

Confidential

KILL BALL

by

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FADE IN:

High tech text. Bright green.

2021 The Porphyron Virus First Appears

2022 Over Four Hundred Percent Infection Rate Reached

2023 Massive Cuts to Federal, State, Local Law Enforcement

2024 Gang Wars Erupt

2025 Compromise: The day will have peace but the night will belong to the Gangs

2026 There is constant struggle to survive while the Gangs compete for territory in nightly bloodshed

THE GAME IS KILL

Suddenly the monitor EXPLODES

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

A post apocalyptic intersection. Formerly Downtown Manhattan. Rubble and trash everywhere.

Two giant shadows cast against a brick wall. Dueling Combatants.

DIRKO (35) swings a baseball bat with a knife soldered to the end.

His opponent PLUDSO (30) is a giant hairless brute who holds a concrete cinderblock with both hands.

PLUDSO

Dis corner ain't fo' sale, ya chump!

Pludso raises the block high above his head.

PLUDSO

Smash ya lil' bug!

Pludso swings the block

Dirko rolls away

The block smashes into the sidewalk

Pludso stumbles

Dirko shoves the knife end of the baseball bat right into Pludso's gut.

DIRKO
Quiet, fatso!

PLUDSO
Ahhh!

Dirko pushes the weapon all the way through Pludso. A gruesome sight. Pludso collapses dead. Dirko's bat is completely soaked in blood.

DIRKO
Let that be a lesson to you, chump.

The victorious Dirko stalks off.

INT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

An inner city school converted into tenement slums. ALEX (20), curious, hopeful, soft, has been watching the high secretly from his window.

ALEX
So savage.

A delicate hand taps his shoulder.

ALEX
Ahh!

Alex panics and jumps like a bitch. But it's only his girlfriend BETH (19), fiery red hair, beautiful, caring.

BETH
It's just me. Was there something outside?

ALEX
It was nothing.

BETH
Come back to bed.

ALEX
Okay.

Alex takes Beth's hand and they get back into bed together. It looks like a shit room but they have each other and they are happy.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

The school grounds have been converted into a small community. The rooms are now apartments and the center courtyard is a vegetable garden.

There is a big metal gate, currently open, on the only entrance/exit to the courtyard. A few men guard that, everyone else tends to the crops.

Simple. Peaceful.

ALEX

I think we planted too many sweet potatoes this season.

BETH

You're the only one who doesn't like them.

ALEX

I guess.

CALEB (21), nerdy, weak looking, approaches them.

CALEB

Beth, look, I found another caterpillar.

Caleb hands beth a caterpillar.

BETH

Thank you, Caleb.

CALEB

I'll look for more.

Caleb wanders off.

ALEX

I think that guy has a crush on you.

BETH

He just wants to help. He knows I'm trying to regrow butterflies.

ALEX

Yeah, sure.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

The residents gather around a campfire.

TOM JAY (65), trying to look dapper in a suit that's seen better days, tells stories.

TOM JAY

And then after that, they started the games. High Stick, Blastball, Choppers, all the rest.

Precocious little kid PEABO (12) interrupts.

PEABO
Mister Tom Jay, is that when the
game wars started?

Some other kids laugh. Scrawny kid JEMMY (15) corrects him.

JEMMY
It's GANG wars, doofus.

PEABO
Shut up!

The kids laugh and Peabo pouts.

TOM JAY
The games keep the gangs busy. And
that's why we stay in here.

Everyone nods and murmurs with agreement.

TOM JAY
They call them games but make no
mistake: blood is shed.

LATER

Tom Jay and the kids have gone to sleep. The adults drink moonshine from paper cups.

PARK (40), a genial unofficial leader, takes a swig.

PARK
Do you think it's really that bad
out there?

SANDY (35), a fat funny guy, chugs his drink.

SANDY
Ain't no food out there. Just
concrete. No thanks.

Beth interjects.

BETH
We've seen some nasty stuff through
the window.

Alex looks nervous at the mention of his habit of staring out the window.

BETH
Tell them, Alex.

ALEX

Uh, well, it's not so bad.

Caleb has been sitting quietly this whole time but he perks up at Alex's words.

CALEB

If it's no so bad, I dare you to spend the night out there. Bring back something as a trophy.

Everyone is startled by this.

PARK

That's nuts!

SANDY

Nobody is that stupid.

Beth grabs Alex's arm.

BETH

Alex would never dream of doing something that dangerous.

Alex stares at Caleb.

ALEX

Why would we need a trophy?

CALEB

If the gangs try to mess with us, we can show them we have a trophy. We've played their games and beat them.

PARK

It's been over a year since a gang attack.

SANDY

Yeah, they leave us alone now. We don't want to screw that shit up.

CALEB

The trophy would keep us safe. And Alex says it's not that bad out there.

BETH

That's not what he meant. Right Alex?

Alex stands up.

ALEX
Open the gate.

Everyone is stunned except Caleb.

PARK
You're really going out there?

SANDY
Don't do it, buddy, don't do it!

Beth grabs Alex's face and makes him look in her eyes.

BETH
Alex. Do not do this. Do not go out there.

Alex looks at Caleb and then back at Beth.

ALEX
I'll be back at dawn.

BETH
No!

Beth grabs Alex in protest.

BETH
I won't let you!

Park and Sandy pull Beth away from Alex.

PARK
He's accepted the dare, Beth.

Caleb turns the crank to open the gate just a bit.

CALEB
Hurry, before anyone tries to sneak in.

Alex heads toward the gate.

PARK
Wait!

Park hands a small folding knife to Alex.

PARK
Good luck.

ALEX
Thanks.

CALEB

Hurry.

Alex exits into the darkness of the streets at night. Caleb quickly cranks the gate shut.

BETH

No.

SANDY

Don't worry, Bethy, he'll be back.

Caleb looks at Beth and smirks. Park tries to calm the group.

PARK

Let's all get some rest. I'll take first watch.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Alex stands on the same corner where he saw the fight.

The dried bloodstain on the pavement beneath his feet.

ALEX

Alright, a trophy.

Alex looks left and right.

ALEX

Where do I get a trophy?

The loud racket of a trash can rolling down the street.

Suddenly a man jumps out of the trash can.

LAFFER

Surprise, motherfucker!

LAFFER (31), skinny, tweaked out, piercings and neon mohawk. Nasty looking.

Alex backs away in fear

Draws his knife

Locks the blade into place

ALEX

I'm not afraid of you.

LAFFER

Oo-hoo, well I don't love you either, toots!

Laffer swings a lead pipe at Alex

Whoosh Whoosh

Alex barely dodges a bash to the head.

LAFFER

They won't let me play ball!

Laffer drops his pipe

Clang Clang

High rushes at Alex with open arms

LAFFER

Gimme a kiss, you old raspberry!

Alex thrusts the knife forward

The blade buries into a thick part of Laffer's leather jacket

Alex steps away in shock

The knife is stuck in the jacket

LAFFER

Ooo! Finders keepers!

Laffer flees at top speed. Alex takes a moment to realize.

ALEX

Hey!

Alex gives chase, but loses him around a corner.

Alex looks around: another decaying street with piles of garbage, layers of graffiti.

It looks the same as every other street but Alex slowly takes in his surroundings: the furthest he's been from home.

INT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Beth tosses and turns on the dirty floor mattress. She puts her hand on the part of the bed where Alex should be.

BETH

Why.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Alex looks down the stairs of a subway station. Dark and foreboding like a dragon's cave.

Alex keeps wandering until he hears another commotion but this time hides behind a dumpster to watch.

Three beautiful women walk together. Scantily dressed, high heels, fishnets.

RUBY (27) in red, EMERALD (25) in green, SAPPHIRE (26) in blue.

RUBY

Hurry!

SAPPHIRE

I'm not the one who took forever getting ready.

RUBY

I won't apologize for being this beautiful.

Alex raises an eyebrow quizzically at the sight of these women walking down the destroyed street seemingly without fear.

Then a giant scarred man in a tracksuit steps out from the darkness of an alley. POKER (40), a scary looking creep.

POKER

Hello there, sweetheart, sweetcheeks, and babygirl.

RUBY

You had better not be talking to us.

SAPPHIRE

Yeah, we're spoken for, so beat it, creep!

Emerald remains silent.

POKER

Here's my deal...

Poker produces a brick and length of rope.

POKER

You tie yourselves up, and I'll let you pick the order-

RUBY

No chance, needle-dick

SAPPHIRE

Get lost.

Poker raises the brick into the air.

POKER
Don't say I didn't warn ya!

Emerald draws a hidden straight razor and slashes Poker's throat.

RUBY
No, WE warned you!

SAPPHIRE
This is why I hate regular guys.

Blood pours out of Poker's throat

He drops the brick

BANG on his own head

He falls down dead

Emerald wipes her razor clean and hides it again

From his hiding spot Alex backs away in fear and knocks off some garbage CLANG

The girls hear the noise and move toward the dumpster.

RUBY
You think he's got a friend?

SAPPHIRE
That explains why he thought he
could handle all three of us.

Emerald closes in. Alex crouched down with nowhere to hide and nowhere to run.

RUBY
(yelling)
You see what we did to your friend?

SAPPHIRE
You're next, chump!

Alex slowly rises from behind the dumpster with his hands up.

ALEX
I don't know that guy. I was just
hiding from-

Ruby and Sapphire laugh. Emerald grabs Alex by the throat.

EMERALD
It's a little baby.

Alex swats her arm away and Emerald has the razor drawn again in a flash. Alex puts his hands back up.

ALEX
Sorry, I-...

Ruby and Sapphire rejoin Emerald.

RUBY
He looks like a hider.

SAPPHIRE
(to Alex)
How about that, are you a hider?

ALEX
I, uh-

SAPPHIRE
What should we do with him?

RUBY
If he's in a gang, The King will want him. If he's nobody, The King always wants more players.

Sapphire and Ruby share a chuckle. Alex is still backed against the wall by Emerald with the razor in his face.

ALEX
The King? Players?

EMERALD
Baby knows nothing.

RUBY
Come on, nobody is this dumb. You don't know The King? You should know who he is.

SAPPHIRE
A hider. You were right.

The distant sound of a large crowd.

RUBY
Let's take him. No time to waste.

Emerald puts her razor away.

ALEX
Thank you.

Sapphire locks arms with Alex on the left while Emerald locks arms on the right.

RUBY
Let's go, girls!

SAPPHIRE
(to Alex)
Start marching, we don't want to be late for the games.

ALEX
The games? Oh I was looking for the games.

SAPPHIRE
Well this is your lucky night then.

The girls lead Alex toward the sound of the crowds.

EXT. ARENA - NIGHT

A local park has been converted into an arena with metal bleachers lit by torch light. A crowd is packed and cheering.

The girls lead Alex towards the Arena.

ALEX
Wow, there's so many people.

A game is taking place of Kill Ball.

RUNNER catches the ball: a regular football with nails in it.

Runner rushes towards one end of the arena

SMASH a bottle hits him in the head

Runner is down

The Ball slips from his hand

RUBY
Oh good, we're not late.

SAPPHIRE
It's just the warmup game.

The Runner is dragged from the field with blood dripping from his forehead wound.

The victorious team leader OX (27), giant football player type, walks off the field holding the ball.

OX
 Hey ladies, you here to
 congratulate me?

RUBY
 You wish.

SAPPHIRE
 We brought something for The King.

Ox looks Alex up and down.

OX
 That little guy? Is the King going
 to eat him or fuck him?

RUBY
 That's up to him.

Alex looks terrified and starts to jostle.

SAPPHIRE
 (to Alex)
 Hey, easy fella.

The girls lead Alex to the fearsome KING KRUD (38) sitting
 on his throne of an old automobile.

King Krud is a mountain of muscles in knee-high boots,
 wrestling speedo, gauntlets, and a three-horned hockey mask.

The girls lead the terrified Alex right up to King Krud.

RUBY
 King Krud your excellence, we the
 Gemstone Girls, Ruby, Sapphire, and
 Emerald, have brought you this
 gift.

SAPPHIRE
 We found him on the street and we
 can't figure out what he is.

King Krud barely turns his head, just enough to see Alex
 with one eye, dismissively waving a hand.

KING KRUD
 Play him.

ALEX
 Play?!

The girls finally unhand Alex, only for two big GUARDS
 wearing football helmets and chainlink vests to grab him and
 drag him away.

ALEX

But-

RUBY

Thank you, King Krud, your
excellence, for accepting our gift.

SAPPHIRE

King Krud, please keep us in mind
when you choose brides for the new
year.

King Krud nods his head in approval, a barely perceptible
gesture of goodwill.

Ruby and Sapphire walk away in celebration.

RUBY

He'll pick us for sure.

SAPPHIRE

I can't wait to see what the inside
of his palace looks like.

Emerald walks away with them but instead of celebrating she
watches as Alex is taken by the guards and stuffed into a
holding pen.

Sapphire grabs Emerald's hand.

SAPPHIRE

Come on.

RUBY

Yeah, we need to get seats and I
don't feel like stabbing nobody.

The girls head to the stands.

HOLDING PEN

Alex is terrified. The dozen or so other guys in the pen
look confused, weak, crazy, or worse.

ALEX

What's happening?!

DUFFY (35), a fat bald guy steps up.

DUFFY

They gonna make us play Kill Ball.

ALEX

Play what? Kill Ball?

THE FIELD

Alex, Duffy, and the other STREET PEOPLE are lead onto the field. Another group of vicious violent PSYCHOS is lead onto the other side of the field.

ALEX
What are we supposed to do?

DUFFY
You see that ball?

Duffy points to the ball in the center of the patch of grass marked out as the play area.

ALEX
Yeah, I see it.

DUFFY
First team to get the ball across the other team's side wins.

ALEX
That's it?

DUFFY
(chuckles)
Yeah, that's it.

Both groups are lined up in the center in lines in front of the ball.

DUFFY
The game is essentially degraded American Football. No downs, no fouls, no positions, and no scoring. Get the ball across, by any means necessary.

King Krud stands up and raises his hand. The crowd falls silent almost instantly.

KING KRUD
(roars)
Play The Game!

The crowd erupts in applause and cheers.

FROM THE STANDS

The Gemstone Girls watch.

RUBY
Look, there's the little guy we found.

SAPPHIRE

Ooo, he's in trouble.

Ruby and Sapphire glare. Emerald just stares.

There is just a tiny bit of space on the bleachers next to Emerald. A random LOSER approaches.

LOSER

Is this seat taken?

Emerald spits on the ground at Loser's feet.

LOSER

Bleh!

Loser runs away.

BACK ON THE FIELD

RANDOM PLAYER on the street team rushes toward the ball.

ALEX

(to Duffy)

Should we help?

DUFFY

If he needs it.

The Random Player grabs the spiked ball

Rushes towards the line of Psychos

The first psycho dives at him but misses

Another psycho and then another try to grab him

But he is too fast and too quick

RANDOM PLAYER

I'm gonna make it!

WHAM! The random player runs into the outstretched muscular arm of the PSYCHO CAPTAIN. A classic clothesline maneuver.

The Player falls flat on his back but still grips the ball tightly.

PSYCHO CAPTAIN

Defense!

The Psycho Captain stomps on the random player's head BLORCH crushing it like a soggy pumpkin.

The ball flied up into Captain's hands

The crowd noise is even louder

The crowd loves the bloodshed

The Psycho Captain tugs his foot around. His boot is stuck in the skull.

PSYCHO CAPTAIN

Damn it.

The Captain tosses the ball to a PSYCHO RUNNER, who takes off running full speed at the street people goal.

Alex and Duffy and a few other people still mill around basically where they started.

ALEX

What happens if he makes it?

DUFFY

They kill us all.

ALEX

What?? No!!!

The Psycho Runner is only a few feet from the end zone, the crowd cheers at a fever pitch.

SLAM! Alex tackles the Runner from out of nowhere. Alex is weak and inelegant but fear is a powerful motivator.

The Runner hits his head on a rock and is stunned. The ball rolls away.

DUFFY

(to Alex)

Nice job, now grab the ball!

Alex snatches up the spiked ball.

ALEX

Ow!!!

Alex is careful not to impale any of his fingers or his hand on the deadly looking ball.

ACROSS THE FIELD

The Captain wrenches his foot from the dead guy's skull.

PSYCHO CAPTAIN

(points to Alex)

You're mine, bitch!

The Psycho Captain charges heedlessly at Alex, rage pushing him harder and faster but losing his senses.

DUFFY
(to Alex)
Get movin'!

Alex runs full speed at the Psycho Captain.

ALEX
What the hell am I doing?

The two runner are about to collide.

RUNNER
Aaahhh!!!

The the last second Alex pivots to the right. The runner leaps into the air with his arms outstretched.

RUNNER
Aaahhh!!!

The runner lands in the dirt and Alex keeps running behind him.

DUFFY
Way to go! You got this!

Alex closes in on the goal, when a WEASILY PSYCHO grabs his arm.

WEASEL
Not so fast, bitch!

Alex wrestles with him.

WEASEL
Gimme the ball!

ALEX
No!

Alex cocks back his fist and slams it into Weasel's nose
KRACK bone snapped and blood gushes out.

WEASEL
Bwah!

Weasel falls on his ass

Alex looks at his own bloody fist. Stunned.

Alex snaps back to reality and runs across the goal

A giant gong is struck and the crowd cheers in surprise
 IN THE STANDS

RUBY
 The street team beat the psychos?

SAPPHIRE
 Had to happen eventually.

Emerald stares at Alex.

BACK ON THE FIELD

Duffy rushes to Alex along with the rest of the street
 people.

DUFFY
 That was great. What's your name?

ALEX
 Alex.

DUFFY
 Hey everybody, let's hear it for
 Alex!

The street people lift Alex onto their shoulders and start a
 chant: AL-EX, AL-EX, AL-EX... Soon the whole crowd is
 cheering.

INT. THE SCHOOL - SAME TIME

Beth wakes up from restless sleep. She goes to the window.
 She can just barely hear the distant chanting: AL-EX, AL-EX,
 AL-EX...

BETH
 Alex?

EXT. ARENA - THE STANDS - NIGHT

The whole crowd hoots and hollers for Alex.

RUBY
 That's the guy we brought.

SAPPHIRE
 King Krud will be ever so happy
 with us!

For the first time Emerald cracks a smile.

EMERALD
 (whispers to herself)
 Baby...

ON THE FIELD

The street teams carries Alex towards King Krud at the head of the arena.

King Krud again stands and everyone goes quiet. The players lower Alex to his feet.

KING KRUD
 Good game.

Alex can barely meet the gaze of the burning red eyes of The King behind his three-horned hockey mask.

ALEX
 Thank you, sir.

The Psycho Captain pushes his way through the crowd.

PSYCHO CAPTAIN
 He's a bitch! A cheating bitch!

The Captain draws a rusty shank and raises it high in the air.

PSYCHO CAPTAIN
 Die, bitch!

The Captain thrusts the shank towards Alex
 CRUNCH King Krud catches the captain's wrist
 Crushes it like a soda can

PSYCHO CAPTAIN
 Aarrgghhh! No!

King Krud bends the Captain's arm back
 SNAP King Krud grabs the Captain's throat
 Puts his other hand on the back of the Captain's head

KING KRUD
 You dishonor our games.

King Krud wrenches the Captain's head around
 KRAK KRAK KRUUNCH turning his whole body backwards
 Captain's eyes roll back white

Blood foam flows from his mouth

King Krud lifts Captain's entire body over his head

KING KRUD
(roaring)
Loser!

King Krud hurls Captain's body into a dumpster with the word LOSERS spray-painted on the side.

WHAM! The body hits the lid and falls inside. CLANG! The lid falls shut.

The crowd cheers louder than ever while King Krud sits back in his throne. Alex looks even more terrified than ever.

The guards shove the street team off the field.

ALEX
(to Duffy)
What happens now?

DUFFY
You kidding? You just bought us a second chance at life. I'm going back to the bread factory and I'm staying put. If you're ever in the neighborhood, come find me. Duffy's the name.

Duffy runs away from the arena back onto the darkened streets.

ALEX
Wait!

Duffy is long gone. The other street players flee onto the streets.

Alex looks down at his bloody hands and the blood stains on his clothing.

ALEX
Some trophy.

Ruby rushes over to Alex.

RUBY
Hey, hider!

Alex panics and starts to run, right into Sapphire behind him.

SAPPHIRE
Easy, slow down. Alex, right?

RUBY
The whole crowd was chanting.
You're pretty hot.

Sapphire puts her arms around Alex.

SAPPHIRE
For a guy who claimed he didn't
even know who King Krud was, you're
pretty slick.

RUBY
Where'd you learn those moves.

Emerald appears to back up her sisters. But she keeps her distance and stares at Alex.

SAPPHIRE
And you didn't take off running
with the rest of the street trash.

RUBY
Are you really this dumb?

Alex locks eyes with Emerald who mouths the word "baby" to him. Ruby takes Sapphire's arms off Alex, and Ruby wraps her arms around Alex.

RUBY
If you really are this dumb, you
could use our help. We can protect
you.

SAPPHIRE
We protect ourselves, don't we?

RUBY
And the games will treat you right.

SAPPHIRE
Look at Ox.

The girls direct Alex's attention to a relaxation ghetto:

Ox is stretched out in a comfy chair with WOMEN massaging his back and feet.

ALEX
Um...

RUBY
Don't be scared.

SAPPHIRE
Tell us what you want.

ALEX
I just wanted a trophy.

RUBY
A trophy?

Ruby takes her arms off Alex.

ALEX
Like, a souvenir or something.

SAPPHIRE
What? Why?

ALEX
My friends thought if we displayed
a symbol of victory from the games,
we could keep people away.

Ruby and Sapphire chuckle and start to retreat.

SAPPHIRE
He really is dumb.

RUBY
Just a poor dumb hider.

Ruby moves toward King Krud and Sapphire moves toward Ox.

SAPPHIRE
Ox, baby!

Emerald walks up to Alex and hands him the Captain's helmet.
The letters "KK" branded on the side and some moderate blood
stains.

ALEX
Oh, wow. Thank you.

Emerald leans in close, gives Alex a peck on the cheek, and
puts her lips to his ear.

EMERALD
(whispers)
You're mine now.

Emerald quickly stalks off into the night.

Alex looks down in contemplation at his trophy - the helmet.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Sandy cranks the gate open. Beth waits expectantly. But when the gate opens nobody is there.

Behind them, Caleb does gardening work but watches the scene unfold.

Sandy comforts Beth.

SANDY

It's okay, Bethy. Maybe he died peacefully.

Beth erupts into sobs and tears.

SANDY

Aw jeez.

Tom Jay tries to help.

TOM JAY

Beth, maybe Alex had to hole up somewhere for a while, for safety.

Peabo the little kid walks over to the gate.

PEABO

Look!

Everybody looks

Alex marches home triumphantly

Blood stained with trophy in hand

Hardened look on his face

JEMMY

It's Alex! He's alive!

The whole settlement gathers by the gate to see this amazing sight, except Caleb who mutters and fumes by himself in the back.

Beth wipes tears away in relief. Park makes his way to the front of the crowd and sees the helmet in Alex's hand.

PARK

He's got a trophy! We're safe now!

The settlement cheers and celebrates. Alex lifts the helmet above his head.

Beth breaks from the crowd and rushes to Alex. She reaches him and throws her arms around him and passionately kisses him.

BETH
Don't ever leave me again.

Beth lays her head on Alex's chest and closes her eyes.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

The bloody helmet is hung up in front of the gate to keep would-be intruders away from the settlement.

INT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Alex and Beth lay on their dirty floor mattress. Beth is fast asleep in the comforting embrace of her lover, but Alex is wide awake staring at the ceiling.

In the distance he can hear the sounds of the games. Cheering and battling.

Out the window he sees flickering shadows on the brick wall: more combatants lit by trash barrel fire.

Alex carefully moves Beth's arm and goes to the window, but when he looks down at the street no one is there.

BETH
Alex?

Alex turns around to see Beth awake and concerned.

BETH
You can't sleep?

Alex shakes his head.

ALEX
No, I thought there was...

BETH
You wanted to see fighting outside,
didn't you?

Alex turns away.

BETH
Alex, look at me.

He does.

BETH
Aren't I enough for you? Why do you
have this bloodlust?

ALEX
That's not it.

BETH
You have me and safety here, but
you would rather go out there and
be dangerous.

Alex turns away again.

BETH
Look at me!

Alex snaps back to look at her, but this time a hint of fury
in his eyes. Just for a moment and then gone.

BETH
You've changed.

ALEX
I've always wanted us to be safe,
together, here.

Alex walks back over to the bed. Beth and Alex embrace.

BETH
And now? What do you want now?

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Park approaches Beth.

PARK
Hey Beth, where's Alex?

Beth starts to cry.

PARK
Oh, I'm sorry.

Sandy and Tom Jay help comfort her.

SANDY
Sorry, Bethy.

TOM JAY
It'll be alright, in time.

Peabo and Jemmy run over and hug Beth.

Behind them: Caleb smirks and rubs his hands together.

CALEB

Finally.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Laffer the crazy thug from earlier rummages through garbage cans.

LAFFER

Papa needs din-din.

Laffer licks the inside of a tuna can.

LAFFER

Ow! My lip!

Laffer tosses the can to the ground.

LAFFER

Crap-lousy tuna can!

A noise in the alley.

LAFFER

Huh? Who's there?

Laffer draws his knife.

LAFFER

Who needs a few new holes? Hahaha!
Who's my new best friend?

Another noise: behind some wooden pallets.

LAFFER

Big mistake, hombre. I was born in
this alley and I'm gonna raise a
family here some day.

Laffer leaps knife first behind the pallets. Nobody there. A black cat rushes away.

LAFFER

Just a stupid pussy cat.

ALEX (O.S.)

The only stupid pussy I see is you.

Laffer turns

Alex stands at the entrance of the alley

LAFFER

Who the fuck are you supposed to
be?

ALEX
You have my knife.

Laffer looks down at the stolen knife.

LAFFER
Huh? My mother gave me this knife.
You calling my mother a liar?

ALEX
She was probably a stupid piece of
shirt. Just. Like. You.

Laffer is enraged.

LAFFER
I'm gonna turn you inside out and
fuck your lungs!

Laffer rushes down the alley

Knife first

LAFFER
Aaahhh!!!

Alex steps away from the entrance

Out of sight

Laffer only runs faster

LAFFER
You motherfucker!

Laffer bolts out from the alley

Onto the street

No one there

LAFFER
Huh?

Laffer looks right

Nothing

Laffer looks left and-

WHAM! Alex brains him with a trashcan lid

ALEX
Cheap trick for cheap trash.

Wham bam slam. Alex wallops Laffer over and over with the trashcan lid.

LAFFER

Ugh...

Laffer falls to his knees and drops the knife.

Alex bends his knees

Roundhouse kick to the skull

Laffer falls down

ALEX

I'll take this.

Alex picks up the knife. Closes the blade and puts it in his pocket.

LAFFER

Ugh...

Alex takes the trashcan lid and beats Laffer a few more times. Wham bam slam.

ALEX

You're trash. Trash.

Alex tires. Laffer has a big bloody dent in his head. Passed out cold.

ALEX

Now you know you shouldn't steal.

Alex walks away, when Laffer springs to life and grabs Alex's leg.

LAFFER

Bleh.

Blood oozes from Laffer's gross face.

ALEX

You had your chance.

Alex stomps on Laffer's neck CRACK killing him instantly.

Alex dusts himself off and catches his breath.

ALEX

He made me do it.

RUBY (O.S.)

Bullshit.

Alex looks up: Ruby sits in the windowsill of a third story apartment having watched the whole fight.

RUBY
You're just looking for reasons,
aren't you, Alex? Looking for
reasons to kill.

ALEX
Have you been following me?

RUBY
Oh, you mean to that shitty little
school? Are you worried I know all
about your school friends?

Alex pounds his fist onto the hood of a ruined car.

ALEX
Damn it!

RUBY
Calm down. Why don't you see if you
can figure out how to find me up
here? We can talk. I'll be waiting.

ALEX
Wait!

Ruby disappears into the apartment and pulls a curtain in front of the window.

ALEX
Damn it.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

In a third floor apartment, Ruby lounges on a sofa.

RUBY
What's taking him so long?

Wham! The door flies open from Alex's kick.

RUBY
Ah! Here you are.

ALEX
You leave those people alone. They
have nothing to do with me.

RUBY
Well then, if they have nothing to
do with you, you wouldn't mind if I
(MORE)

RUBY (cont'd)
reported that settlement to King
Krud.

Alex storms into the apartment.

ALEX
No! You can't!

Ruby does not react.

RUBY
Sounds like maybe they do have
something to do with you.

Alex closes in on her, before cooler heads prevail.

ALEX
You're just trying to upset me.
What do you want?

RUBY
King Krud always needs new talent
for the Games, that's the way he
expands his territory.

ALEX
Territory?

RUBY
I know you're from a small little
school but this is a big island and
King Krud wants it all.

ALEX
Why do you care so much?

RUBY
If you work out as a player for
King Krud, and he keeps winning
more block wars, hopefully he will
remember that it was I, Ruby
Gemstone, who brought you to him.

ALEX
That's it? You hope he will
remember?

RUBY
That and make me one of his brides!
Me and my sisters, of course. King
Krud has a private palace
somewhere, from before the end. A
luxurious place where the pleasures
(MORE)

RUBY (cont'd)
are endless. He needs sons to
continue his reign.

Alex shakes his head.

ALEX
This is all so... I don't

Ruby stands up and approaches Alex cautiously.

RUBY
It's a dangerous world.

Ruby takes Alex's hand.

RUBY
I would never betray your
settlement.

ALEX
Thank you.

RUBY
All I ask is that you go to the
arena. From the other night. Go
there and join King Krud's team.

Ruby smears a thumb print of red dye onto the back of Alex's
hand.

ALEX
What the?

RUBY
Tell them Ruby sent you.

Ruby sits back down on the couch. Playful. Flirty.

RUBY
I won't take a minute more of your
time.

Alex eyes her up and down, but then turns and leaves.

RUBY
(surprised)
Huh?

A closet door opens and Sapphire appears with a baseball.

SAPPHIRE
He just left?

Emerald appears from another room. She shuts her razor blade and stashes it.

RUBY

He could be screwy. We might have to keep looking.

SAPPHIRE

(rolls her eyes)
Maybe he just didn't like you.

RUBY

You did not say that.

Ruby and Sapphire get in each other's faces. Emerald goes to the window and moves the curtain.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Alex marches away from the apartment building. He stops. His face betrays a strange feeling. He looks back and sees Emerald in the window watching him.

Emerald smirks at Alex and gives him a little wave.

EXT. ARENA - DAY

Ox the star player demonstrates techniques to a group of kneeling players, each one looks more brutal and grungy than the last.

OX

It's all about follow-through, ya hear me?

Alex approaches the group.

OX

Who are you supposed to be?

ALEX

Alex.

Alex shows the red smudge on his hand. The players murmur with recognition.

OX

Oh, I remember you. The street captain. Big victory chief, right?

ALEX

Something like that.

Ox bends down to pick up a ball.

OX

Alright then.

Ox hurl the ball at Alex without warning

Alex does not flinch

Raises one hand

Catches the ball

The players murmur again. Impressive.

OX

Okay, you just earned a try-out.

Take a knee, Al.

Alex joins the players in their lesson.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A fierce match of Kill Ball is underway:

King Krud's team Vs. Big Mudder's team

The lead Mudder grabs the ball

Ox punches him in the face

Ox grabs the ball

OX

Look alive, Alex!

Alex rushes across the field

Dodging other players

They slip and fall

No one can grab him

Alex turns around

ALEX

I'm open!

Ox hurls the ball to Alex

Who runs to the end of the field

VICTORY! The crowd erupts

ON THE SIDELINES

King Krud and his entourage opposite

Big Mudder and his entourage

BIG MUDDER (29), half biker and half-fisherman

BIG MUDDER

You win, King Krud, fair and square. We cede the territory to you.

Big Mudder signals to his team and they slink away in defeat.

King Krud raises a goblet of moonshine to toast his team.

KING KRUD

Winning is the source of all life!

The crowd cheers and celebrates.

Ox gives a hearty pat on the back to Alex.

OX

Way to go, Al. Some fancy footwork.

ALEX

So King Krud controls this area now?

OX

Nobody wants to go back to the old ways. The fighting and the blood. We can settle disputes with the Games, and the only dispute that matters is land. Who gets it, and who gets lost from it, capiche?

ALEX

Yeah, I think I understand.

OX

Don't get too comfortable. We only play Kill Ball part of the year. When it gets cold we play High Stick. Oh boy, you're gonna love High Stick.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

A makeshift rooftop party lit by bonfire. Drinking, dancing, and girls. Ox dances with two TOPLESS WOMEN.

OX

Don't tell Sapphire.

Alex makes out with an anonymous WASTELAND WOMAN.

ALEX
 (to the woman)
 Who are you?

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

SUPER: "Six Weeks Later"

In an abandoned mall parking lot, two teams prepare for High Stick: ultra-simplified hockey. No fouls, first goal wins the game.

Ox, Alex, and the rest of King Krud's team have "KK" painted somewhere on them.

The other team is park dwellers gone feral: big beards, long greasy hair.

Both team's sticks are equipped with razor sharp blades on the bottom.

ON THE SIDELINES

King Krud and the Feral Emperor shake hands in a primitive ceremony. The FERAL EMPEROR (45) looks like the scariest dirtiest bum of all time.

FERAL EMPEROR
 If we win, this space is ours
 forever. If you win, you can have
 it.

KING KRUD
 Agreed.

The puck is placed between Ox and the FERAL CAPTAIN.

Alex tightens his grip on his stick.

FERAL EMPEROR
 Make me proud, boys!

The Feral Emperor blows a whistle

Ox slams his stick down first

The puck goes flying toward the Feral goal

But the Feral Captain slices his stick into Ox's belly. His padding keeps it from being fatal.

OX
 Agh!

He falls to his knees

ALEX

Ox!

Alex races towards Ox

The Feral Captain raises his stick up high

SLICES down into Ox's shoulder

OX

Ugh...

Ox passes out from pain

The Feral Captain prepares for the killing slice into his exposed neck.

FERAL CAPTAIN

This lot's ours forever!

WHAM! Alex chops his stick into the

Feral Captain's throat

The Captain collapses

Alex leans down to check on Ox

ALEX

Ox, are you okay?

Ox does not respond

Alex looks to the puck

Two random Krud players are being out maneuvered

The Feral Team has the puck

Alex leaps back up

Alex races over and steals the puck

WHAM! It sails across the parking lot

Feral players dive for the puck

The puck is almost out of momentum

The puck just barely slides into the goal

ON THE SIDELINES

King Krud's entourage bursts into applause and the Feral Emperor grumbles.

FERAL EMPEROR
Consarnit! Why did we even
practice?

The Feral Emperor and his team stalk off in defeat.

Some of the players carry the wounded Ox.

Alex jumps in to help Ox.

ALEX
You're going to be okay, buddy.

They pass by some FERAL PLAYERS carrying their wounded Captain away.

FERAL PLAYER
You're gonna be okay, buddy.

Alex and the Feral Player lock eyes on realizing they said the same thing.

ALEX
Watch it, pal.

FERAL PLAYER
Hey, we're leaving, aren't we?

ALEX
I don't like what that guy did to
my friend.

Alex points to the wounded Feral Captain.

FERAL PLAYER
Oh well.

ALEX
Oh well?

FERAL PLAYER
Yeah, oh well, fuckwit. Now let is
leave before-

No second though Alex attacks him.

A few people try to restrain them

Before everyone forms a circle

To contain them and watch the fight

ALEX

You say sorry to my friend!

FERAL PLAYER

Never!

Alex tackles the Feral Player to the ground

Punches him in the face

Again and again and again

The Feral Player is no match

Busted bloody bulbous nose

Fat purple eyes swollen shut

Red mouth with a brown tooth falling out

Punch punch punch punch

KING KRUD

Enough!

King Krud and Feral Emperor separate their players

The Ferals drag away their brother with the busted face

Alex looks up expecting congratulations

King Krud's mighty fist flies into his face

WHAM! Alex is knocked out cold

EXT. ARENA - DAY

Beams of sunlight hit Alex on the face

Alex wakes up inside one of the chain link cages in the park

Groggy. Confused

ALEX

What happened?

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

The gate cranks open.

Caleb and Sandy drive a taxi with all of its windows busted out inside the school grounds. The settlement shows up to see what has arrived.

SANDY

Look at this! Rations looted from a grocery store. And some other stuff.

Sandy leads a goat by a rope leash.

SANDY

We found a goat. Goats make milk, right?

Tom Jay pets the goat. Beth watches from a distance. She tries to smile but is still clearly upset.

TOM JAY

They sure do. Where did you find him?

Peabo and Jemmy run up to the goat.

SANDY

Tied up in an abandoned roof garden. He looked hungry.

PEABO

Can we call him Bucket? Bucket the goat.

Park walks up and looks at what else is in the taxi: free weights and a lifting bench.

PARK

I don't see how this is useful.

Caleb smacks Park's hand away

CALEB

That's why you're not in charge anymore.

PARK

What?

CALEB

I'm in charge now.

PARK

What are you talking about?

CALEB

Say it. Say I'm in charge now.

PARK

You're being ridiculous.

Caleb shoves Park to the ground.

PARK
What the hell?!

Sandy backs away in fear. Tom Jay guides the kids and the goat to a safe distance.

CALEB
I'm in charge now and you need to say it. Say I'm in charge now!

Park stands up.

Caleb pushes him back down.

CALEB
I'm in charge now! Say it!

PARK
Ah! Ow, why are you doing this?

Caleb puts his foot on Park's face.

PARK
Ow. Stop!

Beth runs towards the fight

Sandy stops Beth

SANDY
Stay back, Bethy.

Park struggles against Caleb's foot on his face

Park scrapes and claws but he cannot move the foot

Caleb presses his foot down hard on Park's face

CALEB
Say I'm in charge now!

PARK
Alright, alright, you're in charge.

CALEB
No.

Caleb keeps pressing his foot down.

CALEB
Say it loud. Say it so everyone can hear you. Now!

PARK
You're in charge!

CALEB
Louder!

PARK
You're in charge!!!

Caleb looks around to make sure everyone is watching.

CALEB
(to settlement)
You all heard him. I'm in charge
now.

Caleb takes his foot off Park's face
But then Caleb kicks him in the gut

CALEB
(to Park)
Now get up and close the gate.

Caleb marches triumphantly into the school.

CALEB
(to settlement)
Everyone, unload the taxi and find
a place for this goat.

Caleb grabs Beth by the wrist.

BETH
No, let me go!

Sandy tries to object.

SANDY
Hey, Caleb, can't we -

Caleb puts a finger in Sandy's face.

CALEB
This is your only warning, fat man.

Sandy runs away scared. Caleb grabs both of Beth's wrists.

CALEB
(to Beth)
You're mine, now.

Beth struggles.

BETH

Let me go!

Caleb drags Beth into one of the school rooms.

EXT. ARENA - DAY

Alex sits in his cage rubbing his eyes. Finally one of the GUARDS of King Krud approaches.

GUARD

You Alex? King Krud wants to see you.

ALEX

Finally.

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

King Krud holds court. A tall skinny BUM pleads his case.

BUM

Please, your majesty, look in your heart. I ain't a bad guy. Please.

KING KRUD

Flight!

Two guards grab by the Bum by both arms

BUM

No, no, your majesty, please!

The two guards toss the Bum off the roof.

BUM

Aaaaaahhhhh!!!

The long scream is cut off by a WHAM when he hits the street.

KING KRUD

Next.

The guard shoves Alex in front of King Krud.

ALEX

Uh, King Krud, sir-

KING KRUD

One of my best players. Dishonoring the rules.

The guard shoves Alex closer to the edge.

ALEX

Whoa-whoa!

KING KRUD

The games have rules. We must obey them. Someday I will rule this whole island. Will you stand behind me?

The wind blows through an awkward silence.

ALEX

Yes sir, I will stand behind you and I will never violate the rules again.

KING KRUD

Spared!

The guards drag Alex back towards the fire escape.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The wounded Ox lays in a bed by a window. Alex comes in to check on him.

OX

How you doin, Al?

ALEX

I came to ask you.

OX

These games, it's al we have. But sometimes it ain't so great, you know what I mean?

Alex sits beside Ox.

ALEX

I get you.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

The crowd cheers for a game of Murder Bounce: simplified basketball where the players have spiked helmets, gauntlets, and kneepads.

Alex leads King Krud's team against the Westlake Warriors.

King Krud and KEMOSABE ceremoniously shake hands in front of everyone.

Alex holds the ball: every player has work gloves on because the ball has spikes in it.

The players practice passing because dribbling is no longer possible.

At the stands: Ruby, Sapphire, and Emerald watch the players before the match starts.

Sapphire points out Alex.

SAPPHIRE

Your boy is already King Krud's best player.

RUBY

He's our ticket off the streets.

Emerald notices a man sitting nearby leering at her. Emerald beckons him closer. The IDIOT moves closer.

IDIOT

How you doin'?

Emerald pulls a razor to his throat.

EMERALD

Hand it over.

IDIOT

Hand what over?

EMERALD

What you got.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Caleb chugs a cup of goat's milk. Glug-glug-glug. Burp.

CALEB

That's pretty good.

Caleb hands the cup back to Tom Jay.

CALEB

Good job, old man.

TOM JAY

Thank you, sir.

Tom Jay and the kids tend to the goat.

CALEB

(to the kids)

Go. Go outside and find books.
Bring me knowledge.

Peabo and Jemmy comply and scamper toward the gate.

Caleb checks in on Sandy and Park who tend the garden but are now shackled together with chains.

CALEB
Work harder!

Caleb slaps Sandy on the back of the head.

SANDY
Yes sir!

PARK
Yes sir!

Caleb grabs a carrot and bites into it.

CALEB
Mmm. I love carrots.

Caleb sits down at the weight lifting bench.

CALEB
I'm the only thing keeping us safe.

Caleb lifts weights with an angry look on his face.

INT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Beth is chained up in one of the classrooms. She stares wistfully out the window. Watches a can roll down the street.

BETH
(whispers)
Alex.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Alex catches the ball

A Warrior player gets in his face

Alex elbows him with the spike

Blood flies through the air

The Warrior falls to his knees

Alex puts one foot on the Warrior's shoulder

Then the other foot

Stands on the warrior

Alex leaps off

Sails through the air
The crowd goes silent for a second
That seems to last an hour
SLAM DUNK Alex pushes the ball through he net
The crowd erupts
Even King Krud jumps to his feet
Raises his giant fist in celebration

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Another rooftop party. This time King Krud is present. Ruby sits in King Krud's lap. Whispers in his ear. Giggles.

A STREET MUSICIAN plays a guitar. Alex dances with Sapphire.

SAPPHIRE

You've come a long way.

ALEX

To think I used to be afraid of you.

Sapphire laughs.

SAPPHIRE

We put a lot of work into that routine. Well, I guess Ruby does. Or Emerald. Whatever, I'm the nice one.

ALEX

What about Ox?

Sapphire is upset by the question.

SAPPHIRE

What about him?

ALEX

You were with him. Now he's all messed up.

Sapphire pulls away.

SAPPHIRE

Things change.

Sapphire storms off

Alex drinks a big glass of moonshine

Alex climbs down a fire escape

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alex crawls into one of the hundreds of anonymous ruined apartments.

ALEX
Home sweet home.

Alex lays on the bed by the window and looks at the stars.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Park and Sandy man the front gate. Caleb walks over.

CALEB
What is it?

PARK
There's a group outside, sir.

CALEB
You told them to leave?

SANDY
They want to speak to you, sir.

CALEB
Open the gate.

The gate cranks open. Caleb walks outside to find the Feral Emperor and four of his hobo followers.

CALEB
Who are you? Leave now.

FERAL EMPEROR
We've been displaced. We're good men.

CALEB
Leave now. We don't know you.

FERAL EMPEROR
We work, but we were pushed from our territory.

CALEB
I will have to make an example of you.

Caleb lunges at the Feral Emperor. WHAM BAM SLAM. Right hook, left jab, uppercut. Caleb pummels the fat old man.

FERAL EMPEROR

Ow! Shit! Stop!

The hobos run away in fear. Caleb sweeps the Feral Emperor's legs.

Jemmy the kid is on the street and sees the fight. He runs away from the school in fear.

FERAL EMPEROR

Ah!

The Feral Emperor falls to the ground. Caleb picks up a two-by-four.

CALEB

Leave us alone!

Caleb smashes the wood into the Feral Emperor's head over and over until it's just red paste.

Across the street Ruby watches the whole scene.

RUBY

(to herself)

That's no game.

Caleb walks back inside the settlement.

Caleb wipes blood onto the helmet hung outside the gate.

CALEB

Close the gate!

Park and Sandy close the gate behind Caleb.

Caleb sits down at his weightlifting bench. He does not even bother cleaning the blood from his face. He lifts weights furiously.

CALEB

Only I can keep us safe.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alex wakes up in bed with Emerald lying next to him. Her arms wrapped warmly around him.

ALEX

What the fuck?

Alex looks around. Hung over. Confused. Emerald wakes up and jumps out of bed. Backs away. Skittish. Like a scared animal.

ALEX

Uh... What?

Emerald runs out of the room. Alex looks down at his crotch and then looks at the doorway.

ALEX

Hey!

Alex stumbles out of bed. Hungover. He gets to the doorway and looks around. No sign of her.

ALEX

That shit was weird.

MONTAGE: Alex leads the team to victories

-Another game of High Stick

-King Krud roars with delight as Alex pushes his competitor off a tiny raised platform

-In the pouring rain Alex and a tattooed punker wrestle in a pit of mud

-Alex leads the team in Tug of War across a muddy river pulling the other team into the water

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

A narrow metal beam is balanced between two buildings.

One side King Krud and his entourage

The other side RASTA RABBI (55) and his entourage

Alex and ROBB (33) stand against each other on the beam precariously balanced thirty feet over the street.

Alex and Robb each have a baseball bat

RASTA RABBI

This block is all we have! We know you can do it, Robb!

Robb swings his baseball bat wildly at Alex

ROBB

Back to Babylon with you, bumbaclot!

Alex backsteps and dodges the wild swings

ALEX

Ha! You're a terrible batter.

Alex whacks Robb in the skull with the bat

Robb topples over the side

Alex smiles and gloats

But Robb grabs Alex's foot

ALEX

Oh shit!

Alex slips but grabs onto the beam

Robb tumbles to the ground

Laughing

ROBB

Ay ya bumbaclot!

Robb lands head first and cracks his neck

Alex barely hangs on

Both sides watch with fevered anticipation

King Krud says nothing

RASTA RABBI

(to Alex)

Fall, damn you, fall and we get a tie!

Alex struggles

ALEX

(grunts)

Ugh... Erh...

Alex pulls himself up

King Krud's entourage cheers

KING KRUD

To victory!

Alex climbs back onto the beam

Rasta Rabbi and his entourage are upset

RASTA RABBI

I'll have a new army in a year!
This block will be ours again!

Alex walks back to the building

To his surprise King Krud waits there

Hand outstretched to help him down

EXT. BANQUET - NIGHT

King Krud sits at the head of the table. Everyone is drunk and celebrating. Alex sits beside King Krud.

KING KRUD

Why did you join the Kingdom?

ALEX

I was just existing before. That life means nothing. To play the games, that's what life is made for.

King Krud pours Alex a drink and raises his own for a toast.

KING KRUD

You will be my new star player. The captain.

ALEX

What about Ox?

KING KRUD

You will be my new star player. The captain.

Alex looks momentarily uneasy before chugging his drink.

ALEX

Thank you, King Krud.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Tom Jay and the kids lay down to sleep with the goat.

Sandy and Park sleep in the garden still chained together.

Caleb finishes working out and drinks another mug of goat's milk. Caleb is incredibly muscular now.

INT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Caleb walks to a classroom door that is blocked by a giant piece of concrete slab

Caleb uses his giant muscles to lift the slab and open the door. The concrete slab slams back down into position, blocking the door again.

Beth is chained in the corner. Caleb walks up to her.

CALEB
Soon I will challenge the other
lords.

Beth turns away and will not look at him.

CALEB
I send the children to find things.

Caleb holds up two books: "Military Strategy" and "Close Quarters Combat Manual."

CALEB
Everyday I grow stronger, but also
my mind grows.

Beth refuses to look at Caleb.

CALEB
Have you thought about my offer?

Caleb grabs Beth. Shakes her. Makes her look in his eyes.

CALEB
Be my queen. I will conquer this
island and then the rest. Lord
Caleb will repair this world.

BETH
You're insane, Caleb!

Beth wrestles free. She backs into the corner.

BETH
You're a monster.

Caleb pulls a gold ring from his pocket.

CALEB
Look. Treasures.

Caleb throws the ring at Beth.

CALEB
For you.

Beth tosses the ring to the ground.

BETH
I don't want that.

CALEB
You will.

EXT. BANQUET - NIGHT

King Krud gives a speech to his followers.

KING KRUD
This island will be ours!

Everyone cheers.

King Krud puts his giant hand on Alex's shoulder.

KING KRUD
(to Alex)
Special mission.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Alex carries a small leather case and follows the lead of Dirko.

DIRKO
King says I gotta take you to
Bitmap.

ALEX
Are you sure this is the way?

DIRKO
I know these streets real good.

ALEX
I hope so. I don't know how I would
get back to the Kingdom.

Dirko points to a boarded up brownstone apartment.

DIRKO
This is it.

Alex goes up to the apartment.

ALEX
How do I get in?

DIRKO
Door's around the side.

ALEX
Aren't you coming?

DIRKO
I'll stand watch.

ALEX
Fine.

Alex walks into the alley and finds a heavy iron door. He knocks.

ALEX
King Krud sent me.

A long pause and the door opens.

INT. BITMAP'S PLACE - CONTINUOUS

BITMAP (40) is a shriveled pale little man. He lets Alex in and then shuts the door.

BITMAN
King's man? What is it?

Alex hands over the leather case.

ALEX
Here.

BITMAP
Okay, okay.

Bitmap opens the case: a small bottle of moonshine and a note. Bitmap reads the note.

BITMAP
Yeah, yeah. That's good. Tell the King I said that's all real good.

Alex looks around: the apartment is full of computers. Mostly disassembled or broken but some are cobbled together and running. Lines of CODE and BLUEPRINTS on several monitors.

ALEX
What's your deal?

BITMAP
I figure things out for The King.
You must play in the games for him?

ALEX
How do you know that?

BITMAP
You have a fearsome look about you.

Alex looks at a particular monitor: "Sewer Tunnel and Subway System."

ALEX
What's this?

Bitmap nervously shuts off the monitor.

BITMAP
You had better hurry. The Tongs and
Thousand Johnnies have been feuding
over territory. Things'll be a lot
safer if- when the King takes over
the whole island.

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Alex leaves Bitmap's place and sees Dirko sitting on a bench.

ALEX
I thought you were keeping watch?

Alex puts his hand on Dirko's shoulder. Dirko is cut off at the waist. Propped up on the bench in a pool of his own blood.

ALEX
Oh fuck!

A manhole cover flies in the air. Several men crawl out of the sewer: THE CREEPS.

They have sharp rocks, sharp teeth, bone-white skin.

They close in on Alex

ALEX
What the fuck?

Alex backs toward Bitmap's place

But some of the Creeps are already behind him

ALEX
Stay cool.

Alex moves carefully, but he is surrounded

The Creeps hiss and lick their lips

They rush at Dirko's body

Tearing and ripping

They carry the body down the sewer

ALEX

Food?

The Creeps disappear back into the sewer

With their dinner

Alex moves slowly towards the manhole

ALEX

They live down there?

Alex looks into the inky darkness of the sewer

A Creep lunges back up at him

Waving a sharp rock in his face

Alex falls backwards

ALEX

Get away!

CREEP

(hisses)

Rrrssssss...

The Creep pulls the manhole over back over the plops it down in place as he vanishes underneath it.

Alex looks around. Totally lost. He runs away in fear.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Peabo and Jemmy watch Caleb lift weights and drink milk.

JEMMY

How strong ar you, sir?

Caleb smacks Jemmy in the face.

CALEB

No questions.

Jemmy runs away. Peabo watches in awe.

CALEB

(to Peabo)

You always listen. I can tell you are the smarter one.

Peabo smiles from this approval.

Park cranks the gate open.

PARK
Sandy's back!

Caleb walks to the gate.

Sandy walks in with YENNO (25), curly haired and floppy footed

SANDY
This is Yenno. His group lives a few blocks from here.

Caleb grabs Yenno by the collar.

YENNO
What the hell?

Caleb punches Yenno in the face over and over again. Yenno passes out but Caleb just keeps on punching him.

CALEB
Submit!

Yenno is totally knocked out. Caleb tosses his body to the ground.

CALEB
(to Sandy)
Take him back to his people.

Sandy is stunned.

CALEB
Now!

Sandy grabs the body and drags it away.

INT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Beth hears the commotion outside. She hears the sound of the concrete slab being moved. Caleb enters.

CALEB
I stopped them. They want to hurt you.

Caleb's hands are bloody. Beth is horrified.

BETH
Let me out! Don't keep me in here!

CALEB
Safety. I have to keep you safe.

Caleb walks to Beth with his bloody hands outstretched.

CALEB
You're the most valuable thing I
own.

Beth falls to the ground and covers in fear.

BETH
Nnnooo!

EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Tom Jay covers the ears of the children from the sounds of
Beth's screams.

Park looks angry.

PARK
We have to do something.

TOM JAY
Are you crazy?

Caleb comes back out from Beth's room.

SANDY
I'm going to talk to him.

TOM JAY
No!

Park walks over to confront Caleb.

PARK
Caleb!

CALEB
Eh?

PARK
We need to talk.

Caleb looks stunned.

PARK
Things have-

Caleb backhands Park so hard that Park spins around and
falls down face first.

PARK
Ah!

Park gets on his hands and knees. WHAM! Caleb stomps on Park's back.

CALEB
You're endangering us!

Caleb stomps on Park's back again and again.

PARK
Ah. Stop!

Tom Jay tries to intercede.

TOM JAY
Please! He's already crippled.

Caleb quits stomping.

CALEB
You're right.

Tom Jay looks relieved.

CALEB
He's useless now.

Caleb kneels down and twists Park's head all the way around like a soda bottle. Crack crunch krakt.

Tom Jay looks away in horror.

TOM JAY
Oh no! No no no.

Caleb goes back to his weightlifting bench.

EXT. ARENA - DAY

The team practices. King Krud watches with Ruby on his arm.

KING KRUD
Where is he?

RUBY
My sisters are looking for Alex
right now.

Ruby sees Sapphire coming up. She waves her away.

RUBY
They probably already found him and
are bringing him back.

King Krud squeezes Ruby's arm threateningly.

KING KRUD

Find him.

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

Alex scans the horizon from the high vantage point.

ALEX

Damn it. This city's like a grid.
All looks the same.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

In front of an old Bank building Sandy drops the body of Yenko in front of a small group of survivors: THE BANKERS.

BANKER

You killed him!

SANDY

Sorry, but our leader says all your stuff is ours now. Sorry.

The Bankers are incensed.

BANKER

What about the games? That's how we're supposed to settle things.

EXT. ARENA - DAY

King Krud inspects his team.

KING KRUD

Who can lead this team now?

A PLAYER steps forward.

PLAYER

I think maybe I can.

King Krud slaps the Player in the face.

KING KRUD

Who can lead this team now?

The players eye each other uneasily. KYLE (26), handsome athletic hero type, steps forward.

KYLE

I will lead this team.

King Krud is impressed with his bravado.

KING KRUD

Good.

King Krud waves his hand in approval and the players take the field.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Sapphire walks in to Ox's place.

SAPPHIRE

Hey Ox, have you seen-

Sapphire sees that Ox is dead. Still staring out the window.

Sapphire bites her lip and tries not to cry.

SAPPHIRE

Rats.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

The Bankers gather in front of Caleb.

BANKER

Who do you think you are?

Caleb grabs the Banker by the collar and lifts him in the air.

CALEB

Your King!

The Banker flails around like a bitch.

BANKER

Submit! We submit!

Caleb drops the Banker. The Banker bows at Caleb's feet. All his fellow Bankers soon follow suit. Bowing and chanting "Submit" over and over.

Caleb soaks in their chant.

Sandy comes up to Caleb.

SANDY

Great job, sir. Here are the tools you wanted.

Sandy hands Caleb a pair of blacksmith tongs.

CALEB

Good.

Caleb hands the tongs to one of the Bankers.

CALEB
Build me a forge at once.

BANKER
Yes, sir.

The Bankers take the tongs and scurry off.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM

Beth stares longingly out the window. Caleb sits on the other side of the room sharpening a railroad spike on a whetstone.

He carefully tests the sharpness before concealing the spike in his boot.

Beth does not pay attention when Caleb appears behind her and embraces her with his meaty paws.

CALEB
I am Kaiser now. That means
everyone has to do what I say all
the time.

Beth struggles and refuses to meet his gaze.

BETH
No, no! Let me go!

CALEB
Elizabeth, listen to me. You are
part of my plan for the future. You
are the most important part.

Caleb retrieves a set of paints and hands it to Beth.

BETH
I don't want that.

Beth starts crying.

Caleb forces the paints into her hands.

CALEB
Paint the future. For me.

BETH
Huh? I don't understand.

Caleb wipes away one of her tears and gestures towards a blank wall.

CALEB

The future is in the past. Paint
the Garden of Eden. Unspoiled
nature.

Beth takes the paints and looks at the wall.

BETH

I'm still confused.

Caleb leans close to her ear.

CALEB

(whispers)

Green.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Emerald wanders looking for Alex.

EMERALD

Little baby. Where is little baby?

EXT. ARENA - DAY

Kyle has the ball clutched under his arm and crawls toward
the goal line. TWO GUYS IN KARATE SUITS pull on his legs,
but he crosses the line.

The crowd cheers.

At the sidelines, the KARATE MASTER bows in defeat to King
Krud.

The players help the exhausted Kyle over to King Krud.

KYLE

It's an honor to win for you, your
majesty.

King Krud places his giant hand on Kyle's shoulder.

KING KRUD

Good.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Alex wanders. Totally lost.

ALEX

This sucks.

A net falls onto Alex.

ALEX
What the hell?

Alex looks around. Then up: somebody on a lamppost dropped a net on him.

ALEX
Get this off me!

Alex tussles but is trapped. The net is pulled shut and Alex collapses. Two trappers inspect their netted quarry.

MOMO (47) the oily leader.

ZARP (29) the twitchy apprentice.

MOMO
This is a good one.

ZAPP
He looks real healthy.

Momo confiscates the knife from Alex.

ALEX
Let me go! Give that back!

Momo and Alex drag the net-trapped Alex away.

MOMO
Let's get moving. Biters around here.

ZARP
Damn, yo.

EXT. ROOFTOP FARM - DAY

A parking garage has been converted into an urban garden sprouting rows of corn.

SUPER: "Six Weeks Later"

Alex in chains pushes a giant wheel that crushes grain.

Alex's face: withered. Scraggly hair and beard.

Men in chains tend to the corn while armed OVERSEERS patrol and supervise them.

The corn is gathered and shucked and the kernels are ground by the wheel turned by Alex. Nothing but endless bulging muscles now.

A skinny old man with a cheap fake crown watches them all.
This is CORNPOP (60).

CORNPOP

The corn! The corn shall set you
free!

The Overseers clap and cheer for Cornpop.

OVERSEER

Good one, boss.

EXT. ROOFTOP FARM - NIGHT

Alex eats a bowl of cornmeal. He lays down and tries to
sleep.

EXT. ROOFTOP FARM - DAY

The Overseers make the workers box for their entertainment.
Alex punches but his young opponent keeps dodging.

ALEX

(quietly)

Hey, just let me win. Let's get
this over with.

OPPONENT

Alex, what are you doing? Don't you
recognize me?

ALEX

Huh?

OPPONENT

It's me. Jemmy.

ALEX

Jemmy?

JEMMY

From the school!

Alex tries to recognize Jemmy.

The Overseers intervene when they realize the fighters know
each other.

OVERSEER

No talking!

They pull Alex and Jemmy away from each other.

JEMMY

It's me, Jemmy! Jemmy from the school! Alex, remember me?

The Overseers muzzle Jemmy.

ALEX

School?

EXT. ROOFTOP FARM - NIGHT

Alex shadowboxes for Cornpop's amusement.

Cornpop addresses his followers:

CORNPOP

The secret is the corn. All my players are raised on corn. They're so strong!

Alex notices a map of Manhattan Island in front of Cornpop - divided into three colored sections:

"Cornpop II" marked in yellow

"King Krud" marked in blue

"Lord Caleb" marked in red

Alex stares at the words "Lord Caleb" intensely. The name CALEB sears red into his mind. He sees one of the settlements marked on the map: "School"

EXT. ROOFTOP FARM - MIDNIGHT

Alex sneaks up behind a dozing Overseer. Grabs him. CRACK. Snaps his neck. Alex takes a key and unlocks his chains.

Alex finds the sleeping Jemmy. He covers his mouth with his hand. Jemmy wakes up. Alex motions "Shh"

Alex undoes Jemmy's chains

Another Overseer walks up

OVERSEER

Hey, what are you doing!

Alex grabs the spear from the Overseer and impales him.

OVERSEER

(dying)

No...

Alex tosses the impaled Overseer aside.

ALEX
(quietly to Jemmy)
Let's go.

Alex and Jemmy sneak away into the night.

EXT. STREETS - MORNING

Two Overseers search the streets.

OVERSEER
Damn it. Nothing here.

The Overseers move on. Alex and Jemmy watch from their hiding spot underneath a rusted car.

Once the coast is clear they climb out.

ALEX
Who are you?

JEMMY
I told you, I'm Jemmy.

ALEX
Jemmy?

JEMMY
From the school. We all live there.
Don't you remember?

ALEX
I don't know that.

JEMMY
Until you left and then Caleb-

ALEX
Caleb.

JEMMY
That's right!

Jemmy produces a crude hand drawn map.

JEMMY
We can go back there.

Alex inspects the map.

JEMMY
We just need to find a landmark.

Jemmy points to a rooftop.

JEMMY
Can we get up high?

EXT. ANOTHER ROOFTOP - DAY

Jemmy and Alex stand on the rooftop. Jemmy tries to orient his map.

JEMMY
Let's see, if that statue is over there, and we are over here-

Alex looks around. Uneasy with the height and his newly regained freedom.

ALEX
Hurry up, kid, I don't like it up here.

JEMMY
I'm not sure. Maybe we could get a better view from the factory.

ALEX
Factory?

EXT. BREAD FACTORY - DAY

Alex and Jemmy approach the old bread factory.

JEMMY
Hello? Anybody home?

A few faces gather behind the boards on a window.

MAMA DOMINO (50), a fat woman wearing an apron with a rolling pin, comes outside.

MAMA DOMINO
Get out of here! We are loyal to Cornpop.

JEMMY
We're looking for someone.

MAMA DOMINO
Yeah, who?

Jemmy turns to Alex who struggles to remember.

ALEX
I can't remember.

JEMMY
(to Mama Domino)
Somebody here who survived a draft
night game.

Duffy comes out of the bread factory.

DUFFY
That was me.

Duffy walks over to Alex.

DUFFY
Hells bells, is that you? Alex?
Looks like you keep getting mixed
up in stuff like this.

Suddenly a group of THUGS appears. Their LEADER (34),
fearsome and battle-scarred.

THUG LEADER
Listen up, all of us is under
Cornpop now. But he only wants
representatives from this area. Ane
it's gonna be us. That means you're
under us now. Directly.

DUFFY
That's now how it works.

Mama Domino waves her rolling pin.

MAMA DOMINO
You can't boss us around.

The Thugs laugh.

THUG LEADER
We know you have food in there.
Probably women too. Bring them all
out, and we can negotiate.

DUFFY
That's now how it works.

THUG LEADER
You keep saying that. Means
nothing. So shut up.

DUFFY
The games. The games are supposed
to settle our disputes.

ALEX
He's right.

Everybody looks at Alex after his sudden decisive declaration.

THUG LEADER

Oh yeah? So if we want your food
and your women, we play a game for
it?

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Alex and Jemmy face off against Thug Leader and THUG TOADY (23), a wormy little bastard.

Duffy prepares to toss the basketball between them.

On the sidelines Mama Domino stands guard in front of her beautiful daughter ANGELINA (19) with long black hair and a mint green dress.

JEMMY

(to Alex)

Are you sure about this? You
haven't played Blastball for a long
time and I never have.

Alex cracks his wrists and stretches his legs.

ALEX

We don't have a choice. These
people need our help.

The Thugs are trash-talking.

THUG LEADER

Let's get this over with.

THUG TOADY

Yeah, hehe, boss says we all get a
turn on the girl, hehehe!

Angelina sobs in terror and hides behind her mother.

ANGELINA

No! No-no-no.

THUG LEADER

(to Angelina)

Hey baby, you like strawberry milk?

THUG TOADY

Hehe, she loves it, boss, she loves
it.

ALEX
(to the Thugs)
Enough! It's game time.

Duffy tosses the ball in the air.

DUFFY
Best of three. Good luck. Watch
your limbs.

Duffy retreats to the sidelines. Thug Leader shoves Alex to the ground.

THUG LEADER
Move it.

Thug Leader catches the ball. Thug Toady grabs Jemmy and restrains him

JEMMY
Hey!

THUG TOADY
Hehehe, you're pretty when you're
angry.

Thug Leader puts his foot onto Alex's shoulder, and then leaps off him toward the basket.

THUG LEADER
I'm a fucking bird!

Thug Leader slams the ball down through the net. The ball hits the ground and explodes.

THUG LEADER
Boom!

Thug Toady rushes to his leader and they share a high five.

THUG TOADY
Nice hops, boss.

THUG LEADER
The bread factory is practically
already ours.

Jemmy helps Alex to his feet.

JEMMY
Are you okay?

ALEX
Ugh. I think so.

THUG LEADER
Come on already with this!

Duffy prepares the next blast-ball. Mama Domino comforts her sobbing daughter Angelina.

MAMA DOMINO
It's going to be alright,
sweetheart. Shhh, shhh, it's okay.

ANGELINA
No. No no no.

Thug Leader taunts Angelina by violently humping the air in front of him.

THUG LEADER
(air humping)
Oh yeah! Oh baby! Oh yeah. Live for
it. Die for it.

Alex and Jemmy take their positions.

JEMMY
(to Alex)
This guy is a real jerk.

Duffy readies to throw the ball.

DUFFY
Get ready.

Duffy throws the ball in the air

Thug Leader tries to shove Alex again

Alex quickly sidesteps

Thug Leader stumbles

Alex catches the ball

Shoots and scores

THUG TOADY
What the?

Mama Domino and Angelina get excited.

MAMA DOMINO
There is still hope.

ANGELINA
Oh please.

Thug Leader gets in Alex's face.

THUG LEADER
What's the idea? You don't dunk?
You're supposed to dunk.

JEMMY
The ball went it. That's what
counts.

THUG LEADER
It's not gonna matter. The next
round is ours. That whole building
is ours. I'm gonna eat every
goddamn loaf of bread.

Duffy prepares to toss the final blast-ball.

DUFFY
Final ball. Decision round.

Duffy tosses the ball in the air

Alex and Thug Leader jump for the ball

They both grab for it

Tussling and fighting

THUG LEADER
Gimme that ball.

ALEX
For justice.

Alex grabs the ball

He shoots again

The ball hits the basket

Toady leaps up and grabs it

THUG TOADY
Got it!

Toady lands with the ball

Thug Leader shoves Alex away

THUG TOADY
Here, boss.

Toady passes to Leader

Who shoots the ball
Ball hits the basket
Rolling along the rim

JEMMY

No!

Jemmy leaps up
Knocks the ball away

ON THE SIDELINES

Angelina buries her face in her mother's chest to keep from watching.

ANGELINA

It's too much. I'm too afraid.

Jemmy passes the ball to Alex

Alex squares down with Thug Leader

THUG LEADER

You can't even dunk!

ALEX

I'll show you dunking.

Alex fakes left

Thug Leader dives left

Falls down

Alex charges towards the basket

ALEX

Oooooo.

Alex knocks Toady down

Alex leaps into the air

ALEX

Rrrraaahhhh!

Alex slam dunks the ball

DUFFY

Wow.

MAMA DOMINO

Hurray!

ANGELINA

Is it over? Did we win?

Alex lands. Huffing and puffing. Trying to catch his breath.

JEMMY

Way to go, Alex.

THUG TOADY

(looking at ball)

What the?

Duffy steps in to officiate.

DUFFY

Bread victory!

Thug Leader steps forward to object.

THUG LEADER

No way. This is bullshit. That ball's defective. No good. Do over.

DUFFY

That's not how the games work.

THUG LEADER

Oh yeah?

Thug Leader draws a knife and slashes Duffy's arm.

DUFFY

Ahh!

THUG LEADER

How does that work, bitch?

Thug Leader walks over to the ball under the net.

He picks it up

THUG LEADER

Blastball is supposed to explode when you dunk it. How come this ball didn't-

Explosion

Confetti of shrapnel, metal, and trash

The pole snaps in half

Thug Leader is left with two gored stumps at his elbows where the rest of his arms should be.

THUG LEADER
Aaahh! Oh fuck, my arms!

Alex spin-kicks

BAM hits Thug Leader right across the face

THUG LEADER
Bwuf!

Thug Leader falls back, impaled on the spike of the snapped in half basketball hoop pole.

THUG LEADER
Glu... Bluh... Nnnn.

Everyone watches Thug Leader die.

DUFFY
Oh the humanity.

JEMMY
Excellent.

MAMA DOMINO
Salvation finds us.

ANGELINA
Good riddance.

Angelina spits on Thug Leader's impaled body

THUG TOADY
Boss! No!

Toady pulls a shank and rushes at Alex.

THUG TOADY
You fuck-bastard!

Alex ducks

Slams his shoulder into Toady's gut

THUG TOADY
Oof!

Alex flips Toady over his back.

ALEX
Alley-oop.

THUG TOADY

Aaahhh!

Toady lands on the same spike and is impaled.

But in the opposite direction, so Toady and Leader have their faces in each other's crotch.

JEMMY

Damn yo.

DUFFY

We're saved.

Mama Domino shakes Alex's hand.

MAMA DOMINO

Thank you. Thank you so much.

ALEX

You're welcome.

Angelina rushes to embrace Alex and kisses him on the lips.

ANGELINA

Warrior.

Mama Domino gives Jemmy a big hug.

MAMA DOMINO

Skinny lad. You need some bread.

JEMMY

Bwah! Uh, you're welcome.

ANGELINA

Stay with us.

MAMA DOMINO

You two must join us for the festival of loaves and fish.

DUFFY

We have so much we can share with you.

EXT. BREAD FACTORY - NIGHT

A large bonfire. Angelina dances with Jemmy. Duffy and Alex share a drink.

DUFFY

There is a dream. People speak of it. A people's league. The kingdom without a king.

ALEX
Where is this place?

DUFFY
It's all around us. If we want it
to be. It's a place we have to
build.

ALEX
Build? Like with bricks?

DUFFY
Everyone would be a brick. All the
people of the island.

EXT. BREAD FACTORY - DAWN

Alex and Jemmy prepare to leave. Angelina, Mama Domino, and
Duffy bid them farewell.

MAMA DOMINO
You sure you took enough bread?

DUFFY
Good luck.

ANGELINA
Come back someday, gentle
strangers.

Angelina makes lovey eyes at Jemmy and blows him a kiss.

ALEX
(to Jemmy)
You sure you want to leave this
place?

JEMMY
I'll have to worry about that
later. We have to go back.

Alex and Jemmy march down the abandoned ghostly streets.

EXT. RUINED PARK - DAY

Alex and Jemmy come across an decaying municipal park with
dead trees and patches of toxic mud.

A GROUP OF CHILDREN play Trash Ball soccer: one team dressed
like cowboys with hats made of trash, the other team dressed
like Indians with pigeon feather headdresses.

One of the cowboy kids scores a trash ball goal and waves
his newspaper hat in victory.

COWBOY KID

Bayridge Busters own this park,
see?

The Indian kids protest.

INDIAN KID

No fair. The On-on-Doggas demand a
rematch with proper rule. I oughta
teach you the smell of my knuckles,
pal!

The two groups of kids get in each other's faces.

Alex and Jemmy reach the border of the park.

JEMMY

Should we go around?

ALEX

Where are their parents? What
happened?

The kids notice the interlopers.

COWBOY KID

Hey, invaders!

INDIAN KID

They're gonna take our park!

Both groups of kids unite and advance toward Alex and Jemmy.

JEMMY

Hey wait, we're not invading.

Jemmy panics but Alex thinks fast.

ALEX

(to the kids)

I'm here to officiate. I'm the
official.

The kids are stymied in confusion.

COWBOY KID

Official what?

INDIAN KID

What are you? What's that mean?

ALEX

Well, you had a dispute over the
rules, right? I'm the official who
officiates.

The kids start to accept this.

ALEX

You can game with confidence that
the outcome will be respected. The
rules matter.

The kids turn to Jemmy.

ALEX

(points at Jemmy)

And this is my assistant. He'll be
observing me.

The kids fully accept the lie.

COWBOY KID

Okay, so now what?

INDIAN KID

Yeah, what do we do?

Alex picks up the trash ball and throws it straight up into
the air.

ALEX

Game on.

The two teams all take positions and prepare to play.

Alex and Jemmy quickly sneak away down the street.

ALEX

(to Jemmy)

Let's run now while they're
distracted by gaming.

JEMMY

You can tell lies like that?

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Alex and Jemmy walk side by side.

ALEX

When I find myself forced into
dangerous situations, I find I can
discover new limits to my strength.
Physically and morally.

Jemmy is worshipful of Alex.

JEMMY

Wow.

ALEX

Wait a minute.

Alex surveys an uncertain intersection.

ALEX

It's getting late. We should hole up somewhere.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

WHAM! Alex kicks the front door open.

ALEX

This place looks alright.

Alex and Jemmy enter the apartment. Alex barricades the door with a cabinet while Jemmy looks around.

JEMMY

We can just stay here?

ALEX

Most apartments are acceptable.

Alex clops down on a chair.

ALEX

Take the couch, Jemmy.

Jemmy lays on the couch.

JEMMY

Do you think we can reach back home by tomorrow?

ALEX

We'll see. Try to get some rest. Eat some bread if you're hungry.

Jemmy pulls a slice of bread from his pocket and considers it.

JEMMY

Ehh, maybe in the morning.

LATER

Alex sleeps peacefully in the chair

Jemmy tosses and turns nervously

Tap-tap-tap

JEMMY

Huh?

Jemmy looks around: Alex still asleep. Nothing stirring in the apartment.

Tap-tap-tap

JEMMY

What the?

Jemmy goes to the window and inspects the fire escape: a strand of ribbon blows in the breeze.

EXT. APARTMENT ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Jemmy climbs onto the rooftop carrying the piece of ribbon.

JEMMY

Hello? Is somebody here?

A burlap sack is pulled over Jemmy's head.

JEMMY

What? No! Help! Alex!

Jemmy is pushed to the ground and hogtied.

INT. APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Alex wakes to Jemmy's cries.

ALEX

Jemmy.

EXT. ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Alex bounds onto the roof.

ALEX

Jemmy, I'm here. Jemmy!

But nobody's around. Alex looks for any trace. Finding only the strand of ribbon which he picks up and inspects:

Plain white strand of ribbon splotted with bits of red, blue, and green paint. Alex crushes the ribbon in his scarred fist.

ALEX

Damn.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Alex walks down the streets looking for Jemmy.

ALEX
Jemmy! Are you around here
someplace? Jemmy!

TWO GOONS approach Alex.

GOON
Hey you! What are you doing here?

ALEX
I'm headed to a settlement.

GOON
A settlement? Which one?

ALEX
An old school.

GOON
The school? That's the seat of Lord
Caleb's power. No visitors allowed.

ALEX
I bring a message. From King Krud.
It's top secret and of high
urgency.

The goons confer with each other.

GOON
Alright, we can show you the way.

ALEX
Thank you. Have you seen a teenage
boy around here?

GOON
Follow us.

The two goons lead Alex down the streets totally lost.

ALEX
This is the way?

GOON
Pipe down, we know the way.

A manhole cover slides open.

ALEX
Oh no. Look out!

GOON
Huh?

Alex rushes away. A group of fearsome CREEPS emerge from the sewer with sharpened teeth and dangerous rock weapons.

The Creeps slice and devour the two hapless goons while Alex ducks in between two buildings.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Caleb sits on his throne drinking goat's milk. Two of his thugs drag the captive Jemmy before him.

CALEB

Well well. Look who it is.

The thugs remove Jemmy's gag and then depart.

JEMMY

Caleb you fool! Alex is coming to stop you.

Caleb is incensed at this news.

CALEB

What? Impossible.

JEMMY

He gonna fix you good.

Caleb picks Jemmy up.

JEMMY

Hey, put me down.

Caleb raises his boulder of a kneecap.

CALEB

Enough.

Caleb slams Jemmy down against his knee - KRAKT - snapping him in half like a twig. Instantly dead.

CALEB

No one can defy my authority. My reign is the future.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Alex watches from the safety of a roof as the Creeps finish eating the goons and drag their bodies into the sewer.

ALEX

Damn.

The Creeps look up towards Alex.

ALEX

Damn.

Alex backs away from the ledge. Towards some wet rotten boards serving as a makeshift ceiling.

INT. BITMAP'S PLACE - CONTINUOUS

Sapphire lounges in bed while in the kitchen Bitmap east beans from a can.

BITMAP

These are good beans.

SAPPHIRE

Sure they are.

BITMAP

Do you hear something?

SAPPHIRE

No.

The drip drops from the ceiling turn into a downpour until C-C-CRASH the entire ceiling collapses with Alex in the mix.

BITMAP

Holy cow! Hey, do I know you?

Sapphire waves away dust and squints to recognize Alex.

SAPPHIRE

No way.

Alex stands up and interrogates Bitmap

ALEX

What are you up to, Bitmap? Why is Sapphire here protecting you?

BITMAP

I don't know what you're talking about.

Alex looks to Sapphire.

SAPPHIRE

What can I say? He's a bad liar.

Alex turns back to Bitmap who flees to the other side of the room.

BITMAP

I'm not supposed to say nothing.

Alex catches Bitmap by the collar.

ALEX
Start talking, or a I start
punching.

Alex punches the wall just beside Bitmap's face.

BITMAP
Alright, alright. It's the sewer.
The access tunnels.

ALEX
What about them?

BITMAP
A way off the island. Maybe. Most
of the tunnels got Creeps in them.
I'm supposed to find safe passage.

ALEX
And?

BITMAP
And what?

Alex punches the wall again.

BITMAP
Aahh! Stop!

ALEX
Did you find a safe passage?

BITMAP
Yes. I mean, I guess so.

ALEX
You guess so?

BITMAP
Well, I ain't been down there
myself to check, but considering
how serious everybody is, I must
have found something.

SMASH! A window shatters. NU-FREAKER (41) pokes his
hideously tattooed and pierced face inside.

NU-FREAKER
Hey Bitmap! You talk too much.

Nu-Freaker hurls a knife SPLAT right into Bitmap's chest.

BITMAP

Ah. Fucks.

Bitmap collapses. Blood pours from his chestwound. Sapphire jumps up from the bed.

SAPPHIRE

Oh shit. Is he alright?

NU-FREAKER

Nighty night. Hehehehe.

Nu-Freaker disappears as fast as he appeared. Alex rushes to the broken window.

ALEX

Damn. He took off.

Sapphire walks over to check on Bitmap. But quickly hesitates at the sight of so much blood.

SAPPHIRE

Oh shit. He's not alright.

Alex looks down to verify her work:

ALEX

Damn. He's dead.

SAPPHIRE

I warned him.

ALEX

Warned him? About what?

SAPPHIRE

I think he wanted to sell the sewer info to Lord Caleb. You know, double the money for the same piece of information.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Alex and Sapphire walks down the streets to the park with the Arena in it.

ALEX

I've got to save Beth.

SAPPHIRE

I have my own thing to do.

Sapphire runs away.

ALEX
Sapphire, wait!

She's long gone.

ALEX
Damn.

Alex walks onward to the Arena.

EXT. ARENA - DAY

At the head of the Arena King Krud and Lord Caleb sit side by side. Caleb is now almost as monstrously gigantic as the King. Caleb wears fearsome metal gauntlets and boots.

King Krud has the comely Ruby on his arm scantily clad in red silk. Caleb has the nearly catatonic Beth on his arm wearing a modest white gown.

CALEB
While we wait for Cornpop, our teams can play a friendly match.

KING KRUD
Good.

Kyle and King Krud's players take the field. Caleb's players take the field still looking for their captain.

CALEB PLAYER
Where the hell is our new captain?

INT. APARTMENT - SAME TIME

XAVIER (27), a swarthy muscular ponytailed Iberian makes passionate love to Sapphire in the bed.

XAVIER
Oh shit.

SAPPHIRE
What is it?

XAVIER
Do you hear something? I thin I'm late.

SAPPHIRE
You're late? Ha, for what?

Xavier climbs off from Ruby and gets dressed.

XAVIER
I'm the new Captain of Lord Caleb's team. It's only a friendly match, but this is important, or so they tell me.

Xavier moves to the door.

XAVIER
Sorry, baby.

Xavier opens the door to find Emerald waiting for him.

XAVIER
What the hell? Are you the sister?

Emerald slashes Xavier's throat with her razor.

XAVIER
Gah gah.

Xavier grabs at his bleeding throat. Collapses to the ground.

Sapphire gets out of bed and looks at the slaughter.

SAPPHIRE
(at Xavier)
Now you're late for everything.

EXT. ARENA - DAY

The start of the game is stalled without a captain for Caleb's team. At the head of the viewing area a player consults with his leader.

CALEB PLAYER
We can't find our captain, Lord Caleb.

CALEB
Look harder.

The player runs away in fear.

KING KRUD
(to Caleb)
Your team has no captain?

Lord Caleb growls with discontent.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Tom Jay the old man convalesces under the shade of a tree. Peabo brings him a cup of water.

PEABO

You need to drink, Mister Tom Jay.

TOM JAY

I had a dream, boy. Someone opened an old book and a butterfly came up from the pages. Then there was a giant rainfall. Inches!

Tom Jay takes the cup of water and drinks it.

TOM JAY

It was beautiful. Thank you, Peabo, my boy.

Tom Jay closes his eyes and peacefully dies.

PEABO

Mister Tom Jay? No, Mister Tom Jay!

EXT. ARENA - DAY

The crowd is rowdy. Angry, bored, and drunk. Kyle and King Krud's team feud with Lord Caleb's team without a captain.

KYLE

If you have no team captain, your forfeit the game.

A CALEB PLAYER protests.

CALEB PLAYER

This is only supposed to be a friendly match.

Kyle gets right in the guy's face. Pointing his finger.

KYLE

You still lose. We win.

The Lord Caleb Player does not back down.

CALEB PLAYER

We can find another.

KYLE

How. Who?

CALEB PLAYER

A substitution.

KYLE

Nobody here can do that.

Alex steps forward from the crowd os spectators.

ALEX

I am the only man here with team captain experience. I volunteer. I can serve as team captain now.

Both teams are stunned. The crowd drops to a low murmur.

Alex walks out onto the field.

KYLE

Who are you supposed to be?

ALEX

I used to have your job.

The whole crowd goes "Oooooo."

CALEB PLAYER

A hero?

Alex stands in front of Lord Caleb's team.

At the head of the Arena, King Krud and Lord Caleb watch the development.

KING KRUD

This is your captain?

CALEB PLAYER

Yes. Finally the match can begin.

Ruby sits in King Krud's lap and squints her eyes in recognition looking at Alex.

RUBY

Can it be?

Meanwhile Beth sits beside Caleb but is lost in her own world and does not notice Alex take the field.

Alex tightly grips a wooden bat and the players take position on a simplified baseball "triangle"

The PITCHER wraps the ball with barbwire.

PITCHER

You better swing as good as you talk, boy.

Alex taps the bat against home plate.

ALEX

You'll see.

Some of the other players start trash-talking.

PLAYER

Barbed-Ball is a man's game.

Alex ignores them

The Pitcher moves fast

Winds up

The barbed ball is flying

Knuckleball unpredictable

Alex swings hard

Complete miss

The ball splats and sticks into the cardboard cutout of a catcher.

Alex is humiliated as the crowd jeers

PITCHER

I got shit you can't handle.

Alex steadies his hand

Takes a deep breath

ALEX

Let's do this.

Pitcher hurls another barbed ball

Alex is ready this time

WHACK the ball flies toward first base

WHAM the ball hits Kyle right in the forehead, busting him open

KYLE

Bwah!

Kyle flies back in the air and slams down hard in a puddle of mud

Alex's teammates cheer

ALEX PLAYER

Hell yeah. Home run!

But the other team objects

PITCHER

No way! That's an error-foul if
I've ever seen one.

The two teams get in each other's faces. No referees means
lots of arguments

Sapphire rushes to the side of the injured Kyle

SAPPHIRE

Baby, are you okay?

KYLE

I'm all busted up.

Sapphire helps Kyle to his feet

SAPPHIRE

Don't worry. I know a place you can
recover. Nobody will bother us.

Sapphire carries the bleeding Kyle away.

A great ruckus and fanfare.

Cornpop and his retinue finally arrive to the Arena

CORNPOP

What the hell is going on here?

Someone steps forward to explain.

PLAYER

There's a disputed game, sir.

CORNPOP

Dispute, eh?

Cornpop sees the two teams argue. Then he recognizes Alex.

CORNPOP

Damn it all. That's no captain.
That's one of my workers.

INT. BITMAP'S PLACE - SAME TIME

Sapphire drags Kyle inside and lays him on the sofa.

SAPPHIRE

Get comfy, baby.

Sapphire leaves Kyle to barricade the door. Kyle notices the
dead body of Bitmap surrounded by a pool of his own blood.

KYLE

What happened to that guy?

SAPPHIRE

What guy?

Sapphire looks and sees the body of Bitmap.

SAPPHIRE

Oh. Right. Him.

EXT. ARENA - DAY

Cornpop storms into the crowd and grabs Alex's arm.

ALEX PLAYER

Unhand me.

CORNPOP

What's the big idea, boy? You think you can - Agh!

Cornpop grabs his chest. Heart attack.

CORNPOP

Tight. So tight. They seizing me!

Meanwhile at the head of the arena:

Ruby whispers into King Krud's ear.

Caleb turns toward Beth but she turns away from him.

BETH

I hate you.

Cornpop staggers to the front of the Arena.

King Krud and Lord Caleb rise to meet him.

KING KRUD

Are you alright?

CALEB

What is this bullshit?

Caleb grabs Cornpop by the shoulders and shakes him.

CALEB

Pull yourself together, man. Your people need you.

Cornpop struggles and resists.

CORNPOP

Let me go, you killer.

Caleb lets go of Cornpop suddenly. Too suddenly. Cornpop falls backward hard.

CORNPOP

Ah! He killed me!

Cornpop spasms violently before falling totally limp. The unmistakable sound of pants-shitting. Dead beyond a doubt.

The crowd of assembled loyalties unite in disbelief.

PLAYER

He killed Cornpop.

The crowd grows angry. Fat funny Sandy sees his chance to betray Caleb and steps forward.

SANDY

He violated the game. He killed him to take his territory.

Caleb tries to quell the developing riot.

CALEB

Silence. This man needs a healer.

Boos from the crowd. Someone throws a rock.

PLAYER

A healer? You killed him. You broke the rules.

The crowd turns against Lord Caleb. Beth tries to break away from him.

CALEB

No! This cannot be.

Caleb grabs Beth tightly and pushes her behind him.

Alex steps forward to take charge.

ALEX

It's over, Caleb.

CALEB

Never.

Caleb pulls a concealed weapon, the sharpened railroad spike, from his boot and hurls it straight at Alex.

The crowd gasps

Alex has no time to move
Emerald dives in front of him
The spike drives right into her heart
Her sister Ruby sees the horrible crime

RUBY

No!

Caleb flees down the sewer access stairwell with Beth in tow.

Alex takes the dying Emerald in his arms as she collapses.

ALEX

You saved me.

EMERALD

(faint)

Baby.

Emerald slumps down dead. Alex lays her body to the ground gently. Ruby rushes to her sister's body. She cannot find the words.

ALEX

I have to stop him.

Alex stands back up and readies himself for battle.

Sandy steps forward to stop him.

SANDY

Alex, he's gone down the sewer.
He's not coming back. Nobody ever
does.

Alex opens and access hatch.

ALEX

I have to try. For Beth.

Ruby grabs Alex's arm.

RUBY

Hey.

ALEX

Yeah?

RUBY

Make it hurt.

ALEX

I will.

Alex climbs down into the sewers. King Krud steps forward for parting words.

KING KRUD

We must fix what we have before we can take on more. I will have my men seal this tunnel behind you. Someday I will have totally reformed this island, and on that day, my people will spill forth to the mainland. Good luck.

King Krud extends his meaty paw to Alex for a handshake. Alex takes his hand and obliges.

ALEX

Thank you.

Alex climbs down the ladder. King Krud closes the hatch. Ruby clings to his side.

RUBY

What do you think will happen to him?

KING KRUD

It's not for us to know.

King Krud turns back around to address the assembled crowd.

KING KRUD

Cornpop was old and weak, and he died. Caleb was a liar and a murderer, and he fled this island forever. You are all united now, under me! We shall build this island - together!

The crowd erupts with applause. Ruby kisses King Krud.

INT. SEWERS - CONTINUOUS

Caleb crawls down the ladder with Beth in his arms.

BETH

Let me go!

QUENTIN (27) pudgy in a jumpsuit, waits by a control panel.

QUENTIN

Sir?

CALEB
Flood the tunnel.

QUENTIN
But sir?

CALEB
Do as I say!

Quentin tightly grips the release wheel with both hands.

QUENTIN
Here she goes.

Cr-cr-creak. Quentin gets the wheel turning and spinning.

A trickle of water appears in the drain pipe tunnel.

Caleb picks up Beth and tosses her down into the tunnel.

CALEB
Get marching!

BETH
Eh?

Beth splashes down in the water. She picks herself up and walks down the tunnel.

QUENTIN
Sir, you can't make her go down
there alone, not when the water is-

CALEB
I'm going with her, and we're going
to outpace the water.

QUENTIN
But sir!

CALEB
The water will prevent anyone from
following us.

Caleb moves to a ladder to climb down into the tunnel with Beth, but he sees Quentin move to the control wheel.

CALEB
Only I can keep us safe.

Caleb shoves Quentin away from the wheel.

QUENTIN
Ugh!

Caleb raises his heavy iron gauntlets into the air.

CALEB
Rrraaahhh!!!

Caleb smashes the wheel to pieces.

QUENTIN
No stopping the water now, sir, you
had better hurry.

CALEB
One more thing.

Caleb grabs Quentin and slams him against the sewer wall.

QUENTIN
Ugh! Ow, sir, no!

Caleb smashes his iron gauntlet fist into Quentin's skull
over and over again, beaten into red mush.

Caleb tosses the body aside and leaps down into the rapidly
flooding tunnel. SPLASH! The water is now ankle deep.

Caleb trudges down the tunnel to Beth who moves slowly in
the rising water.

CALEB
Hurry, my queen. A private paradise
awaits us. An eternal eden for my -
our new age!

Caleb shoves Beth and runs down the tunnel.

INT. SEWER ACCESS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Alex crawls down the ladder.

ALEX
Beth? Are you here?

Alex sees the mangled body of Quentin.

ALEX
Oh no.

Alex hears a distant cry from Beth echoing down the almost
full tunnel.

ALEX
Beth!

Alex leaps into the air and SPOOSH dives underneath the
water. He kicks swiftly and swims down the darkened tunnel.

INT. TREATMENT FACILITY - DAY

Caleb crawls up from the water tunnel into the Water Treatment Facility. He pulls up Beth afterward. Beth screams back into the tunnel.

BETH
Alex! Save me! Help!

Caleb slams the hatch shut.

CALEB
He's gone. Forget him.

Caleb pulls Beth down a catwalk toward two large double doors marked EXIT.

CALEB
There. You see? Look.

Caleb points to a broken window above the doors revealing succulent verdure and beaming sunlight.

CALEB
A new world. All for us.

Beth struggles against Caleb's grip on her wrist.

BETH
No! Never! I would rather die than
spend any time with you in any
world.

Caleb tightens his grip on her wrist and twists her arm behind her back. Beth collapses in pain.

BETH
Ehh! Ow! Stop! You'll break my
wrist!

Caleb sticks his face in Beth's and grins.

CALEB
This new world will be a permanent
paradise for us. Or something else
entirely. The choice is yours.

Beth looks back mournfully at the closed hatch. No Alex.

Caleb tightens his grip even more. Beth turns back.

BETH
Ow! Alright, please. Caleb, you
win. Let's go.

To her surprise Caleb lets go of her wrist and helps her to her feet.

CALEB

Be my partner, Beth. Be my partner
and lead the way.

Caleb pushes Beth in front of him to the exit doors and slaps her on the butt.

BETH

Oo!

CALEB

Lead. Onward. The future!

INT. SEWERS - SAME TIME

Alex swims through the darkened tunnel. Lost. Losing hope. Struggling for breath. Then he sees:

A pillar of light and a ladder. An access hatch.

Alex swims towards it.

EXT. NEW JERSEY JUNGLE - DAY

The overgrown jungle of New Jersey. Plant life retaking the buildings. The sound of a rushing river nearby.

The whole place teems with life in contrast to the hopeless dead grey island of Manhattan.

BAM! The doors fly open. Caleb shoves Beth out onto the soft tangled grass floor of the jungle.

BETH

All these plants. Everything is so
green.

CALEB

All this for you, my queen. You
will name everything in this new
world.

Beth picks some flowers and smells them.

BETH

Oh, it's so wonderful.

Caleb puts his hands on Beth's shoulders.

CALEB

Your clothing, it's wet.

Caleb rips Beth's clothes off. Beth covers her body and turns away.

BETH
Please, no. No.

CALEB
I am no longer a mere king. I am
God now. I am God forever.

ALEX (O.S.)
I don't think so, Caleb.

Alex comes heroically striding out from the water treatment facility.

BETH
Alex!

CALEB
Alex?

ALEX
It's long overdue, Caleb.

Beth tries to run to Alex.

BETH
Alex!

Caleb grabs Beth and ties her up with her wet clothing.

CALEB
No. Stay away from him. He's the
Devil.

ALEX
Ha! Caleb, you've gone mad.

CALEB
You do not understand the power I
wield now.

Caleb tosses the restrained Beth into some bushes.

ALEX
You'll pay for that, Caleb. For
your treatment of Beth.

Caleb clashes his iron gauntlets above his head. Clang clang!

CALEB

Beth, that you tossed aside like trash? Beth, you abandoned to explore the wasteland? Beth is my queen, she means more to me than you could ever know.

Alex looks to the frightened eyes of the captive Beth.

ALEX

I'm sorry, Beth.

CALEB

Ha! This broken earth, are you the one to heal it? I think not. I am the savior.

Caleb lunges at Alex and swings his fearsome gauntlets.

CALEB

Have at you!

Alex quickly rolls away. SMASH! Caleb hits a tree trunk instead of Alex.

CALEB

Don't delay the inevitable!

Caleb leaps into the air with his giant metal fists cocked and ready to go.

CALEB

I will crush you!

Alex easily dodges. Caleb slams his fist into the soft dirt WHUMPTH and leaves two big indentations in the soil.

A cloud of dirt sprays up into Caleb's face.

CALEB

(spitting)

Ptew! Ptew! Damn it.

Caleb clears the dirt from his face to see the smirking visage of Alex.

CALEB

Enough games.

Caleb hurls his fists through the air. Punch after punch, left and right, but Alex side-steps.

CALEB

Cowardly!

Alex stands perfectly still before raising his hand in a "come here" gesture.

Caleb lunges fist first at Alex.

CALEB

Yyyaahh!!!

Alex ducks and Caleb hits the thick trunk of a tree SPLUK his heavy iron gauntlet wedged in the wood.

CALEB

Damn trees.

Caleb grabs with his other hand and tries to free himself.

Alex stands behind Caleb

WHAM Alex punches Caleb in the back of the head

BAM Alex kicks Caleb in the base of the spine

SLAM-SLAM Alex drops to his knees and performs a double punch: each fist to the back of Caleb's knees.

CALEB

Argh!

Caleb's legs give out and he collapses. His gauntlet still wedged into the side of the tree so his arm is raised in the air.

CALEB

No! Not like this!

Alex raises his foot above Caleb's massive forearm.

CALEB

No! Never!

Alex stomps on Caleb's arm and snaps it in half like a stick.

Caleb reaches his other hand towards the captive Beth in the bush.

CALEB

Beth, my queen.

Alex stomps on Caleb's elbow.

CALEB

Aaah!

Caleb's other arm flops to the jungle floor. Broken. Useless.

CALEB
You've won nothing, fool.

Alex grabs one of Caleb's ankles.

CALEB
What are you doing?!

Alex wrenches Caleb's ankle in a three-hundred-sixty degree motion. Destroying the bone completely.

CALEB
Ah no! You weak coward!

Alex grabs Caleb's other ankle and repeats the process KRKIT destroying the ankle.

CALEB
No-no-no-no!!

Alex goes to check on Beth tied up in the bushes.

ALEX
Are you alright, Beth?

BETH
Alex, you came back for me.

Caleb wriggles around on the ground.

CALEB
I will never be defeated.

Alex turns back to Caleb. Alex undoes the ropes on the gauntlet stuck in the tree. Caleb's broken arm flops to the ground.

CALEB
You idiot. Freeing me is the last mistake you'll ever make.

Alex rolls Caleb to the bank of the river.

CALEB
What are you doing?

ALEX
This water will wash you away,
Caleb.

CALEB
I can never be defeated!

Alex pushes the crippled Caleb into the foaming water

SPLASH Caleb stares back at Alex

Eyes still burning with rage looking back

Caleb disappears beneath the blue and white

His burning red eyes the last thing to vanish

Alex watches to make sure: no sign of Caleb

Alex returns to the captive Beth and pulls her from the bush

ALEX

Beth, I'm so sorry. About
everything.

Alex takes the shirt from his back and covers Beth.

BETH

Alex, I knew you would come back.

Alex and Beth share a deep passionate kiss.

Above them: a swarm of butterflies swing through the air
with the warm orange sun behind them.

FADE OUT.