers in frenzy like she is looking for something very valuable.

She finds the Royal Air force emblem on the second drawer. With a satisfied and relieved smile she runs back down.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM HOUSE. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Donovan is just standing there, a bit confused. He sees Eliza run out of the house and back towards him.

ELIZA
(She hands him the emblem)
HERE...! I totally forgot about this. I was planning to give this to you.

DONOVAN
For what!?

ELIZA
(A big smile)
So that you don't forget me.

DONOVAN
(Looks genuinely confused)
But I'll never forget you.

They both just stare at each other quietly. At this point it becomes pretty clear that these two care about each other a lot.

Donovan looks at the emblem again.

DONOVAN (CONT'D)
 (Closes his fist around
 it)
 It's very nice.

ELIZA
 (She puts on the medal)
 This is nice too.

EXT. NOTTINGHAM HOUSE. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Eliza's father comes out of the house. They have finished packing. He looks at her little daughter and can't help but feel a little bad.

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM
 (Shouts)
 Eliza. We have to go now
 sweetheart.

EXT. LUCAS HOUSE. FRONT GATE - DAY

Little Eliza turns to shout back a quick reply.

ELIZA
 COMING DAD.

DONOVAN
 Remember, you're gonna write to
 me.

ELIZA
 (Kisses him on the
 cheek)
 I know. Goodbye Ma...

DONOVAN
 (Cutting her off in mid
 sentence)
 No good-byes. Just, see you
 later.

ELIZA
 (Gives a sad smile)
 See you later then.

DONOVAN
 See you later... Lizzy.

Eliza slowly walks backward towards their car. Never taking her eyes off Donovan like if she does, he will disappear.

Donovan waves and watches her get into the van with Jeffrey, Christopher and the movers while her father and mother get into the car.

The engines in the vehicles roar up and they are off.

Little Donovan keeps his eyes on the cars until they are out of his view. He opens his fist to take look at the shiny emblem once more before putting it into his pocket.

He turns and opens the gate to go back into the house and disappears out of view.

PAN TO:

The moving van and the car are going away into the distance. As they go downhill they too move out of sight and a city comes into view far into the horizon.

ZOOM IN

EXT. CITY - AFTERNOON

A LEGEND appears: "16 YEARS LATER" transposed across the building walls.

We shift our attention from the buildings to the inner suburb street.

Police and plain cars converge on a building in the centre of the block. The place did not look like it housed any self respecting person.

EXT. SHABBY APARTMENT BUILDING - AFTERNOON

Agents deploy from the plain cars and surround the house. One Agent directs the others.

AGENT ROGERS

Wait for my command to go.
Remember, I want 'Slider' alive.

AGENT WALTHAM

Is he likely to be armed?

AGENT ROGERS

S.O.P. is assume he is. In reality, he doesn't like weapons.

AGENT PHILIP

That outta make our job easier then.

AGENT ROGERS

Do not under any circumstance underestimate this guy. The back up here is not for show.

(MORE)

AGENT ROGERS (CONT'D)

This guy is not those fat nerds you see sitting in front of the pc all day. In reality, he has taken on six armed Agents without much problem. So lose the cocky attitude and get sharp!

AGENT PHILIP

Roger boss.

Rogers signals them to move in. All of the law enforcement officials converge in on the building. The Agents go in while the police surround the building and block off any exit route.

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT BUILDING. GROUND FLOOR - AFTERNOON

Inside, the place was quite dark and very shabby. Rotten wood and broken wall was everywhere. Quietly but quickly they climb the stairs.

AGENT WALTHAM

(Whispers)

So what else do we know about this guy?

AGENT ROGERS

Slider has hacked into every secured Gov. Site he has tried. Talk on the street is that all the hackers rate him. His tag is 'Wraith'

AGENT PHILIP

(Visibly annoyed)

That's it? That's all the intel we got? The guy's online handle?

AGENT ROGERS

Listen, this GUY has been an untouchable GHOST till now. So how about we go in and meet him and find out some more?

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT BUILDING. 2ND FLOOR - AFTERNOON

One of the Agents with the group is looking at his signal tracker. The pointer motions towards a dirty and damaged apartment door and everyone readies their weapons.

View shifts to the door.

(POV) A HAND REACHES FORWARD AND GRABS THE KNOB, TURNING IT WHILE A LEG PUSHES THE DOOR OPEN.

INT. UNKNOWN APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

PIZZA DELIVERY GUY
 Pizza!...Got a pizza delivery!

A person is sitting in a chair in front of some monitor. He talks to the pizza guy without looking. His hand is moving what looks like a big coin of some sort over the fingers, once to the left then to the right. His face is not visible. Neither are any other parts of his body, other than the hand with the coin.

MAX
 Sorry. Didn't hear you buddy.
 (He motions towards a
 table at the back
 without turning)
 The money is right there. Keep
 the change.

PIZZA DELIVERY GUY
 Wow! Thanks dude!

The pizza delivery guy takes the money with satisfaction and leaves the room, closing the door behind him.

Each monitor is showing different footage. One shows the ground floor hallway, another the outside of the building.

Then, there is the one that is showing Agent Rogers and company kicking an apartment door open not finding anyone in the room except a table and on it, some files.

It is clear that Max a.k.a. Slider a.k.a. Wraith is not in that room but in another place. Agent Rogers is visibly pissed off while the others Agents just look confused.

ZOOM IN:

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

AGENT PHILIP
 (Holsters his gun)
 What the hell?

MAX
 (Through a speaker)
 Nice to see you're still after my
 back Agent Rogers. How's it
 hanging?

AGENT ROGERS
 (Looking around)
 Why don't you come out and we can
 talk about that?

MAX

Wow! Nice comeback! Hold on a minute, I almost wet myself laughing.

AGENT ROGERS

(Finally annoyed)

You're an ASS Max. What the hell is it this time?

MAX

That was not nice Reggie. You were NOT suppose to call me that... BUDDY!

AGENT PHILIP

(Whispers to Waltham)

Do these two know each other?

AGENT WALTHAM

(Tries to act cool)

Seems that way.

AGENT ROGERS

And YOU were suppose to give up this crap! You stopped what you... ..

(Pauses for a moment)

What WE set out to do. SENTINEL is gone, done for, over! You broke your word, BUDDY!

MAX

No I didn't Reggie. On the table is a folder. Go check it out.

Rogers holsters his gun and walks toward the table. He picks up one of the files in the folder and starts scanning through it.

MAX (CONT'D)

See? It's the leftover mess from the SENTINEL. This leads directly to two of our great presidential candidates. I never broke my word bro. After this it will be over.

AGENT ROGERS

Everything is here?

MAX

Everything! By the way, FYI, you can thank CIA for the info oh and Agent Philip is one of the SENTINEL goons.

Agent Phillips quickly goes for his holstered gun but a clicking sound of a semi automatic stops him on his track.

AGENT WALTHAM
Just try it dirt bag... please.

AGENT PHILIP
(Grinding his teeth)
This isn't over you punk, not by a long shot!

MAX
Oh it definitely is 'Philip', even by a long shot!
The file on him is there as well. Plus, I've made some copies just in case.

AGENT ROGERS
(Smiles)
Of course! Be good Max. Keep hoping I never catch you!

MAX
Good seeing you again Reggie and remember, you can't catch a wraith. See ya later.

INT. UNKNOWN APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Back in his room Max types something on his laptop and all the cameras in the other house short-circuit and burn. Max folds the laptop and puts it in his backpack along with his other gear.

He grabs his pizza and opens the door to walk out. As he closes the door, his face finally comes into light, revealing a handsome 25 years old African-American man, DONOVAN, the young boy all grown up.

Donovan as in Max, exits the building and walks up onto the main street. He looks at something and smiles.

EXT. SHABBY APARTMENT BUILDING - AFTERNOON

It is the building the FBI has just seized. It is on the other side of the street, just a few houses up.

Agent Rogers is looking through the files. He finds a couple of pen drives in an envelope with "backup copy for you" written on it. He gently puts the envelope in his pocket, completely unaware that Max is watching from across the street.

Max watches Agent Philip being put into one of the cars. He smiles and pats the emblem that Eliza gave him one last time. Then, he takes a bite off his pizza and walks away, disappearing into the crowd like a ghost.

Up in the clear blue sky there is a white trail of an air plane.

PAN TO:

EXT. R.A.F. AIRBASE - AFTERNOON

An F-35 comes in and lands vertically like a helicopter. Two more F-35s are parked beside it with pilots coming out already. The canopy opens up, the pilot climbs down from fighter and removes helmet.

A lovely 33 years old grown up ELIZA with short hair is revealed.

Eliza is joined by the other pilots who are obviously her wingmen. They are both males, one with blond hair and the other with black.

PATRICK GAIMAN

(Dark haired one)

What was wrong with you back then? Jeez, that was some insane hot dogging!

KAISER BENTLEY

(Blond haired one)

Heh, that wasn't style tovarisch. That's what we call pure skills!

ELIZA

Pure madness more like. Seriously Kaiser, you're part of the team now, stop with all this lone top gun Maverick crap.

KAISER BENTLEY

But it's Maverick who also got the job done Captain, not that A-hole Ice-man.

PATRICK GAIMAN

Yeah, but Maverick also got Goose killed.

ELIZA

He's got you there... 'Maverick'!

KAISER BENTLEY
 (Murmurs to himself)
 It was Ice-man who got Goose
 killed.

They are walking towards their barrack when on the way an
 ENGINEER meets them.

ENGINEER
 Afternoon Captain.

ELIZA
 Afternoon chief, what's up?

ENGINEER
 The boss wants you in his office.

ELIZA
 (She keeps walking to
 the right with her
 wingmen)
 Thanks Tommy.

ENGINEER
 The boss said now Captain.

KAISER BENTLEY
 Wow, sounds serious.

ELIZA
 (Turns left and waves
 bye)
 Oh well, when the General
 beckons, the Captain must obey.
 See you later gentlemen.

KAISER & PATRICK
 (Salutes)
 Catch you later Captain.

INT. BASE COMMANDER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

There's a knock on the door. GENERAL WALLINGFORD doesn't
 look up.

MAJOR GENERAL WALLINGFORD
 Enter.

ELIZA
 (Closes the door behind
 her)
 Captain Eliza Nottingham
 reporting as ordered sir.

MAJOR GENERAL WALLINGFORD
At ease Captain. You have new orders.

ELIZA
New orders sir? Already?

MAJOR GENERAL WALLINGFORD
The air ministry has seconded you for special duty. It's all hush hush stuff of course. They will brief you fully on the assignment.

(He hands her two envelopes)

Your orders are in the red envelope, for your eyes only. The white one has your promotion to the rank of Major. Congratulations Major. Dismissed.

ELIZA
Thank you sir.
(Stands to attention and turns to leave)

MAJOR GENERAL WALLINGFORD
Eliza.

ELIZA
(Turns back to face the general)
Yes sir?

MAJOR GENERAL WALLINGFORD
It IS your choice if you take the assignment. It is a unique opportunity no matter what you choose to do. I wish you the best of luck.

ELIZA
Thank you, sir.

MAJOR GENERAL WALLINGFORD
(Smirks)
Don't let me down Major.
DISMISSED.

Eliza turns and leaves the room, closing the door behind her. She walks out of the building and heads for the officer's quarters.

INT. OFFICER'S QUARTERS - AFTERNOON

She walks down the corridor with room doors on the sides. She goes into hers and then goes straight for the phone.

INT. ELIZA'S QUARTER - AFTERNOON

She dials some numbers and waits as it rings. There's a click sound as someone picks up the phone on the other end.

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM
Hello, little Sheriff.

ELIZA
Hey Daddy. Wait...
(Confused)
How did you know it was me?

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM
Well, I do have higher clearance
than you sweetie.

ELIZA
You finally got that caller I.D.
installed didn't you?

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM
Your mum did always say you were
the smartest one in the family.
Our smart little sheriff of
Nottingham!

ELIZA
Its Major little sheriff of
Nottingham now thank you!

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM
Congratulations lass! I'm proud
of you! Of course your mum and
the boys will be too.

ELIZA
I've been seconded to the
Ministry. I don't even know what
for though.

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM
Are you still flying or is it a
desk job?

ELIZA
I don't know yet daddy but if I
can't fly I won't take the job, I
couldn't stand it behind a desk.

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM

Sweetie, your mum and I knew that since you were five and let's not forget you running around with your arms out, trying to fly.

ELIZA

Don't leave out Chris getting me addicted to all those plane cartoons like Macross. It had that female heroine who was the pilot as well.

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM

How can I forget? The sounds from those drove your mum crazy.

ELIZA

I have to run now daddy, it was really nice talking to you! I miss you all. Tell mum I called and said I love her.

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM

Will do sweetie and remember. If you don't like the offer, don't take it. It is your choice.

ELIZA

Ok dad. I'll call again when I get settled.

ROBERT NOTTINGHAM

Take care love.

ELIZA

Love you too dad.

INT. ELIZA'S QUARTER - EVENING

Eliza is packing her things and then suddenly comes across the medal Max had given her so long ago. She looks at it for a moment and with a sad smile puts it in her pocket very carefully like a precious stone.

As the sun sets the light rays fall on her through the window, she turns to look outside. Through the window an apartment complex is seen far away.

ZOOM IN:

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX. STAIRWAY - EVENING

A somewhat dirty window in the hallway looks out into the city.

The main door at the ground floor opens and Max walks in with his backpack and the pizza box. He walks up the stairs very quietly.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX. 3RD FLOOR HALLWAY - EVENING

In the hallway an old lady sees him and waves. A couple can be heard arguing inside another apartment.

Another elderly lady, MRS. FRANK, comes out of her apartment, ready to leave. She notices Max and smiles.

MRS. FRANK

Hello Donovan. How are you today?

MAX

Doing pretty okay Mrs. Frank. How are you? You're looking younger everyday.

MRS. FRANK

(Blushes and smiles some more)

Oh you! You young men are all such teases. If only Mr. Frank noticed it from time to time.

MAX

I'm sure he does. Just too manly to admit it.

MRS. FRANK

Maybe, I'm going out for shopping now. You take care now.

MAX

(Waves goodbye)

You too Mrs. Frank.

EXT. MAX'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Max stops in front of the wooden door numbered 306 and looks at the door for a few seconds. His eyes focus on the corner of his door where a small piece of paper is sticking out.

He bends down and picks up the small paper and then pulls out a very thin lead stick from another corner of the door. The stick is so thin and dark that it was perfectly camouflaged with the door. No one would see it there or even look for it unless they knew what they are looking for.

Max relaxes, opens the door and enters his place of residence.

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - EVENING

He turns on the lights. The unbroken lead stick showed no one has entered his place. He is safe. There is a note on the floor though.

It reads,

"HEY DONOVAN, THIS IS MELISSA. MY PC ACTING UP AGAIN, COULD YOU HELP PLEASE! xoxo"

Max puts the note in his pocket and looks at his place.

It was a 1 bedroom establishment with an ensued bathroom. The living / dining room have an attached kitchen and utilities room, all very neat and tidy.

The main attractions are his furniture and electrical equipment which are of very high standards. Some of the computer equipment against the wall look custom made.

All in all, it is a very nice and clean place.

Max looks around the room and turns on the TV and his PC.

JIM J. JOHNSON

(Male anchorman in his
mid 40s)

... .. of you who are just joining us. Presidential Candidate Senator Walter P. Gunnerson has been linked to a web of deceit and intrigue that has included the deaths of at least two Electoral Commissioners in the state of Florida. The whispers of election fixing have grown into a full blown scandal after an FBI raid on a house in LA.

(Touches his earpiece)

We are now crossing to a news conference being held by the FBI. Our reporter on the scene is Katie Watson. Hi Katie, what's the latest?

KATIE WATSON

(Lady Reporter in her
mid 30s)

Hi Jim, well a storm is brewing over the scandal involving presidential candidate Senator Walter P. Gunnerson.

(MORE)

KATIE WATSON (CONT'D)

I have it on good authority that the FBI will confirm that the Senator is being investigated by them in relation to the two deaths in Florida of the Electoral Commissioners

(She touches her earpiece)

We are about to hear from Special Agent Waltham. I have spoken to some of the people inside the senator's campaign office and they all have confirmed that these events have permanently ended the Senator's chance at the White House.

(Touches the earpiece again)

I'm sorry Jim but it seems that Agent Waltham is about to begin.

She turns to the podium and a nervous Agent Waltham walks up towards the mike. Agent Rogers is standing at the background, clearly not wanting to be in the limelight.

Max takes a bite off his pizza and smiles.

MAX

(Whispers to himself)

Good ol' Reggie, still not a fan of fame I see.

AGENT WALTHAM

(Very nervous, sweating and adjusting his tie)

Uhhh... I'm Special Waltham... uhm... I mean... Special Agent Martin Waltham.

Max starts laughing and in the background Rogers is shaking his head.

MAX

Oh ya Martin, you're special all right!

Waltham looks over at Rogers who nods his head.

AGENT WALTHAM

(Composes himself and starts speaking.)

Following several leads today in LA and Seattle we have uncovered evidence that Senator Walter P. Gunnerson was involved in the plot to influence the result of the upcoming election.

(MORE)

AGENT WALTHAM (CONT'D)

As you know two members of the Florida Electoral Commission have been killed in the last three weeks. As a direct result of today's raids and the evidence recovered at the scene, Senator Gunnerson has been formally arrested and charged in relation to these matters. That is all I can say at this time due to the legal procedures that we must follow.

Agent Waltham turns and leaves the podium as swarms of reporters start yelling questions in his direction. Waltham ignores them and walks away.

KATIE WATSON

Shocking discoveries, back to you Jim.

EXT. FBI NEWS CONFERENCE - EVENING

Agent Waltham walks from the podium towards Agent Rogers with lots of cameras flashing in the background and reporters screaming to ask questions.

AGENT WALTHAM

Whew! Thank god it's over. I can shoot a suspect point blank without twitching but that was seriously nerve wrecking.

AGENT ROGERS

You did ok. At least you didn't choke,
(Rogers finally smiles)
Special Waltham!

AGENT WALTHAM

(Visibly annoyed)
God! This is gonna be the new joke about me isn't it?

AGENT ROGERS

Pretty much! So you better get used to it.
(Looks at his watch)
Ok, I gotta go now, important work at Washington. Have to hand over Philip to them.

AGENT WALTHAM

Uhm, don't mind me asking but I know it's bigger than what we told the public. So, what the heck is actually going on?

AGENT ROGERS

(Sighs heavily)

The end of a very long road.
Don't worry about it. Philip and
Gunnerson were the last two.

AGENT WALTHAM

(Looks directly at
Rogers)

Last two of WHAT? This Sentinel
thing you talked with Slider
about?

Agent Rogers just looks and doesn't say anything. He opens
the door to his car and gets in.

AGENT WALTHAM (CONT'D)

What the heck is Sentinel?

AGENT ROGERS

Something that took Slider and me
a very long time to destroy.

(Puts on his sun glass)

You take care Martin.

Waltham watches as Rogers drives away with Philip in the
back seat, incapacitated and knocked out.

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Max turns the TV off with a smile on his face. He closes
the pizza box and goes to his table.

He takes out the laptop he has been carrying before. He
plugs it in, does some typing and leaves it to do its work.

He feels the note in his pocket and then leaves his place.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX. 3RD FLOOR HALLWAY - EVENING

One of the other apartment door is open and Max can now see
the couple fighting. The rough looking man looks at Max
with anger in his eyes.

ANGRY MAN

Watcha lookin' at Monday!?

Max doesn't say anything and just looks away.

ANGRY MAN (CONT'D)

Ya, you better keep walkin' away!
Freakin' Mondays! They're
everywhere!

One of the girls from another apartment looks at Max with adoring eyes and smiles as he walks by her.

EXT. MELISSA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Max stops in front of a door numbered, 302. He knocks and a somewhat thin but very pretty blonde, MELISSA opens the door. She gives him the same adoring smile as the other ladies.

MELISSA
Hi Donovan!

MAX
(Smiles back)
Hey Melissa. I got your note.

MELISSA
Thanks. Come in.

Max walks in with that soft smile on his face.

INT. MELISSA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

He looks around the nicely decorated apartment. His eyes fall on the computer on the table to the side.

MAX
What has been the problem?

MELISSA
Oh, this and that... my exams are coming up and I'm totally lost without it.

MAX
Uh huh.

MELISSA
Sooo... why did that guy call you a Monday?

MAX
(Turns on the computers
and looks through its
systems)
'Cause he can get into trouble
for calling me a Nigger.

MELISSA
Wow! Ok. But why Monday!? How
does that work?

MAX
(Gives a big sad smile)
'Cause nobody likes Mondays.

Melissa's smile disappears. She watches as Max works to fix her damaged computer.

The computer monitor starts to flicker.

The flicker clears to show a soldier running from somethin.

ZOOM IN:

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN AFRICA - MIDDAY

A LEGEND appears on the sand behind the running soldier's footsteps: "**FEW HOURS EARLIER**".

Sound of explosions make it quite clear this is a heavy battlefield. The soldier running has a name tag on the armored uniform of his that says, Maj. JACK FLANNIGAN.

His face is that of a battle hardened veteran. A veteran who is determined not to let whoever that is behind him catch him. He carries his rifle in both hands while doing his dash, clearly dashing for his life.

The entire area is like a desert with broken buildings and structures spread around. Out of the sand clouds charges out a pick up truck with a mounted heavy machine gun, shooting. More accurately, shooting at Jack.

JACK FLANNIGAN
This is so not my day!

Jack is running in zigzag motion to avoid getting shot which from his expression, conveyed that it is particularly unpleasant.

He is doing a pretty good job but the truck is also gaining on him. As the distance between them is shrinking, so is his luck of not getting shot.

The area suddenly went up like a ramp and then immediately downhill. Jack runs and jumps. He rolls and goes down. He immediately gets up without missing a beat or even out of breath and starts running again.

Few seconds later the pick up truck appears, jumping into the air like a stunt truck.

Suddenly, a rocket zips past Jack, arcs and hits the truck while it is in mid air. The explosion throws the truck off sideways.

The burning car slams onto the sandy ground and keeps rolling and flipping until it loses its momentum.

Jack stops to catch his breath and take a look at his chasing foe, now defeated and ablaze.

The gunner's body appears from under the car. He tries to pull himself out of the burning wreckage but luck is not on his side today. The car explodes, releasing black patrol burning smoke into the air.

He smiles and looks at the direction from where the rocket was fired.

Another soldier wearing camouflaged uniform stands up smiling. He is a big Asian man with a name tag, Lt. STEVEN CHOW.

Jack shows him a thumbs up.

JACK FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)

You bastard! You sure took your sweet time!

STEVEN CHOW

Sorry boss! Couldn't see anything 'cause of that damn sand. Took a lil' while to get a beat on the target.

JACK FLANNIGAN

(Still panting)

Next time, I'm kicking your ass! No excuse.

STEVEN CHOW

(Shows thumbs up)

Yes boss!

JACK FLANNIGAN

(Composing himself)

Where are the rest?

STEVEN CHOW

(Smiles big)

They are watching the fireworks. Mother and her team are really putting the foot down on these fraggers.

Jack turns around to look. In the far background three F-35s bomb the entire area flat in spectacular fiery explosions. Then, they turn and fly off over the soldiers at high speed.

They all look up and then turn to see the fighters disappear in to the distance within seconds.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 (Talks into his
 earpiece)
 Thanks for the support mother!
 Would've been baked without you.

MOTHER
 (Female voice, Eliza's)
 More like fried extra crispy
 Cowboy! You boys take care now.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 Will do Mother. If we do ever
 meet up, the drinks are on me.

MOTHER
 You got a deal Cowboy. Mother
 Out.

Jack turns and sees his four other comrades appearing, all
 wearing camouflaged uniforms.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 Is the area clean?

A Caucasian male with name tag, Capt. DENIM WACHOWSKY,
 looking the same build as Jack steps forward.

DENIM WACHOWSKY
 Completely boss.

Jack notices that one of the soldiers is limping. He is
 smaller in size than the others with a medic's insignia on
 his shoulder and a name tag that says, Lt. GUIELMO
 RODRIGUEZ.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 Guielmo? What the heck! When did
 you get shot?

GUIELMO RODRIGUEZ
 I didn't boss, I... uhhh... kinda
 fell!

JACK FLANNIGAN
 (Stunned)
 AGAIN!?

GUIELMO RODRIGUEZ
 (Looks down ashamed)

DENIM WACHOWSKY
 You're the only guy I know who
 causes more injury to himself
 than the enemy!

JACK FLANNIGAN
 (Speaks into the radio)
 Control, Cowboy here.

CONTROL
 (A female voice)
 Go Cowboy.

Jack turns to talk in peace while in the background some of the soldiers start to playfully bicker among each other.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 Students have been neutralized.
 Send in the limo. Oh ya, we have
 a posse with a ...
 (Pauses for a little)
 ... with a scratch.

CONTROL
 Roger that Cowboy. You limo is
 coming up on your six. ETA to
 EVAC is five minutes.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 Roger, what's the in-flight movie
 tonight?

LIMO
 Cowboy this is Limo on approach.
 Activate strobe.

Jack motions towards the soldiers and one of them lights up a flashing strobe.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 Limo, we are lit up.

LIMO
 Roger Cowboy. I have you in sight
 and the movie is a western.

A big chopper descends on their position. The soldiers all pile in for pick up.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 Control we are inbound. ETA, 30
 minutes.

CONTROL
 Cowboy, there are some suits
 waiting for you here. It seems
 you are going up in the world.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 (Goes wide eyed)
 Aww crap!
 (MORE)

JACK FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)
 If it's the IRS, tell them I fell
 out of the bird on the way back
 will ya.

CONTROL
 Will do.

JACK FLANNIGAN
 Cowboy out.

The helicopter lifts off the ground with its rotating
 blades moving the sand around everywhere.

TRANSFORM TO:

INT. MELISSA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

The CPU fan is rotating at high speed moving dust
 everywhere. Max closes the CPU casing and put the screws
 back in.

He gets up and looks at a smiling Melissa.

MAX
 It's fine now. Just had a lotta
 dust in the system. Plus some of
 your power cables were loose.

MELISSA
 Thanks!
 (Gives him a hug)
 You're a lifesaver.

Max smiles but he is clearly uncomfortable. He tries to hug
 back but luckily Melissa let's go right then.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
 Sooo, what are you doing tonight?

MAX
 Uhm, nothing. Why?

MELISSA
 'Cause I have to thank you for
 all the times you've helped me.

MAX
 It really is ok. You don't have
 to.

MELISSA
 Aw, c'mon Donovan. Besides, I
 want to. Plus you said it
 yourself that you're not doing
 anything. Won't it be nice to
 have dinner with someone?

Max thinks for a moment and puts his hand into his pockets. His fingers feel the emblem. He smiles to himself and relaxes.

MAX

I really can't Melissa. I have some stuff I gotta finish up as well and like your assignments, they can't wait either.

Melissa stares at him with a mixed look of frustration and giving up. Max knew that look too well.

He slowly lets himself out of the apartment and goes to his place to pick up his backpack with the laptop. He sets the traps on his door again, starts walking downstairs and then out of the building.

INT. CYBER CAFE - NIGHT

Max is sitting in a cubicle with a clear view of the outside and inside of the place. He is working on his customized laptop, connected to the cyber-cafe computer, with one eye always on the door.

He takes a sip from his drink while the cyber-cafe computer is working away at something. On the laptop a video feed pops up. It shows the view inside of some kind of control room. There is a logo "THE PHOENIX PROJECT" on one side.

The cyber-cafe computer starts giving an alert beep. Max reacts instantly, prompting to look up to the window.

He sees a family SUV pull up outside the cafe. A small group of people, three males and one female, get out of the car smiling and being very friendly with each other. To any normal person they would appear to be a group of friends out in the town, hanging out and having fun.

Max looks at them carefully for a second.

MAX

(Murmurs to himself)
You guys are not feds!

He quickly shuts down both the computers and repacks his laptop into his pack. It is clearly the time for an exit.

He gets up and walks straight into the toilet while the four very friendly individuals walk into the Cyber-cafe.

He throws his bag out of the window. He then quickly takes off his jacket, turns it around and wears it. From black it is now red. He pulls down his pants a little bit.

When he exits the toilet he looked like one of those 'Gangsta' Rappers'.

He goes to his cubicle and turns right when the four are trying to get a look around. Max picks up the pizza box and starts to walk out. He takes out one slice and bites on it as he passes the four individuals. The four just glance at him once and look away, searching for a person they are not going to find.

Max walks out of the cafe and doesn't look back.

EXT. CYBER CAFE. BACK - NIGHT

He heads straight for the alley to get his bag.

A homeless man is sniffing around his bag. The man notices Max and immediately gets tense from seeing a young black man in baggy clothes.

MAX
Yo, wassup?

He takes out a \$20 note and gives it to the man.

MAX (CONT'D)
Thanks for lookin' after my bag
homes.

HOMELESS MAN
(Grabs the money)
You're welcome.

Max takes the bag and walks straight on into the darkness.

EXT. CYBER CAFE. FRONT - NIGHT

The four individuals get out of the cafe and start speaking to someone.

AGENT 1
(Caucasian male in late
30s)
He got away!

VOICE ON LINE
Did you get a look at him?

AGENT 1
(Sighs)
I... I think so. I don't know.
I'm not sure.

VOICE ON LINE

Four of you and not a single one of you even got a look at this person?

AGENT 2

(Hispanic female in early 30s)

It's not that sir. It's just...

VOICE ON LINE

It's just WHAT Harridan?

AGENT 2

It's just that... no one there even remotely fit the profile.

VOICE ON LINE

Just shows how much profiling someone has dampened your skills.

(Pauses for a little)

Get back to base. He will obviously try again and this time we'll be ready.

They don't say anything else and just get into their SUV and leave.

Max slowly appears slightly from the shadows to see the SUV leave and disappear into it again.

INT. AIRBASE BAR - NIGHT

Eliza walks in wearing casual clothes. Patrick and Kaiser are already there talking and drinking.

KAISER BENTLEY

(Without looking)

Well, well captain. See you have decided to make it here after all.

ELIZA

(A bit surprised)

Wait... how did you know... I was...?

KAISER BENTLEY

(Smiles and turns)

'Cause a good pilot always have eyes on the back of his head.

ELIZA

(Pulls up a sit and sits with them)

I'm sure. Now the truth.

KAISER BENTLEY

(Chuckling)

Your reflection bounced off the mirror there and fell on Patrick's watch.

PATRICK GAIMAN

(Looks at his watch, stunned)

Are you serious?!

ELIZA

(Softly laughs)

You are one hyper observant guy you know that Kaiser?

KAISER BENTLEY

That I do ma'am. So what did the boss want you for?

ELIZA

(Takes sip of her drink)

I got promoted!

(Takes a big gulp)

And a special assignment.

PATRICK GAIMAN

(Still looking at his watch)

Wow! That's awesome cap! When are you leaving?

KAISER BENTLEY

(Annoyed at Patrick's antics)

Will you stop that?

PATRICK GAIMAN

(Immediately sits straight)

What!? Was just looking...

ELIZA

The assignment is... well... out of this world.

(She pauses and looks at the two to let her words sink in)

And that's why I'd want you two with me.

KAISER BENTLEY

(Narrows his eyebrows)

That great?

ELIZA
 (Takes another sip)
 Yup. It's an amazing assignment.

PATRICK GAIMAN
 Why can't you take the others?

ELIZA
 'Cause I can only take two with
 me and you two are it.
 (Puts the empty glass
 down and gets up)
 You two both have the night to
 think about it 'cause we're
 shipping off in the afternoon
 tomorrow.

She pats them both on the back and leaves with a smile.
 Patrick and Kaiser look at each other with confused looks.

KAISER BENTLEY
 (Softly whispers)
 Out of this world eh?

PATRICK GAIMAN
 (Looking wide eyed)
 Maybe, we are going to outer
 space! Maybe they've setup like a
 moon colony! Or like a covert
 Mars mission that...

KAISER BENTLEY
 (Cuts him off and speaks
 sarcastically)
 Needs fighter pilots to protect
 the Mars base from the angry
 Martians!

PATRICK GAIMAN
 You think!?

KAISER BENTLEY
 (Slaps Patrick's head)
 NO!

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX. STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Max runs up the stairs but without making any sound. He
 slows down once he reaches the hallway to his apartment.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX. 3RD FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

That annoying angry man is still there and smoking. He
 looks at Max and smiles.

ANGRY MAN
Hey Monday! What up?

Max gives a cold stern look.

MAX
Bite me! Junkie! No don't. You'll just give me rabies like those crap eating street mutts you love to screw so much.

ANGRY MAN
(Looking stunned)
What didja say?

MAX
What? You retarded and deaf? Maybe you outta lay off screwing those poor dogs.

ANGRY MAN
(Out of words)
I'll see you later.

Max just opens his room and goes inside.

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

He plugs in an USB thumb-drive in his laptop and then activates something from there. The computer makes few making beeping, letting Max know that it is working.

Max yawns and gets into sleeping boxers. His body is very athletic without being overly muscular.

He yawns again, clearly very sleepy. The young man lyes down on his bed and just stares at the ceiling for a while.

There are flashes of moving images on the ceiling. In the beginning they are not very clear. They are moving away too fast. The first clear image is that of very young Eliza smiling at Max. Then, few more flashes.

After that, an old African-American man's face becomes clear. He has features similar to Max's. The man looks very angry, very angry at Max. The next few flashes shows the man in different times and situations in Max's life. He is either hitting or shouting. That man is Max's father.

We see images of an older African-American lady, Max's mother, with sad face. She looks so sad and vulnerable.

Then, there is flash of a young African-American girl, Max's sister. A lot of these images are about her, playing and cuddling with Max, who is obviously older.

The flashing images start to get jumbled up again, showing Agent Rogers pointing a gun, shooting. Max tied up on a chair. These pictures are Max's memories. Memories of him at different stages in his life.

The final image is of Eliza. She hugs him and the ceiling slowly becomes clear again. The darkness fades into light as night has passed into day.

The bed is empty once again. Max walks out of bathroom, fully dressed. He picks up his backpack and leaves the apartment.

EXT. MAX'S APARTMENT - MORNING

He carefully places all his traps on the door again. Once he is satisfied that they are properly in place, he turns and leaves.

EXT. CLASSIFIED AIRBASE. AIRFIELD - MIDDAY

Eliza is standing in an airfield in front a giant military cargo plane that is boarding supplies.

Patrick and Kaiser walk towards her with their duffel bags on their shoulders.

ELIZA

(Without looking)

I knew I could count on you guys.

PATRICK GAIMAN

Watched your wing for so many years. Not about to stop now.

KAISER BENTLEY

(Smiles and puts down his bag)

Guess the eyes on the back of your head have finally opened up.

ELIZA

(Smiles and turns)

Which let me see both your shadows on the hull!

They hear some sounds and see a squad of soldiers walking in with their duffel bags.

PATRICK GAIMAN

Wow. G.I.Joes! Are they coming with us?

KAISER BENTLEY
 (Gives Patrick an
 annoyed look)
 I don't know. I didn't ask them.

ELIZA
 (Shrugs)
 Who knows maybe they got assigned
 to the same place as us.

KAISER BENTLEY
 Yeah, about that! Where exactly
 are we assigned?
 (Points to Patrick)
 Agent Moulder here was thinking
 we are going to Mars and fight
 the Martians!

ELIZA
 Aww c'mon! Everyone knows there
 are no such things as Martians.
 (Turns to face them)
 It's the Bigfoot that you gotta
 worry about!

KAISER BENTLEY
 (Narrows his eyes)
 That REALLY didn't reveal
 anything useful!

ELIZA
 (Smiles)
 All in good times boys.

Patrick and Kaiser both give each other a look, a look of
 curiosity and confusion mixed as one.

PAN TO:

The squad of soldiers are standing at the back of the
 plane. It is Jack and his team. They put their bags in the
 plane and look at Eliza and her team.

DENIM WACHOWSKY
 Looks like we got some flyers
 going with us as well.

RUSSELL
 Sure hope so!
 (Looks at the big plane)
 No nut job here can fly this
 elephant! So, that statement was
 kinda redundant and pointless!

DENIM WACHOWSKY
 So is saying redundant and
 pointless in the same sentence!

GUIELMO RODRIGUEZ

Maybe they are going where we are going?

STEVEN CHOW

OY! You don't get to talk after what you put us through yesterday!

GUIELMO RODRIGUEZ

Oh c'mon esse`! You still mad about that?

JACK FLANNIGAN

We are ALL still mad about that!

GUIELMO RODRIGUEZ

I said I'm sorry!

BENJAMIN THOMPSON

(Looks at the pilots intently for a while)

We can ask them inside the plane.

RUSSELL

And the big guy talks. Let me guess that's your speaking quota of the day, am I right!?

BENJAMIN THOMPSON

(With calm unemotional face)

Yes.

STEVEN CHOW

(Slaps Ben in the shoulder playfully)

Bro, you are awesome!

JACK FLANNIGAN

Okay, enough. Let's all just get in the plane.

They all board the plane with their gears and watch as Eliza and her team get on board as well.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - DAY

A subway train honks and gets ready to leave. Max jumps onto the platform. He runs and jumps into the carriage just in the nick of time as the door closes.

A lot of the passengers stare at him, trying to figure out whether he is crazy or just annoying. Max doesn't pay any attention to the inquisitive look and stay standing.

He looks out the window, watching the sceneries change at high speed.

EXT. MALL - DAY

Max walks into the mall while looking at his surroundings very carefully. He pauses for a moment to take in all the details outside the mall and then enters.

INT. MALL - DAY

Max stands on the elevator and takes in all the interior details of the mall. Upon reaching the third floor he walks straight into a coin operated Cyber-cafe located there.

INT. MALL. CYBER CAFE - DAY

As usual, he plugs his laptop onto the cyber-cafe computer and then uses that to hack away.

Few minutes later a window pops up appears with the title "PROJECT HORIZON" and then after few keystrokes the window changes to "PHOENIX PROJECT".

MAX

(Murmurs to himself)

Let's see what's the big deal about this.

He start going through the project's manifests which shows personnel and funding is poured into this from more than twelve countries.

MAX (CONT'D)

What the heck!?!... What is this?

He does few more of his hacking stuff and a warning bar appears showing that he's being tracked.

MAX (CONT'D)

What the frag? AGAIN?... who the heck designed this!?

His answer comes after few keystrokes. The name of the security system creator flashes on the screen, showing "DONOVAN MAXWELL LUCAS".

MAX (CONT'D)

(Eyes widen in disbelief)

WHAAA? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDDIN ME!

His laptop starts beeping. He looks at it to see footage from the mall's security camera. Those four people from last night are back but today they are dressed as feds.

Max watches them talking to some of the security personnel, clearly they are tired of all the hide and sneak. They want Max and that was that.

Max quickly copies the information on the Phoenix and Horizon project onto his laptop and then disconnects them.

He puts on his backpack and walks out of the cyber-cafe.

INT. MALL. 2ND FLOOD - DAY

One of the security guards see him and as if realizing something important starts shouting at him.

SECURITY GUARD
YOU! STOP!

MAX
(Seriously annoyed)
DAMMIT!

He starts running and boy, he could run. All the security guards start coming after him as well.

Max runs through the people, dodging and sidestepping. He looks at the windows and around to see the four Agents that are after him. They are nowhere to be seen.

MAX (CONT'D)
Not good!

Suddenly, a security guard surprises Max, coming from the side corridor. Max jumps sideways, towards a shop window and then uses his foot to push himself to the opposite side again, jumping over the guard.

As he lands, he notices one of the Agents aiming a gun at him. It was not a normal gun.

AGENT 1
(Shouts)
EVERYBODY DOWN!

Everyone ducks except Max. He runs even faster and suddenly bends down and slides forward using his sneakers. The Agent fires a dart that goes over him, missing him by just few inches.

Max doesn't even seem to notice it. He pushes his legs out as he reaches the railing and stops himself. Then, jumps onto the railing and with another jump he was on the floor above with everyone looking at in awe.

INT. MALL. 3RD FLOOR - DAY

Without even stopping for a breath, he starts running in the opposite direction but the Agents are not stupid either. They have him cornered. Another Agent is right in front of him. Max smiles and runs straight for the Agent.

AGENT 2

STOP!

Max does not. The Agent takes aim and fires. Max reacts like lightning and moves slightly sideways to dodge the shots.

AGENT 2 (CONT'D)

(Stunned)

What the!?! No way!?!

He shoots again. This time Max ducks and slides. He slides through between the Agent's legs. Max pulls on one leg as he stands up, making the Agent fall. The poor man's face hits the cold concrete floor hard and flat, almost knocking him out.

Max runs towards the escalator and brings his backpack forward. He jumps forward and lands on his chest, in the gap between the two escalators. He slides down, riding on his backpack. The previous Agent has already come here, trying to flank him.

Max flips to a stand up position, while still sliding down. The Agent shoots and Max jumps. He jumps at the Agent like he is about to attack. Then before the Agent can react, Max puts both of his hands on the Agent's head. He uses the head to balance and push himself forward.

The force was too much for the Agent. He falls face down onto the escalator, hitting it real hard. Max on the other hand lands on his feet, few feet away. Security guards come from both directions, trying to flank him. He would either have to fight them or find another solution.

Max keep running forward, towards a metal railing. As he reaches the railing, he jumps. As soon as he lands on the thick metallic bar he pushes his legs down to jump again making it look like he bounced over the railing.

Underneath, there is no solid ground till the ground floor. But falling was not Max's plan. His last jump was sideways again. This put him in hand's reach of the railing on the second floor.

INT. MALL. 2ND FLOOD - DAY

He grabs them and with superb agility pulls himself onto solid ground.

He takes a moment to catch his breath and starts again. A little bit far ahead, on the other side is a highly decorated window.

Max starts speeding up and goes straight for that. He sees another Agents' reflection on a shop window. The Agent is on the opposite side, taking aim. Max quickly brings his backpack up and holds it in his hand like a shield. The Agent fires. With almost in human reflexes Max reacts, brining his backpack to block the darts.

His running gets faster. Another Agent suddenly appears from nowhere, right in front of Max. With an annoyed look Max takes out the dart stuck on his backpack and throws it at the Agent, while running.

The Agent gets hit on the neck and drops. Max puts the backpack on his back again. The way is clear now. The window is coming closer. It is now or never.

He runs in with full speed and at very the last minute, jumps.

Max brings his hands forwards, covering his face as he breaks through the expensive window and falls onto a curved sun-shade.

EXT. MALL. SUNSHADE - DAY

Max falls and starts sliding down. He quickly starts running, making sure not to lose his momentum. Instead, he uses his momentum to speed up some more. Then, at the last moment, where sunshade ends, he gives his final jump.

In a momentous feat of extreme dexterity, Max crosses half the busy street in his jump, landing right on top of a traffic light.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

He holds onto the traffic light for his dear life with both his arms and legs, all the while panting and gasping for air.

Max looks back and sees two of the Agents standing on the window, looking at him, anger and disbelief in their eyes.

He quickly snaps a picture of them with his cell phone. Then, shows them the middle finger and gets off the traffic light and runs away.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX. 3RD FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

Max walks up the stairs in the hurry. He is clearly in a bad mood. In the hallway he meets the angry guy again, this time holding a beer can. Clearly he's been drinking.

ANGRY MAN
(Chuckles at Max)
Yo... Monda...

Before he can finish, Max hits him on the throat. The guy chokes. Max grabs the guy's hand holding the beer and slams it in his face. The guy loses his balance and Max gives him a very hard punch to the gullet, making the guy fall into his apartment, stunned and hurt.

MAX
(Walks away)
So not in the mood today!

EXT. MAX'S APARTMENT - DAY

He reaches his apartment and checks to see if the usual security measures have not been tampered with. With a sigh of relief he opens the door and goes in.

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - DAY

The lights are off. Max looks through the spy hole to make sure everything is clear one last time. He turns on the lights and turns around to see a middle aged man with a gun sitting at his table.

STRANGER WITH GUN
Good evening Maxwell, or would you prefer Slider?

MAX
(Stays silent for a while)
... .. Slider is not my handle.

STRANGER WITH GUN
Of course. It's Wraith right?
(Motions towards a chair)
Please sit we need to talk.

Max sits, looking around the room. There is no one else other than him and the stranger.

They are both sitting face to face with one of Max's carefully bought coffee table between them.

STRANGER WITH GUN (CONT'D)

We have been following your career with interest for a while now. You have seen the Phoenix data on your equipment. No mean feat I must say, along with the skills you showed by evading the team just now, you seem an ideal candidate. So I have a proposal for you.

The man smiles and before Max can digest the information, the man shoots. It was darts again.

Max reacts instantly, moving his hand in extremely quick motion to deflect the dart, almost superhuman. The dart goes sideways and gets stuck on the wall.

Max stands up and realizes his whole body is feeling wobbly. He collapses and as his eyes start losing focus, he notices the second gun the stranger is holding, under the table. Then he notices a dart stuck on his thigh.

MAX

(Closes eyes)

DAMMIT!

INT. CLASSIFIED AREA - UNKNOWN

Max awakes to find himself in a jail cell, lying on a bed. He is still groggy but manages sits up. Next to the bed is a glass of water and a note which reads,

"Drink water it helps. Trust me I know".

Max drinks the water.

MAX

(Talks to himself)

Trust him. Right, says the guy who shot me!

He stands up and heads for door. It's not locked. Max opens it and sees two soldiers standing guard. One picks up a phone.

GUARD 1

He's up ... Yes sir.

(Looks at Max and motions)

Come with us sir.

INT. CLASSIFIED AREA. HALLWAY

MAX
(Follows the guard)
Where are we going?

GUARD 1
I don't know sir.

MAX
(Rubbing his neck)
How can you not know? You work here AND you're the one who's taking me!

GUARD 1
We were just told to guard your cell sir.
(Looks at Max)
Besides you have higher clearance than us.

MAX
(Genuinely confused and surprised)
I have clearance!?

Max is led to a door at the end of the hall. The guard knocks, a green light comes on and the guard opens the door. Max slowly walks in.

INT. GENERAL SANDER'S OFFICE - UNKNOWN

A timber panelled office is behind the door. There are bookshelves on three sides around a dark timber desk. The other wall is glass but opaque. The man who "shot" him is behind the desk. Two other men are behind him. The name plate on the desk read "Gen. BENJAMIN SANDERS".

SANDERS
Please sit.

MAX
General eh? You must have been given some serious crap when you were a colonel huh?!

SANDERS
(Laughs)
I see you're fully awake. Good. As I said before, I have a proposal for you.

MAX

Oh man! You're gonna shoot me again!? Please don't!

SANDERS

(Smiles)

Let's take a walk.

He stands and guides Max towards the glass wall which goes clear. Max is genuinely surprised as he sees the giant room below. There is a light shining on a bluish platform in the centre of the room.

INT. PLATFORM ROOM - UNKNOWN

They exit the office and move towards the platform.

SANDERS

This place is secure Max, more secure than any other building in the world. We need your computer skills to assist us with the Phoenix Project. What you have seen by hacking has been carefully guided by us. To be honest very little guidance but you had help. What I need to know is, are you happy just hacking or would you like a real challenge for your abilities.

MAX

(Stays silent again for a while)

... ..

SANDERS

Would you like a job that's out of this world Maxwell?

They walk up onto the platform.

SANDERS (CONT'D)

Fire it up.

A person flips a switch. There's a flash of light and a jerking movement. The light fades instantly as Max looks up, the scenery has changed.

INT. UNKNOWN PLATFORM ROOM

Within an instant, he is somewhere else. Max looks around and with a shock realizes; this is the place he saw on his monitor.

He gets off the platform and scans the place and then, one scene makes his mouth open wide.

It is a glass window and in it he can see space outside and a little further away, our beautiful blue... Earth.

FADE OUT.

MAX'S VOICE

Wow!