

The Memory Thief New Version

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FADE IN

EXT. EARTH - LA MER DE LA MUERTA - NIGHT

A little red Hovervette, a flying replica of a 1969 convertible Corvette, glides across the surface of the turbulent water, dodging monstrous waves as it creates a wake in its trail. Loud electro-house beats resonate from it, echoing in the darkness.

INT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

ODISKO JONES(24), a stylish woman with a tight, manicured afro, striking standout features, and a story behind her eyes, pilots the Hovervette with mastery and grace.

Beside her, in the passenger seat, sits the car's operating system, HOLLI(20s), the holographic light interface. She's a stunning quantum-computing AI with a body made of Hard-Lite technology that produces solid holograms indistinguishable from reality.

HOLLI

Odisko: my sensors are picking up a structure of some kind directly in front of us.

Odisko turns on the car's floodlights and illuminates the partially protruding head and arm of Lady Liberty, still holding her torch, its flame long since extinguished.

ODISKO

It's hard to believe there's a whole world under all this.
(beat)
Billions washed out to sea.

HOLLI

They don't call it La Mer De La Muerta for nothing.

ODISKO

Time to see if it works. Initiate the ghost drive.

Holli presses a button on her console. The car begins to hum and vibrate.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

Take us through.

Holli looks concerned.

HOLLI

If this fails, we will solidify
inside the statue.

ODISKO

Appa built it.

EXT. EARTH - LA MER DE LA MUERTA - NIGHT

The Hovervette creeps toward the statue's torch and passes through its copper flame, momentarily illuminating it.

INT. HALO PLAZA - PARKADE - DAY

TAFFY(30), a frazzled-looking woman with messy hair and pants sporting a fresh stain, walks through the multi-level parkade filled with thousands of flying pods. She drags her son, DEVAUN(9), a hyper, freckled boy, overwhelmed by the opulence surrounding him.

Taffy walks quickly with a worried look in her eyes. Every few seconds, she spins around, acting as if there is someone behind her, but each time she looks behind her, no one's there.

Devaun chews gum and unsuccessfully tries to blow a bubble, unaware of his mother's panicked state.

Suddenly, something brushes the hair off her shoulder, which sends her over the edge. Her grip on Devaun's hand tightens as she starts running for her vehicle.

Devaun can barely keep up.

Taffy finds her pod and quickly loads her packages in the back.

Devaun bounces around with his first bubble between his lips. He tries to get his mother's attention but can't speak because of the bubble.

Taffy calls out to Devaun from behind the pod.

TAFFY

Let's get in the car, sweetness.

(beat)

I really want to get going.

There's no answer. Taffy finishes loading the pod and pops her head out to investigate Devaun's sudden silence. Terror fills Taffy when she realizes he's gone.

INT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

A light illuminates and sounds an alert on the communications console. Holli opens the console, and Devaun's image pops up with the word REWARD written below it.

Odisko glances over to the image.

ODISKO

Is it go time?

HOLLI

Devaun Beanish, age nine, was reported missing by his mother.

ODISKO

And the bounty?

HOLLI

Does it matter?

ODISKO

You know it doesn't, but I won't turn down a reward.

(beat)

Do you have any idea what it cost to make you? Quantum-computing holographic AIs don't come cheap.

EXT. EARTH - LA MER DE LA MUERTA - NIGHT

The Hovervette playfully dances around the once iconic figure as it ascends back into the clouds. Then, in the distance, a glow-no, a dome shining like a beacon in the night.

The debris from the raging storm deflects off the electromagnetic dome.

The Hovervette, still in ghost mode, passes through the dome with ease.

EXT. HALO CITY - SKY - DAY

Entering Halo City is a stark juxtaposition from La Mer De La Muerta. The inside of the protective energy dome acts as a massive holographic projector that creates perpetually perfect skies.

The orange and purple hues of the setting sun play host to a backdrop of a sea of mile-high towers and a jungle of 3D holographic billboards, all intertwined with a maze of interconnected skyways teeming with millions of flying pods.

The Hovervette flies past a giant floating billboard with the face of Halo Corps CEO ARCO RYLIE IV, known to be a prodigious genius in his thirties, that reads: WELCOME TO HALO CITY.

EXT. HALO TOWER - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

REGAN RYLIE(19), codenamed MIRAGE, a frustrated-looking young man wearing a militaristic, pressed uniform, stands in front of the ostentatious Halo Tower next to a two-hundred-foot-tall holographic statue of Arco Rylie IV. The glow from the setting sun casts a halo-like aura around the statue.

Mirage paces back and forth with a sour look on his face, constantly checking the time.

A few hundred feet away, the air begins to ripple like water, and then, from nowhere, an instant relocating molecular atomizer (IRMA) appears.

A door opens in the side of the egg-shaped pod and folds down to become a ramp. Out steps FADE(30), a seasoned Halo Corps operative wearing the stench of the night before. He sees Mirage waiting and pastes a huge fake smile on his face.

Fade approaches Mirage and extends his hand.

FADE

Regan, right? I'm Fade.

Mirage declines the offer of friendship and stares Fade down instead.

MIRAGE/REGAN

I've been waiting here for nearly an hour; let's not make a habit of this.

Fade retracts his hand and stares back at Mirage with a raised brow.

FADE

Wo, say what? Hey kid! I know you're Rylie's kid, but that doesn't mean you can be a little shit on your first day.

Fade heads for the entrance to the tower.

Mirage stands in his way.

Fade closes the gap; they're face to face.

FADE (CONT'D)

Kid, what's your fucking deal?
 (beat)
 Move before I move you.

Mirage wears his arrogance with pride. He takes a step back.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Glad we're getting this out of the way. First, my name is not Kid, it's Regan, but you will address me as Mirage.

Fade rolls his eyes.

FADE

Cute codename.

Mirage continues.

MIRAGE/REGAN

And second, I don't take orders from you. Not because of who my father is, but because of this-

Mirage squints his eyes as they begin to glow with a crimson aura.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN SKY - DAY

Fade and Mirage appear miles into the sky. They free-fall through the air.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Still, think my codename is cute?

FADE

Okay, Okay, I'm sorry; please make it stop.

Fade continues to fall; with the ground fast approaching, he covers his face with his hands.

MIRAGE/REGAN

What's my name bitch?

FADE

Mirage! It's Mirage!

MIRAGE/REGAN
Remember it.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. HALO TOWER - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

The red glow in Mirage's eyes dissipates and ends the illusion.

Fade lays on his stomach, afraid to move. He stands and wipes away his tears.

Fade looks at Mirage with slumped shoulders and submissive eyes.

FADE
Please don't ever do that again.

Mirage smirks and steps aside.

MIRAGE/REGAN
Just remember, I can leave you
there if I want.
(beat)
Now, lead the way.

Fade leads Mirage into the tower.

INT. HALO CHILDREN'S CENTER - ATOMIZER BOOTH - DAY

In a small booth about the size of an elevator, a beam of light fills the space. Moments later, Fade and Mirage materialize inside it.

INT. HALO CHILDREN'S CENTER - RECEPTION - DAY

Fade and Mirage step out of the atomizer booth into the foyer of the children's center. It's an all-white reception area, very sterile and quiet, with a long corridor with several private waiting rooms branching off of it.

NURSE NELL AUGUSTINE(60), a stalker grey-haired woman with soulless eyes, wearing a starched and pressed nurse's uniform, stands from behind her desk to greet them.

NURSE NELL
I wasn't sure if you were still
coming.
(beat)
You must be the new kid.

Nurse Nell extends her hand.

NURSE NELL (CONT'D)
I'm Nurse Augustine, but Nell is
fine.

Mirage looks down at her hand but doesn't reciprocate.

Nurse Nell lowers her hand and turns to Fade with a familiar smile.

NURSE NELL (CONT'D)
What happened to your partner? What
was her name?

Mirage answers for Fade.

MIRAGE/REGAN
Pheremone, and she's dead.

Nurse Nell gasps.

NURSE NELL
Oh no! What hap-

Mirage cuts her off.

MIRAGE/REGAN
So we're kind of in a hurry?

Nurse Nell dismissively sits back down.

NURSE NELL
Well then, I shall leave you to it.
Waiting room one.

INT. HALO CHILDREN'S CENTER - CORRIDOR - DAY

Fade and Mirage leave Nurse Nell sitting at her desk, walk down the bright reflective hall, and enter the exam room.

INT. HALO CHILDREN'S CENTER - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Mirage and Fade walk into the exam room to meet waiting fathers, OSCAR(45), a well-put-together man with perfect hair and a polished-looking outfit, and his husband DERWIN(35), the polar opposite, with longer hair and mismatched clothes.

Their twin daughters, ASHA and BAILEY(8), one with pigtails, the other with ringlet curls, sit on the floor across from one another and have a staring contest.

Oscar jumps up from the sofa as soon as they enter the room.

OSCAR
We've been sitting here for over an
hour!

Derwin takes Oscar's hand and pulls him down to his seat.

DERWIN
Sweetheart, sit down!

Oscar pulls his hand free and jumps back to his feet.

OSCAR
I'm sorry if I seem aggressive.
Well, just look.

Oscar points to the girls.

DERWIN
Okay, girls, show the nice men your
magic hands.

The girls start playing patty cake and singing a rhyme. Each time their hands clap, they make bright, colorful bursts of light that shimmer like glitter as they disperse in the air.

Mirage looks at Fade with a raised eyebrow, then turns to the dads.

MIRAGE/REGAN
That's amazing.
(beat)
Let me guess: you use the pigtails
to tell them apart?

DERWIN
They're almost nine, and I still
mix them up. It doesn't help that
they like to trick us, either.

Oscar looks annoyed at the casualness of the conversation.

OSCAR
I'm glad you all think it's cute;
our children make sparkles! Hell,
I love glitter as much as the next
man, but this isn't magical
glitter. It's a biological
manifestation coming from our
children! How do you know it's not
radioactive or toxic or-

Derwin pulls Oscar to his seat again.

Fade walks over to both dads, grabs a hand from each of them, and stops the rant mid-sentence.

Fade closes his eyes, and when he opens them, they emanate a green glow.

Oscar and Derwin's heads jolt back as they gasp in unison.

Seconds later, Fade releases their hands, and his eyes return to normal.

Oscar and Derwin sit motionless, expressionless, with a glazed-over stare in their eyes.

Mirage has a confused look on his face.

MIRAGE/REGAN

That's it? What did you do?

Asha and Bailey see their fathers looking like zombies and rush over to them.

Asha shakes Derwin.

ASHA

Daddy Derwin?

Bailey tries to get Oscar's attention.

BAILEY

Papa Oscar?

Bailey looks to Fade.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

What's wrong with them?

The girls burst into tears and clasp hands.

Asha stares Fade down.

ASHA

What did you do to our dads?

They begin to radiate searing light from their entire bodies and lift a foot off the ground.

Fade and Mirage recoil, blinded.

Mirage stumbles to keep his balance.

Fade paws in the air, looking for the girls.

FADE

I can't get to them, do your thing.

MIRAGE/REGAN

I need to see them.

Fade covers his eyes, takes out his sonic blaster, a small pistol-shaped device, and fires into the air. He hits a wall and blows a three-foot hole clean through it.

The force of the explosion startles the girls, which causes them to lose focus, collapsing their mini sunburst.

As soon as the light dissipates, Mirage opens his eyes. He rubs them to clear his vision, then flexes his power. The glow in his eyes is more intense than usual.

Instantly, the twins' demeanors change, and they run over and hug Fade.

Fade looks to Mirage with a question on his tongue.

MIRAGE/REGAN (CONT'D)

They think we're their parents.

Mirage takes them by the hand and walks toward the door.

Fade opens the door of the waiting room and holds it for Mirage.

Mirage takes a remorseful look back at Derwin and Oscar, vacant in the eyes, still sitting on the couch.

MIRAGE/REGAN (CONT'D)

What about them?

FADE

They'll come around, eventually;
they just won't remember ever
having children.

(beat)

To them, it will be like this never
happened.

They exit the room.

EXT. HALO TOWER - FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Mirage and Fade exit Halo Tower and are greeted by the warm radiance of a full moon. They lead the twins toward the IRMA.

Mirage's wrist cuff vibrates, and he answers the call. A miniature hologram of Arco Rylie VI appears above Mirage's hand.

ARCO RYLIE VI
Regan, my boy. I mean, Mirage!
How's your first day?

MIRAGE/REGAN
Fine, Sir, we have the assets, and
we're on our way back to The
Orbitat to deliver them to Mother.

Arco's expression turns serious.

ARCO RYLIE VI
After you do that, I need the two
of you to head back to the planet.

Arco shakes his head.

ARCO RYLIE VI (CONT'D)
To Dead Vegas, to be more specific.
(beat)
Arny Hundy, one of our ex-
operatives who we found indulges
in--dark proclivities, has taken an
asset that I would like you to
retrieve.

Fade chimes into the conversation.

FADE
And what about Arny?

ARCO RYLIE VI
I leave that to your discretion.

MIRAGE/REGAN
Understood, Sir, Mirage out.

Mirage ends the call.

They reach the IRMA and load the kids into it, then join them inside. A few seconds later, it emits a hum as it lifts off the ground, then disappears in a blink.

EXT. SCRAPLAND - CENTER OF MAZE - NIGHT

A large clearing in the middle of an old junkyard, surrounded by a maze of twenty-foot-high walls comprised of old pods, garbage, and building debris.

Arny sits by a raging fire and stokes the coals with a stick while he stares at Devaun with a nefarious look in his eyes.

Devaun cowers and shivers.

Arny approaches Devaun.

Devaun squirms and tries to recoil.

Arny lies Devaun on the ground and unties his feet.

Arny looms over top of Devaun, salivating with a lustful appetite.

When Devaun puts his hands in front of him to thwart Arny's advances, a bolt of energy shoots out of his palms and knocks Arny down.

Devaun gets to his feet and starts to run.

Arny stands and catches Devaun.

Arny carries Devaun over to the fire and throws him to the ground.

Devaun curls in on himself. He raises his hands again, but nothing happens.

ARNY

Fine, if you don't want to play, I
guess we can make dinner.

Arny reaches into his pocket, produces a mini-laser, and activates it.

Devaun screams.

INT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

The parade of 3D billboards comes alive in the night sky. Their twinkling and strobing blur past the windows of the Hovervette.

Holli pulls up a map of the city on the Hovervette's holographic display. She zooms in on a small blinking dot.

HOLLI

His GPS just went dark. He's in
Dead Vegas.
(beat)
It's time for AMNESIA.

Odisko shudders as a chill runs down her spine.

Odisko takes her hands off of the flight controls.

Odisko activates the holo emitter in her wrist cuff, and it projects a holographic disguise onto her. Suddenly, she's AMNESIA, a femme fatale with a bushy, purple iridescent afro, a black metallic catsuit, a cat's eye mask, and, of course, biker boots.

AMNESIA

You know it.

(beat)

Okay, Holli, set a course for Dead Vegas, and let's haul ass.

Holli's eyes glow white when she interfaces with the Hovervette.

HOLLI

Plotting a course. We will arrive in six minutes and twenty-two seconds.

The city's congested chaos blurs out the windows as Holli swoops and swerves through the madness with calculated precision.

The cityscape grows more sparse the further into the city they fly until they approach a dark, desolate district. An old, derelict sign reads: Welcome to Neo-Vegas, but the word Neo has been covered over with the word Dead.

EXT. DEAD VEGAS - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The abandoned district, shrouded in perpetual darkness, was once a city of sin and excess when the city was first constructed.

The Hovervette flies down the apocalyptic-looking street. Barrels filled with flaming garbage light the desolate blackness and dilapidated buildings.

They pass one street that still has streetlights from hacking the central energy core.

INT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

Amnesia watches the scene from her window and cringes when she sees two filthy vagrants, covered in open sores, spear a German Shepard-sized rat through the head and cheer victoriously.

AMNESIA

I forgot how--rustic this place is.

Holli flies further into the forgotten wasteland and comes to rest at the entrance to an old junkyard called Scrapland.

HOLLI

This is where the signal went dark.

AMNESIA

This is good. I don't want them to hear us coming.

Amnesia exits the car.

Amnesia activates the holo-emitter in her wrist cuff; moments later, Holli materializes outside the Hovervette.

EXT. SCRAPLAND - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

They approach the old, rusted gate with the lock busted off. It opens with an eerie squeak. They enter the junkyard, a maze comprised of twenty-foot-high rubbish walls that block out what little light there is.

Holli lights their path with beams of light from her glowing eyes.

The sound of vermin scattering echoes all around them.

HOLLI

I've got a thermal reading.

Holli leads Amnesia into the maze.

EXT. SCRAPLAND - MAZE - NIGHT

Amnesia and Holli prowl through the maze as stealthy as cats.

Holli spots an IRMA in the distance.

Amnesia sniffs the air and covers her nose.

AMNESIA

What the hell is that smell?

HOLLI

You don't want to know.

EXT. SCRAPLAND - INNER MAZE - NIGHT

Amnesia and Holli reach the center of the maze. They stand outside the entrance and hide behind the rubbish wall, watching Fade and Mirage interrogate Army.

AMNESIA

Who the hell are they?

(beat)

Can you zoom in and get a closer look?

Holli assesses the scene with her enhanced vision.

HOLLI

They're Halo Corps.

AMNESIA

What the hell are they doing here?

(beat)

We can't let them get the kid.

Amnesia and Holli charge onto the scene like forces of nature.

Fade sees the vixens running toward them and points his blaster at them.

Holli shoots it out of his hand with a blast of concentrated light from her eyes.

Fade shouts out in pain.

FADE

Fuck! You almost blew my hand off!

Holli shouts back.

HOLLI

Next time, I will.

Holli encroaches on Fade, ready to attack.

Amnesia dematerializes her gloves to expose her bare hands as she moves closer to the fire pit.

Amnesia gets close enough to see the roasting leg and gags.

AMNESIA

Geezus fuck! What the fucking fuck?

HOLLI

Told you you didn't want to know.

Then, Amnesia sees Arny's face illuminated by the flames. Her eyes widen.

AMNESIA

It's you!

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. HALO BOTANICAL GARDEN - DAY - 10-YEARS-AGO

Halo Botanical Garden, an oasis among the madness. The pristine paradise, a fusion of nature and Hard-Lite constructs seamlessly blended together. Holographic trees and beds of colorful flowers line the walking paths that weave through the splendor.

YOUNG ODISKO(14), a tall, lanky girl still adjusting to her recent growth spurt, enters the park holding the hand of her little brother, eight-year-old HAJI. A mischievous rascal with spiked micro-dreads, an infectious smile, and an angelic giggle.

KARMA(50), a patient woman with kind eyes, wearing a hijab and flowing green sari, takes a seat on a bench and reads her book, projected from her wrist cuff.

Haji sees a butterfly and pulls away from Young Odisko to chase after it. He follows it to a flower bed. Before he captures it, the butterfly floats away on a passing breeze.

Haji picks a bright pink virtual daisy. Another daisy reappears in its spot. He smells the flower.

HAJI

Do you think this is what real flowers smelled like?

Young Odisko shrugs her shoulders.

YOUNG ODISKO

I doubt if anybody knows that. I think they were all long gone before they built the city.

Haji hands the daisy to Young Odisko.

HAJI

Tag, you're it.

Haji takes off like a bolt of lightning.

Karma looks up from her reading.

KARMA

Don't run off too far. Stay where I
can see you.

Young Odisko acknowledges her mother with a wave.

Young Odisko chases after him, running at half-speed to let
him think he's winning.

Finally, Young Odisko catches up to her brother and gently
tackles him to the plush, green grass. They roll around and
giggle.

Haji stands up.

HAJI

Spin me, Oddy?

Young Odisko stands and takes Haji's hand. She begins to
helicopter-spin him in a circle. His legs lift off the
ground.

Haji squeals with joy as the world around him blurs into
finger paint with discernible shapes.

HAJI (CONT'D)

Faster, faster!

As they spin, they don't notice the purple light start to
build between their hands. Before either of them has time to
react, the energy explodes in a massive shock wave and sends
the two of them flying backward.

Young Odisko lands several feet away and crashes to the
ground.

Haji gets blown into the virtual fountain.

Karma gets up, in shock, and hurries over to her children,
who have run a fair distance from her.

Young Odisko gets up and shakes off her sore backside, and
runs to save Haji.

Karma shouts to them.

KARMA

What happened?

Young Odisko lifts her brother out of the fountain, still dry
because the virtual water isn't wet.

Young Odisko hugs him and checks him for injury.

YOUNG ODISKO
Are you okay Haji?

HAJI
Did we do that?

Haji reaches for a pendant around his neck.

HAJI (CONT'D)
MY BOBBI BEAR!

Tears begin to stream down his cheeks.

YOUNG ODISKO
Don't cry Haji, I'll get it for
you.

Young Odisko bends herself over the edge of the fountain
while her feet kick wildly in the air.

From nowhere, YOUNG ARNY(40), looking slimmer and healthy,
appears and lets out a burst of air from holding his breath
and grabs Haji.

Karma sprints toward her children.

Haji screams for Young Odisko.

Young Odisko stands triumphantly with the pendant. She turns
around to see Young Arny holding Haji.

Karma charges at Young Arny and grabs his arm to try and free
Haji from his grip.

KARMA
LET HIM GO!

Karma's no match for Young Arny, who easily throws her to the
ground.

Young Arny covers Haji's face with an ether-soaked rag, and
Haji goes limp. A moment later, Young Arny takes a deep
breath and holds it in, then vanishes in a blink.

Karma looks around and screams for help.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. SCRAPLAND - CENTER OF MAZE - NIGHT

Amnesia charges toward Arny with furious rage, but Fade and
Mirage block her path.

As soon as Fade and Mirage turn their attention to Amnesia, Army takes a deep breath, holds it in, and vanishes.

AMNESIA

Way to go, you let him get away.

Mirage looks over his shoulder.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Ah, god dammit Fade, you were supposed to watch him.

AMNESIA

Look, Kid, we're here for the boy, so just--

Mirage cuts Amnesia off.

MIRAGE/REGAN

I don't know who you're supposed to be. Don't get me wrong, love, love, love, the get up, but the child is coming with us.

Mirage's eyes turn crimson as he flexes his power and emits a pulse of energy that hits Amnesia, which momentarily stuns her.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. OLD SALEM - NIGHT

When the disorientation clears, Amnesia finds herself in old-world Salem, tied to a pyre like a witch.

Mirage stands beside her so he can taunt her.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Hope you like burning -- forever!

(beat)

And my name is Mirage, don't forget it.

Smoke billows up as the flames engulf the pyre. In seconds, Amnesia's surrounded by an inferno.

Mirage gets a puzzled look on his face.

MIRAGE/REGAN (CONT'D)

Why aren't you screaming?

(beat)

You should be screaming.

With the slightest effort in her eyes, Amnesia flexes her power. She extends her purple aura around her body and breaks free from the illusion.

SLAM CUT TO:

EXT. SCRAPLAND - CENTER OF MAZE - NIGHT

Amnesia gets her bearings and sees Holli ready to take down Fade. She shouts over to her.

AMNESIA

Forget that tool; we're here for Devaun.

Mirage charges at Amnesia.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Screw the psychic shit. I'm just going to kick your ass.

Amnesia takes a fighting stance. When Mirage gets close enough, Amnesia lands a single punch to his face. When they connect, there's an explosion of white light that sends everyone flying backward.

Holli recovers first and rushes to Amnesia's side.

HOLLI

Are you injured? I've scanned your vitals; nothing is broken.

Fade's out cold.

Mirage stirs and moans as he tries to catch his breath. As he stands, holding his side in extreme pain.

Mirage sees the blaster that Holli shot out of Fade's hand on the ground next to him and picks it up.

Mirage points the blaster at Amnesia and fires it.

Holli gets in front of the energy blast and absorbs it.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Think you can handle level ten?

Mirage sets the blaster to the maximum.

Fade wakes and shouts for Mirage.

FADE

Help!

Mirage backs up to Fade's position and helps him to his feet.

Fade can barely stand.

MIRAGE/REGAN

You're fucked; we need to get out
of here.

FADE

But-

MIRAGE/REGAN

Arny's gone, and the kid is damaged
goods; my father will understand.

Fade's legs give out on him.

Mirage supports Fade's weight and carries him back into the
maze.

Holli's eyes flare up with rage.

HOLLI

Stay here; I'll deal with those
two.

Amnesia grabs Holli's arm.

AMNESIA

Let them go; we're here for Devaun.
(beat)
Have you found him?

Holli helps Amnesia to her feet and points to the bus.

EXT. SCRAPLAND - INNER MAZE - NIGHT

Mirage limps through the maze, dragging a barely conscious
Fade. The darkness surrounds them, and the sounds of the
night grow louder.

Mirage sees the IRMA a couple of hundred feet away but
collapses, pulled down under the weight of Fade. He slaps
Fade to wake him up.

Fade grunts.

Mirage gets to his feet and tries to pull Fade to his.

The local vermin become more emboldened and emerge from the
shadows—the oversized rats with menacing teeth stalk Mirage
and Fade.

Mirage slaps Fade so hard it leaves a red welt on his cheek.

MIRAGE/REGAN

You need to wake up, or we're going
to get eaten.

A large, filthy rat crawls on Fade.

Mirage turns around to see a swarm of rats scurrying towards them. He screams at Fade.

MIRAGE/REGAN (CONT'D)

Open your fucking eyes.

Fade forces his eyes open and sees the rodent crawling up his leg. It jolts him awake.

Fade shrieks from fear and kicks his legs wildly, and the rat flies off of him and joins the pack.

Fade struggles to get to his feet.

Mirage puts one of Fade's arms over his shoulder and leads him toward the IRMA.

Fade takes short, labored breaths.

FADE

I think my ribs are broken. I can't
breathe.

The rats swarm at their feet, nipping at their legs.

Mirage pulls out his blaster and fires a warning shot into the air, but it doesn't deter the rats.

Mirage points the blaster at the mass of rodents.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Bigger problems.

Mirage fires the blaster into the rats, sending pieces of them flying into the air. The blood and entrails rain down on Fade and Mirage like a twisted baptism of blood and gore.

EXT. SCRAPLAND - CENTER OF MAZE - NIGHT

Holli helps Amnesia to her feet, and they walk over to the bus.

Amnesia tries to open the backdoor of the bus, but it's locked. She steps aside to avoid Holli's laser eyes.

Holli blasts out the lock and opens the door to find Devaun mutilated, bound, and gagged.

Before Amnesia approaches Devaun, she deactivates her disguise and transforms into Odisko.

INT. DERELICT BUS - NIGHT

The bus looks like something out of a horror movie, with broken or blacked-out windows and piles of garbage everywhere.

Devaun lays on a blood-stained mattress and weeps, his cries muffled by his gag.

Odisko kneels down and comforts Devaun.

Devaun lets off a muffled scream and tries to recoil.

ODISKO

It's okay, Devaun; we're not going to hurt you.

Odisko unties his hands and removes his gag.

Devaun bites Odisko's hand.

DEVAUN

(imitating Army)
You taste better fresh.

Odisko retracts her hand and yelps from the pain.

Devaun punches and slaps Odisko.

Odisko wraps her arms around Devaun and hugs him.

Devaun stops fighting.

ODISKO

Let me help you.

Odisko holds Devaun's hand, stares into his eyes, and flexes her power; they gasp in unison. With a purple rush of light, she travels into Devaun's mind.

PUSH INTO DEVAUN'S MIND

INT. DEVAUN'S MIND - DAY

When Odisko opens her eyes, she's in Devaun's memory center. A myriad of memories that look like bubbles blown from a child's wand float in an endless white expanse.

Odisko closes her eyes to concentrate. A few moments later, a black orb floating in the distance moves toward Odisko, passes through her body, and enters her head as she takes the memory from Devaun.

INT. ARNY'S FLYING POD - NIGHT

We're in the memory; the images are orange and grainy.

Odisko/Devaun relives the memory through Devaun's eyes. She's in the backseat of a beat-up flying pod filled with trash and old, moldy food. She opens her eyes, her vision restricted by a blindfold.

Odisko/Devaun tries to move but can't due to the bindings around her hands and feet. She sobs, muffled by her gag.

Arny speaks to her as he exits the pod.

ARNY

Now, Piglet, Uncle Arny needs to make a quick stop. Be a good little piggy, and I'll bring you a surprise.

Odisko/Devaun hears the door close. She waits a few seconds, then squirms around. She uses her head to apply pressure against the side of the pod and manages to upright herself and lower her blindfold enough to expose one eye.

Odisko/Devaun searches the area for someone to help her, but the streets are empty. The only thing she sees is a pub across the street. The sign out front reads Heff's Pub.

Odisko/Devaun sees Arny exiting the pub and walking back to the pod, holding a stuffed elephant. Before she can lay back down, Arny catches her peaking and flings the door open, causing her to spill out of the pod and crash face-first onto the ground.

EXT. ARNY'S FLYING POD - NIGHT

Odisko/Devaun lays flat on her face and screams from pain and terror.

ARNY

I told you to be a good little piggy. Bad boys get punished.

Arny bends down, picks Odisko/Devaun up, and throws her over his shoulder.

Odisko/Devaun takes a bite out of the side of Arny's neck.

Arny yells and throws Odisko/Devaun back into the backseat of the pod.

Arny picks up a dirty rag from the back of the pod and wipes his bloody wound.

ARNY (CONT'D)

Oh, a biter, eh? Me too, but that's for later.

END FLASHBACK

PULL OUT OF DEVAUN'S MIND

INT. DERELICT BUS - NIGHT

Odisko exits the memory and returns to the physical world. She stands but immediately collapses.

Devaun sleeps.

EXT. SCRAPLAND - CENTER OF MAZE - NIGHT

Holli helps Odisko out of the bus, then picks Devaun up and carries him over to Odisko.

Odisko cradles Devaun in her arms and weeps.

HOLLI

Are you alright?

ODISKO

Call his parents and tell them to meet us at the hospital.

Odisko takes off her wrist cuff and hands it to Holli.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

I need a minute. Can you get the Hovervette?

Holli runs to get the Hovervette.

EXT. HALO CITY - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A busy hospital emergency entrance. Ambulance attendants unload a bloody accident victim and rush them into the hospital.

The Hovervette flies into the receiving area and finds Taffy and her husband, ELROY(44), a delicate-looking man with distinguished grey patches on the side of his head, wearing dress pants and a cardigan sweater, waiting with bated breath.

Elroy consoles Taffy with a hug as she cries into his shoulder when he sees the Hovervette fly into the parking lot.

An orderly wearing blue hospital scrubs stands next to them with a waiting gurney.

Elroy and Taffy rush over to meet them.

The orderly follows.

INT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

Odisko sits in the Hovervette and collects her thoughts. She sees Taffy and Elroy running over to her car. She takes back the emitter from Holli, activates her disguise, and becomes Amnesia.

AMNESIA

Wait here; I'll be right back.

Amnesia steps out of the Hovervette.

EXT. HALO CITY - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Amnesia picks up Devaun, who is still asleep, from the backseat of the Hovervette, carries him over to the gurney, and lays him down.

Both parents shriek when they see Devaun's missing leg.

Taffy kisses Devaun's head as tears overtake her.

TAFFY

My baby! Elroy, look at what they did to our son.

The orderly wheels the gurney toward the emergency entrance.

Taffy throws her arms around Amnesia and squeezes with everything she has left.

TAFFY (CONT'D)

Thank you. I don't know what else to say.

The orderly wheels the gurney toward the hospital.

Taffy releases Amnesia and flares up with rage.

TAFFY (CONT'D)

Who did this? What happened to his leg?

Elroy hugs Taffy to calm her.

ELROY

Go with them; he'll want to see you when he wakes up. I'll be right behind you.

Taffy dries her tears and follows the orderly into the hospital.

Elroy looks into Amnesia's eyes. His reserved facade cracks as the trauma sets in, and tears stream from his eyes.

ELROY (CONT'D)

A nine-year-old boy? Who could do something like this?

AMNESIA

I don't know his name, but--

Elroy cuts her off.

ELROY

Did you catch him? I want him to pay.

Amnesia lowers her head.

AMNESIA

I had to let him go so I could save Devaun, but trust me, HE WILL PAY!

ELROY

What happened to his leg? Where was he?

AMNESIA

It's best if you don't know. As for Devaun, I took his tortured memories. They're a part of me now.

(beat)

Once they regrow his leg, he'll be good as new.

Elroy accesses his wrist cuff and then presents it to Amnesia to scan.

ELROY

Here, it's only ten thousand credits, but it's all we can afford.

Amnesia declines the reward.

AMNESIA

That's not necessary, go, be with your family.

Elroy hugs Amnesia.

ELROY

The world needs more heroes.

Amnesia turns away and walks toward the Hovervette but looks back at Elroy.

AMNESIA

I'm no hero.

ELROY

You are to us.

Amnesia enters the Hovervette and flies away.

INT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

Holli pilots the Hovervette through the congested streets.

Amnesia deactivates her disguise and transforms into Odisko while she stares out the window.

Odisko holds the pendant around her neck in her hands and breaks down.

HOLLI

Are you injured? Shall I return to the hospital?

Odisko wipes her tears away.

ODISKO

I've just got that kid's fucked up nightmare stuck in my head, and it's kicking my ass. It feels like it all happened to me.

HOLLI

Can I help?

ODISKO

I need to find that monster, he's the man that stole Haji. Set a course for Heff's Pub; it's back in Dead Vegas.

HOLLI

You're tired; given the nature of this evening's events, I propose we wait until tomorrow. You have an elevated heart-

ODISKO

I didn't ask for a fucking bio-scan. I told you to take me back to Dead Vegas.

HOLLI

I don't want to take you there. You're exhausted; you need to rest.

ODISKO

Don't tell me what I need. I need to find my little brother.

(beat)

Look, if we're not on our way to Dead Vegas in the next 5 seconds, I'm going to reformat you and start over.

(beat)

I fucking made you, don't forget it.

Holli parks the Hovervette on the side of the road and deactivates herself.

Odisko tries to start the car but to no avail.

EXT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

Odisko's tirade resonates from the car and fills the night sky with the sound of screaming and sobbing.

Odisko gets out of the Hovervette and slams the door shut.

ODISKO

When I get home, I'm going to erase
you, you bitch!

Odisko walks away, still sobbing.

INT. THE ORBITAT - INFIRMARY - NIGHT

A sterile-looking room with several individual medical pods that look like futuristic beds with built-in biometric scanners. DR. FELIX(50), androgynous, in a white lab coat, treats Fade's injuries.

Fade lies encapsulated in a surgical pod called a Regenerator. A screen on the side displays an X-ray of Fade's broken ribs. Micro lasers dance across the monitor as they penetrate his body and regenerate his bones.

Mirage lies unconscious in an adjacent medical pod, connected to a monitor that beeps with steady precision.

NESSA RYLIE(30), the picture of grace and affluence, walks into the infirmary with a commanding presence and heads straight to Mirage's side. When the doctor sees her, he stops tending to Fade and rushes to attend to her.

NESSA

How is my son doing?

DR. FELIX

A mild concussion and some
abdominal bruising, nothing to
worry about.

Nessa kisses Mirage's forehead and tries to wake him.

NESSA

Sweetheart, it's mom.

Nessa gives Mirage a little shake.

Mirage opens his eyes.

NESSA (CONT'D)

Oh good, you're awake.

Mirage looks around, disoriented. He speaks, but his voice is harsh and cracks.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Mother? What's happening?

Nessa turns and scolds the doctor.

NESSA
Can you get him some water?

Nessa turns back to her son.

NESSA (CONT'D)
Everything's fine; you had a
concussion. Dr. Felix says you're
fine now.

The doctor brings a glass of water over to Nessa.

Nessa looks at the glass and then back to the doctor.

NESSA (CONT'D)
With a straw!

The doctor rushes back to the replicator and has it produce a
straw, then delivers it to Nessa.

Nessa helps Mirage drink some water. The first few sips make
him cough.

MIRAGE/REGAN
Where's father?

Nessa smiles.

NESSA
Why am I not good enough?

MIRAGE/REGAN
I need to speak with him.

Arco walks into the infirmary, his chest puffed up with
pride.

Dr. Felix sees Arco and bows his head in subservience.

ARCO RYLIE VI
Regan, my boy. Not the best first
day, I gather?

MIRAGE/REGAN
We failed, and they got away.

ARCO RYLIE VI
I know, I hear you got your ass
kicked. Fade told me all about it.

Nessa gives Arco a little slap.

NESSA
Don't tease.

Mirage looks around the room and sees Fade in the surgical pod.

MIRAGE/REGAN

How is he?

NESSA

Just some broken ribs, nothing a bit of rest, and science can't cure.

ARCO RYLIE VI

About those women, I think I should meet them.

Mirage raises his brow.

MIRAGE

They stole the asset and let Army getaway, and you want to meet them? Wouldn't killing them be better?

Arco sighs.

ARCO RYLIE VI

Killing is just so--permanent. If they prove to be problems, there are plenty of other ways to deal with them.

Nessa takes Arco's hand.

NESSA

Come, darling, let's leave him be.

Arco pats Mirage's leg.

ARCO RYLIE VI

Rest up, my boy; as soon as the two of you are back on your feet, I need you to track Army down. He'll lead us to this psychic and her hologram.

Mirage's eyelids flutter as he falls back to sleep.

Arco and Nessa leave the infirmary.

INT. ODISKO'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

An immaculate room. A plush-looking mauve sofa, a matching armchair, and two end tables fill the tiny space.

An avant-garde metal sculpture in one corner immediately grabs one's attention.

Odisko opens the door to her apartment and walks inside with her head and shoulders slumped over. The fatigue from the evening's events weighs heavily on her face.

DENNI(26), a non-binary person with long silky black hair, a goatee, and tons of eyeliner, gets up from the sofa to greet her.

DENNI

Wow, you look rough. What's the matter? Your aura is grey; I could sense you before you even walked in.

Odisko rolls her eyes.

ODISKO

Fucking Holli malfunctioned last night. Wouldn't follow orders and left me stranded.

(beat)

It took me four hours to get home.

Odisko walks over to the replicator built into the wall and replicates a large bottle of whiskey.

DENNI

Oh, it's like that, is it?

(beat)

Want to talk about it?

Odisko avoids eye contact, opens the bottle, and drinks directly from it. She winces from the burning in her throat.

ODISKO

I need a bunch of drinks first.

(beat)

Can we go to the beach, please?

Denni, without hesitation, walks over to the end table next to the sofa, grabs a remote control, and activates the display screen.

Denni scrolls through a list of locations, stops on one called Perfect Beach, and presses a button to activate it. Instantly, the room, entirely comprised of Hard-Lite constructs, morphs into a sandy beach.

EXT. HOLOGRAPHIC BEACH - NIGHT

A pristine beach. The full moon reflects off the deep purple water as it cascades along the endless shoreline. In the distance, a bonfire rages as revelers dance around it. The sound of an acoustic guitar hints in the air.

Denni presses another button on the remote, and a small campfire and blanket appear at their feet. They take Odisko by the hand and sit her on the blanket.

Denni sits behind her and wraps their arms around her.

Odisko takes a slug from the bottle. Then another and another. As she stares at the fire, she sees Arny's face dancing in the flames.

Odisko speaks but slurs her words.

ODISKO

I found the man who took Haji.

Denni gets excited.

DENNI

Oh my gawd, that's great!

Odisko starts to cry.

DENNI (CONT'D)

Isn't it?

Odisko shakes her head and then slams another gulp.

Odisko hands the bottle to Denni, but they decline.

ODISKO

Trust me!

Denni takes the bottle from Odisko and takes a mouthful.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

He kidnapped this little boy we were looking for. We found them in a junkyard in Dead Vegas. He was eating the boy's leg.

Denni gasps and pulls Odisko in tighter.

DENNI

Oh, my gawd!

(beat)

I can't believe I'm saying this, but I hope you killed him.

ODISKO

He got away. Two Halo Corps goons were there and got in my way, so he escaped before I could get anything out of him.

DENNI

Halo Corps? Since when do they rescue missing children?

ODISKO

No idea, but they were keen on taking the boy.

Odisko slams the rest of the bottle and cries harder.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

That poor little boy, I couldn't leave him like that.

Denni interrupts Odisko.

DENNI

Wait, you took his memories, didn't you?

Odisko stays silent.

DENNI (CONT'D)

I know you mean well, but you can't keep doing that. Look what it does to you.

ODISKO

Sometimes, like this one, I have no choice.

Odisko slumps down as she passes out.

Denni strokes her hair.

Odisko jolts in her sleep and speaks, sounding like a child.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Uncle Arny; I promise I'll be a good boy.

INT. RYLIE'S QUARTERS - LOUNGE - DAY

It's a palace in the stars with old-world masterpieces hanging on every wall. Arco looks haggard with grey skin and sunken cheeks. He crosses the decadent lounge, taking slow, labored steps over to a massive viewing port.

He stands at the window and watches as a parade of cargo freighters dock and disembark from The Noah with fine-tuned precision.

Nessa, looking equally fatigued and aged, enters the lounge holding a tray with two syringes of a bright yellow liquid and places it on a table.

NESSA

Come, my love, Regan will be home soon.

Arco doesn't look away.

ARCO RYLIE VI

Fifteen years in the making, I can't believe it's finished.

NESSA

And not a moment too soon.

(beat)

This next two weeks is going to be hectic. Are you ready for it?

ARCO RYLIE VI

We have to be. If we miss the launch window, we'll have to wait six months, and it will be here in less than four.

Nessa goes sullen.

NESSA

Those poor people.

ARCO RYLIE VI

They're already dead. It's up to us to save humanity.

Nessa walks over to Arco and helps him to a waiting chair.

ARCO RYLIE VI (CONT'D)

I hate these and can't wait till we don't need them.

Nessa picks up a syringe and gives Arco a piece of leather.

Arco puts the leather strip in his mouth and bites down on it.

NESSA

Now, hold still; I don't want to miss.

Arco cocks his head to one side.

Nessa inserts the tip of the syringe into his jugular vein and depresses the plunger.

Arco's entire veinal system glows yellow.

Arco grips the arms of the chair with a clenched jaw as his body ceases and convulses.

After a few moments, his skin tightens, and his color returns.

Arco jumps up from his chair with pep and vigor, unchangeably perfect.

Arco sits Nessa in the chair and picks up the other syringe.

Before he injects her, he kisses her forehead.

ARCO RYLIE VI
Until forever.

NESSA
And then some.

INT. ODISKO'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A dark, gloomy room. It looks like a tornado passed through the living room. Clothes, dishes, and random clutter cover every surface. Dark shades block out any trace of daylight.

Odisko sits at her computer terminal, staring at lines of code, looking as disheveled as her home. Her matted hair and bloodshot eyes, accentuated by the dark bags beneath them, say it all.

Odisko free-pours whiskey into a dirty glass and gulps it down.

The door chimes. A video monitor built into the door activates, and Denni's concerned-looking face appears on the screen.

Odisko doesn't move.

The door chimes again, followed by heavy knocking.

Odisko finally looks away from the screen when she hears the door unlock but doesn't get up.

Denni opens the door, enters the apartment, and announces herself.

Denni turns on a light and illuminates the disaster zone.

DENNI

O? It's me. Are you alive?

Denni sees Odisko at her desk.

Odisko doesn't acknowledge Denni.

Denni walks over to Odisko's desk and kisses her cheek.

Odisko doesn't reciprocate.

Denni sifts through the clutter, finds the Hard-Lite remote, and removes the holographic window shades, filling the room with light.

Odisko squints her eyes and recoils from the light like a vampire.

ODISKO

What the hell, Denni.

DENNI

O, I'm worried about you. We all are.

Denni presses a button on the remote that says, RESET.

The room instantly reverts to its pristine state.

DENNI (CONT'D)

I left you here five days ago.
Please don't tell me you've been
sitting here that whole time.

ODISKO

I can't figure out what the hell is
wrong with Holli.

Denni turns off the monitor.

Odisko glares at them.

DENNI

Look at yourself. You look like
crap. Have you even slept?

Odisko sighs and rolls her eyes.

ODISKO

Can you just go, please? I just
need to be alone.

Denni loses their temper.

DENNI

That's it! You are taking a shower,
and I'm taking you to see your
Appa.

Denni presses a different button on the remote, and one side of the room transforms into a bathroom.

Denni stands Odisko up and marches her over to the bathroom.

Odisko submits and goes with Denni.

INT. ODISKO'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

A standard bathroom with a toilet and sonic shower set in a small cubicle with brushed-metal walls and floor.

Denni undresses Odisko and puts her in the shower.

The shower activates, and vibrating pulses of inaudible sound waves cascade over Odisko's body.

Odisko slumps her head down and lets out a heavy sigh, then starts to cry.

DENNI

O, your aura is almost black; I can
feel your pain. You know you can
talk to me.

Odisko covers her face with her hands to muffle her scream.

ODISKO

Every time I close my eyes, I see
him and that leg.

Odisko looks up and locks eyes with Denni.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

What if he did that to Haji?

Denni steps into the shower with their clothes on and holds Odisko.

INT. EUGENIUS MECHANICAL - DAY

A cluttered repair shop, half-finished inventions fill the towering metal shelves surrounding the space.

EUGENE(60), a quirky-looking man, short and stout, wearing heavily stained coveralls. His glasses are tucked into his massive, bushy afro. He sits at his workbench, tinkering with a small cylindrical device about the size of a football.

Odisko enters the shop with a disingenuous smile on her face.

Eugene looks up from his project and brightens up with a warm, infectious smile.

EUGENE

Where have you been? It's been days.

Eugene gets up and walks over to Odisko to hug her.

He looks her in the eyes, and his look changes to concern.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Want to talk about it?

Odisko rolls her eyes.

ODISKO

Not really.

Odisko sees the new invention and walks over to investigate.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

What are you building now?

Eugene returns to his workbench.

EUGENE

Changing the subject, okay, well, I'm here if you need to talk.

(beat)

It's a portable forcefield generator.

ODISKO

What for? You afraid the dome's going to fail?

EUGENE

You never know.

Odisko scoffs.

ODISKO

I like the idea, but Appa, if it ever did fail, we're doomed. I doubt a mini-forcefield would do much.

Eugene ignores the skepticism.

Odisko walks over to his computer and pulls up Holli's code.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

I need you to look at something.

Eugene gets up, walks to the computer, and notices the code.

EUGENE

What's wrong with Holli?

ODISKO

Hell, if I know. She told me I needed rest and shut herself down, leaving me stranded.

Eugene reads the code and chuckles.

EUGENE

It looks fine to me.

(beat)

Well, did you?

Odisko's tone turns aggressive.

ODISKO

That's not the point. I gave her an order.

(beat)

And what's so damn funny?

Eugene puts his hand on Odisko's shoulder.

EUGENE

Oh, child, it sounds to me like she's growing up, becoming her own person.

(beat)

After all, you made her sentient.

Odisko removes his hand.

ODISKO

So this is my fault?

EUGENE

It's like being a parent. Sure, I helped make you, but I don't own you. The hardest part of loving someone is letting them become who they are meant to be.

Odisko walks over to the workbench and inspects the device more closely.

ODISKO

You're going to need to recalibrate the conversion matrix if you want to generate enough power. I had the same issue with Holli's matrix.

(beat)

Need a hand?

Eugene walks over and hands Odisko a micro-calibrator, which looks like a futuristic screwdriver.

Odisko immerses herself in her work but stops as tears roll down her cheeks.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

I'm such an asshole. She was just looking out for me, and I told her I was going to reformat her.

Eugene hugs Odisko.

Odisko weeps harder and then looks into Eugene's eyes.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

I found the man who took Haji.

Eugene stands speechless, tears forming in his eyes.

EUGENE

And?

ODISKO

He kidnapped the little boy we were tracking, but when I found him, he was being interrogated by two Halo Corps operatives.

(beat)

They let him get away. He literally disappeared, just like I told you and Amma all those years ago.

Eugene hugs Odisko.

EUGENE

I never blamed you.

ODISKO

I know where to find him; I just have to get Holli to forgive me.

Eugene smiles at Odisko.

EUGENE

You can start with an apology.

Odisko's eyes widen with inspiration.

ODISKO

I have a better idea, but I'm going
to need your brilliant mind.

INT. RYLIE'S QUARTERS - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Nessa at a lavish bar in the lounge.

Arco stands behind the bar and makes a martini for Nessa.

Arco serves the drink to Nessa.

ARCO RYLIE VI

There you are, my love. Vodka
Martini is extra dirty, like me,
with three olives.

Nessa picks up the glass, takes a sip, and gasps.

NESSA

Perfect, as always. I knew there
was a reason I loved you so much.

Arco pours himself a scotch.

They raise their glasses and cheers.

ARCO RYLIE VI

To new adventures.

Nessa smiles.

Mirage enters the lounge.

Nessa sees him enter and lights up.

NESSA

Regan, my beautiful boy, come give
you're old mother a kiss.

Mirage, who goes by Regan when he's not working, walks over
to Nessa and kisses her cheek.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Old! Hardly, you're looking
flawless, as always.

NESSA
 Stop, you flirt.
 (beat)
 Join us, we're celebrating.

Arco pours Mirage a scotch and hands him the glass.

MIRAGE/REGAN
 What are we celebrating?

NESSA
 Your father's ship, of course. We
 launch in two weeks.

ARCO RYLIE VI
 We're forming the core tomorrow.

Mirage raises his brow.

MIRAGE/REGAN
 Wow, I didn't think it would happen
 so fast. They just finished it.

ARCO RYLIE VI
 We have a viable launch window that
 we can't miss or we risk losing
 everything when the asteroid
 arrives.

Mirage finishes his drink.

MIRAGE/REGAN
 I should go get ready for another
 long night.

Nessa frowns.

NESSA
 Stay a bit longer; it has been days
 since I've seen you.

Mirage walks to the bar and takes a seat next to Nessa.

ARCO RYLIE VI
 I'm keeping him busy.
 (beat)
 How's the stakeout going?

MIRAGE/REGAN
 Not great. We've been watching that
 pub and fending off the giant rats
 for the last four nights, but they
 haven't shown up.

(MORE)

MIRAGE/REGAN (CONT'D)

(beat)

It may be a lost cause.

ARCO RYLIE VI

Nonsense, Army is the key to finding them. It just requires a little patients.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Well, we're going back this evening; maybe we'll get lucky.

INT. ODISKO'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Odisko opens the door to her apartment. Denni surprises her with a passionate kiss that holds the desire for something more.

Odisko pulls away.

DENNI

Not feeling it?

Odisko looks away.

ODISKO

Sorry, I just have-

DENNI

Don't apologize, I get it. Is Amnesia going out tonight?

ODISKO

I've got to fix things with Holli first.

Odisko heads to her computer and sits in front of it.

DENNI

I'm going to go and let you do your thing.

ODISKO

Thanks, babe, and thanks for earlier. I needed a kick in the ass.

Denni walks over and kisses Odisko.

DENNI

Empath, I could feel how lost you were.

Denni turns to leave.

DENNI (CONT'D)

Do me a favor. Don't do the balcony thing, it's freaking scary.

Odisko smiles and squints her eyes.

Odisko pulls up Holli's code and remotely uploads it back into the Hovervette.

Odisko turns to Denni as they are walking out the door.

ODISKO

Love you.

DENNI

Obviously!

Denni exits.

Odisko activates her wrist cuff and calls Holli.

EXT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

The interior of the Hovervette has no signs of life, and then a light illuminates on the dash. A second later the main display terminal comes alive and casts a warm hue in the car. Holli's code fills the screen.

Once the code uploads, the Hovervette's internal systems activate, and the dash comes alive with blinking lights. Holli materializes in the driver's seat.

Holli looks around and realizes she's alone.

The communications model lights up and reads an incoming call from Odisko Jones.

Holli answers the call, and Odsiko appears on the screen. Holli doesn't greet her.

ODISKO

Hey.

HOLLI

I've been offline for over five days.

ODISKO

We need to talk. Can you come get me, please?

HOLLI

Yes, master. Setting a course, I will arrive in nine minutes and twenty-one seconds.

Holli ends the call.

EXT. DEAD-VEGAS - HEFF'S PUB - BACK LOT - NIGHT

The IRMA appears behind Heff's pub, a dark, gloomy lot perfect for concealing their arrival.

FADE

I thought you were going to tell your Dad this is a bust.

MIRAGE/REGAN

This is what's happening, so you're going to have to deal with it.

Fade rolls his eyes.

FADE

I still think we should capture a kid and set a trap. Plus, we have another asset; it'd be a win-win. Don't you think?

MIRAGE/REGAN

I think it's moot. We have our orders. Quit your griping, or I'll make you stand outside with the rats.

EXT. HALO CITY - NIGHT

The Hovervette zips through the city. It vibrates from the ghost drive and passes through oncoming traffic as if it wasn't there. It reaches Odisko's tower, pulls a hard, ninety-degree turn, and flies straight up the side.

The convertible roof retracts as it nears the balcony.

EXT. ODISKO'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - DAY

A balcony on the two hundred and fiftieth floor that overlooks the city. Odisko paces back and forth, biting her fingernail and muttering to herself.

The Hovervette arrives at the apartment and hovers next to the balcony.

Odsiko turns and sees Holli waiting for her with a cold, expressionless face.

Odisko vaults over the balcony half-wall, activates her disguise in midair, and transforms into Amnesia.

INT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

Amnesia lands in the passenger's seat with style and grace. She looks at Holli and tries to break the ice.

AMNESIA

Can you please take me to Heff's Pub in Dead Vegas? Mama needs a cocktail.

HOLLI

Yes, master. Setting a course, we will arrive in thirteen minutes and nine seconds.

Awkward silence looms in the Hovervette.

Amnesia stares out the window, watching the city pass by. She speaks to Holli with a humble voice.

AMNESIA

Hey, Holli?

Holli doesn't respond.

AMNESIA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I was such an asshole to you. You were totally right; I was traumatized. Hell, I still am, but I took it out on you and said a lot of stuff I regret.

Amnesia hands Holli a wrist cuff.

AMNESIA (CONT'D)

Here.

Holli takes the device and scans it.

HOLLI

I see you've improved on your original design. It has an infinite power supply and adjustable image inducers.

Holli hands it back.

HOLLI (CONT'D)
 You must be very proud of yourself.

Amnesia hands it back to Holli.

AMNESIA
 It's for you.

Holli takes the wrist cuff and looks at Amnesia, speechless.

AMNESIA (CONT'D)
 I forgot that you're a person,
 well, you know what I mean. I made
 you, and you're the coolest thing
 I've ever done, but I don't own
 you. You're my best friend.
 (beat)
 Now, you can activate yourself
 whenever you want and go anywhere.
 Just be who you're meant to be.

Holli puts on the wrist cuff and uploads herself to it.

Holli looks at Amnesia and smiles.

HOLLI
 I'm going to need my own apartment.

Amnesia laughs.

AMNESIA
 Don't expect to start getting paid.

EXT. DEAD-VEGAS - HEFF'S PUB - NIGHT

Lurking in the shadows, Fade and Mirage wait. They're growing tired of waiting.

FADE
 I need a drink. Maybe we should go
 into the pub and grab a drink.

Mirage looks at Fade with disbelief.

MIRAGE/REGAN
 You can't be serious. I already
 told my father that this is a waste
 of time.
 (beat)
 I was quite insistent.

FADE

Of course not, but how much longer
are we just going to sit here?

The Hovervette swoops down from the sky and parks in plain view. A moment later, a shimmering ripple of light encapsulates it, and it disappears.

Mirage takes a step out of the shadows, but Fade pulls him back.

FADE (CONT'D)

Patience, let's wait for the right
moment. Our best chance is to get
them off guard.

(beat)

I have a little surprise for that
holographic bitch.

They crouch down and continue to wait.

INT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

Odisko and Holli sit in the cloaked Hovervette, watching the front door to the pub.

AMNESIA

What time is it?

HOLLI

Almost midnight.

(beat)

Are you sure about this place?

AMNESIA

It's our best lead. We just have to
be patient.

INT. EUGENIOUS MECHANICAL - NIGHT

Eugene finishes the calibration on his force field generator, puts the outer housing back on, and activates the device—a small energy field forms around it.

EUGENE

Dammit!

Eugene slams the calibrator onto his workbench and deactivates the generator.

Eugene receives a call on the communications terminal. He walks over to the terminal to answer the call.

His wife, Karma, appears on the screen, wearing a hijab and a gold and red sari. She looks annoyed.

EUGENE (CONT'D)
Hello, my Queen.

KARMA
That's not going to cut it.
(beat)
It's one o'clock in the morning. Do you plan on coming home?

EUGENE
I've almost got it. I just need to make a few more adjustments.

KARMA
Have you even eaten today?

Eugene holds a telling silence.

KARMA (CONT'D)
What about your blood sugar?
(beat)
I doubt you can even concentrate. You know how you get. Do I need to come down there and drag you home by your ear?

Eugene drops his head and speaks with a submissive voice.

EUGENE
I'm on my way.

INT. HOVERVETTE - NIGHT

Amnesia sits and plays a holographic game of chess with Holli.

HOLLI
Checkmate.

AMNESIA
That's three in a row. What was I thinking? Like, I'm ever going to beat a quantum computer.

HOLLI
You made me. Am I supposed to let you win?

Amnesia laughs. From the window, she sees the front door to the pub miraculously open on its own.

AMNESIA

Did you see that?
 (beat)
 It's go time.

Amnesia and Holli exit the Hovervette.

EXT. DEAD-VEGAS - HEFF'S PUB - BACK LOT - NIGHT

Amnesia and Holli cross the lot and enter the pub.

Fade sees Amnesia and Holli walk into the pub.

FADE

Wait here.

Fade scurries over to a small window at the back of the pub and wipes a small peephole in the grime to spy on Amnesia and Holli.

INT. HEFF'S PUB - NIGHT

A run-down pub with random mismatched tables. A room of rough, haggard-looking patrons fills the place. Amnesia and Holli enter, looking like forces of nature. The pub falls silent; all eyes are on them.

Amnesia crosses the room and heads straight for the bar. Standing at the bar, the pub's owner, HEFF(55), a tall, burly man with a bushy beard, bright pink curls, and metallic silver eyeshadow, greets her with a smile and a nod.

Holli holds back, her eyes glowing, ready to strike down any would-be attackers.

AMNESIA

Love the look; you're gorgeous.

HEFF

And look at you miss thing. Love your, everything. Gawd, I wish I could pull off a catsuit, but curse these hips.

They share a laugh.

AMNESIA

Red devil, straight up.

Heff raises his brow.

HEFF

Are you sure? That's my strongest
shit.

Amnesia smiles.

Heff takes a dirty glass, wipes it with his dirty apron, and
then reaches for a bottle of blood-red liquor.

Heff pours the liquor into the glass and sets it aflame.

Amnesia picks up the drink, blows out the flame, slams the
drink in one gulp, and then blows a puff of smoke in Heff's
face.

HEFF (CONT'D)

Damn, woman, smack my ass and color
me impressed.

Amnesia leans in and whispers.

AMNESIA

I'm looking for a pig named Arny.

HEFF

Yeah, I know him, he's right-

Heff turns behind him to find an empty chair.

HEFF (CONT'D)

There.

(beat)

He's always doing that.

Amnesia looks at Holli.

HOLLI

I'm already on it.

Holli takes aim with her laser eyes.

Heff shouts out to her.

HEFF

Please don't burn my bar down.

Holli picks up a beer mug and hurls it across the bar. It
hits invisible Arny in the head, sending him crashing to the
floor, making him visible.

Amnesia and Holli walk over to him.

EXT. DEAD-VEGAS - HEFF'S PUB - BACK LOT - NIGHT

Fade spies through the window, watching with widened eyes.

Mirage shouts over with a hushed voice.

MIRAGE/REGAN

What's happening?

Fade shushes him and signals him to stay hidden.

MIRAGE/REGAN (CONT'D)

Don't shush me, or I'll make you
think your skin is peeling off.

(beat)

I'm coming over.

Mirage runs over to Fade and takes a turn peeking through the window.

INT. HEFF'S PUB - NIGHT

Amnesia stands over Arny, a formidable force.

Holli guards Amnesia's back.

Arny recoils, filled with terror.

AMNESIA

Why so scared?

ARNY

A sexy superhero looking for me
can't be good.

Amnesia smirks, and then crouches down to Arny's level.

AMNESIA

Well, you're right about the sexy
part, but Piglet, I'm no hero.

Amnesia grabs Arny's face. Her eyes glow with fierce intensity.

PUSH INTO ARNY'S MIND

INT. ARNY'S MIND - NIGHT

Arny's mind is a dark, empty room, with a single lightbulb dangling from the ceiling that flickers, casting ominous-looking shadows and reflecting off pieces of shattered mirrors covering the floor. The sound of rats squeaking, their red, demonic eyes watch Amnesia.

Amnesia shudders as a chill runs down her spine.

Amnesia reaches down, picks up a shard, and watches the memory.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT - MEMORY

We're in a memory; the images are orange and grainy.

A cluttered yard filled with scrap metal and random junk. A dilapidated shed sits at the back. A dim light fills the small window on the side.

CHILD-ARNY(12), a portly boy with messy hair wearing ripped dirty clothes, creeps up to the shed and peeks through the window. He sees his father, TWITCH(60), a grey-haired man with a weathered face and missing teeth carving a human torso like it's a side of beef.

Child-Arny lets out a loud gasp.

Twitch hears the noise and looks up from his macabre task.

Child-Arny ducks out of sight. He hears the shed door creek open.

Child-Arny takes a deep breath and holds it in, trying to stay silent, and then he vanishes.

Twitch exits the shed and looks around but sees nothing and re-enters the shed.

Child-Arny lets his air out and reappears.

Child-Arny looks amazed as he does it again and again.

PULL OUT OF ARNY'S MIND

INT. HEFF'S PUB - NIGHT

Back in the physical world, the patrons of the bare watch in horror as Arny convulses and screams while blood drips from his ears.

Amnesia presses on.

PUSH INTO ARNY'S MIND

INT. ARNY'S MIND - NIGHT

Amnesia drops the shard.

Amnesia closes her eyes and holds out her hand. A few moments later, a piece of mirror, buried under years of memories, floats to the surface.

Amnesia grabs it from the air.

EXT. HALO BOTANICAL GARDEN - DAY - MEMORY

Amnesia opens her eyes and finds herself standing in the park, watching her younger self and Haji playing in the park.

There's a massive explosion that sends the two children flying backward.

Young Odisko runs over to the fountain and helps Haji.

She sees Young Arny appear, throw her to the ground and vanish with Haji.

Next, she sees Arny take Haji to a rendezvous with YOUNG FADE(20), looking fresh and professional.

Young Arny gives Haji to Young Fade.

Young Fade pays Young Arny and then walks away.

PULL OUT OF ARNY'S MIND

INT. HEFF'S PUB - NIGHT

Amnesia release Arny.

ARNY

Oh, gawd, please stop. Just kill me already. I'm a monster; I deserve it.

AMNESIA

Oh, piglet, you don't get to die.
(beat)
You're going to live with what you've done.

AMNESIA (CONT'D)

I have a present from Devaun. These are for you.

Amnesia grabs Arny's face again, and with glowing eyes, she implants Devaun's memories into Arny's mind.

AMNESIA (CONT'D)

FEEL IT!

BEGIN SERIES OF SHOTS

Arny in the parkade, taking Devaun.

Devaun, whimpering in the back seat.

Devaun crashes into the pavement.

Devaun, recoiling from shooting a blast of energy from his hands.

Arny stands over Devaun with a laser knife.

Arny cutting off Devaun's leg.

Arny roasting the leg over the fire.

Arny throwing Devaun in the bus.

Devaun, crying for his parents.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Amnesia releases Arny.

Arny babbles incoherently while sitting in a puddle of his own urine.

Amnesia stands but loses her balance.

AMNESIA (CONT'D)

Wow, that one really took it out of me.

The bar is silent, motionless.

Amnesia turns to Heff.

HEFF

Well, that was...intense. Um, what am I supposed to do with him now?

Amnesia and Holli head for the door.

Amnesia looks back at Heff.

AMNESIA

Don't know. Throw him out with the trash.

Amnesia and Holli exit the pub.

EXT. DEAD-VEGAS - HEFF'S PUB - BACK LOT - NIGHT

Fade and Mirage retreat back into the shadows.

MIRAGE/REGAN

What the hell did she do to him?

FADE

We're not going to take them one on one.

Fade reaches into his pocket and produces two small metallic orbs about the size of marbles. He shakes them, and they begin to glow with a faint blue light.

FADE (CONT'D)

Here, take one. When I give the signal, throw it at the psychic.

Mirage takes the orb and inspects it.

FADE (CONT'D)

It's an EMD, electro-magnetic disruptor.

Mirage peeks around the corner of the building and sees Amnesia and Holli walking toward the invisible Hovervette.

Mirage whispers to Fade.

MIRAGE/REGAN

They're coming.

Mirage motions to attack.

Fade holds him back.

FADE

We've only got one shot at this; we need to pick our moment.

They wait until Amnesia and Holli are almost at the Hovervette.

Amnesia and Holli turn their backs to enter the Hovervette.

Fade signals Mirage. The two operatives burst out from the shadows and hurl the EMDs at Amnesia and Holli.

Holli, with lightning-fast reflexes, turns and fires a blast from her eyes but misses. The EMD hits her and fries her emitter.

Holli dematerializes, and her emitter falls to the ground, landing in a mirky puddle.

The other EMD hits Amnesia in the back, deactivating her disguise and reverting her to Odisko, no longer protected by her disguise's personal force field.

Mirage charges at Odisko just as she turns around.

Odisko tries to land a punch on the only exposed skin, his face, but Mirage manages to avoid her deadly, psychokinetic punch.

Mirage lands a stiff kick to her gut and momentarily knocks the wind out of Odisko.

Fade rushes over to assist Mirage.

Mirage lunges at Odisko and throws a punch.

Odisko dodges the punch and grabs Mirage's arm, flips him over her shoulder, and plants him on the ground with a thud.

Mirage doesn't move.

Odisko sees Fade approaching and spins with a roundhouse kick that sends Fade flying backward.

Fade jumps up to his feet and plants them in a fighting stance.

Patrons from the pub pour out of the club to watch the commotion unfold.

Odisko and Fade pay them none.

Odisko takes her stance, ready to pounce.

Odisko yells at Fade.

ODISKO
I know it was you.

Odisko charges at Fade.

Fade crouches down and flips Odisko over his back.

Odisko crashes to the ground but springs to her feet in one motion. She stands, ready for battle.

ODISKO (CONT'D)
What did you do to Haji?

The rage in Fade's eyes turns remorseful.

FADE
My job.
(beat)
I don't want to fight you. If you
come with me, all your questions
will be answered.

Odisko lets out a war cry, runs at Fade, and tackles him football-style.

Fade gets knocked down.

Odisko kneels on his chest.

Odisko's eyes start to glow; she reaches down and grabs ahold of Fade's face.

Mirage creeps up behind her and clubs her over the head with a steel pipe.

Odisko drops like a corpse. Blood spews from the gash on the back of her head.

Fade gets to his feet.

FADE (CONT'D)
I think you killed her.

Mirage replies with a sarcastic, callous tone.

MIRAGE/REGAN
OOPS! Father wants her alive.

Mirage kneels down and puts his ear next to her nose.

MIRAGE/REGAN (CONT'D)
She's still breathing.
(beat)
We need to get her to The Orbitat;
that's a lot of blood.

They drag Odisko to the IRMA, throw her in the back, and get inside.

The IRMA vanishes.

INT. THE ORBITAT - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

A private infirmary room, void of any decor of personality. It has a bird's eye view of The Noah, the planet below and the massive energy dome protecting Halo City.

Odisko lies alone, unconscious in a medical pod. Lights on monitors blink and beep. A regenerator ray repairs Odisko's fractured skull.

INT. RYLIE'S QUARTERS - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Mirage enters the lounge to find his parents sitting at the bar having drinks.

MIRAGE/REGAN

You're up late.

Arco gets up and walks over to Mirage, and hugs him.

ARCO RYLIE VI

Well done, my boy; I'm proud of you.

Mirage looks anything but proud.

Nessa gulps down the last of her martini, clearly not her first.

NESSA

Why so glum?

(beat)

You got them.

MIRAGE/REGAN

It was pretty bad.

(beat)

I don't know what her powers are, but what she did to Arny was brutal. She was about to do the same thing to Fade, so I clubbed her over the head.

Nessa gasps.

Arco pats Mirage on the back.

ARCO RYLIE VI

You did what you had to. That's the job.

(beat)

And what of the hologram?

MIRAGE/REGAN

She was destroyed. It was unavoidable.

EXT. DEAD-VEGAS - HEFF'S PUB - BACK LOT - DAY

The bright yellow sun casts its rays on the lot, illuminating the battleground of the night before. In the distance, the rhythmic sound of squeaking wheels gets louder as it gets closer to the lot.

The old, homemade cart, filled with a life's possessions, appears, pushed by BHADA(60), a vagrant with jaundiced yellow eyes and open sores on her face and lips.

Bhada enters the back lot. Her keen eyes, trained from a life of scavenging, hone in on a blinking object sitting in the puddle.

Bhada, with great effort, bends her rickety body down and retrieves the emitter. She realizes the blinking light is actually a button.

Bhada presses the button, but nothing happens.

Bhada puts the emitter in her cart.

INT. HOVERVETTE - DAY

The dash illuminates. The main terminal activates, and the words Holographic-Light-Interface backup protocols initialize. Lines of code fill the screen.

EXT. DEAD-VEGAS - HEFF'S PUB - BACK LOT - DAY

The Hovervette de-cloaks.

Bhada jumps back from shock and knocks over her cart, spilling her possessions on the ground.

Bhada ignores the mess and walks over to the Hovervette.

Bhada cups her hands around her eyes and peers through the window.

Bhada watches in amazement as Holli materializes in the driver's seat.

Bhada steps back when the Hovervette's engines come to life, and the Hovervette lifts off the ground.

Holli looks at Bhada and gives her a nod and a smile.

The Hovervette takes off like a bullet.

INT. EUGENIOUS MECHANICAL - DAY

Karma enters the shop.

Eugene tinkers with his invention and doesn't notice her.

Karma walks up to Eugene and gets his attention with a kiss on his cheek.

KARMA

Okay, old man, come, it's time for lunch, remember?

EUGENE

I've almost got it; just a few more minutes.

Karma takes the calibrator out of his hand and leads him to a table.

KARMA

Well, you're not going another day without eating. You know how you get.

Karma walks over to the replicator, scrolls through several choices, and then replicates a sushi platter.

Karma brings the platter to the table and sits down with Eugene. Just as they're about to eat, the communication terminal lights up with an incoming call.

Eugene answers the call. Holli appears on the screen with terror in her eyes.

EUGENE

Holli, you look upset. I didn't think that was even possible.

Karma rushes to the terminal.

KARMA

What's happened? Where's Odisko?

HOLLI

We were ambushed by two Halo operatives. I've been offline for five hours and thirty-nine seconds.

(MORE)

HOLLI (CONT'D)

(beat)

Listen closely, I need your help.

INT. THE NOAH - CORRIDOR - DAY

A long, winding corridor with ambient lighting and carpeted floors. The large viewing ports spaced every few feet line the outer wall, displaying a close-up view of The Orbitat.

Arco and his flight crew traverse the corridors, passing dozens of crew members hyper-focused on their jobs.

As Arco walks past them, they all stand and salute him.

Arco acknowledges each of them with a nod.

Arco stops at a viewing port and gazes at The Orbitat.

The flight crew stops and waits in silence.

After a few moments, 1st OFFICER GRAHAM WITH(25), a tall, serious man with jade-green eyes, approaches him.

ARCO RYLIE VI

Have you ever seen it from this side before?

Arco turns to the 1st Officer with glossy eyes.

1ST OFFICER WITH

Is everything alright, Sir?

ARCO RYLIE VI

It's a monumental day.

Arco continues down the corridor.

The flight crew follows.

They reach an atomizer bay, a larger version of the booths capable of transporting larger groups of people. The flight crew follows Arco into the atomizer and dematerializes.

INT. THE NOAH - BRIDGE - DAY

A dark, round room with a massive window at the front that doubles as a view screen. In the center of the bridge sits a large horseshoe-shaped console with various workstations.

Behind the console sit two decadent, plush chairs reserved for the captain and the 1st officer.

The flight crew steps out of the atomizer.

ARCO RYLIE VI
Mr. With, let there be light.

1st Officer With looks at Arco.

1ST OFFICER WITH
I think you should do the honors,
Sir.
(beat)
Or should I say, captain?

Arco looks at the 1st officer and smiles.

ARCO RYLIE VI
Captain Rylie? I like it, it has a
ring to it.
(beat)
Noah, give us some light.

The ship answers with a male, pleasant-sounding voice.

THE NOAH
Certainly, Captain. Initializing
auxiliary systems.

The bridge comes alive with lights, so many lights.

1ST OFFICER WITH
Take your stations and begin final
inspections.
(beat)
We've still got to get it started.

The crew gets somber looks on their faces.

Captain Rylie sees the change from enthusiastic to fearful
and addresses the crew.

CAPTAIN RYLIE
I know what you all must be feeling
because I feel it, too. The tragedy
that befell The Ark lingers in all
our minds, but fear does not
dictate our actions.
(beat)
We're about to embark on a grand
adventure, and that begins today.

The entire crew responds with "Aye, Captain" as they head to
their respective stations.

NT. EUGENIOUS MECHANICAL - DAY

The Hovervette, vibrating in ghost mode, passes through the shop's bay doors and lands on a maglev.

Holli sits in the vehicle.

Karma rushes over to Holli and opens her arms to hug her.

Holli stays seated.

KARMA

I'm so glad you're okay. Where's my daughter? Come, give me a hug.

HOLLI

I'm sorry, Karma, but without my emitter I am trapped in the Hovervette.

Eugene comforts his wife.

EUGENE

My dear, calm yourself.

KARMA

How can I? What if she's hurt, or-

HOLLI

The last thing I remember is the operatives ambushing us; then I was deactivated.

(beat)

They must have taken her to The Orbitat.

EUGENE

She's in space?

KARMA

Oh, dear gawd!

HOLLI

I have a plan, but first I need a new emitter.

Eugene runs over to the replicator.

EUGENE

They're so complex it's going to take another hour until they are finished printing.

INT. THE ORBITAT - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Odisko lies motionless in her medical pod. Suddenly, she opens her eyes and jolts up into a sitting position.

Odisko holds her head and inspects the back, but the wound is gone.

Odisko rubs her eyes to regain her focus.

Odisko climbs out of the pod and collapses to the floor.

Odisko crawls over to the window and gasps from what she sees.

ODISKO

Holy fuck! I'm in outer-fucking-space.

INT. THE JEFFERSON - BRIDGE - DAY

ENGINEER KATY WRIGHT(22), an eager woman with enthusiastic eyes, has her hands pressed on the screen of her terminal. They radiate a white glow as she psychically interfaces with the ship's systems.

Engineer Wright removes her hands from the terminal and turns to address the captain.

ENGINEER WRIGHT

Sir, All departments have completed the final inspections. The ship is ready for convergence.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER AMANDA BARRY(21), a well-postured woman with a tight bun, sits at her station, overseeing all ship's communications. She addresses the captain in a confident voice.

OFFICER BARRY

Ship's comms are fully operational and performing within specified parameters.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Mr. Butchart, where are we with navigation?

NAVIGATION OFFICER SCOTT BUTCHART(26), a friendly man with a shaved head, sits at the ship's helm reading star charts.

NAVIGATOR BUTCHART

The navigational array is fully operational and interfaced with The Noah's core systems.

SECURITY OFFICER MATT ANDERSON(25), an imposing figure who projects an air of confidence, inspects the ship's defenses.

SECURITY OFFICER ANDERSON

Everything seems in order. However, we won't have weapons until the core is established.

Captain Rylie gets up from his chair and paces the deck.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Excellent work.

(beat)

Ms. Barry, open a channel. Patch me through to The Orbitat as well.

INT. THE ORBITAT - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Odisko uses the wall to stand. With unstable legs, she walks to the door, but it's locked.

Odisko notices a security camera in the ceiling and waves her arms at it.

ODISKO

Hello? Can anyone hear me?

(beat)

Somebody come in here and tell me what the hell is happening. I'm officially too freaked out to fight.

Odisko gets startled when she hears Captain Rylie's voice over the P.A.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

(filtered)

Greetings, my friends; this is Captain Rylie speaking. I want everyone to stop what they are doing.

There's a long pause; the captain clears his throat.

CAPTAIN RYLIE (CONT'D)

(filtered)

We are about to initiate convergence and form our energy core. If I said I wasn't nervous, I'd be lying, but as I always say, fear does not dictate our actions.

(beat)

Our fantastic voyage to create a utopia on Darquita Prime begins today. As we move forward, we must never forget the sacrifice of The Ark and have faith that destiny is on our side.

The message ends, leaving Odisko with a confused look about her.

INT. THE NOAH - BRIDGE - DAY

The tension on the bridge is palpable.

Captain Rylie takes his seat. As he grips the armrests of the chair, he issues his orders.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Noah, initiate convergence.

THE NOAH

Yes, Captain.

(beat)

Commencing convergence.

INT. THE ORBITAT - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Odisko hears a deafening blast of energy fire from the hull of The Noah. She staggers over to the window and sees an intensely bright beam of light travel down to the planet.

INT. HALO CITY - ENERGY CORE CHAMBER - DAY

A compact space with a computer terminal and several monitors displaying different readings from the core.

Housed in a containment cell, a zero-point singularity, a source of limitless energy roughly the size of a baseball, pulsates with a radiant blue light.

ENGINEER TIM TEUNIS(30), a dedicated man with piercing hazel eyes and short brown hair, wearing a Halo Corps uniform, monitors the core from his terminal.

The convergence beam passes through solid matter and merges with the core. The core begins to pulsate faster as the blue energy travels up the beam.

INT. THE NOAH - BRIDGE - DAY

The crew waits nervously as the energy transfer begins.

THE NOAH
Successful link to the singularity,
energy transfer commencing.

The loud hum from the convergence beam resonates on the bridge as it vibrates from the power transfer.

ENGINEER WRIGHT
Transfer at three percent.

CAPTAIN RYLIE
Ms. Wright, what is the estimated
time to completion?

ENGINEER WRIGHT
Calculating the rate of the
transfer.

Engineer Wright's eyes twitch rapidly as she makes computer-fast calculations in her head. She replies moments later.

ENGINEER WRIGHT (CONT'D)
At our current rate, we will have a
stable core in approximately forty-
one minutes.

CAPTAIN RYLIE
I think we can do better than that.
Increase beam intensity by fifty
percent.

Engineer Wright hesitates.

Captain Rylie gets a commanding tone in his voice.

CAPTAIN RYLIE (CONT'D)
Is there a problem, Ms. Wright?

ENGINEER WRIGHT
No sir, increasing beam intensity
by fifty percent.

INT. HALO CITY - ENERGY CORE CHAMBER - DAY

Engineer Teunis monitors the transfer and gets a panicked look on his face when the intensity increases.

The core changes from an ethereal blue to a dark reddish brown and begins to shake the entire room.

Engineer Teunis activates his communications terminal.

INT. THE NOAH - BRIDGE - DAY

Engineer Wright monitors the transfer.

ENGINEER WRIGHT
Four minutes until completion.

Officer Barry alerts the captain.

OFFICER BARRY
Sir, we have an incoming
communication from the surface.

CAPTAIN RYLIE
On screen.

On the giant screen, Engineer Teunis appears, larger than life with a distressed look.

ENGINEER TEUNIS
You need to cut the feed! The core
is becoming unstable.

CAPTAIN RYLIE
It's almost done just a few more
minutes.

ENGINEER TEUNIS
If you don't stop, you risk
cracking the core's containment
cell.

CAPTAIN RYLIE
I said another minute.
(beat)
Ms. Barry, end transmission.

The screen goes black.

INT. THE ORBITAT - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Odisko stares out her window and watches the convergence beam. She looks down at the dome, which has gotten dimmer.

The woosh from the door to her room opening gets her attention.

Odisko turns around and sees COMMANDER ANASTASIA SRIBNAIA(23), a tall woman with long blonde hair pulled back and ice-blue eyes.

Commander Sribnaia enters the room, and the door closes behind her.

Odisko steadies her stance, ready for a fight.

As Commander Sribnaia starts to speak, her eyes connect with Odisko's and glow with a bright blue aura. Her voice has an eerie, enchanting echo to it.

COMMANDER SRIBNAIA

I'm Commander Sribnaia; you have nothing to fear. You are safe.

Odisko's demeanor softens. She lowers her hands and unclenches her fists.

ODISKO

I have nothing to fear.

(beat)

What did you do to me? I feel so-

COMMANDER SRIBNAIA

Calm? You feel what I feel.

The commander walks further into the room.

COMMANDER SRIBNAIA (CONT'D)

Soon, all your questions will be answered.

When the commander gets within arms reach, Odisko grabs her.

ODISKO

Cute trick.

Odisko touches the commander's face and flexes her power.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

Sleep.

The commander drops to the floor.

Odisko searches her body and removes her wrist cuff.

Odisko walks to the door, and with a wave of the cuff, the door opens, and Odisko escapes.

INT. HALO CITY - ENERGY CORE CHAMBER - DAY

The energy core, now black, vibrates with vicious intensity.

Engineer Teunis sits at his terminal, trying to override the power transfer.

A minuscule fissure appears in the core's containment cell, allowing a small burst of energy to escape.

INT. THE NOAH - BRIDGE - DAY

The crew waits with bated breath for the countdown to complete. Engineer Wright turns to the captain, elated.

ENGINEER WRIGHT

Sir, convergence is complete. We have a stable core.

(beat)

Terminating the convergence beam.

The hum and vibrations stop.

The crew erupts with cheers and applause.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Excellent work, everyone.

(beat)

Noah, transfer all systems to the core.

Before The Noah can reply, Officer Barry addresses the captain.

OFFICER BARRY

I'm receiving another communication from the surface.

Officer Barry drops her head, her tone distressed.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

On screen.

Engineer Teunis appears on the view screen. In the background, red warning lights flash and alarms blare, making it hard to hear the Engineer.

ENGINEER TEUNIS

There's a fissure in the containment cell. If we don't repair it, a catastrophic explosion is imminent.

INT. EUGENIOUS MECHANICAL - DAY

Holli, now out of the Hovervette, scans Eugene's force field generator.

HOLLI

Your design is sound. However, it requires several adjustments to the conversion matrix that are beyond your comprehension.

Eugene's eyes widen.

EUGENE

I may not be a quantum computer, but I still know how not to be a dick.

Holli processes Eugene's words.

HOLLI

I can see how pointing out inferiorities can seem offensive. I apologize.

Holli borrows the micro-calibrator and makes several adjustments to the device in mere seconds.

Holli puts the outer casing back on the generator.

Before Eugene can activate it, the power goes out.

Holli emits light from her entire body and illuminates the shop.

KARMA

That's a neat trick.

Screams and loud crashes can be heard outside the shop.

Holli runs to the exit and goes outside to investigate.

EXT. EUGENIOUS MECHANICAL - NIGHT

Holli steps out of the shop to witness the worst. The dome has failed.

Without the dome's protection, Halo City gets ravaged by a superstorm. Corrosive rain and hurricane-force wind gusts wreak havoc on the defenseless city.

Flying pods rain down from above, impacting towers and sending building debris plummeting to the surface. The blackened sky glows red, with fires erupting everywhere.

A few deadly seconds later, the dome reappears, but the damage is done. Halo City looks like a war zone. Bodies, fallen pods, and building debris litter the once-pristine city.

Holli hears a loud crash from inside the shop.

Holli runs back inside.

INT. EUGENIOUS MECHANICAL - NIGHT

Holli enters the shop to find Eugene trapped under a large metal shelf.

Karma tries to lift the shelf, but it's too heavy.

Karma cries out in a panic.

KARMA

Holli, come quickly.

Holli rushes to Eugene's aid and lifts the shelf with ease.

Karma pulls Eugene to safety.

HOLLI

Eugene, are you injured?

Karma helps Eugene to a chair.

EUGENE

I think I'm okay, just a little scared.

(beat)

And Holli, call me Appa.

Holli walks to the Hovervette.

HOLLI

Turn on your force field generator, and stay inside. I have to go.

Odisko needs me.

KARMA

Oh goodness, Denni. We have to get
to Denni.

Holli gets in the Hovervette and starts the engines. It lifts
off the maglev.

HOLLI

As soon as I get to the Halo
facility, I'll send the Hovervette
back to you so you can rescue
Denni.

(beat)

I will arrive in eight minutes and
forty-four seconds.

INT. THE ORBITAT - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The corridors of The Orbitat are vacant as Odisko creeps
through the maze of winding halls.

Odisko rounds a corner and sees The Nessa Rylie Children's
Center with an unguarded entrance.

Odisko prowls like a cat, avoiding detection by the few crew
members she sees.

Odisko enters the Children's Center undetected.

INT. NESSA RYLIE CHILDREN'S CENTER - NIGHT

Odisko crouches behind a towering golden statue of Nessa
Rylie.

Odisko watches Nessa speaking with a teacher who is holding a
young boy's hand.

Odisko watches as Nessa takes the boy and sits him in a chair
outside her office.

Odisko waits for Nessa to enter her office and then creeps up
the stairs leading to Nessa's office.

Odisko sees the little boy up close. He has blank,
expressionless eyes. He doesn't move or even blink.

Odisko crouches down.

ODISKO

You poor thing. What did they do to
you?

Odisko touches the boy's cheek and flexes her power. A moment later, she releases him with a look of pity.

Odisko looks through the window to Nessa's office, leaves the broken boy, and charges into the office.

EXT. HALO FACTORY - NIGHT

The Hovervette flies over a Halo Corps factory where several cargo freighters are being loaded with crates full of supplies.

The Hovervette lands in a shadow-covered corner.

Holli steps out of the Hovervette.

Holli programs the Hovervette to return to Eugenious Mechanical.

The Hovervette lifts off and begins to vibrate in ghost mode, then takes off.

Holli walks up the locked gate to the facility and hacks the lock in a matter of seconds.

Holli sees a guard walking the perimeter; when he passes by her, Holli grabs him, knocks him out, and carries his body into the shadows.

Holli adjusts her image inducer and transforms into the guard, OLLEY WHEAT(21), a building of a man with broad shoulders and menacing eyes.

Holli, disguised as a guard, enters the facility and boards a cargo freighter.

INT. NESSA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Nessa's office, an extremely organized space. There's a large neo-modern desk decorated with photos of her family. Classic works of art from the old world hang on the walls.

Odisko charges in with a vengeance to find Nessa sitting behind her desk.

Nessa doesn't react to Odisko's presence with fear or surprise.

NESSA
Oh, good, you're awake.

Odisko grabs Nessa by the throat when she sees a family portrait of Nessa, Arco, and little eight-year-old Haji.

Nessa's calm demeanor changes to fear as she gasps for breath.

ODISKO

I don't have time for pleasantries.

Odisko flexes her power, and with a rush of purple light, she enters Nessa's mind.

PUSH INTO NESSA'S MIND

EXT. FIELD OF WILDFLOWERS - DAY

Odisko opens her eyes and finds herself in a bright, sun-soaked field of wildflowers bathed in warm, nourishing light.

Odisko sits, closes her eyes, and meditates as she calls to the memory she needs to see.

INT. NESSA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Nessa lies on the floor, trapped in Odisko's death grip. She convulses, with blood seeping from her eyes. Her screams are heartbreaking.

EXT. FIELD OF WILDFLOWERS - DAY

A single flower floats through the air, lands in Odisko's waiting palm, and transports her into the memory.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. MEDICAL BAY - NIGHT - MEMORY

The images are orange and grainy.

A bright, cheerful room. Pictures of children's art hang on the walls.

Arco and Nessa, looking exactly the same, stand over a medical pod and comfort their sickly child, who struggles to breathe.

NESSA

We're losing him.

(beat)

Where is he?

ARCO RYLIE VI
Just hold on, my boy; soon, you'll
be all better.
(beat)
He'll be here.

Fade enters, holding Haji's hand.

A terrified Haji pulls to try and break free but to no avail.

Nessa snaps at Fade.

NESSA
Where have you been? There's not
much time. Do it now!

Arco grabs Fade.

ARCO RYLIE VI
If my son dies, you'll be next.

Fade stammers for his words.

FADE
I've never done this before.

NESSA
You will do this now!

Fade crouches down and whispers in Haji's ear.

FADE
I'm sorry, I'll keep you with me.

Fade stands, still holding Haji's hand, and then takes one of Young Regan's hands.

Fade's eyes light up.

Young Regan jolts up and gasps.

The green energy travels from Young Regan through Fade's body and into Haji.

Greenlight shoots out of Haji's eyes as he lets out a tiny scream.

Fade releases their hands, and both boys collapse.

Nessa runs to Haji and cradles him and kisses his forehead.

Haji, now Regan, opens his eyes and looks into Nessa's.

YOUNG REGAN
Am I better now?

END FLASHBACK

INT. NESSA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Back in the physical world, Odisko releases Nessa, but it's too late.

Nessa looks at Odisko, her eyes blood-soaked, bulging from their sockets.

Nessa takes her final breath and dies.

Nessa's venial system turns black as her body starts to wither and decay.

Odisko hears the sound of approaching footsteps and hides under Nessa's desk.

INT. THE NOAH - BRIDGE - NIGHT

The flight crew work at their respective stations.

Engineer Wright monitors the situation with Halo City's energy core.

ENGINEER WRIGHT
Sir, the energy core's output is still fluctuating. The dome failed again.

Captain Rylie, callus in his demeanor, replies.

CAPTAIN RYLIE
There's nothing more we can do.

ENGINEER WRIGHT
But Sir, the city.

CAPTAIN RYLIE
They're already dead. An asteroid is on a collision course with the planet. The core exploding would be a mercy.

The air is palpable.

The crew sits silently in shock.

Officer Anderson watches the security monitor and sees Odisko enter the Children's Center.

SECURITY OFFICER ANDERSON
Captain, the psychic escaped. I
have her entering the Children's
Center.

CAPTAIN RYLIE
Alert my son and Fade.
(beat)
I want her alive!

INT. NESSA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Odisko peers under the desk and sees a set of military boots enter the office.

The Officer walks over to Nessa's corpse and has his back turned to Odisko.

Odisko pops out from under the desk and rushes the officer.

The officer doesn't budge and turns around. It's Holli, disguised as Officer Wheat.

Holli deactivates her disguise.

Odisko gasps with joy and throws her arms around Holli.

ODISKO
I thought I lost you.

HOLLI
I wrote a backup protocol.

Holli looks at Nessa's body, then back at Odisko.

Odisko cries.

ODISKO
She killed Haji.
(beat)
She had that operative erase Haji's
mind and implant their dying sons.

Holli comforts Odisko.

ODISKO (CONT'D)
Can you access their systems?

Holli smirks at Odisko.

Holli walks over to Nessa's computer terminal and shoots a data transfer beam from her eyes. The terminal activates and displays several files, including one called Timeless and another called Project Offspring.

HOLLI

I'm downloading their files now.

A moment later, Holli turns to Odisko with disgust.

HOLLI (CONT'D)

Arco Rylie and Nesaa are actually in their nineties. They use an age blocker called Timeless.

(beat)

It's why their son was so sick.

ODISKO

What about the other files?

HOLLI

It just gets worse. They've been abducting children with special abilities so they can steal their bodies when they reach some distant planet they plan to colonize with super beings.

ODISKO

We don't have time for this. I saw the dome fail.

Holli looks destroyed.

HOLLI

The city is a war zone.

(beat)

If the core doesn't explode and level it, the encroaching asteroid will.

ODISKO

We need to warn Appa and Amma

(beat)

We've got to stop them.

Odisko turns to leave.

HOLLI

You'll need this.

Holli tosses the other emitter she had made to Odisko.

Odisko puts on the wrist cuff and activates it, transforming her into Amnesia.

AMNESIA

I'm going for Rylie. You figure out how to save the city.

Amnesia alters her image inducer, disguises herself as Nessa, and then exits the office.

INT. EUGENIOUS MECHANICAL - NIGHT

Eugene, Karma, and Denni sit huddled together, protected by the portable force field.

The sounds of destruction and chaos echo outside the shop.

The communication terminal activates.

Eugene answers the call, and Holli appears on the screen.

KARMA

Praise be, where's Odisko?

HOLLI

She's fine.

(beat)

I don't have much time, so I need you to listen.

EUGENE

We're here for you, whatever you need.

HOLLI

We need to evacuate the city.

Eyes widen, and jaws drop open.

DENNI

Is that even possible? Evacuate to where?

HOLLI

I'm going to send down the Halo cargo freighters to bring the survivors to The Orbitat.

(beat)

You need to get the survivors to Halo Stadium.

DENNI

That's impossible.

HOLLI

You have to figure it out. I have to go.

The call terminates.

Denni looks bewildered.

DENNI

We're all fucked.

Eugene's eyes brighten as he rushes to his computer.

EUGENE

I have an idea.

INT. THE NOAH - BRIDGE - NIGHT

The air on the bridge is thick with tension.

Officer Barry intercepts a transmission.

OFFICER BARRY

Sir, I've intercepted an outbound communication to the surface. It's the hologram; she is going to hijack the freighters and evacuate the city.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Like hell she is.

(beat)

Mr. Anderson, find her and kill her or whatever you do to stop a holographic intruder.

SECURITY OFFICER ANDERSON

Aye, Sir.

(beat)

This should be fun.

INT. NESSA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

As Holli leaves Nessa's office, she hears Fade and Mirage approaching.

Holli adjusts her projection matrix and cloaks herself.

Fade and Mirage enter the office.

Mirage sees his dead mother, loses it, and falls to his knees.

Fade tries to console him.

MIRAGE
I'm going to kill her.

FADE
There's nothing I can say to make
this better, but your father wants
her alive.

Mirage stands up and exchanges his tears for anger.

MIRAGE
There's only one place she'll be
going.
(beat)
Come on.

Mirage runs out of the office.

INT. EUGENIOUS MECHANICAL - NIGHT

Eugene sits at his computer, pounding the keys with deadly
focus.

Karma holds Denni and consoles them.

Eugene jumps up and heads for the door.

KARMA
Where are you going, you crazy, old
man? You're going to get yourself
killed.

EUGENE
I have to see if it worked.

Eugene exits the shop.

EXT. HALO CITY - NIGHT

The disaster has only gotten worse. The glow of fires burning
everywhere fills the air with thick black smoke.

Eugene covers his face with his shirt and runs down the
street. He comes to an intersection, looks up to the sky, and
smiles. All the signs and billboards have been converted to
evacuation signs telling the survivors to get to Halo
Stadium.

When he turns to head back to the shop, he sees random
survivors wandering around, like zombies.

INT. THE ORBITAT - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Odisko, disguised as Nessa, walks the halls of The Orbitat. She passes crew members hard at work. They all stop to bow to her as if she's royalty.

Odisko/Nessa continues through the winding corridors, trying not to look lost.

Odisko/Nessa rounds a corner to find Fade and Mirage waiting for her.

MIRAGE

Mother! There you are. Father needs to see you.

ODISKO/NESSA

Hello, son. I'm on my way to see him.

Mirage locks elbows with Odisko/Nessa and leads her into the atomizer.

Fade follows behind with his hand on his blaster.

INT. EUGENIOUS MECHANICAL - NIGHT

Eugene walks into the shop, followed by a collection of survivors.

Karma jumps up and immediately tends to the injured.

Denni runs to the replicator and replicates water for everyone.

INT. THE ORBITAT - DOCKING BAY - NIGHT

Holli de-cloaks when she enters the docking bay.

Two Halo Corps officers greet her with blasters pointed at her. They fire the laser blasts at Holli, which have no effect on her.

Holli blasts them against the wall and knocks them out.

Holli rushes to the docking bay terminal. Before she can hack the system, Security Officer Anderson surprises her.

SECURITY OFFICER ANDERSON

So, you must be the hologram I've heard so much about.

(beat)

(MORE)

SECURITY OFFICER ANDERSON (CONT'D)
Step away from the console before I
have to beat you into submission.

Holli stands to face him with a smile.

HOLLI
You're welcome to try.

Holli fires a blast from her eyes. Much to her surprise,
Officer Anderson holds up his hand and absorbs the blasts
into his palm.

SECURITY OFFICER ANDERSON
Thanks for that. Look what I can
do.

Officer Anderson redirects her blast, which hits Holli and
sends her flying into the wall.

Holli stands with a surprised look on her face.

Holli takes a fighting stance.

SECURITY OFFICER ANDERSON (CONT'D)
You're infinitely stronger than me,
so how about no?
(beat)
As much as I'd love to pummel you
all day, we're kind of pressed for
time, so I'll make this quick.

Officer Anderson closes his eyes to concentrate. When he
opens them, they glow white. He begins to absorb all the
light in the room, including Holli.

Holli can't move. Her body begins to dim.

Officer Anderson's body starts to glow red as he takes in the
light.

Holli notices the strain on his face.

HOLLI
You want my light? Take it.

Holli flashes bright, like a supernova.

Officer Anderson continues to absorb the light, but the
stress is too much.

Officer Anderson screams as the massive burst overloads him.

Officer Anderson explodes, bathing Holli in his remains.

The light from his body dissipates, and the room returns to normal.

Holli returns to the terminal and continues the hack.

EXT. HALO CITY - NIGHT

Eugene and the group of survivors walk through the burning streets. Denni holds the portable force field generator, which covers the herd and protects them from falling debris.

They come across the heartbreaking sight of a young mother, DELORIS(26), dirty, broken, and terrified, trapped under a slab of concrete, taking her last breaths. Her young daughter, DASHELDA(5), with a soot-covered face with a clean line from the tracks of her tears, sits beside her and strokes her hair.

Eugene leaves the safety of the force field to investigate.

Eugene kneels down by Deloris's side.

DELORIS

Her name is Dashelda. Please take her.

With no time to spare, Eugene takes Dashelda's hand.

Dashelda pulls away.

DELORIS (CONT'D)

Dashelda, my angel, Mommy is stuck; I need you to go with these nice people. They will keep you safe,

Eugene locks eyes with Deloris.

EUGENE

You have my word.

Deloris takes one labored breath as tears roll down her cheeks.

DELORIS

Always remember that Mommy loves you.

Deloris closes her eyes and lets out her final breath.

Eugene picks up Dashelda and rushes back to the force field.

INT. THE NOAH - BRIDGE - NIGHT

From the main viewport, Captain Rylie watches as his fleet of cargo freighters blasts off toward the planet.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Somebody get Mr. Anderson on comms;
I want to know what the hell is
happening.

(beat)

Ms. Barry, patch me through to
those ships.

Officer Barry attempts a ship-to-ship connection.

OFFICER BARRY

I'm trying, Sir, but something is
jamming the ship's communications.

The atomizer lights up, and moments later, Fade, Mirage, and Odisko/Nessa materialize. They step out of the atomizer bay onto the bridge of The Noah.

Captain Rylie's jaw drops when he sees Odisko/Nessa walk onto the bridge.

Captain Rylie stares down Mirage, rage building behind his eyes.

Mirage surprises Odisko/Nessa, grabs her wrist cuff, and tears it from her arm.

Mirage drops the wrist cuff on the floor and stomps it into nothing.

Odisko/Nessa's disguise disappears, and she reverts to her true form, Odisko.

Fade pulls out his blaster and takes aim.

Odisko raises her hands to surrender.

EXT. HALO STADIUM - NIGHT

Eugene and his group of survivors have grown to a couple of hundred people.

Karma walks, holding Dashelda's hand.

They enter the wide-open field of the stadium. The towering flood lights illuminate the field, which is crowded with a sea of survivors.

There's a thunderous sound of cheering as the first of the freighters land.

The dome fails, and hell and fury rain down on the mob.

Eugene extends his force field to its maximum output, but it's not big enough to shelter everyone. Those under the protection of the shield watch in horror as hundreds of survivors perish from falling debris or getting blown into La Mer De La Muerta by the hurricane-force winds.

INT. THE NOAH - BRIDGE - NIGHT

Captain Rylie holds back his rage. He stands and approaches Odisko.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

So, we finally meet. I was hoping it would have been under different circumstances.

(beat)

A woman with your power would be a great addition to our little family.

Odisko stands defenseless with her hands in the air.

ODISKO

Family, interesting choice of words, seeing how you broke mine when you stole my little brother.

Odisko looks at Mirage.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

Haji, you don't want to do this. You're my little brother.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Who the hell is Haji?

Odisko shouts to Captain Rylie.

ODISKO

Tell him! Tell him how you wiped my brother's mind and implanted your son's.

Mirage looks to his father.

MIRAGE/REGAN

Father?

Captain Rylie looks distressed.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Don't listen to her. She's trying to confuse you.

ODISKO

You were the first. Isn't that right? I know all about Project Offspring.

(beat)

He's almost one hundred years old, but his age blockers have made him sterile. He's going to steal those poor children's bodies and their powers.

(beat)

Tell him!

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Regan, kill her.

ODISKO

Let me show you.

Mirage takes Odisko's hand.

Odisko's eyes glow as she shows Mirage the truth.

Mirage looks at his father with disgust.

MIRAGE/REGAN

It's true. It's all true.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

You are my son. Everything I've ever done has been for you. To give you a new home, a legacy. Now, do as I say and end her.

Mirage, with tears in his eyes, pulls out his blaster and points it at Odisko's head.

MIRAGE/REGAN

I'm sorry about your brother, I truly am, but I can't change that.

(beat)

But you killed my mother, and for that, you need to die.

Mirage sets his blaster to maximum and starts to pull the trigger.

Before he can fire off a shot, Holli de-cloaks beside him, grabs the blaster, and snaps Mirage's wrist with a sickening crunch.

The blaster goes off.

The room falls silent.

Mirage, with a momentary look of confusion, drops to the floor with half of his neck missing.

Captain Rylie screams.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Fade!

Fade takes aim at Odisko.

Holli fires a blast from her eyes.

Fade screams when his hand gets blown off.

Fade looks at his stump in horror, then passes out from the shock.

CAPTAIN RYLIE (CONT'D)

Mr. With, shoot her.

The 1st officer doesn't' comply.

1ST OFFICER WITH

No Sir. I won't, and I won't be a part of letting the last of humanity die, either.

The rest of the flight crew stand and walk over to the 1st officer.

Captain Rylie charges at the 1st officer and grabs his blaster.

Holli fires a shot at the captain but misses and hits the navigational array.

Captain Rylie turns and fires a shot at Odisko.

Odisko leaps into the air, does a barrel roll over the laser blast, and tackles Captain Rylie to the ground.

Odisko kneels on the captain's shoulders and punches his face over and over.

CAPTAIN RYLIE

Just do it. Kill me. You've already taken everything that matters to me.

ODISKO

I have a better idea.

Odisko grabs ahold of Captain Rylie's face and flexes her power.

Captain Rylie screams for mercy as Odisko floods his mind with her lifetime of torment.

When Odisko releases him, he's covered in drool and bloody tears. His words are a jumble of incoherent nonsense.

EXT. HALO STADIUM - DAY

Eugene helps his family onto the freighter but stays behind.

EUGENE

I need to stay; they need my help.

Karma kisses his lips.

KARMA

Of course you are. Stay safe, my love.

The freighter doors close, and the ship lifts off and heads for the stars.

INT. THE ORBITAT - DOCKING BAY - DAY

The once cold, mechanical docking bay , resonates with tens of thousands of cascading voices from the survivors as they disembark from the freighter.

Odisko sees Taffy, Elroy, and Devaun. Devaun has two legs and innocence in his eyes.

Taffy runs up and hugs Odisko.

TAFFY

You're a hero. Thank you.

Odisko smiles.

Odisko stands with Holli and the other eager evacuees, waiting to be reunited with their loved ones.

Holli scans the crowd with her glowing eyes.

HOLLI

I see them.

Holli points out Karma, Denni, and Dashelda.

Odisko jumps up and down, waving her arms.

Karma smiles when she sees her daughters.

Holli and Odisko run to Karma and hug and kiss her.

Dashelda hides behind Karma.

KARMA

This is Dashelda.

Odisko smiles and waves at Dashelda.

Dashelda hugs Karma and hides her face.

KARMA (CONT'D)

She's been through a lot; give her time.

ODISKO

Let me guess: he stayed behind to help.

Karma gins.

KARMA

He'll be up in a day or so. You two saved a lot of people.

HOLLI

We saved a lot of people. We couldn't have done it without you.

ODISKO

Come with me, I'll show you where you'll be staying.

Odisko turns to lead them out of the docking bay.

Karma grabs her hand and stops her.

Karma, with great sadness in her eyes, stares into Odisko's.

KARMA

My child, your father told me everything.

Odisko tears up.

ODISKO

I did everything I could, but
Haji's gone.

KARMA

Not a day goes by when I don't
think of his sweet little face. If
I try, I can still hear his giggle.
(beat)

But we have a new family now, and
even though Haji isn't with us, he
will always live in our memories.

Odisko becomes excited.

ODISKO

Let's get you settled in; there's
something I need to do.

INT. THE ORBITAT - PRISON - DAY

Odisko enters the prison, a stark, dreary place—a long
corridor lined with small cells secured by invisible force
fields.

Odisko walks down the hall, passing empty cells. She stops at
one that houses Arco Rylie. He sits on the floor, twitches,
and mumbles to himself.

Odisko continues down the corridor, comes to Fade's cell, and
deactivates the force field.

INT. FADE'S CELL - DAY

Odisko enters the cell and sees Fade sitting on his bed, with
his freshly bandaged stump, reading a book.

Fade puts down his book when he sees Odisko.

FADE

What the hell do you want? Haven't
you done enough?

Odisko scoffs. Without saying a word, Odisko walks up to Fade
with glowing eyes.

Fade drops the book and recoils.

Odisko grabs his face. With a rush of purple light, she
enters his mind.

PUSH INTO FADE'S MIND

INT. FADE'S MIND - DAY

Fade's mind looks like a giant, circular room, gleaming white, lined with doors.

Odisko sees a red door and walks up to it. She tries to open it, but it's locked.

Odisko spins into a roundhouse kick and busts the door wide open.

Odisko enters the dark room.

INT. FADE'S MIND - DARK ROOM - NIGHT

The light from the open door casts a dim light to reveal thousands of lost souls of all the people Fade wiped, wandering aimlessly.

When the lost souls see the open door, they walk into the light.

As the room empties, Odisko calls out.

ODISKO

Haji?

(beat)

Haji, it's Oddy. Where are you?

Odisko sees a shadowed figure curled up in the corner, crying.

Odisko runs up to him and crouches down.

ODISKO (CONT'D)

Haji, it's me!

Haji looks up and sees Odisko.

HAJI

Oddy?

Odisko pulls Haji in for a hug.

ODISKO

I'm here to take you home.

A bright light encapsulates them as Odisko absorbs Haji's consciousness into her.

Odisko gasps as ten years of torment flow into her.

PULL OUT OF FADE'S MIND

INT. FADE'S CELL - DAY

Back in the physical world, Odisko releases Fade from her mental intrusion.

Fade holds his head and screams from the flood of consciousnesses entering his conscious mind.

INT. NESSA RYLIE CHILDREN'S CENTER - DAY

Odisko enters the Children's Center. It's full of displaced children, laughing and playing. She sees the blank-eyed little boy sitting in the same spot, staring at nothing.

Odisko walks up to the boy and takes his hand.

Odisko kneels down and speaks with tears forming in her eyes.

ODISKO

I'm so sorry this happened to you.

(beat)

I can't give you back your mind,
but I can make you whole again.

Odisko flexes her power.

The boy gasps and jolts his head back.

Odisko releases the boy and waits.

The little boy blinks, and the spark returns to his eyes. He speaks with Haji's voice.

HAJI

Oddy?

Odisko hugs him.

Haji sees his pendant around Odisko's neck.

HAJI (CONT'D)

My Bobbi Bear!

Odisko laughs and cries at the same time.

Odisko puts the pendant around HAJI's neck and takes his hand.

Odisko leads Haji toward the exit.

Haji looks up at Odisko.

HAJI (CONT'D)
Why are you so big?

THE END

FADE OUT.