

CREATOR OF WORLDS

By

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Aliens have spent 800 years acquiring and cryo freezing a quarter million humans and now releasing them to a domed, terraformed paradise on their moon. So why are some of those aliens now intent on destroying it all?

The second film in the Neologic War trilogy:

- *Destroyer of Worlds*
- *Creator of Worlds*
- *A War in Heaven*

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OVER BLACK - SUPER: 1. TO DIE IN AN INTERESTING PLACE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - OVER THE PLANET SANCTUM

In Earth year 2886, Sanctum, owned by the AsterMaster Company, is a small, rocky planet with a toxic atmosphere. Humans require a spacesuit.

The planet's surface is littered with dozens of abandoned asteroid mining test sites.

EXT. SANCTUM: CAVE - DAY

Two ASTERMASTER MEN stand looking at a damaged rover.

Behind them, several hundred feet away, their three hundred foot long ship. On its side is the AsterMaster logo and ship's name: Remus.

Strewn about is the blasted, smoldering wreckage of what was once its identical sister ship, the Romulus.

The men turn and enter the cave.

INT. SANCTUM: CAVE

The pair survey the mess:

- Solid air canisters, assorted tools, discarded supplies.
- Heavy duty plastic packing cases, some with blast damage.
- Clear plastic tent with airlock.

Inside the tent:

- an open medical kit
- empty solid air canisters
- empty metal water bottles and food containers

They look at each other, puzzled.

ASTERMASTER 1 (RADIO)
So, where are the bodies?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE - OVER THE PLANET SANCTUM**SUPER: THREE DAYS EARLIER...**

Like all Dominion spaceships, the Romulus has a Briggs Graviton Drive panel on the underside that allows for silent levitation and traversing wormholes.

The ship exits a wormhole above Sanctus and enters orbit.

INT. ROMULUS: ENGINE ROOM - DAY

KEGAN VOLL (looks early 20s) is more model pretty than "planet rat."

He sets down a large plastic tool box. Opens it.

At one end, cupped by soft foam, a clear glass ball with tight red electric currents zipping around in the center.

Next to it, a tiny radio receiver for detonating the graviton bomb.

Kegan turns on the receiver, closes, and locks the box.

Shoves it between other tool boxes. His name on the top means none of the crew should touch it.

He strolls out of the room like he was supposed to be there.

HALLWAY

Kegan's eyes dart left and right.

No one around to see him enter a room marked Storage Bay A. Closes the door.

STORAGE BAY A

Shelves are filled with assorted sizes of plastic equipment cases, large unboxed equipment, and miscellaneous supplies. Each has a name or number.

Kegan walks down the isles, searching.

He finds the two large ones he wants. Water Drilling #4, Water Drilling #5.

He presses the button on the shelf under #4.

Metal arms rotate the heavy #4 case out off the shelf and lowers it down to the floor.

Kegan opens it and takes out several parts which disappear into his jacket's inside pocket.

Closing the case, button pressed, the box rises back.

Kegan is STARTLED when the room's door opens.

It's heavy-set BORSON (39). A holographic checklist projects from his TouchTab.

A TouchTab system is embedded in everyone's hand at birth. It displays holographic menus, 3D images, etc. along a person's arm. It also has a camera, scanner, and so on.

Activate it by tapping left thumb and ring finger together two times, then thumb to middle finger.

Kegan moves silently around the shelves.

Borson goes to the end of the same shelf that Kegan was at.

Uses his TouchTab to scan a code on the first case.

A soft DING indicates good.

One after another down the row.

Reaching Water Drilling #4, the device squawks a BLAT.

Borson presses the button, the case lowers to the floor, and he opens it.

BORSON
What the hell?
(searches around)
Great. She's gonna kill someone. I
am not gonna be happy if it's me.

Borson closes the case, presses the button which returns it to the shelf. He continues checking the other cases.

Luckily, Borson didn't close the door all the way so Kegan can sneak out without being heard or seen.

OFFICE - SAME TIME

The cramped space has been turned into a mini-TV studio. A 3D WallTab on the wall opposite the desk turns on.

Tech ALICE OSWALD (23) adjusts her AsterMaster name badge and tool belt, then slings a cable over her shoulder.

Her TouchTab displays two images: the desk from a floating DroneTab camera; a schoolroom filled with students.

Her arm above her TouchTab; a beautiful animated tattoo.

She SWIPES the images to the WallTab.

OVO LAPIDO, like her Nigerian relatives, has a very pronounced accent.

At 75 she's more tight muscled, fit, and wiry than most half her age and twice her size.

She enters with a lets-get-this-over-with expression which changes to a smile and a nod to Oswald.

OSWALD
Morning, Ovo.

OVO
Morning, Alice.

Ovo adjusts her AsterMaster corporate flight jacket, then takes a swig of coffee from her AsterMaster mug as she sits behind the desk with the AsterMaster logo on the front.

Not much in the ship doesn't have AsterMaster plastered on it. Advertising if photographed or videoed.

OSWALD
Thanks for doing this. We'll be live to about 400 schools, then the recording gets sent to lots more.

OVO
No problem, but I thought the Captain was going to do it.

OSWALD
He was, but he got a last minute call with Mason at Corporate.
(turn on tiny studio lights)
You've worked with him a while. I heard he used to be a teacher. Any idea why he left it for this gig?

OVO
It's how he met his wife. They were both teachers. What was it he said?
"We had a passion for teaching and
(MORE)

OVO (cont'd)
a passion for each other." Until
she died. Some sort of swimming
accident. Escaping to the stars.

OSWALD
Oh... I didn't...
(touches embedded earpiece)
They're ready. I'll give you a
countdown.

She fiddles with her TouchTab as Ovo puts on a happy front.

OSWALD (cont'd)
OK, here we go.
(fingers)
5, 4, 3, 2...

OVO
Good morning! Senior Engineering
Supervisor Ovo Lapido here in place
of Captain Wheaten who was called
away for important captain stuff.

We've just exited a wormhole over
the planet Sanctus which will be
our base for a month-long practice
session with new and improved
asteroid mining equipment.

Ovo's image zooms down to a corner as animated graphics of
the ship fill the screen demonstrating this:

OVO (V.O.)
Later today, our ship, the Romulus,
will land, and the crew will begin
setting up buildings,
infrastructure, and mining
equipment.

We'll also perform tasks like
drilling for water. It's surprising
how much there is in some asteroids
which we very much need for our
work. And for us.

The graphic now shows an identical ship, the Remus, landing
in the middle of the finished buildings.

OVO (V.O.) (cont'd)
Tomorrow, our identical sister
ship, the Remus, arrives with the
miners and engineers.

Ovo's image expands to take over the screen again.

OVO

We've received a bunch of questions
from the fifth graders at Hilltop
Park Elementary on the planet,
Kragor. Let's see what they would
like to know...

GALLEY - LATER

The twelve person CREW, minus Kegan and Wheaten, sits around
the large table or mill about.

Most are yawning, stretching, drinking coffee, and eating.

Sitting next to Ovo is ALISON YOH (65). She's barely five
feet tall in heels, not that she'd ever wear any.

Her sleepy head lays on her arm laying on the table. Other
arm is at her side.

Ovo casually slides over so the two can hold hands under the
table.

JAWORSKI (32), linebacker sized, big beard, sits down
opposite her with his breakfast plate.

Alison raises up a bit to look at Jaworski, then raises her
arm. Points at him.

He stops as he's about to take a bite of toast.

ALISON

I really don't care, Jaworski.
Time's up. You still owe me for...
well, you know what.

That voice and warning causes a look of terror to come over
a suddenly pale Jaworski.

A chorus of "Ooos" and "Yeahs" from the rest as Alison's arm
drops back to the table followed by her head.

CAPTAIN WHEATEN (49) strides in. Fit with a bit of gray.
Very captainy.

He rips off the 29th century version of a tie with relief,
then becomes playfully annoyed at his assembly tech.

Wheaten grabs a plate and fills it.

WHEATEN

Again, Jaworski?

JAWORSKI
It's not my fault. She's been --

WHEATEN
Can it! Just pay her. You know
blood on the floor and walls plays
havoc with the biosensors.

KRESTER (41) looks skeletal, but he's chowing down on a
monster plate of pancakes, sausages, etc. Mouth full...

KRESTER
Awe, Cap. We want to see what
happens.

AGREEMENT from the rest.

WHEATEN
Well, it's up to you, Jaworski.
Alison Yoh may be the size of your
arm, but still, given what happened
to... what was his name?

VOICE IN THE BACK (O.S.)
Akela! Bigger than Jaworski.

WHEATEN
Right. Is he out of the hospital
yet?

A now green Jaworski drops the toast.

SNICKERS as he jumps up and rushes out, almost flattening
Kegan as they pass.

Krester swipes Jaworski's plate, dumps it onto his plate.

Kegan slips in to sit next to Ovo.

Wheaten sits. Before he starts eating, stands again.

WHEATEN (cont'd)
Before I forget, I'd like to thank
Kegan Voll for stepping in last
minute for Garnet when he broke his
leg shortly before takeoff.

ALISON
Golf claps only, please.

Kegan awkwardly smiles. Slight, half-hearted wave.

Muffled CLAPPING. Once it stops, one loud CLAP jolts Alison.

Her eyes launch daggers searching for the culprit.

WHEATEN

You've shown real initiative so far
and I'm expecting great things from
you.

Wheaten sits and starts eating.

KEGAN

(whispers to Ovo)
I think I've heard of it, but
what's golf?

OVO

Seriously? Golf's a game where you
hit a small ball with a stick until
it falls into a hole in the ground.
I prefer baseball.

KEGAN

What's the difference?

OVO

Baseball's a game where you hit a
larger ball with a larger stick.

KEGAN

Into a larger hole?

ALISON

(snorts)
Of course not. There no holes in
baseball.

KEGAN

Uh huh.

OVO

Unless it's between the shortstop's
legs. Right, Krester?

Krester, gnawing on a sausage, gives a defiant thumbs up.

WHEATEN

(glares at Kegan)
You really don't know about golf or
baseball? Huh. Younguns today.

Wheaten shakes his head. Sets down his fork. Stands.

WHEATEN (cont'd)

One more thing. Today is the 50th
anniversary of the first Sanctum
(MORE)

WHEATEN (cont'd)
system test. And our very own Ovo
Lapido, AsterMaster employee number
six, was a member of that famous
crew that changed astroid mining
forever!

Alison raises her head up to look at Ovo.

The others APPLAUD, and not with golf claps.

ALISON
That long ago? Damn, you're old.

OVO
You're only 10 years younger than
me, grandma.

ALISON
What an old fart you are. And I
mean that. Every night. From your
bunk below mine.

OVO
At least I don't eat disgusting
fish turds in bed like someone I
know.

ALISON
They just look like turds, and
okay, kinda smell like them, but
what they actually are a new
delicacy on Asio, you cretin. You
just wish I'd share.

OVO
Won't have to worry about all that
after this mission.

ALISON
Wait... You... You weren't kidding.
You're actually retiring?

OVO
To my ranch on Motara.

ALISON
Damn! Are you sure? I promise to
give up the --

Ovo puts her hand on her lover's shoulder. Smiles.

ALISON (cont'd)
Still got that set of fishing poles
from three years ago? Those were
the best ever.

OVO
Over the fireplace. They really do
need to be taken out and used every
once in a while.

ALISON
Damn straight. Don't use 'em, they
get old and brittle just sitting
there.

OVO
Always plenty of room at the river
bank for more than one.

ALISON
And who knows? I just might have to
take early retirement to ensure the
poles never wear out.

Ovo smiles and nods at that.

WHEATEN
Oh, yeah. In my conference call
with Corporate, I found out the
Remus won't be here for five days.
The techs found a faulty...
something or other, and are waiting
for a replacement.

As for this special test, we have
to make this flawless. Any slip-ups
might jeopardize future contracts
with our new business partners.
Whoever they are.

Borson views a message on his TouchTab.

BORSON
(to himself)
That's weird.
(louder)
Cap? Seems a scout bot found what
looks like a cave not far from our
landing site. Don't remember it
being there a few days ago. Maybe a
rock slide or something opened it?

Kegan's eyebrows go up and a small smile appears, then back
down to make sure no one saw him.

OVO

I gotta test out the rover anyway,
so whaddya say I take it there for
a drive?

WHEATEN

Sounds good. Take someone. No one
goes anywhere alone.

OVO

Alison. Come with?

ALISON

Sure.

(yawns, stretches)

The water drilling won't take long.
I can it put off for an adventure.

BORSON

(clears throat)

Ahh... Maybe not.

ALISON

Oh?

(eyes bore into Borson)

What!

BORSON

Been checking the equipment and
drilling kit four is missing the --

ALISON

NOOOOO! Don't say it!

WHEATEN

What's happening?

BORSON

You'll have to use kit five.

ALISON

AHHHHHH!!!!

OVO

Harnet, back on base, has been
tinkering with four. He claims he
can make it more efficient. Sounds
like he didn't put it all back.

ALISON

Every time he touches it, he takes
away hours of my life to fix what
he broke. Every. Fucking. Time.

BORSON

Number five is the manual drilling pack. It takes forever to set up and get working.

WHEATEN

OK, Alison. Stick with the water drilling.

KEGAN

How about me? I don't have much to do until Qm4 is set up anyway. I can go.

OVO

Sure. Why not?

WHEATEN

Sounds good.

ALISON

I told him if he touched it again I'd kill him. I'll do it. When we get back, I'll really do it.

Borson looks relieved. Stops sweating.

WHEATEN

Inside voice, please. I don't want to know.

Wheaten stands to go. Takes his plate to the kitchen.

Before heading out the door, he grabs a sausage off of Krester's plate. Eye daggers from Krester.

Between bites...

WHEATEN (cont'd)

When the rest of you are done stuffing your faces, let's see how much of the checklist we can get done by noon. We're outside at three.

Ovo moves in to whisper in Alison's ear.

OVO

Forget killing him. I know a secret we can use to make his life a living hell.

Alison looks to her friend with a twinkle in her eye. Gives her a quick smooch.

Kegan has to hide how relieved he is that all is going according to plan.

EXT. SPACE ABOVE SANCTUM

The Romulus reorients itself into landing position.

Starts down toward the surface.

A 500 foot long cargo ship sits waiting at the site.

EXT. SANCTUM - DAY

Romulus lands silently, horizontally on short, stubby legs.

The door opens and Wheaten exits in a tight, stylish spacesuit.

Spreads his arms as multiple camera drones record the event.

Ovo descends, then Alison, followed by Kegan who doges a bit to not be seen by the cameras.

Other crew members exit another door near the rear.

Sections of the ship open.

Built-in cranes lower crates and assorted equipment.

Same on the cargo ship.

Crew members unload the buildings.

Pressing a button on one, it starts to expand to its full 50 foot x 20 foot size.

A four foot cube drops down by crane.

Ovo presses a button. It unfolds Transformer-like into the rover.

Kegan starts to climb into the driver's seat.

A look from Ovo and he goes around to the passenger seat as she gets behind the wheel.

She drives around the ship, WAVING, then STOMPS the pedal.

The rover ROCKETS to a blistering five MPH out toward the cave a few hundred feet away.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Ovo stops just outside the cave entrance.

Hops off the rover, and peers in.

Kegan gets off and stands next to the rover.

He looks back toward the beehive of activity at the ship, fingers something small in his pocket.

Ovo, still looking in, gets on the radio.

OVO

Captain, I'm at the cave. Looks like it goes in 50, 60 feet. Maybe more.

WHEATEN (O.S.)

Just be careful. Can't afford to --

A weird, loud SCREECH in the headset cuts off Wheaten.

Ovo WHACKS her helmet.

OVO

What's that, Captain? You cut off...

Ovo turns around to see debris flying away from the EXPLODING Romulus.

Ovo is HIT with the blast's pressure wave, SLAMMING her against the wall.

Kegan stumbles back. Falls to the ground.

Sanctus' gravity is lower than Earth's, so things move slower. Metal. Plastic. Body parts.

A second, larger blast causes a bigger pressure wave which HITS the rover. It ROCKS onto its side where Kegan's leg and torso are.

He SCREAMS in pain over the radio.

Another BLAST shoots straight up from the now unrecognizable Romulus.

Ovo races to Kegan, pushes the rover to free him.

His leg is at multiple odd angles.

Ovo roots around in a box on the back of the rover to find an auto-injector.

She STABS it into Kegan's thigh, then patches the hole the syringe made in the suit.

This quiets him as the narcotic rolls in. Sort of.

Ovo turns toward the horror of the dead and what's left of the ship. Looks down to Kegan. Back to the ship.

It all looks like a bombed out war zone.

How could anyone, especially Alison, still be alive?

KEGAN

Go. I'm good for now.

Ovo jumps into the rover and guns it towards the wreckage, but the rover is damaged. Barely a mile an hour.

Kegan activates his TouchTab. Presses a button. Instantly, the searing pain switches off.

You'd think he was a robot or something.

He rolls over, digs a small hole to bury the trigger transmitter.

MOMENTS LATER...

Ovo works hard at steering as the ground around her is littered with blasted debris she has to dodge.

Even the huge cargo ship is damaged, flipped onto it's side. Burn marks. A large panel has embedded itself in it. A mangled body impaled on a jagged rip.

Can't drive farther, Ovo stops and gets out.

Desperately scanning the scene, she spots something.

Hurries to it.

It's a woman's severed arm with the TouchTab still on showing a skipping video of a classroom. A morphing tattoo is cut in half, but still in motion.

Stumbling over debris, Ovo kicks a smoldering curved plastic something.

Jaworski's head rolls out.

Ovo spots pieces of the drilling kit. Runs to it.

A metal panel. She pulls it away. Underneath...
The top half of Yoh. Who knows where the rest is.
Ovo falls to her knees, slumped over in grief.

OVO
My little one.

Yoh's helmet faceplate is smashed away.

Ovo reaches down and closes her eyes.

A canister SPEWS FIERY LIQUID, scorching another canister
which EXPLODES, shooting metal shards near her.

Ovo grabs a large cloth. Uselessly covers her lover.

Walking back to the rover, Ovo spots several metal canisters
marked Solid Oxygen.

She picks up the canisters, and places them on the back of
the rover.

She also picks up a scarred, but undamaged med kit.

Driving to the cave, a final BLAST behind her pulverizes the
debris and her fallen coworkers.

Forgetting the helmet, Ovo reaches up to wipe the tears.

EXT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Ovo arrives and jumps off of the rover. Over the radio...

KEGAN
Anyone else make it? Yoh?

Ovo bends her head down.

KEGAN (cont'd)
I'm so sorry. I know you two --

OVO
Come on. Have to get you inside and
patched up before I'm really alone.

Ovo pulls up the injured Kegan.

Can't let on he isn't in pain. Kegan SCREAMS and grabs onto
Ovo, pulling himself up on his good leg.

Both limp into the cave.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Kegan slumps to the ground.

He watches Ovo go back out to the rover to retrieve the med kit and another large box.

She drops them inside the cave, then does the same with the oxygen canisters she found, plus ones on the rover.

She opens the large box, pulls out a lamp, and turns it on.

Next comes a big, soft sided pack which inflates into a large, clear, plastic tent.

Kegan drags himself into its airlock, then into the tent before faking passing out from the pain.

Ovo follows with the med kit, metal water bottles, etc.

TENT

Once in and the airlock is sealed, Ovo removes her helmet and gloves as Kegan 'wakes' up.

She helps him off with his suit.

Taking an auto syringe, she stabs Kegan's leg.

Kegan's undershirt pulls up. A massive bruise is forming.

KEGAN

Oh, yeah. At least one rib is broken. Trouble breathing.

The leg. Bones haven't broken the skin, but it isn't good.

OVO

Hang on. On three. One...

She grabs the foot and YANKS to straighten out the bones, but somethings odd about the way they straighten. Like they aren't real bones.

Kegan's SCREAM distracts her from noticing that as he fakes passing out.

LATER...

Now 'awake,' Kegan drinks from a water bottle.

His leg sports an inflatable tube splint with metal bars.

He can see Ovo enter the cave with another battered case to add to the other supplies:

- a case of water bottles
- two cases of food rations
- two stacks of air canisters
- miscellaneous tools

Ovo enters the airlock and tent, takes off her helmet.

KEGAN

Looks like you found enough to last us until the Remus gets here.

OVO

Yeah. About that.

KEGAN

Get hold of anyone on your TouchTab?

She moves a case so she can sit with her back to it.

OVO

No. Transmitting has to go through the central comm system on the ship. Which blew up.

I am able to receive messages, though. They know something happened, but not that it was this bad. Captain Turlen on the Remus thinks they can push the repair so they get here in three days.

KEGAN

But?

OVO

Those oxygen canisters are it. At best, it might last 45 hours if we breath slow.

Kegan looks down at his leg. His hand goes to his side.

The pain may be turned off, but something really is wrong. Kegan is in bad shape.

KEGAN

I can feel it isn't good. Inside.

OVO

The Remus has a full hospital on board. They'll take care of you. I just need to figure out how to get
(MORE)

OVO (cont'd)
us more oxygen. I have an idea
about --

KEGAN
No. You don't understand. Even if
we get more oxygen, I won't make
it. I can feel I'm bleeding
internally.

He pulls up his shirt. The mostly black and a little blue
area has spread well beyond his chest.

KEGAN (cont'd)
And something else in there...
(moves a bit)
Oww!
(shakes head)
There's only one way you'd have
enough oxygen.

Takes a second for Ovo to catch on.

OVO
NO! No way. I'll figure something
out.

Kegan laughs a bit, but flinches in fake pain.

KEGAN
You know the score. You of all
people did the calculations. Better
one of us survives.
(hard breath)
You planned on letting me be the
one if it came to that, but now...

Ovo slumps, knowing it's true.

KEGAN (cont'd)
So, how long before...

OVO
Three and a half hours. Maybe four.

KEGAN
Then there'll still be enough
oxygen for you to last?

OVO
Yes. But I --

KEGAN
Let's make it three. Just to be
sure.

(MORE)

KEGAN (cont'd)
 (wince)
 I'll do it. You have enough of
 those syringes. One now for the
 pain. Then the rest...

He moves around a bit, flinching in fake pain.

KEGAN (cont'd)
 Assuming I last that long.

Ovo grabs a syringe and stabs it into Kegan's leg.

He settles back to actually sleep. Ovo settles back for a
 little nap that won't come.

LATER...

As Kegan wakes, Ovo reenters the tent, clearly exhausted.

She takes off her helmet and spacesuit top.

OVO
 How are you doing?

KEGAN
 How are YOU doing? You should rest.

OVO
 I can outdo you any day of the
 week, youngster.

Ovo can see Kegan has deteriorated. Kegan sees she sees.

KEGAN
 How long now?

OVO
 About an hour.

KEGAN
 No more jabs until...

OVO
 Until.

Ovo looks for something in a box. Can't find it. Gives up.
 Lays back.

OVO (cont'd)
 I once read about a guy who said
 all he wanted was to live his life
 to the fullest and die in an
 interesting place.

KEGAN

Did he?

OVO

Claimed he won the lottery, was the first to climb the highest mountain on Ossiferous, and married a model in a ceremony on a moon of the planet, Serenity. A year later, back on Earth, he was hit and killed by a car containing -- I shit you not -- his wife and her lover who were speeding because the guy was late for his sex change appointment.

KEGAN

Wow.

OVO

I wonder if dying in a cave on an airless, barren world beats that.

Kegan pulls up a stock photo of a woman on a beach on his TouchTab. Quickly edits it to add himself. Shows it to Ovo.

KEGAN

Her name's Beth. I was going to earn enough for us to get married. She's training to be a psychologist.

OVO

Maybe you should write her a goodbye message.

Ovo reads something on her TouchTab while Kegan "winces."

Time to get things moving.

KEGAN

That's weird. I wonder what that is?

He weakly points to something shiny white partially visible under rocks behind the tent.

Ovo pulls out her flashlight and shines it on that spot.

OVO

What the hell is that?

MOMENTS LATER...

A space suited Ovo pushes the rocks off the white thing. Actually, things. Embedded in the cave floor are two 3 foot square white panels.

Ovo kneels over them.

OVO (cont'd)
This cave wasn't here before
yesterday. No one else is on the
planet. How'd they get here?

KEGAN
Aliens?

The bottom two-thirds of each contain four rows of ten rounded squares. Each square has a symbol etched onto it.

Below that is a wide, rounded rectangle as long as one row. It only has a short, horizontal line instead of a symbol.

Along the top of each panel is a row with eighteen of the symbols which are different on each device.

Ovo sets her flashlight down on one of the panels.

Ovo and Kegan look at each other.

She's baffled. He pretends to be, then (acting) painfully pushes himself up.

KEGAN (cont'd)
I can't see.

Ovo turns on her helmet camera.

TENT

Kegan watches on his TouchTab.

While Ovo is looking the other way, Kegan pulls out a micro torch, reaches over to a stack of air canisters, and swipes a line down their backs causing air to hiss out.

CAVE

Ovo starts touching the buttons. Nothing happens.

She sits back, thinking.

KEGAN (O.S.)
 You know what this reminds me of?
 Like on one of those old computer
 or telephone keypads in museums.

OVO
 What if that's exactly what it is?

KEGAN (O.S.)
 A phone? Seriously?
 (moves)
 Ow...

He nods approvingly. Good. She's figuring it out.

OVO
 Maybe not a phone, exactly. Just
 keep still. I want to try
 something.

On the device with the flashlight, Ovo presses the buttons
 that correspond to the other device's top line symbols.

As she does, those symbols appear floating just above the
 top edge. When done, nothing happens.

Ovo turns to look at Kegan.

KEGAN
 Maybe you have to press *Enter*?

Ovo turns back and presses the wide button.

A slight shimmer and the flashlight disappears from the one
 device and appears on the other.

Eyes wide, she SCOOTs back.

OVO
 Bloody hell!

After a moment... Heart pounding, Ovo moves back in.

She does the same operation, this time on the other device.

The flashlight jumps back to the original device.

OVO (cont'd)
 You're right. Enter the symbols for
 the another device and it
 transfers... transmits... whatever
 is on it to the device you...
 dialed.

KEGAN (O.S.)

Huh. A matter transmitter. A matter transporter. No... Transport pads. It's going to change the world.

Ovo looks at him, puzzled. He needs to sell it.

KEGAN

Figure out how they work, then make a fortune building and selling them.

(chuckles)

Imagine. No more cars or trucks or spaceships. Cargo's instantly at its destination.

(going for it)

And people! Jump to New Paris for lunch.

OVO

And then there's the bad side. Wipe out vehicles and you wipe out a million related businesses and jobs. Imagine being a terrorist. Jump to somewhere, drop a bomb, and jump back. Hell, just send the bomb.

KEGAN

Kinks to be worked out.

Ovo looks back at the pads.

OVO

Yeah, right. Crashing the world's economies and blowing up shit is a bit more than a kink.

KEGAN

We recovered after the devastation of the Misery Virus way back when.

(wince)

Actually, I bet the aliens who created them had the same issues to deal with. I bet they put in sensors and an AI to determine what's being transmitted. If bombs or weapons, it won't send them.

OVO

(to herself)

Aliens.

Ovo looks back at her worsening partner who is looking at his TouchTab.

KEGAN

Hey, what's that above you?

Ovo looks up: A series of symbols shimmering above her head.

KEGAN (cont'd)

Those symbols again. Same number of them. I wonder what they connect to if you enter them?

OVO

Can't hurt to try.

(beat)

I hope.

Ovo moves back to the device with her flashlight on it.

Presses the corresponding buttons. The flashlight is gone.

Ovo sits back, mulling it over.

She stands up, walks to the tent entrance, and enters.

TENT

Ovo takes off her helmet.

Checking things, she spots something on one of the three stacked air canisters near Kegan.

The top canister's gauge shows 10% left. The others read 0%.

She turns the stack around to see a hair-thin gash running down the stack.

Ovo taps on her TouchTab. Her shoulders slump.

KEGAN

What is it?

OVO

Those three are damaged. So is one of them out there. With the ones left, there's not enough for even one of us until the Remus gets here.

Kegan looks toward the transport pads, then they look at each other, then back.

They sit in silence until...

KEGAN
Well. Whaddya think?

OVO
Considering the alternative?

KEGAN
We could land in an alien meat
market, a gladiator pit, a human
zoo, a--

OVO
Right. All the old sci-fi tropes.

KEGAN
Since it transmits between those
pads, at least we don't have to
worry about coming out in the
middle of space. Unless it's
floating in space.

She looks around the cave. To Kegan. To the pads.

OVO
Fuck!

CAVE - LATER

Ovo helps Kegan onto a pad.

He's holding a mostly straight metal pole as a cane to prop himself up.

Ovo types in the shimmering symbols, then looks up at her companion who looks gray behind the helmet's faceplate.

Kegan has a full water bottle in his other hand. He weakly raises it as if toasting.

KEGAN
To going to an interesting place.

Ovo smiles, nods, and raises her water bottle in reply.

Kegan smiles, presses *Enter* with the pole, and dissolves away in a whirl of colors.

Ovo reaches down, reenters the address, steps on the pad.

Before pressing *Enter*, she looks down at the pads.

OVO
I gotta get me a few of these for
my ranch.

Using her foot she presses *Enter* and is gone.

The shimmering symbols above fade away.

The pads start shrinking until they finally wink out.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE ABOVE SANCTUM - 3 DAYS LATER

A wormhole opens overhead and a ship exits. Heads down.

INT. SANCTUM: CAVE - DAY

Two MEN with AsterMaster logos on their spacesuits enter.

They survey the mess in the body-less cave, then look at each other, puzzled.

OVER BLACK - SUPER: 2. WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE

FADE TO:

INT. MARA: CRYO ROOM - DAY

The cryo room on the alien planet Mara is beyond massive.

For as far as the eye can see, there are vertical cryo tubes filled with humans.

Two Marans who have had BodyMod treatments to reform them into a pair of quite dissimilar looking humans enter and go to a pair of tubes.

LEO ROCHE is thin, well over six foot. Looks mid-thirties.
MRS. QUIMBY is barely five feet tall. Looks around 80.

MRS. QUIMBY
(shakes head)
See? It only took 800 or so years
to collect the quarter million
humans for Phase 2.

ROCHE

Humans on a moon of Mara. I still can't get over that it was the Originals who came up with this plan.

And how did they decided on these two to be the first released? After our test subjects, of course.

MRS. QUIMBY

Why do the Originals do pretty much anything they do?

(looks in tubes)

These are the ones you're going to be working with the most, so I hope they're up to it.

ROCHE

I've decided I should be a little bit mysterious when I first appear. I was reading a book that --

MRS. QUIMBY

You? Reading a book? Who could have guessed?

ROCHE

Anyway... I'll present myself as the *Emissary of Mara*. It should give me more authority as Mara's voice on the project.

Mrs. Quimby presses buttons on the two cryo units.

Although we can't see who they are, a liquid pours down on the frozen MAN and WOMAN inside.

They dissolve away, transport pad style.

MRS. QUIMBY

As the humans say, good luck! We can start sending more for the Committee in few days. Let these two get accustomed to everything.

ROCHE

Despite all of the work it took, I just hope this whole Phase 2 thing will never be needed.

Mrs. Quimby nods yes as the pair exit the room.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

- A large WallTouch screen on the wall behind a podium
- 25 tiered rows of 20 chairs
- Stairs running up the middle
- Elevator door at top of stairs
- Under each chair, a transport pad

Looking down from the top row, TWO PEOPLE dissolve into seats in the front row. Both are wearing matching form-fitting jump suits. Oddly stylish.

LUCAS DABROWSKI (34) is out cold, head on his chest.
 GIANNA RIFFLEY (36) starts to move a bit.

GROANING. Pain shows through tightly closed eyes as she moves her head and arms.

Opens eyes to slits. Forces an attempt to stand.

GIANNA

Nope.

Falls back into her chair. Hard. Looks around. Confused.

Tries again, fighting through the pain. Wobbly, but then, Success!

Wrings her hands to clear what's making them feel like this.

Time to fall into her chair again as Lucas wakes.

His eyes focus, brow furrows in puzzlement. PAIN. Pulls his head up from his chest.

LUCAS

OOOOOWWWWWW! Holy FUCK!

GIANNA

Don't move. It hurts more if you move.

LUCAS

Whaddya mean? What's wrong with me?
 Who are you? Where am I? How did I get here? Oooww!

GIANNA

Slow down, buddy. You're safe...
 We're safe, I think. I'm Gianna...
 Gianna Riffley and --

LUCAS

Am I dead? Is this the afterlife?

GIANNA

You think the afterlife is a college lecture hall? What kind of religion has that as heaven?

On the other hand, it could be hell. Day after day of endless boring lectures, hideous exams, and... I have no idea where we are or how we got here. I only woke up myself a minute ago.

LUCAS

My skin... It feels like... like...

GIANNA

A million needles? Yeah, except they don't hurt, exactly. They aren't sharp. Unless you move. It seems to take a while, but they're going away slowly, so just sit still for a bit.

LUCAS

I think my eyes are moving in different directions. Is my brain sitting on top of my head?

GIANNA

I can't even imagine a combination of drugs that could cause all this.

LUCAS

Right. And you would know.

GIANNA

Actually, I'm exactly the person who would know. Or should know.

LUCAS

Oh? And why's that?

GIANNA

I'm a pharmacologist. I run a small company that tests drug interactions for the FDA. Or used to. Anyway, I've got no clue what this is.

(rubs eyes)

What's your name?

LUCAS

Lucas Dabrowski.

Lucas starts to move a bit. Slowly.

LUCAS (cont'd)

Ooo. I can see straight. You're right. The needles are starting to fade. No... Not fade. Melt away, sort of.

GIANNA

Melt. That's it! It's like ice crystals all through our skin. And they start melting when we wake up. Maybe we've been in some sort of cryonic sleep state.

Gianna gets up a bit more easily this time.

LUCAS

So, our kidnappers turned us into popsicles? Why the hell would they do that?

(turns head a bit)

This does look like a lecture hall.

Gianna bends down as best she can to look below them.

GIANNA

White squares with odd symbols on them. Buttons, too?

Lucas bends forward to look at the one under his chair, then to keep from face planting, jolts back into his seat.

Gianna tries walking. Stiffly.

Reaching the podium, grabs it to keep from falling.

Lucas pushes up with his arms to try and stand, but like Gianna's first attempt, nope.

LUCAS

Where are the kidnappers? And why us?

(clears throat)

They won't get any ransom from me.

GIANNA

Not living the billionaire lifestyle, are we?

LUCAS

Could have. I ran a software company until a year ago when my board kicked me out, the corrupt

(MORE)

LUCAS (cont'd)
bastards. I'm broke from the legal
bills fighting them. How 'bout you,
doc?

GIANNA
I could have been, too, but my
multi-millionaire father was a real
treat. He wouldn't pay a dime for
me. When my mother got pregnant, he
proclaimed me an "unplanned
inconvenience," divorced her, and
left.

LUCAS
What an asshole.

GIANNA
I showed him. Got a full boat
scholarship through med school. A
special grant helped me start my
company, but since it isn't
profitable yet, it's just a little
in debt... Only few million or so.
(brow furrows)
I suppose the kidnappers could have
the change in my purse.
(looks around)
If I had my purse.

LUCAS
If it's not ransom, why kidnap us,
then drop us here? Wherever here
is.

Gianna can only shrug while Lucas shakes his head clear.

LUCAS (cont'd)
You said *USED* to run your company?

GIANNA
(sigh)
Guess who else had their board fire
them. And I was glad.

LUCAS
Why?

GIANNA
I was constantly fighting to raise
money. Fighting the drug companies.
Fighting the government who is in
bed with them. Fighting for... I
just got so tired of it all.

LUCAS

Interesting. We were both fired
from companies we started and ran.
I wonder where else we're alike?

LATER...

Lucas and Gianna are moving around a bit, rubbing and waving
their arms and hands to shake the "needles" away.

Lucas touches his toes.

Gianna does yoga and stretching.

LUCAS (cont'd)

Nope. My parents were killed in a
car crash when I was fifteen. Only
other relatives I know of were old
when I was young, so are probably
dead.

(beat)

How about kids? None for me.

Gianna stops, frowns at a memory. Lucas sees, stops.

GIANNA

When I was fifteen, I got an
infection up inside. I let it go
too long. Didn't want my mom
finding out how or who I got it
from. A hysterectomy keep me from
dying, and from ever having little
Giannas.

LUCAS

Oh. Sorry.

(long beat)

I hope this isn't an insensitive
question, but did you ever want
any?

GIANNA

For the longest time, what I
couldn't have I didn't long for,
but then my sister had twins and
when I babysat I...

Gianna's gaze drifts far away and wistful, then she starts
stretching and moving at a much faster pace.

Lucas goes back to his own exercising.

LUCAS

What about bowling? Every other Thursday night since college for me.

Gianna, thankful for a change of topic, takes a break. She sits, sweating. Tries wiping off on her sleeve which isn't absorbent.

GIANNA

Me and a group of the ladies in the lab had a team called the Phlegmbots. We took second place in our league this year.

LUCAS

There must be something we don't have in common.

(stretching again)

Could our compatibility explain why us instead of two others? But then kidnapping us because of that makes even less sense than ransom.

(stands still)

You know what they always ask victim's families on detective shows: "*Did he have any enemies?*"

(sits)

Anyone you can think of who would want to kidnap you? I sure don't.

GIANNA

Well, my lab did some of the testing for one of the COVID vaccines. As you can imagine, when that news got out, things got a tad contentious with some folks.

LUCAS

Uh... What vaccine?

GIANNA

COVID.

LUCAS

What's that?

Gianna turns to look at him dumbly.

GIANNA

What do you mean, what is COVID?

LUCAS

What do you mean, what do I mean?
I've never heard of it.

GIANNA

What do YOU mean? Everyone knows
about COVID and the pandemic. It's
as if you... Wait. What year is it?

LUCAS

Year? 2018. What year do you think
it is?

GIANNA

Ah, shit! That explains the ice
crystals. You were taken in 2018
before COVID and the pandemic. I
was taken in 2025. If we were both
put into some sort of cryonic
freeze and only now unfrozen, who
knows what year it actually is. I
don't think we can take anything
for granted.

LUCAS

So there was a pandemic. Huh. How
did the next elections go?

GIANNA

Don't ask.

Lucas stands. Fast run in place to get the blood flowing.

LUCAS

How about we figure out where we
are?

GIANNA

Good idea. Hopefully, our
kidnappers aren't waiting to shoot
us for trying to escape.

Lucas searches around for something weapon-y.

Under the podium he finds a metal, telescoping, pointer
stick. On the end is a small plastic baby with its arm and
index finger pointing.

Lucas plays sword fighting with it, jabbing and thrusting.

GIANNA (cont'd)

Yeah, threaten to poke them to
death. That'll scare 'em.

Two doors are off to each side. They head for one of those, pointer at the ready.

AUDITORIUM STAIRS

The door slowly opens.

Pointer baby goes out first, then Lucas peers out.

No one there, so he opens it wide and both walk out.

Looking out a window, grass and trees. A set of stairs going down to the ground floor where lights are off.

Gianna gestures to stairs going up, so up they go.

Lucas slowly opens the door at the top. Pointer baby first. No one to poke, so he opens it and both go in.

OFFICES

A hallway with empty glass fronted offices on one side. Another door across through which they find a...

MEETING ROOM

Center of the building. Horseshoe table with 18 chairs.

Open door opposite they entered through: more offices.

On the fourth wall is a window, a door to the outside, an elevator door, and another window.

Outside they go to...

EXT. BALCONY - DAY

A quarter mile away is what looks like a circle of stone benches. Sandy around it with patches of sea grass.

100 feet beyond is a wide, horseshoe-shaped, flat area that encircles a spectacular bay and beach. Beyond is an ocean, or at least a large lake.

At the nearest part of the horseshoe flat area, in line with the chair circle and auditorium building, is a two-story, architect's wet dream of a house. Beautiful landscaping.

GIANNA

That looks like a place I wouldn't mind retiring to.

LUCAS

Doesn't it look like there should be more houses going around the flat area on both sides?

GIANNA

Future construction? And just like that, there goes the neighborhood.

On the balcony to the right, a staircase to the ground. Next to it, the glass enclosed shell for the elevator.

To the left, stairs to the roof. Up our pair go.

ROOFTOP

The opposite side of this building leads to a huge, beautiful valley filled with flowers, a meandering stream, occasional majestic trees. All of which is ringed by snow-capped mountains. No other buildings.

Stretching on either side of this building to the mountains, starting 50 feet away, is a wide line of trees.

But that isn't what has our pair's attention.

GIANNA

It can't be what it looks like.

Rising in the sky over the mountains in the distance is a large planet with bright rings.

LUCAS

If that IS what it looks like, then getting home is going to be a tad challenging cause that ain't Saturn which means this ain't Earth which means we were most likely brought here by aliens.

GIANNA

(digesting)

So let me get this straight. Our kidnappers are aliens who've taken us to some sort of paradise world and just left us here?

Two seagulls fly overhead toward the bay.

Lucas looks down the side of the building to see a rabbit eating grass.

LUCAS

Seems Paradise is an oddly perfect replica of Earth. Even down to the birds and animals.

(slaps his neck)

And mosquitoes.

GIANNA

(shakes head)

What the fuck is going on?

Lucas shivers a bit.

LUCAS

Well, the sun's going down soon. Or is it the star's going down? What do you think, Gianna? Is the word "sun" OK to use when you're in another solar system?

GIANNA

Really? That's what concerns you?

Lucas shrugs in recognition of pointlessness.

LUCAS

It's just that it'll probably get cooler, and we don't have jackets.

(looks down)

Nobody's ever looked to me as a fashion icon, but matching form fitting jump suits isn't exactly haute cuisine... Wait. That's food.

GIANNA

You mean haute couture. You're right, but they are comfortable.

Lucas looks around.

LUCAS

Those mountains. See how steep and high they are? No passes to get beyond them. On either side of the horseshoe bay

(points behind them)

there's a beach and ocean. Unless we find a boat, we can't get out.

GIANNA

Like we're in a beautifully
landscaped cage. No wonder no
kidnappers are around.

Looking toward the bay, movement at the house.

LUCAS

Look! We're not the only ones here.

A MAN on the porch is waving his hands over his head.

Lucas points and waves back. The man stops, goes inside.

G & L make their way back down the stairs to the...

BALCONY

The pair head for the stairs to the ground.

GIANNA

We need to be careful. Hopefully he
doesn't want to toss us into a
Silence of the Lambs pit or be a
chain saw revving psycho wearing a
pig's face.

STAIRS TO THE GROUND

GIANNA

On the other hand, if this really
isn't Earth, maybe it's an alien
feeling a bit peckish.

LUCAS

I have to say I really like your
optimistic outlook. I doubt after
all the effort to get us here they
want to kill us. At least right
away.

GIANNA

Oh, yeah. Thaaat's comforting. I'm
not worried at all now.

EXT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Lucas and Gianna walk toward the house, Lucas a bit ahead.

GIANNA

I've got an odd question for you.

Lucas whirls around.

LUCAS

We were drugged, kidnapped, frozen like seafood, transported to a picturesque paradise with a huge designer house on an Earth-like moon orbiting a ringed planet which is orbiting a star who knows how far from our beloved home, the real Earth. I can't wait to hear what you think is an odd question.

Gianna nods, then with a bright smile...

GIANNA

Have you thought about having sex with me?

Lucas stares blankly at Gianna.

LUCAS

You know, lotta questions flew by that you might ask, and, oddly enough, that wasn't one of them.

GIANNA

Got your attention. And, I notice you didn't answer. What I really want to ask is, Lucas, am I your type?

LUCAS

My type.

Walking again, side-by-side.

GIANNA

If we were in a club or bar or, I don't know, a grocery store, with a lot of women who were, for some peculiar reason, interested in you, would I be the one you would chat up? Ya know, so as to get it on with?

(pulls up)

Oh, I'm assuming you aren't gay or any of the other letters?

LUCAS

I'm not.

GIANNA

Don't be afraid to say no if I'm not your type. Won't hurt my feelings since we just met. I can take it.

LUCAS

Well... You are very smart, funny, no bullshit. Well, a little bullshit. Actually, quite a bit of...

Gianna does a model pose. Hands under breasts and pushes them up. Crooked smile. Cross eyes. Duck lips.

LUCAS (cont'd)

(roles eyes)

Oh, alright. Quite adequate looking, too.

(sigh)

OK. I guess you are my type. Happy?

GIANNA

Ecstatic, but... Only adequate?

LUCAS

Not to sound egotistical, or whatever, but I'm guessing I'm yours? Your... type?

GIANNA

(shrugs)

Eh. You're a cavalcade of imperfections my man, but I guess you'd do in a pinch.

LUCAS

There's that compatibility thing again. It's like there was a dating app questionnaire to find your perfect match, except insanely detailed. It's kinda frightening to know our kidnappers know so much about us.

They walk on.

GIANNA

Are you married or in a relationship? I was married, but when I found out about his girlfriend and said it was either her or me, he lovingly chose me. I

(MORE)

GIANNA (cont'd)
chose to lovingly hand him divorce
papers.

A cloud seems to come over Lucas.

 LUCAS
My therapist says I should use the
word more often. "*To make it real*,"
he said. Like I need it to be more
real.

 GIANNA
What word?

 LUCAS
Widower. I hate the sound of it.
Reminds me of the spider. The black
widow? I don't want to remember her
that way.

Shakes the thought away.

START FLASHBACK

INT. COMPANY CAFETERIA - DAY

*LILY (25) is carrying her tray, but can't find an empty
seat. Lucas is sitting at a table by himself.*

She gestures to the chair. He smiles, gestures to sit.

 LUCAS (V.O.)
We didn't say anything to each
other at first, me being the boss
and all. Then I asked about the
embroidered lily on her purse. She
said her mother had made it because
her name was Lily. She called it a
silly lily for Lily.

HOURS LATER...

 LUCAS (V.O.) (cont'd)
Before we knew it, the place was
empty and someone was sent to find
me for a meeting.

EXT. VEGAS WEDDING CHAPEL - NIGHT

Lucas and Lily exit, running and smiling.

LUCAS (V.O.)
We got married six months later. We
were so happy.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lucas in a T-shirt and boxers, works the coffee maker...

LUCAS (V.O.)
We had a routine. I'd set up the
coffee maker at night.

... then races to the next room which is the bedroom.

He jumps into bed next to Lily.

Hoochie coochie ensues as the door slowly closes.

MORNING

Lily flips the switch on the coffee maker. Nothing happens.

*She tries it again, then calls out to Lucas who comes and
has no luck either.*

Lucas unplugs it and dumps it into the trash.

They then both stand, hands folded, heads bowed.

LILY
You were a good friend, but now
you've gone to small appliance
heaven.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - LATER

Their car pulls up and they get out.

LUCAS (V.O.)
I was willing to wait until we got
to work, but she wanted coffee NOW.

*A happy and smiling Lily is first to the door with Lucas
following.*

EXT/INT. STORE

CLANG goes the bell on the door as it opens.

The nervous, young, gang colors-wearing robber at the counter jerks around at the sound. His gun FIRES.

Lily's eyes go big as she slumps to the ground.

Lucas, right behind her, meets the robber's terrified eyes.

LUCAS (V.O.)
The bullet hit her square in the heart.

GIANNA (V.O.)
Oh, Lucas, that's awful. I'm so sorry.

LATER...

Lucas in shock, on the floor, back against the counter. His hands and clothes red from trying to stop her bleeding.

As the EMTs wheel Lilly's body out on a gurney, one EMT says something to a COP who nods in agreement.

Lucas is furious, but can't find the energy to get up.

END FLASHBACK

LUCAS
I'm not a violent man, but when I heard that EMT say it was "a lucky shot," I wanted to smash his face in. There wasn't one God dammed thing about it that was lucky.

Lucas takes a deep breath to contain himself.

GIANNA
Did they catch the fucker?

START FLASHBACK

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

The robber and another GANG BUDDY, both wearing gang colors, lay dead behind a dumpster.

LUCAS (V.O.)
It wasn't justice, but it was something.

The end of the alley is blocked off with yellow tape.

Someone suspiciously looking like Lucas under a hoodie stands in the crowd, then walks away.

END FLASHBACK

GIANNA

Wait. Did you...? You didn't... You weren't the one who...

LUCAS

Look. Another one of the white squares like in the auditorium.

EXT. CHAIR CIRCLE - DAY

Fifty feet from the house, the pair walk into a circle of nine two-person chairs seemingly growing out of the ground.

In the center is a three foot square transport pad.

GRAVEYARD

Twenty feet on, they stop.

To the side is a beautiful, eight foot square, chiseled stone platform, about two feet high.

On top, two 6 foot by 3 foot brass panels next to each other. One is open.

Inside is satin lined with a satin pillow. A coffin.

Gianna walks over to read what's on the closed one.

GIANNA

Emily Salamon, age 133.

The grave brings back strong memories to Lucas.

He fights them back. Gianna moves back to stand next to him.

LUCAS

I am a widower, and I will miss
Lily every minute of every day for
the rest of my life.

Gianna starts to lift her arm up to Lucas' shoulder to comfort him, but drops it when...

The door to the house BANGS opens and a VERY old WALTER walks out, a bit bent over, but smiling.

With his white, ZZ Top beard, shoulder-length hair behind a balding-on-top head, and T-shirt, he'd be right at home in a 1960s hippy commune. Given his age, he might have been in one.

WALTER

Lucas, Gianna! It's good to see you. I've been waiting for you!

EXT. G&L HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Walter is smiling and gesturing for Lucas and Gianna to come to the porch.

Apprehensive, but what the hell, they walk to the porch.

WALTER

Hello! My name is Walter Obramowitz. Come in, come in. I have much to tell you.

At the foot of the porch stairs they stop when they see what's intricately carved into the thick oak double doors: unmistakable portraits of our pair smiling back at them.

Walter notices their expressions, looks at the doors.

WALTER (cont'd)

Ah, wonderful! The house is already starting to change for you.

Lucas and Gianna aren't sure to be puzzled or worried.

WALTER (cont'd)

Nanotechnology. Just a few nanites replicated themselves trillions upon trillions of times to construct the house and contents. They'll shortly reconfigure everything to your tastes and interests.

GIANNA

(to Lucas)

Good likeness. I seem to be having a good hair day.

Walter opens the door, goes in, holds the door open.

Up the stairs and in they go.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Lucas and Gianna gawk at the place.

WALTER

Please! Feel free to look around.
Emily and I loved decorating and
redecorating the place. And it'll
all be gone soon.

The living room is wide, filled with spectacular, high-end
furniture, but the 'vibe'...

GIANNA

Everything's amazing. It's like
stepping into the 1960s.
(points to a chair)
On Earth, that would probably be
worth as much as my car. And this
artwork!

WALTER

Emily and I were born around 2750,
but we were students of Earth and
loved the look of that period.

LUCAS

2750. You mean the year 2750? What
year is it now?

WALTER

Oh, of course. Yes. A lot has
happened since you were taken. The
Misery Virus. The Dominion. So
much. It's 2886, young man.

G & L look at each other.

To the left, a spiral staircase up to a balcony and a
hallway to several rooms.

Lucas walks to the back of the living room where there's a
forty foot wide continuously curved window wall.

Outside is a wooden deck with a railing. The beach and bay
beyond.

LUCAS

What an amazing view you have.

Gianna slides in next to Lucas to gaze at it all.

WALTER

The house is all yours, or will be shortly now that I'm done with it.

G & L turn to look at him, puzzled.

LUCAS

What do you mean? Where will you stay?

WALTER

With my beloved Emily. Out there.

(points to front)

I downed the drink when I saw you coming. It's kind of slow acting, but I can feel it working. When the time is near, I'll go and climb in next to her. No need for you to do anything. For now, plenty of time to tell you what you need to know.

GIANNA

Suicide? Why?

WALTER

Emily died a month ago. I'm 137 and my health is failing so I haven't long anyway. The MedBeds can do a lot to keep us going, but it has limits.

LUCAS

MedBeds?

WALTER

Anyway, you're here now. It's how it was always supposed to be.

GIANNA

I don't understand.

WALTER

Please. Have a seat. I'll explain everything. Well, as much as I know. Would you like something to drink? Anything. Literally.

LUCAS

Coffee? With a little cream or milk.

GIANNA

Same, except black.

LUCAS
Ah! Another difference!

WALTER
Coming right up!

The pair sit on a sofa as Walter walks to the kitchen.

KITCHEN

Walter steadies himself with a hand on the counter. The death drug is doing its thing.

LIVING ROOM

Walter returns and hands out the coffees. Sits down.

WALTER
When you meet the Emissary, he'll probably explain more, but for now...

LUCAS
Who?

WALTER
He's from that planet we're orbiting. It's called Mara. Oddly enough, he's an alien, but looks human. Used something called a bodymake... No. Body... something to change his appearance.

So, all this started when we arrived about five years ago...

EXT. GRAVEYARD - EVENING

This system's sun/star is setting on the horizon as Lucas and Gianna stand a respectful distance from the tomb.

Walter is laying in the coffin and smiling. Weakly waves at our pair, then turns his head to face Emily.

WALTER
See ya soon, my dar...

Walter's body goes slack, a smile still on his face.

The metal cover slowly closes and the entire structure descends so that the top is at ground level.

GIANNA

Well.

LUCAS

Rest in peace.

GIANNA

I guess we should go exploring
their... our... house.

EXT. G&L HOUSE - EVENING

They walk up the stairs to the porch where they stop and
look at themselves in the door again.

LUCAS

We're definitely not in Kansas
anymore, Toto.

GIANNA

Really? That cliché? We both love
movies, but please, don't start
quoting from them. Especially since
that's not the actual quote.

LUCAS

Frankly my dear, I don't give a
damn.

GIANNA

Oh, god.

They open the door and enter.

INT. G&L HOUSE: LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Lucas and Gianna enter the front door to what is now their
new home.

The interior has completely changed.

Structure is the same, but all furniture, art, etc. isn't.

GIANNA

Wow. That was fast.

(looking around)

Walter and Emily had good taste, in
a retro sort of way. It was nice,
but now it's... more us?

LUCAS

Yeah, I like it. Comfortable.

Gianna spots a piano in a corner. Walks to it.

LUCAS (cont'd)

You play?

Gianna sits and causes Lucas' jaw to drop playing:

- a difficult classical piece, smooth transition to...
- a toe tapping ragtime improv, sliding into...
- ending with a soul tearing blues riff

GIANNA

Eh, I play. Sort of. I'm kinda rusty at it though. You?

LUCAS

Well, when I was 11, Sammy Oslan played the accordion. His mom and my mom were good friends. Seeing him reminded her that when she was young the guy who was the life of the party was the one who brought his accordion, and she wanted to set me up for life.

GIANNA

You, a German or Polish boy from Milwaukee? Playing polkas on your accordion at college parties, the girls must have been falling all over you.

LUCAS

After six months, my music teacher, who did play in a polka band, told my mom it was time to pack it in. Said I was a musical lost cause. Seems I couldn't even hum in tune.

Gianna wanders to the big curved window while humming, then whistling, in perfect pitch, the *Bridge Over the Kwai* song.

Lucas rolls his eyes and shakes his head.

Gianna looks left: small dining room looking out a smaller, curved window wall across from the kitchen.

Down the hallway are more rooms. A stairway down to a below ground level.

Looks right: hallway curves around to bedrooms.

GIANNA

Hungry?

LUCAS

Starving. How about I see what I
can make us to eat while you see
(points right)
what's down that way. Shout if you
find something interesting.

They split up. Lucas enters the oddly small kitchen for a house this big.

KITCHEN

Aside from a sink and counter space, there's no stove or refrigerator or much of anything else except for a 2 foot cube that's mostly clear.

A note on a metal plate says to touch the button on the base, then say what you want to eat or drink.

He thinks for a moment, then touches the button.

LUCAS

I'll have a medium rare steak with
sauteed mushrooms and onions, a
baked potato, green beans, a hot
fudge sundae...

GIANNA (O.S.)

LUCAS!!!

Now that Lucas has stopped talking, a mist forms in the box as the main course forms on a plate. Sundae in a cup.

He doesn't see it as he takes off like a rocket to Gianna.

BEDROOM HALLWAY

Gianna points to two doors.

GIANNA

I found something interesting.

One is open and has carved into it, *Gianna*. The other has *Lucas*. They enter Gianna's.

GIANNA'S BEDROOM

Imagine what a fairytale princess with a wealthy, generous king for a father would have.

GIANNA
I LOVE it! It may surprise you, but
this is exactly what I always
wanted as a kid. But how did they
know?

Lucas opens a door, lights flash on, and he peers in.

 LUCAS
Now that's a bathroom.

BATHROOM

Lucas wanders in to see a multiple sprayer and rain shower,
sauna, whirlpool tub, Japanese-style everything toilet,
tanning bed, and so on.

BEDROOM

A door has the outline of a dress. Gianna presses it, the
door opens. Inside...

 GIANNA
Now that's a closet.

The room-sized walk-in closet is filled with racks, shelves
and drawers of clothes, accessories, jackets, and shoes.

Lucas comes to the closet door.

 LUCAS
Now that's a lot of clothes.

GIANNA'S CLOSET

Gianna picks up a shoe and examines the inside, then opens a
drawer, pulls out a bra. Checking.

 GIANNA
These are all in my sizes and
styles. There's enough for a
lifetime and then some.

 LUCAS
A lifetime... I wonder how my room
is.

 GIANNA
What's your fantasy bedroom like?

LUCAS

My hobby was making jewelry boxes, chess boards, and other things with inlaid woods and metals. Like the front door. So, like that.

LUCAS' BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Just as Lucas said. But not so much as to make it oppressively dark and claustrophobic. Craftsman style.

Gianna opens a door with the carved image of a suit to a vast array of clothes just like her closet.

LUCAS' CLOSET

G & L enter, slowly sit on carved and polished wood benches down the middle, because of course there are benches.

LUCAS

I need to tell you something.

(deep breath)

You asked me what I remembered before waking up here. I said I was getting ready for bed. What I didn't mention was the bed was in my prison cell.

Gianna turns, eyebrows raised a mile high.

GIANNA

Prison? That's quite a detail to leave out.

LUCAS

After Lilly died, I went a little crazy with gambling. Turns out I'm not very good at it. They did a financial audit at the company and found a slight discrepancy. I was putting it back slowly, but I was cutting into their skimming and now they could shift that onto me. So, aside from getting fired...

(shrugs)

As prisons go, it wasn't so bad. At least compared to ones in movies.

GIANNA

Paying back my business loan became a tad problematic. The collection agency had me on speed dial. If we

(MORE)

GIANNA (cont'd)
weren't kidnapped, we could have
been prison buddies.

 LUCAS
What a pair we make, eh?

After a few moments of reflection...

 LUCAS (cont'd)
I don't know about you, but I'm
getting out of this jump suit.

 GIANNA
Think I'll JUMP outta mine, too.
Back in a few.

IN A FEW...

Lucas wears comfortable trousers, stylish shirt, sunglasses.

Gianna whirls in wearing a dress that changes colors
depending how the light hits it.

 GIANNA (cont'd)
I don't normally wear dresses, but
this one...

 LUCAS
That is really cool! Ya got good
taste, lady!

Lucas and Gianna admire themselves in the mirror.

 GIANNA
Damn, we both really look good! On
the other hand, those shoes.
Although they do go oddly well with
the shirt.

Lucas' shoes are slip-ons with the unlikely pairing of
alligator on the sides and zebra on the tops.

 LUCAS
According to Walter, real animals
didn't go into making any of it.
 (nods approvingly)
Still hungry?

 GIANNA
Famished!

LUCAS

Wait until you see our special kitchen. It can make literally anything.

GIANNA

Good! I should tell you, I'm famous for being a terrible cook. You can't imagine how many frozen pizzas I've baked with the cardboard bottom still on.

KITCHEN

Lucas makes dinner with the food fabricator.

Later... Time for G & L to explore.

BEGIN SERIES OF SHOTS

Every room in the house is more unique than the last, filled with art on the walls, unique sculptures and furniture.

Down the hallway, on two floors and basement, are:

- an exercise room
- movie theater with an immersive, holographic screen where they sit watching the 1985 film, *Enemy Mine*
- Olympic sized pool
- work rooms for hobbies
- medical bay with MedBed
- 2 lane bowling alley
- etc., etc.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The pair stand at the glass wall, puzzled.

LUCAS

I wonder if it's as simple as...

Lucas touches the glass.

Two vertical seams form four feet apart. The now separate glass section rolls (yes, rolls) up into the ceiling leaving an opening to the outside.

GIANNA

Huh.

They walk through it out to the ...

EXT. DECK - NIGHT

Two moons hang low on the horizon causing beautiful rippling streaks on the bay.

GIANNA

Have you noticed that neither of us have mentioned wanting to get back home?

(turns to Lucas)

Would you go back? Prison cell aside, if you could press a button and be sent back to your old life on Earth?

LUCAS

My old life ended the day Lilly died. Since then, it's been just day after day of... day after days. Then the trial and...

(nods)

I'm ready for a new day, even if it's on another planet with someone who is apparently my... type?

(smirks, shakes head)

Another planet.

(shrugs)

How about you?

Gianna lets out with a hearty CHUCKLE.

GIANNA

Well, that depends, Lucas. Any chance you'll turn into a flaming asshole?

LUCAS

Well, Gianna. Can't say I have any plans to at the moment. But, as Scarlet said, "Tomorrow is another day."

GIANNA

Argh. Enough!

(shakes fist)

I swear I'll punch you if you start with Arnold quotes. I will miss my bowling team, but we do have a bowling alley. You better be as good as you said otherwise it's, "Hasta la vista, baby."

Lucas side eyes her. She's smiling, looking outward.

Gianna's hand rests on the railing.

Moving to the railing, looking around, Lucas's hand accidentally lands on top of hers. He jerks it away.

Without looking, Gianna places her hand on his. He doesn't pull back.

They look at each other, then smile.

The ringed planet is now nearly overhead. Lights from cities on the dark side. Gianna motions toward it.

 GIANNA (cont'd)
What did Walter call them? The
Mara? What a pretty name for
aliens. Odd the planet is also
named Mara.

Lucas waves to Mara, then both gaze out to the spectacular bay from their spectacular house.

 LUCAS
So what's wrong with paradise that
they don't they want us to leave or
know why we're here?

A tinge of fear in his eyes. And that fear is contagious.

 GIANNA
Walter had no idea why he and Emily
were brought here, only that we
were to "replace" them, whatever
that means.
 (beat)
As a place to be kidnapped to, this
ain't bad. But like I said before,
what the fuck is going on?

INT. LUCAS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucas tosses a towel into a hamper as he exits his bathroom after a shower.

Only wearing boxers with elves and dragons on them, he hops into bed.

If you watch the headboard for a time, you'll see the intricate patterns in the carved wood slowly morph in constant, uncomfortable motion.

But the bed... Luxurious. Cloud-like pillows. The works.

LUCAS

Ahhh... Oh my god. This is so...

Lucas descends into the soft.

A barely perceptible KNOCK KNOCK at the door.

When Lucas doesn't answer, BANG BANG BANG like a hammer.

Lucas lurches up, realizes who it must be.

LUCAS (cont'd)

(sing songy)

Who is it?

The door opens.

GIANNA (O.S.)

Ha ha.

Head pops around the door.

GIANNA

Oh, this is stupid, but can I...
Yeah, I know, hot shit doctor lady
can't sleep. This whole thing
today, I guess it finally hit me.

Lucas pulls back the covers on the other side of the bed.

GIANNA (cont'd)

Now, I don't want to... you know...
I just want ...

LUCAS

... to sleep. I know. Me, too.

Gianna gets into bed and promptly sinks into the softness.
After a moment...

GIANNA

Doesn't all of this unknown scare
you?

LUCAS

The last time I laid down to sleep
I had to listen to a new guy a few
cells down get beaten and raped. It
was during the same week my
cellmate was stabbed.

(MORE)

LUCAS (cont'd)

(beat)

I may not know what tomorrow will
bring, but for tonight, I'm going
to sleep like a baby.

Gianna puts her hand on Lucas' shoulder. Soon, nothing but
soft BREATHING from both.

Outside the open window, the gentle SOUND of WATER LAPPING
against the beach.

OVER BLACK - SUPER: 3. A BIT LESS DEAD

FADE TO:

INT. G&L HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Lucas and Gianna are just finishing their breakfasts.

GIANNA

Wow. Three days of breakfasts that
were better than I've had at
gourmet restaurants. The sex was
better, too.

LUCAS

You've had sex at gourmet
restaurants?

GIANNA

Oddly enough, yes. A chef who
really knew how to peel my... Ah,
never mind.

Lucas stands up, picks up both plates, kisses Gianna.

LUCAS

I'll have to try making interesting
dishes that combine the two.

GIANNA

Ooo, baby!

Lucas into the kitchen, then out again, sans plates.

He points to the book-filled room above the living room.
Beautiful curved wood shelves snake out of the door.

LUCAS

You know, we haven't checked out
the library yet.

GIANNA
Lead the way.

LIVING ROOM

Lucas bounds to the spiral staircase. Gianna follows. Stops.

A wall that's conspicuously devoid of artwork has a button at doorknob height. Pressing it causes lines to form in the shape of a door which swings open.

Gianna enters.

At the top of the staircase, Lucas looks over the railing for Gianna. The open door blocks his view inside the room.

 LUCAS
What did you find?

 GIANNA (O.S.)
You just might want to come see.

WEAPON ROOM

It's a room from a John Wick film.

Handguns, rifles, and shotguns line the walls. Trays of ammo. Knives, swords. A rocket launcher on the back wall.

Lucas appears at the door and gawks.

 LUCAS
Huh.

Gianna picks up a machine gun. This ain't her first rodeo.

She expertly grabs a full magazine and snaps it in.

Snaps on a laser sight, turns it on.

 GIANNA
My stepfather's an ex-Marine who taught me all about guns and how to shoot. Kind o' comforting that they've provided means for us to protect ourselves.

 LUCAS
Ya know... There's also another way to look at it.
(MORE)

LUCAS (cont'd)
(picks up a heavy Desert
Eagle)
What the fuck is out there that
they think we need this kind of
firepower?

GIANNA
Geez. Now who has the optimistic
outlook?

Lucas walks to the back, turns left to find a workroom with:
- a lathe and assorted power tools
- pegboards with metal and woodworking hand tools
- table with parts, schematics, and gun blueprints & photos

LUCAS
Looks like Walter had a hobby.

Gianna joins him.

GIANNA
Or Emily.

LUCAS
Or both.

Back to the gun racks, Lucas near the door.

Gianna picks up a beautifully engraved Colt 1911 pistol.
Examines it closely, checks the clip is full.

GIANNA
Real craftsmanship whoever made
them. And bullets. Loooots of
bullets. I wonder if you're right
about...

Angry KNOCK KNOCK KNOCKING from somewhere.

Gianna drops the gun. She hadn't clicked the clip back in so
it falls out and slides away.

More furious KNOCKING. And now, muffled yelling. Female.

LIVING ROOM

Lucas stumbles back out of the room, knocking over a table.

LUCAS
Toss me one of the guns.

GIANNA
You know how to use one?

LUCAS

Enough to know how not to shoot
myself.

Gianna reaches for the dropped pistol. Scrambles for the clip. Pops it in. Chambers a round.

Slides it along the floor to Lucas, then grabs an AK-47.

Carefully, Lucas peeks over a sofa at the front door.

Gianna peeks around the weapon room door.

A figure is at the window next to it, BANGING hard.

LUCAS (cont'd)

It's a woman. Is she wearing a
spacesuit?

It's Ovo Lapido!

LIVING ROOM

Gianna drops down, crawls out to Lucas.

Peeks around. Sees Ovo at the window.

Lucas slowly stands up, gun pointed at Ovo.

Gianna does the same with the AK.

Ovo is mouthing something, pleading, POUNDING on the window.
Helmet under other arm.

Lucas edges to the door. His gun shaking a bit.

Gianna, backing him up, opens the door.

OVO

Help me! Kegan is dying.

She points back down the stairs to a space suited figure on the ground next to the transport pad in the chair circle. A flashlight is nearby.

EXT. G&L HOUSE - MORNING

Ovo rushes down the stairs to Kegan.

G & L lower their guns. Still wary, they follow her.

Ovo pulls Kegan's helmet off. His face is ashen and there's that splint on his leg.

GIANNA

I'm a doctor, but there's this thing inside called a MedBed that I think is what he needs. We just arrived a couple of days ago, so there's a lot about this place we don't know.

LUCAS

I think I saw something like a stretcher.

As Lucas runs back inside, Gianna notices the logo on Kegan's suit.

GIANNA

AsterMaster. What's that?

OVO

Seriously? Who doesn't know about us? We're the premiere asteroid miners in the Dominion.

GIANNA

Walter mentioned about something called the Domin...

(light bulb goes off)

Oh. Of course. I know how this is going to sound, but before I woke up here the other day, it was 2025.

OVO

Uh... seriously? It's 2886. The Dominion is the collection of 39 human inhabited worlds that...

Kegan fake MOANS like in the cave.

OVO (cont'd)

I'm Ovo Lapido. He's Kegan Voll. We were setting up on Sanctum to test a redesigned mining process when something exploded. We're the only survivors.

GIANNA

I'm Gianna Riffley. He's Lucas Dabrowski. How did you get here?

Ovo points to the pad.

OVO

We found a couple of these
transporter pads in a cave.

GIANNA

It zapped you here? So that's what
it is. How did you know it would
bring you here?

OVO

We gambled wherever it sent us was
better than dying when our oxygen
ran out. Or hoped it would be.

(beat)

What kind of place is this?

GIANNA

That's a long story that ends with
we don't really know.

Lucas returns with a stretcher with controls on one end.

They lift Kegan onto the stretcher which turns on.

It rises to float a meter above the ground to the stairs.
Glides up, keeping Kegan horizontal.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The stretcher floats to the hall, down to the medical room.

MEDICAL ROOM

The MedBed is a high tech bed with a clear dome over it. The
dome opens and the stretcher floats onto and drops down into
it, becoming part of the machine.

The clear top closes and begins scanning Kegan.

It cuts off his spacesuit and removes the cast. Both are
sucked away into the machine's base.

Tubes into arms and legs, robotic arms start fixing him.

Doctor Gianna walks up next to the bed. She's astonished at
the size of the bruise which cover 3/4s of his abdomen.

Looking at a monitor on the bed, his internal organs look
more or less normal to her, just broken ribs.

Best to let the machine do it's thing, so she leaves.

When everyone is gone, Kegan's leg straightens by itself. Snapping into place. Very un-bone-like.

A tube carries away a dark liquid. His chest is rapidly returning to normal flesh color.

For a half second, the screen on the bed FLASHES to show a very different, simpler, set of internal organs, then back.

DINING ROOM

G & L take Ovo to sit at the dining room table where what strength she had left slips away.

She now looks every day of her age, and then some.

Still in her spacesuit, Ovo takes off the top half. T-shirt is soaked in dried sweat.

Lucas bring her food and drink which she quickly downs.

LIVING ROOM - LATER

G & L have settled into couches.

LUCAS

Wanna bet on what crazy, improbable thing happens next in this place?

Ovo comes out of the bedroom having taken a shower and raided Gianna's clothes closet for jeans and t-shirt. Both a few sizes to big for her.

She wearily plops down onto a comfy chair.

OVO

So... What the hell are you doing here? And where is here?

LUCAS

We woke up four days ago in that building at the edge of the valley. This, by the way, is not Earth. It's a terraformed moon orbiting an alien, inhabited, ringed planet called Mara.

OVO

Aliens? Seriously? Aliens are real? Why you two?

GIANNA

We have some theories, but we're not really sure.

(stands)

You'll need somewhere to sleep.

There are some empty rooms down the hall --

KEGAN (O.S.)

Or maybe the other house is empty?

The three turn to see Kegan enter wearing a t-shirt and loose trousers that Lucas had left for him in the med room.

OVO

You look a bit less dead.

LUCAS

What other house?

KEGAN

The one next door.

G & L jump up, race to the door.

GIANNA

I should have taken your bet.

Kegan and Ovo follow, walking.

EXT. G&L HOUSE - MORNING

On what had been bare dirt is now a new house in a different style, but equally big and architect pricey.

Like theirs, a wide expanse of lawn with trees and plants on either side separating the houses.

G & L race down the stairs and look toward it.

GIANNA

Walter said there'd be more.

OVO

Walter? Is that him?

Ovo points to the chair circle where the EMISSARY, smiling broadly, gestures for G & L to come to him.

Of course, the Emissary is Roche wearing a dark flowing cape that gives him an imposing presence. To a ten year old.

Gianna and Lucas cautiously move toward him.

CHAIR CIRCLE

The Emissary greets them with a cheery smile.

Pumps their hands as they arrive.

EMISSARY/ROCHE

Gianna and Lucas, welcome! You may call me the Emissary as I will be fulfilling that roll between the Committee and the Mara, your benefactors, on the planet above, also called Mara.

His smile fades as he notices Ovo and Kegan come out of the house and are walking toward him.

EMISSARY/ROCHE (cont'd)

Um... Who are you? How did you get here?

OVO

I'm Ovo Lapido and this is Kegan Voll. It's a long story, but we came using that transport pad.

Roche eyes them up and down. Kegan needs to be careful. Can't let Roche figure out who/what he is.

EMISSARY/ROCHE

Oh? From where?

OVO

The planet Sanctum. We're with the AsterMaster company. There was an explosion. Kegan was injured and --

EMISSARY/ROCHE

Uh, huh. OK.

(thinking)

You two will be the City's first residents when the buildings start constructing themselves next week. Don't worry. Suitable jobs and companions will be assigned to you soon.

OVO

What the fuck are you talking about?

GIANNA

Walter did mention something about a city, but what Committee?

EMISSARY/ROCHE

Ah, yes. Walter and Emily. Quite a pair they were. First ones here to... test things out. The other members of the Committee
 (gestures to chairs)
 -- eight more couples -- will arrive over the next few days. The Committee will govern...

He turns toward the auditorium, spreads arms wide.

EMISSARY/ROCHE (cont'd)

...the quarter million people to be transported from Earth and the Dominion to create a city in the valley below.

(turns back)

Lucas and Gianna, you will be the city's co-mayors.

G & L sit down onto a double chair.

EMISSARY/ROCHE (cont'd)

Time to go. I'll be back and explain more when the rest of the Committee has arrived.

GIANNA

One question, please. When we woke up we had, like, ice crystals all through our skin.

EMISSARY/ROCHE

Yes. Um. So sorry about that. As part of the defrosting process, you are immersed in a nutrient bath. With Walter and Emily, it was too strong. They were sick for days. With you, too light. All those coming after this will have the right strength.

Roche steps on the pad. He taps his TouchTab and vanishes.

A confused G & L look at each other.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. CHAIR CIRCLE - A WEEK LATER - DAY

Gianna and Lucas are sitting in the same spot. The rest of the Committee members sit in the other chairs. Each is with their new, assigned companion.

Ovo and hers, CLAIR TONGOTO (62), stand behind the chairs. Not yet over her grief of losing Alison, Ovo is a bit standoffish.

Kegan and his new companion, NGUYEN YANG (22) are much more friendly toward each other. Kegan's a good actor.

Roche is talking in the center of the circle.

EMISSARY/ROCHE

...for governing a city. That's why each of you were picked for the Committee because your backgrounds and temperaments are ideal for handling the issues that will arise. Before I go, are there any questions?

GIANNA

Just the biggest of them all. Why the hell are we here, and eventually, a quarter million more?

EMISSARY/ROCHE

I'm afraid I haven't been told yet. I will be informed the day after the last person arrives. I will then pass it on to all.

TAHANI (20s) nervously raises her hand. Roche nods to her.

TAHANI

Children?

EMISSARY/ROCHE

No one was taken younger than 20. For those couples who want children, eventually.

JOSE ORTIZ (early 40s) has a deep frown.

JOSE

Why are some of us from now and others taken over the last eight hundred years? Why not have all come from now? There's a hundred billion spread out over the Dominion.

EMISSARY/ROCHE

It's taken quite some time to find the people with exactly the right set of abilities, skills, adaptability, among other traits. Also, I was told finding the perfect companion for each wasn't easy. How all that is done is not my department. However, almost all future arrivals have already been taken and cryogenically frozen on Mara.

LUCAS

Why not release them all now?

EMISSARY/ROCHE

Assimilating five hundred at a time over several years will be far easier than a quarter million all at once.

JOSE

Before I woke up here, I only spoke Spanish. How is it I know and speak perfect English? Will that happen for everyone who didn't know it before?

EMISSARY/ROCHE

A common language will be needed for cohesion. A fluent knowledge of English will be implanted if they don't know it.

Roche steps onto the transport pad.

EMISSARY/ROCHE (cont'd)

I'll return tomorrow to discuss more. The Mara are confident that you will do your best to make a perfect paradise of New Earth! You might want to start thinking of a name for the city. Good day!

The Emissary touches his TouchTab then dissolves away.

All but Lucas and Gianna (whose face is all scrunched up) get up and silently head back to one of the nine houses that are now around the bay.

Kegan, Ovo, and their companions head for the first apartment building in the valley,

LUCAS

That doesn't look like your happy face, Doctor Riffley. What's your diagnosis?

GIANNA

We wondered why none of us seems upset we can't go back to Earth, to our old lives and our people.

She stands up.

GIANNA (cont'd)

The brain is very complex. Interconnected. Being able to implant a language isn't just the words, it has to connect to memories, to feelings, to... everything. If they can do that, what else can they do in there? Implant memories? Delete them? Cure a psychotic killer or make someone into one? Rearrange things so as to change your views on what you believe? Make us docile so we aren't bothered by being kidnapped by aliens and transported to an alien world?

LUCAS

To make a perfect paradise.

GIANNA

Or what someone else thinks is one.

Lucas throws his head back and lets out a sigh.

GIANNA (cont'd)

With benevolent benefactors like ours, I'm glad we have our weapons room.

Lucas slowly nods agreement. They then get up and the pair walk towards "home" as Mara rises over the mountains.

EXT. NEW EARTH

BEGIN MONTAGE

Note: The city is built in, eventually, hundreds of groups of "quads," each containing four apartment buildings with a shared space in the middle for special buildings, tennis

courts, or other communal spaces. The shape of the buildings are similar, but configured for their residents tastes.

- Viewing the valley from the top of the auditorium: the city starts growing quad by quad, building by building.
- Buildings grow from the ground up using nanotechnology.
- Arrivals appear in their seats in the auditorium and are lectured by associates on New Earth and their new lives.
- A new male arrival...
 - Takes a 3 seater hover pod to a quad
 - Exits, starts walking to an apartment
 - Stops and throws up in a trash receptacle
 - His new companion exits the building
 - She nervously smiles as they meet, enter the building
- Assorted images of Gianna and Lucas:
 - Presiding over Committee meetings
 - Greeting new arrivals
 - Attending events for the people
 - Arguing at a Committee meeting
 - Having meetings with the Emissary, occasionally accompanied by an elderly lady he calls 'Mrs. Q'
 - Gianna consoles a woman having a hard time adjusting
 - Bowling with another couple
- And so on as three years roll by

END MONTAGE

EXT. AUDITORIUM ROOF - DAY

OVER BLACK - SUPER: 4. 30 MINUS 3

FADE TO:

Lucas stands at the railing gazing out to the city as Gianna comes up the stairs. She stands next to Lucas and they interlock arms around their backs.

Below, dozens of hover pods holding five people each speed away to the city.

GIANNA

Getting close to the last batch
heading off to their new lives.

LUCAS

Only six more weeks before all two
hundred and fifty thousand of the
(MORE)

LUCAS (cont'd)
arrivals have... arrived. And the
Emissary tells us why.

GIANNA
I still want to know how they're
picked. A perfect match for
everyone. And almost none of them
interested in going back.

LUCAS
And those that were, just have to
be reminded they would have been
dead for as much as hundreds of
years if they weren't taken. Like
us.

GIANNA
We had good lives back then that
went bad. And now, a second chance.

She smiles. Rests her head on Lucas' shoulder.

Both stand together, quietly for a while.

LUCAS
We've been good mayors, haven't we?

GIANNA
I think so. No real complaints from
anyone. Well, Hebert Sinclair
aside.

LUCAS
(makes a sour face)
Sinclair. How could things have
gotten so wrong with him? How could
the Mara have gotten it so wrong?

GIANNA
How could they know?
(beat)
How could we know?
(beat)
We should have known.

LUCAS
(shakes memory away)
Over and done with.
(long beat)
Anyway, you'll never guess what I'm
doing this afternoon.

GIANNA

Having sex with me up here? It is one place we've never done it.

Lucas gazes at Gianna with what he thinks is a sexy look, but actually looks a bit goofy.

LUCAS

Hmmm.... Sadly no. I'm off to Quad 42. They have a music appreciation society, and they're giving me their monthly award, the Nipper. It's named after a dog in some old ad. He stood looking at a record player trying to figure out where the sound came from.

GIANNA

So... they're giving you an award for listening to music? You truly have reached the pinnacle of achievement with that. I'm so proud of you.

LUCAS

Want to come? I'm sure they'd welcome you even if you're only a mere player of instruments.

GIANNA

Sadly, no. Got a message from Ralph Chen, our maintenance manager. He's found something under one of the quads he wants me to see. Knowing him, it's probably some mind blowing Maran development in sewer technology.

LUCAS

How do we cope living in such a whirlwind of excitement?

GIANNA

It is a burden.
(looks back at roof)
Think about it.

A quick smooch, and Gianna is off down the stairs.

Lucas looks around the flat roof.

LUCAS

Sex on the roof. The sex roof.

Looks down at the roof's surface.

LUCAS (cont'd)
More like rough roof.

Watches Gianna's pod shoot off to the city.

EXT. QUAD 81: UNDERGROUND ENTRANCE - DAY

This Quad is on the edge of the city. A few hundred feet away are the mountains.

RALPH CHEN (mid-40s) wears a hard hat, safety glasses, knee-high waterproof boots, etc. as he stands at the entrance. His face reflects a no-nonsense, hard-work, outdoor life.

As Gianna approaches, he holds out a hard hat and safety glasses for her.

GIANNA
Ralph, how's it going?

RALPH
I'll let you decide that once you
see what I've found.

Gianna puts on the PPE as the pair enter the door.

INT. UNDERGROUND: STAIRS - DAY

Gianna and Ralph descend to the bottom.

GIANNA
You know, in the three years I've
been here, this is the first time
I've gone under the city.

RALPH
(eyes sparkle)
You're in for a treat.

GIANNA
I can hardly wait.

INT. UNDERGROUND - DAY

Under each apartment building hangs a large piece of complex machinery. Pipes run to each of the quad's buildings.

As the pair walk, Ralph points to the nearest machine.

RALPH

That amazing device processes all waste and discarded stuff from the building and breaks it down into its component atoms. It then can use them to create your meals, clothes, a new sofa, clean water. Anything. Transport pads in them and the apartment do the... well... transporting.

They reach a tunnel running from the walkway to the mountain. A 12 foot smooth-concrete-like square tube.

Looking down the walkway each way, another tunnel entrance way off in the distance.

Surprised and worried, Ralph looks all around. Points to a spot about a meter in against the wall.

RALPH (cont'd)

It was right there. A small, metal case.

He pulls up a picture of it on his TouchTab for Gianna.

RALPH (cont'd)

I was more worried about what might be in it, so I just left it alone.

GIANNA

I take it none of your people put it there. Or took it.

RALPH

I asked them all. Told them not to touch it. It wasn't from us. And the doors are keyed only to my people, so none of the residents could have gotten down here. That's why I came to get you or Lucas.

(beat)

But then I noticed something.

He pulls out a flashlight. Holds it low to the ground.

RALPH (cont'd)

No one goes in here, so the floor is covered with dust. See? Foot prints in it. The ones along the side are mine. But these others...

GIANNA

They're only coming in. From where?

Ralph starts to jog, then run down the tube. Gianna follows.

At the end of the tube, a huge, square door with a weird locking mechanism. Closed and locked now, but...

Looking at the dust on the floor and the door, it's clear the door had been opened, footprints emerging from the other side, but not back in..

GIANNA (cont'd)

Where's it lead to?

RALPH

There's a total of ten around the valley going to the mountains. We think the Mara used them when building this place.

GIANNA

So you're saying you think a Mara came through with the case containing who knows what, dropped it, went somewhere, then came back to retrieve it?

RALPH

My people checked the other tunnels. There's one other with the same footprints. All the rest have undisturbed dust.

GIANNA

It may be nothing. One of the Mara coming in to fix something or...

RALPH

Where is he now? And why now? Does the Emissary know about this?

GIANNA

I'll talk to him. Keep a check on all the tunnels in case someone else comes in. And don't say anything to anyone outside your group. Don't want to start unnecessary panic.

Ralph nods as they both stand looking at the massive door. Gianna tries to project calm, but inside...

INT. ROCHE'S 'OFFICE' - DAY

Roche's desk is in the center of a very tall, round building. Curved ramps like in the Guggenheim museum wind their way to the top inside.

Lining every inch of the walls next to the ramps are books from Earth and the Dominion. Hundreds of thousands of them.

A clear floor under the desk. Ramps and book shelves continuing deep underground.

Outside, four more of these buildings for each of the four other species whose books were added to the collection.

A horrified Roche is sitting at his desk reading something on his TouchTab equivalent.

A worried Mrs. Quimby enters from the hallways connecting the five book silos.

ROCHE

Seriously? Twenty-seven? After all this time how is it twenty-seven are still unaccounted for?

MRS. QUIMBY

Our contact is now certain that the Anti-New Earth group has them.

ROCHE

But they've only ever been peaceful. Annoying, but never violent.

MRS. QUIMBY

A group within the group may be tired of being peaceful?

ROCHE

If that's not enough, it seems there have been several anonymous unauthorized BodyMod sessions.

Roche gets a new message which he reads.

ROCHE (cont'd)

And now I think I know why. One of Gianna's people found that someone had entered New Earth through a mountain tunnel.

(reading)

Something about a metal case that they brought in that's now gone.

MRS. QUIMBY

What if that case was carrying several of them? What if one or more of the group BodyModed themselves to blend in with the residents? We need to find them without causing panic.

Roche looks deflated. He looks around, spots a book on the pile on his desk. Picks it up.

A pulp mystery novel from the 1950s with a garish cover showing a screaming woman in a nightgown and a private eye holding a gun. A body at their feet.

An idea stirs...

ROCHE

We need a human. A human professional. A finder of people. What they call a detective. And we have to do it fast before they get all twenty-seven over there.

He begins working his TouchTab.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

LASZLO (late 40s) opens his apartment door in Quad 17 just as his neighbor, ENZO and companion TAMILA (both late 30s), exit theirs.

ENZO

Laszlo! Good to see you.

LASZLO

You look all dressed up for something special.

TAMILA

We're off to that new Turkish restaurant in Quad 139. You and Reneta should come with us.

LASZLO

We're just getting back from a day at the beach. Reneta is picking up a couple of sandwiches from Traver's Deli, so, perhaps another time. Do let us know how the food is there. We're always up for something new.

ENZO

Will do!

Into his apartment goes Laszlo.

In each apartment building, there are two apartments across from each other on each half of the building.

Between, a stairwell on one side, elevator across from it.

Enzo and Tamila head for the elevator as its door opens.

Two PEOPLE exit, both wearing big sunglasses.

The woman (RENETA 2) wears a baggy sweatshirt and a big floppy hat.

The man (LASZLO 2 -- looks IDENTICAL to Laszlo) wears a ball cap pulled low, a hoodie pulled up.

He's carrying a small, black, steel BRIEFCASE. Just like the one Ralph showed in the photo to Gianna.

They turn and go down the opposite way as Enzo and Tamila, jabbering and not paying attention, enter the elevator.

Elevator closes.

The duplicates turn and go to Laszlo's door.

Both take off their disguises, then Laszlo 2 KNOCKS.

Laszlo opens the door, starts to say hello, but is startled to see his twin.

LASZLO

What the fu --

LASZLO 2 sticks the end of a short metal stick-thing he pulls from his pocket onto Laszlo's chest.

Laszlo convulses, falls to the floor, dead.

The "twins" look back, enter, and close the door.

INT. LASZLO'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

RENETA 2 takes a tiny white square from her pocket. It's a transport pad that she expands to six feet by two feet.

She rolls Laszlo's body onto it and punches in an address.

The door opens and RENETA enters.

Horrified by her dead partner on the pad and her twin, she starts to scream.

Stick-thing to her back by Laszlo 2. She falls dead.

Reneta 2 presses the *Enter* button and Laszlo's body disappears.

She then rolls Reneta's body onto the pad. Button. Gone.

She resizes the pad down to the tiny square. Into pocket.

RENETA 2

Well, that was easy.

(looks around)

Wow. With all of the design options available, this is what they picked?

The apartment is decorated in what might be charitably called, country farmhouse sleaze.

Huge hand-painted wall illustration has a barnyard, sheep, chickens, a cow, and smiling Farmer Brown with a pipe in his mouth, pitch fork in one hand, baby pig under other arm, its eyes open WIDE.

There's a surprisingly large bulge in the farmer's pants as he side-eyes the cow with a knowing smile. Cow's eyes are also open WIDE staring at the crotch.

Laszlo 2 walks to a bookshelf.

Between a scale model tractor and a plastic two foot long ear of corn dildo is a mannequin head wearing a gimp mask, ball gag, and a ball cap with "*Plow Me, Tie Me, Brand Me*" embroidered on it.

LASZLO 2

Humans are weird.

EXT. THE CITY - NIGHT

LASZLO 2 with BRIEFCASE leave the apartment building.

He walks casually, but with purpose. No one would give him any notice, but he occasionally looks around to make sure.

He reaches another quad and walks to an apartment building.

Opening the door, he freezes. SOUND of a WOMAN SNEEZING.

He spots the woman wiping her nose, entering another apartment building.

Relieved, Laszlo 2 enters the building.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

No one has been assigned to this building yet. No ground floor businesses either. So, name sign outside is empty.

Laszlo 2 walks to the elevator, enters.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Stepping from the elevator, Laszlo 2 beelines to a door.

Palms the DNA lock, door unlocks. He opens the door.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Lights are on. Room is empty except for a table with a larger version of the metal case on one end.

Standing behind it is Kegan Voll holding a GUN.

When he sees the CASE, Kegan sets the GUN on the table.

KEGAN

You're late.

LASZLO 2

Do you have any idea what I went through just to get this here?

KEGAN

I don't want to know in case I'm caught.

(squints at Laszlo 2)

Is that Laszlo Johnson? That's who you decided to BodyMod to?

LASZLO 2

Laszlo was available, looks innocuous enough to be ignored, and I didn't want to spend time finding a better one. Don't worry. We sent his and his companion's bodies to Mara to be disposed of. You know him?

KEGAN

Yes, kind of. He's in... Doesn't matter.

(points at Laszlo 2)

Don't forget to use his name at all times instead of your real name.

LASZLO 2

And yours is Kegan Voll. Nice work with the AsterMaster thing. Knocked the humans off track for years. That was one massive explosion.

KEGAN

It nearly killed me.

LASZLO 2

It worked and you made it here.

He sets his case on the table.

LASZLO 2 (cont'd)

Let's get this over with. I don't like carrying these things around.

Kegan opens the large box on the table. Inside is a foam pad with half round divots for thirty baseball sized spheres.

Five of the divots are filled by clear glass balls with tight red electric currents zipping around in the centers.

Laszlo 2 opens his case containing four of the same balls. He transfers them to the big box.

LASZLO 2 (cont'd)

I'm supposed to tell you there'll only be a total of twenty-seven coming.

KEGAN

Twenty-seven? We need the full thirty graviton bombs to pull this off. What happened to the other three?

LASZLO 2

Remember a few years ago, the train at the Waldrum's Fantasy Mall on the Dominion world, Tranta?

KEGAN

Yeah. The bombs went off prematurely. If they had only gone
(MORE)

KEGAN (cont'd)
 off 10 minutes later, we would have
 gotten Mrs. Quimby and Roche.

LASZLO 2
 Traitors, the pair of them!

KEGAN
 We can't get more?

LASZLO 2
 After Tranta, all the others were
 moved and locked down tight at
 Curda. No way to get to them.

Kegan closes his box.

Using his TouchTab, he tosses a map image to the TableTab.

KEGAN
 I'm going to have to reassess where
 to put them with fewer of them.
 It's not going to be easy.

He bends over the map and gets to work as Laszlo 2 leaves.

OVER BLACK - SUPER: 5. BE GLAD YOU'RE A FISH

FADE TO:

INT. LIAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

On the planet, Éire Nua [*New Ireland*], snow is falling on
 this second story apartment's balcony.

A hangdog tired LIAM GRIBBINS (52) enters wearing his heavy
 winter police jacket with GARDA on the back.

He tosses his HOLOGRAPHIC ID BADGE onto a table which
 indicates he's a Detective Inspector.

Hovering above the table is a holographic date and time
 showing it's February 17, 2889. There's also a 3D picture of
 his daughter, Aisling [*pronounced ash-ling*].

A small bot pours a BIG whiskey. Liam downs it in one gulp.

INT/EXT. LIAM'S BALCONY

Liam uses his TouchTab to make a phone call. His daughter's
 very animated holo pops up.

As he steps onto the balcony, he touches his ear turning on the embedded earpiece. He's got a HEAVY Irish accent.

LIAM

Aisling, I just heard from your mother. She's furious. She spent so long getting you that job with...

(listens)

I know, I know. But if you just...

(listens, sighs, sad)

Yes. O' course. I want you to be happy, but...

(listens, resigned)

Alright, love. Tomorrow. Good night.

He ends the call and looks out at the city and twin moons overhead, shaking his head. Not angry. Disappointed.

INT/EXT. LIAM'S LIVING ROOM

Liam goes back in, pours another BIG whiskey himself as the bot huffs away, annoyed.

He downs it, then plops down onto his comfy chair. Looks over to his huge fish tank and its huge Oscar fish.

LIAM

Well, Finn. Whaddya think, boyo? Am I an eejit for thinkin' I could convince me headstrong daughter?

The fish swims away.

LIAM (cont'd)

Nah. You're right as always. She's as stubborn as 'er mum and 'er mum's mum, an ain't nothin' I say gonna change that.

(big stretch)

Gawd, I'm knackered. What a day. Just be glad you're a fish.

He YAWNS biggly and turns on the holographic TV with his TouchTab. Lays his head back on the chair.

AN HOUR LATER...

Liam is asleep in his chair with the TV still on.

A white dot appears on an open spot on the floor.

It grows until it's a 3 foot square transport pad.

One after another, two mechanical ANDROIDS dissolve in and step off the pad.

The serving bot slides in. One android points at it. The bot SMACKS into the coffee table and stops.

Liam rouses at the SOUND.

Cautious, he half opens one eye to assess what's happening.

Confused, not sure what to do or what exactly he's seeing, he doesn't want the androids to see he's awake.

Android 1 raises its arm and FIRES a dart making Liam jerk a bit beneath the big jacket.

This causes the dart's needle to hit his upper arm at an angle, just grazing the skin. Only a little of it's knockout drug gets transferred.

Liam can still see, but now groggier.

A clear, six foot long, two foot high and wide box dissolves in onto the pad.

Liam can't control his muscles to do anything.

Android 1 picks him off the chair like he weighs nothing and holds him up under his arms.

It scans his front while Android 2 moves behind Liam and scans his back.

A colored cloud swirls in the box until a copy of Liam, including clothes, appears in it.

Android 2 pulls the clone out of the box and plops it in the chair. Floppy, eyes partially open. Clearly not alive.

Android 1 then places Liam, who is as stiff as a board and starting to pass out, into the box on the pad.

It presses something on its arm.

The box frosts up as Liam is cryogenically frozen.

A swirl of colors. Box and Liam dissolve away.

Android 2 looks at Finn the fish, puzzled. Finn is oddly oblivious.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Liam wakes up, middle of the third row. Looks around.

Other ARRIVALS are already there or are dissolving in. Assorted ages (but no one under 20) and ethnic backgrounds. Same jumpsuit.

Dissolving in next to him is NEW ARRIVAL 1 (mid-30s), a frightened woman.

Other side of Liam is NEW ARRIVAL 2 (40s), a bearded, big muscled man.

NEW ARRIVAL 1

Where am I? How did I get here?

LIAM

Didn't you see... The robots... I saw a dupli...

NEW ARRIVAL 2

What the fuck is this place?

Listening to them and others, Liam realizes maybe not the time to mention that, so using his cop skills, he pulls back until he can gather more info by listening.

The chairs fill. Confused TALKING. Oddly, no real anger.

A side door opens and orientation session facilitators enter: SEO-YUN (24) and FRED (23).

They're young and bubbly wearing 2650-era stylish clothes.

Her English has a Korean accent, his is deep Texan.

SEO-YUN

Hello everyone. My name is Seo-Yun and this is my companion, Travis. I know you are scared and confused, but as you will quickly learn, there is nothing to be afraid of. You are safe.

FRED

That's riight. Nearly two years ago, we was sittin' in these same seats, feelin' the same way. The orientation facilitators we had made us feel secure and welcome, and we aim to do the same. So let's get this rodeo goin'!

NEW ARRIVAL 2
 (to himself)
 What the hell is a rodeo?

LATER...

The wall screen displays what the instructors describe.

FRED
 The city is divided into what we call Quads. Each Quad has an eight story apartment building on the four corners. Each floor has four apartments, except for the ground floor of two buildings which are divided into spaces for restaurants, stores, and so on.

SEO-YUN
 Are you an artist? Set up a studio and shop. A great cook? Set up a restaurant. How about a spot where someone teaches dance? The possibilities for these spaces are endless.

FRED
 In the middle of the Quad is a public area caterin' to the interests of this Quad's tenants. Tennis courts, chess tables, swimming pool, theater. Your Quad's choice. All with grass, trees, picnic areas, and more.

SEO-YUN
 Each couple gets a three thousand square foot apartment. Select from hundreds of pre-defined styles and wall placements, or customize it your way.

LATER...

A message pops up on Seo-Yun's TouchTab.

SEO-YUN (cont'd)
 Ah, yes. They are ready for us downstairs where we have a buffet lunch set up for you.

FRED
 Stay in the lunch hall or sit yourselves outside on the grass.
 (MORE)

FRED (cont'd)

But DO NOT go into Doctor Fletcher's place across from the hall. After lunch, we'll answer all questions you have that we can answer, then you'll receive your apartment assignments and other stuff. But before we go...

SEO-YUN

If you were born before 2137, you may have been wondering about these.

She holds up her arm. TouchTab turned on.

SEO-YUN (cont'd)

Everyone born after 2137 has had what is called a TouchTab embedded in our wrists. You are probably familiar with smartphones. Well, that is essentially what these are, just more powerful.

FRED

After eatin', those of you without TouchTabs can get one installed. Or you can do it later. But you'll eventually need one for all sorts 'o things. Don't worry. It's painless, and you'll be glad ya got one. One thing though. You won't be able to contact anyone outside New Earth. Don't know why, ya just can't. Hard truth is, for almost everyone, anyone you ever knew has passed on.

SEO-YUN

Lunch time! You can go through either exit and take the stairs down or take the elevator. See all of you in an hour!

The group gets up, calmly and quietly heads down. A lot to digest, and not just the food to come.

Liam rushes down to grab Travis before he leaves.

LIAM

Travis. My name is Liam Gribbins. I don't know if you're aware of how we're taken...

TRAVIS

Ah, Mr. Gribbins. I was told to be on the lookout for you. You apparently are a VIP. The Emissary his self wants to meet you.

Travis ushers Liam out the door...

AUDITORIUM STAIRS

... and up the stairs to the offices.

LIAM

I don't understand.

FRED

I don't know what it's about, but he's an interestin' fella. For a space alien. Even if it's creepy how much he gone and made himself look like us.

OFFICES

All offices are empty except for one where Roche is waiting.

EMISSARY/ROCHE

Thank you Travis.

Travis nods, leaves. Roche extends his hand, Liam shakes it. Then, remembering Roche is an alien, looks at his hand. Wipes it on his suit.

EMISSARY/ROCHE (cont'd)

Detective Inspector Gribbins.
You --

LIAM

They said you are one of the Mara? That you're in charge? I saw how a dead copy of me was left when the robots came to --

EMISSARY/ROCHE

Yes. It may seem morbid to some, but easier for relatives and friends that you died rather than the alternative of thinking you had just vanished. Why YOU were brought here, however, IS special. In short, we need your detective skills to save New Earth and all of
(MORE)

EMISSARY/ROCHE (cont'd)
the people here from total
destruction.

OVER BLACK - SUPER: 6. HAVE A WAG, DOC?

FADE TO:

INT. LASZLO'S APARTMENT - DAY

Hard to imagine that the TWO BODIES laying face down on the floor aren't the oddest thing about this apartment.

A small pool of dried BLOOD spreads from one of them.

Gianna and Lucas stand looking down at them can't help but look up and marvel at the weird farmer stuff.

DR. EDGER FLETCHER (70ish) and a LAB TECH (mid-20s) enter.

Fletcher has long white hair in a ponytail. A lab coat over a Hawaiian shirt and cargo shorts.

The lab tech wears a white bunny suit and takes pictures of the bodies.

LUCAS
All this time with nothing more
than a couple of fistfights between
cheating couples we now jump to
double murder?

DR. FLETCHER
Don't JUMP to conclusions just yet.

While Gianna and Lucas don't react, the tech rolls his eyes.

DR. FLETCHER (cont'd)
Jump? He's wearing a bunny suit?

LAB TECH
Really? More bad doc humor, Doc?

G & L look puzzled.

DR. FLETCHER
Never mind. If you got all the
pics, go ahead and roll 'em.

Lab tech goes to the bodies and does so.

Gianna GASPS at who one is.

LUCAS

What the hell? That's Kegan Voll!

The lab tech shoots a picture of the other man's face using his TouchTab, then pulls up his record.

LAB TECH

His name's Liam Gribbins. He was a police detective before coming here. Went through orientation a month ago. No companion yet, which is odd.

GIANNA

(points)

What's that?

Under Kegan, covered in blood, a large knife.

LUCAS

Looks like it came from that.

Lucas points to a unique wall display: a picture of a hog being butchered with that kind of knife.

Two of those knives crossed above it. Or rather, one knife. The other is under Kegan.

The tech drops the knife into a plastic evidence bag.

GIANNA

Looks like both of them were stabbed.

Fletcher, Gianna, and Lucas move in to the bodies.

LAB TECH

Have a WAG, Doc?

Fletcher ponders as he bends down for a better look.

GIANNA

A WAG?

LAB TECH

W. A. G. Wild Ass Guess. Good until we get back to the lab.

DR. FLETCHER

(points to Kegan)

Look at Voll's hands.

Kegan's hands have deep cuts on them.

Fletcher gestures as he speaks, conjuring up shadows of the players.

START SHADOW IMAGES

Liam and Kegan are arguing.

Kegan picks up a statue and tries to hit Liam in the head.

DR. FLETCHER (cont'd)
How about this. For some reason,
Voll attacks Gribbins who defends
himself by stabbing Voll.

Liam RIPS the knife from the display.

Kegan WHIRLS, tries to kick it away, but Liam stabs him.

*As Liam pulls the knife out, Kegan grabs the blade and
twists his body.*

DR. FLETCHER (cont'd)
Voll grabs the blade, cutting his
hand, but gets the knife away from
Gribbins.

Kegan moves the knife to his other hand and stabs Liam.

Kegan pulls it out.

Both collapse, Dead.

DR. FLETCHER (cont'd)
Voll then stabs him, pulls it out,
and collapses on top of the knife
as the cop falls.

END SHADOW IMAGES

GIANNA
OKaaaayyy... But why would Kegan
attack this guy? Why is Kegan here
at all?

LUCAS
Whose apartment is this?

LAB TECH
(TouchTabs)
Laszlo Sandu and Reneta Jurovschi.

LUCAS

Where are they? Were they here when all this happened? Were they involved?

DR. FLETCHER

Since we don't have a police force, and the one person who knows how to investigate is now dead, I guess it's up to you two to figure all that out.

Doc pull out a pair of gloves and mask. Puts them on.

DR. FLETCHER (cont'd)

Want more than the WAG, come by the office, say... 5? I should have more then.

GIANNA

I'll check out Kegan's place and tell his partner.

(beat)

Shit. I suppose I should also tell Ovo. With what they went through, she'll want to know.

LUCAS

I'll go to the cop's place. Maybe there's something there that will make sense of all this.

GIANNA

And so it begins. The Mara tried to prevent bringing humanity's vices here, but we just couldn't keep from spoiling our little Garden of Eden.

LUCAS

Like in the book in our library. Paradise Lost.

Fletcher nods in agreement as the tech brings in two floating stretchers.

Fletcher and the tech lift the bodies onto them.

INT. GRIBBINS' BUILDING: HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Lucas walks from the elevator to Gribbins' door.

He starts to use a DNA passkey, but stops. Turns.

He goes to the other apartment's door. KNOCKS.

VINCENT (45) opens the door. Gold chains over a black Yankee's T-shirt. INTENSE Bronx accent.

VINCENT
Hey, man, you're Lucas, one of our
mayors.

LUCAS
Yes. Hello. And you are...

VINCENT
Vincent Owens. Come in, my man,
come in. Have a seat.

INT. VINCENT'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Vincent closes the door as Lucas sits in a recreation of a seat from the old Yankee stadium. The whole apartment is like being in the place.

LUCAS
Something tells me you aren't a
Mets fan.

VINCENT
AHHHAAAHHHHAAA! You picked that up,
eh? Yeah. My Yanks is the one thing
I miss from back home. Get ya
somethin' to drink?

LUCAS
No. I'm good. I'm afraid I need to
tell you your neighbor, Liam
Gribbins, has died.

VINCENT
Oh, no shit. How did he die? Heart
attack? Stroke? The way that guy
ate and drank...

LUCAS
The investigation is ongoing, so I
can't go into that. Is there
anything you can tell me about him?

VINCENT
Oh, yeah. He had this bonkers idea
about how when we're taken from
home. Robots create a dead clone,
or somethin'. Makes it seem like
you died from a heart attack or
(MORE)

VINCENT (cont'd)
whatever. So it don't raise no
suspicious, ya know?

LUCAS
Really?

VINCENT
He was also convinced some of the
people here were aliens, probably
from that planet
(points up)
up there. And he was going to prove
it.

LUCAS
Did he say who were aliens?

VINCENT
Nah, not really, though he thought
something was up with someone.
Never said who. I thought he was
nuts, but he was a cop, so who
knows?

LUCAS
Do you know who Kegan Voll is? Ever
see him here?

VINCENT
Yeah, I know who Voll is. The
AsterMaster disaster guy. Never
seen him with Gribbins though.
Listen, I want to help, but I got
to get outta here. Meetin' my love
bug. She don't like me bein' late
for nothin'.

LUCAS
No problem. You've been a big help.

Lucas gets up and opens the door.

VINCENT
We got us a bowling tournament to
go to, so maybe another time if you
got more questions.

LUCAS
Bowling? I love bowling!

VINCENT
So maybe me and you go hit the
lanes sometime. Toss back a few
brews, too, ya know?

LUCAS

Sounds good! I'll get back to you.
Thanks.

Lucas exits. Vincent closes the door and his smile fades.

He uses his TouchTab make a call. The TouchTab equivalent of voice mail appears which shows he's called left a few messages. Bronx is gone.

VINCENT

Where are you, Voll? One of the mayors was just here asking about that detective. Another package arrives tonight and I need to know where we're supposed to meet you.

Vincent hangs up. Annoyed, turning to concern.

INT. AUDITORIUM: BASEMENT HALLWAY - EVENING

The morgue is in the basement under the auditorium. On the door is a brass nameplate:

DR. EDGER FLETCHER
GENERAL MEDICINE &
PATHOLOGIST &
FUNERAL DIRECTOR &
WORLD SERIES OF POKER CHAMPION

Gianna and Lucas stop to watch the video playing under the nameplate: a cartoon of a much younger Doc F standing with a mountain of poker winnings. Pumping his fists in victory.

Lucas rolls his eyes as he pushes open the door.

INT. MEDICAL OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

The room is large and wide, mostly in darkness.

It's divided into three sections. While open now, movable partition walls can close each off from the others.

The left end has coffins, urns, seating for services, and behind a curtain, a cremation furnace.

G & L are in the center: a medical exam room with diagnostic equipment and a MedBed.

The right end is the morgue with two metal autopsy tables, lab equipment, and four body freezers on one wall.

One table has a covered body. Doc Fletcher is closing a freezer door on another.

GIANNA

Well, Doc, that's quite an interesting addition to your door.

DR. FLETCHER (O.S.)

Well, Doc, at my age, it's permissible to be a tad immodest. Ironical though that I arrived here without the loot, or need for it since we don't need money here.

Tucked in the far back corner of the morgue, Fletcher sits down in a chair next to his desk.

A Tiffany-style lamp with a stained glass dragonfly shade casts colored shadows.

G & L make their way to Fletcher who picks up a nearly empty cocktail glass. Fancy crystal. Finishes the contents.

GIANNA

Beautiful lamp.

DR. FLETCHER

Julie Ronda over in Quad 443 made it.

(holds up glass)

She does glass blowing, too.

(beat)

Drink?

Still sitting, he holds up a bottle of the good stuff.

GIANNA

Damn right. Nguyen couldn't stop crying. She really loved Kegan, but said there was always something odd about him. Couldn't ever figure out what, but couldn't have imagined it could be something that could get him killed.

LUCAS

I got caught up talking to the cop's neighbor who never saw anything suspicious.

GIANNA

Ovo didn't know anything either. But I did see a tear or two run down --

OVO (O.S.)
NO! YOU! DIDN'T!

Everyone turns to see Ovo charging toward them.

OVO
Pour me one, too, Doc, and don't be
stingy.

Fletcher grabs more glasses, fills them, and hands them out.

GIANNA
Just water for me. My stomach
hasn't been feeling too good.

Fletcher pours from a water bottle and hands it to her.

OVO
To Kegan. I didn't know him well,
but we survived Sanctum. That's
something.

They clink glasses and drink.

GIANNA
Well Doc, got more than a WAG for
us?

The doc works his TouchTab and tosses it to the WallTab.

DR. FLETCHER
I know you've been on the admin
side for a while, but you've
probably seen your share of X-ray
"innerds." What do you see?

All look at the projection hanging in the air: a 3D
holographic scan of a body's organs, bones, etc.

GIANNA
That's quite an improvement over
what we had when I was a doc. Eight
hundred years ago.

DR. FLETCHER
Use this.

He swipes an app to Gianna's TouchTab.

Gianna scrolls to view slices of the body.

Grab the image and rotate the body to see all sides. Other
controls hide, show, or zoom into bones, organs, etc.

GIANNA

The liver looks a bit... well used,
but otherwise, it looks perfectly
normal.

DR. FLETCHER

Good. It should. It's mine. Go to
the next one. It's Voll's.

GIANNA

(swipe and scroll)

Normal, too, except for the knife
slash to his heart. Should I be
seeing something else?

DR. FLETCHER

You tell me. Come and take a look.

He walks over to the table with Kegan's body, the others
following.

DR. FLETCHER (cont'd)

Lucas and Ovo, if you get queasy at
the sight of blood, you might want
to stand back.

OVO

Aside from things I saw in the slum
where I grew up, on Sanctum I had
to kick a crew mate's head off what
was left of the woman I loved who
was sliced in half, I think I can
handle an autopsy.

Everyone is quiet. Fletcher nods, then looks to Lucas.

LUCAS

Do it.

Fletcher turns on the big overhead operating room light.

He pulls back the sheet from Kegan's body which was split
open down the chest.

The sternum had been removed and set next to the body. It's
made of something that clearly isn't bone.

Gianna picks it up.

GIANNA

What the hell is this?

DR. FLETCHER

It seems to be some sort of expandable metal and plastic composite, although how that's possible, I don't know.

Exposed are the organs. Such as they are.

Gianna bends down, then jerks back upright, not sure what's she's seeing is what she's seeing.

She turns back to the projection, then back down.

GIANNA

I don't understand.

Instead of normal organs, Kegan's torso has an oddly shaped, baggy heart thing and a large blob in the middle connected to the esophagus. Short tube to the rectum.

Spiderweb-y connecting tissue fills the rest of his "innerds."

GIANNA (cont'd)

What is he, some sort of medical freak of nature?

DR. FLETCHER

Imagine redesigning the internal organs for human two point oh.

(points to heart)

Our lungs exist to oxygenate the blood and extract and expel carbon dioxide. Here they're one organ, smaller than ours 'cause the circulatory systems is also more efficient.

(points to stomach)

Same with the stomach and the other organs needed to collect and process food, extract energy and nutrients, and expel waste.

(points)

There's something odd about the skin, too. And then there's what's in the head which is a whole other weirdity.

Gianna goes around to the top of the table.

She pops off the top of the sawed skull exposing the 'brain.'

GIANNA

What is that?

DR. FLETCHER

It's fused itself into a solid mass. But my guess? It was some sort of biologic quantum computer. Not exactly my field, though.

(beat)

Makes me wonder if Kegan could be a Maran since we have no idea what they're like. It's the perfect appearing human exterior that has me wondering if there are more among us.

LUCAS

That's one of Gribbins' theories. Not that they are Marans, though. Aliens. Of course, Marans are aliens to us. He also thought that when we're taken, a dead copy is left to not cause suspicion.

GIANNA

A dead copy? A clone? That's --

OVO

Wait a minute. Kegan had a broken leg and other injuries when we got here. When we put him into the MedBed, all the images showed normal organs. So does that display over there.

DR. FLETCHER

Yeah. About that. Apparently, you see what you're supposed to see. Seems all the Maran's diagnostic equipment is programed to display normal human organs for someone like him.

LUCAS

More deception.

Fletcher pulls the sheet back over the body.

Back at his desk, he pours a good swig, and downs it.

The others follow, all this sinking in slowly.

GIANNA

Did Gribbins stab him because Kegan found out he knew he was... whatever he is... and was going to tell? Or did Kegan stab Gribbins first, or --

DR. FLETCHER

That's the other thing. I need to revise my WAG because only one stabbed the other. Which means, there was a third person.

LUCAS

They were found in... what's his name's apartment? Laszlo something?

DR. FLETCHER

The angle of the wounds, types of cuts, amount of blood, tell the story.

(beat)

I'd say Gribbins stabbed Voll with the knife. Voll grabs the blade as Gribbins pulls it out, cutting his hands. The knife lands on the floor and Voll fell on top of it.

(beat)

Then Gribbins was stabbed.

GIANNA

Same knife?

DR. FLETCHER

Nope. He was stabbed with a serrated one. Had to have been by a third person. For killing Voll?

OVO

Voll was a last minute replacement because the original crew member broke his leg. I always wondered if he caused that so he could get on the mission.

LUCAS

What if the reason he was on the mission was to cause the explosion? To sabotage the test.

GIANNA

And a transport pad was put in the cave for him to escape.

OVO

He could have sabotaged the drilling kit so he could go with me to the cave instead of Ali. Leaving her to die with --

LUCAS

He only let you survive because he was injured and needed help getting away.

To say Ovo is beside herself is an understatement.

She THROWS her glass against the wall harder than any baseball pitcher, then RAGES out of the room.

GIANNA

We have another problem. Do we tell everyone in the city there's a killer loose out there?

LUCAS

We need more info, more evidence, before we scare everyone. We need to go to Gribbins' apartment. See what this cop was searching for.

GIANNA

I seem to be saying this a lot since we got here, but what the fuck is going on?

As Lucas starts to leave, Gianna doesn't look well. Holds her belly.

DR. FLETCHER

Gianna. You OK?

Lucas stops and comes back.

GIANNA

I've been feeling nauseous occasionally. Like now.

DR. FLETCHER

Hang on. Let's get a quick scan. No need to take your clothes off. Just hop on the MedBed.

Gianna does.

Fletcher presses a button and a bar slides over her. Holographic diagnostic pictures and data appear.

DR. FLETCHER (cont'd)
Well. Whaddya know?

LUCAS
What is it?

DR. FLETCHER
(thinking)
You told me you used your MedBed
some months ago when you broke your
arm.

GIANNA
Fixed me right up.

DR. FLETCHER
There's no instruction book that
comes with them, so I'm still
amazed at what it can do. Learned a
long time ago it can fix more than
just broken bones. But this...

GIANNA
What is it?

DR. FLETCHER
As crazy as it sounds, it's gone
and made or grown you a brand new,
fully functioning uterus.

GIANNA
WHAT?

DR. FLETCHER
Which means...

Disbelief, but as the realization dawns.

G & L look to each other, then to the doc who points to a 3D
image of Gianna's innerds with fetus highlighted.

DR. FLETCHER (cont'd)
Congratulations on your morning
sickness!

INT. GRIBBINS' BUILDING: HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

OVER BLACK - SUPER: 7. SMALL APPLIANCE HEAVEN

FADE TO:

Lucas and Ovo are outside Gribbins' apartment.

OVO
Seriously? Congratulations!

LUCAS
A father. I'm still in shock.

Gianna walks up, in shock, too. Reaches into a leather bag, pulls out guns with holsters. Hands them out.

GIANNA
We've got to be prepared. No idea
what we're going to find.
(to Ovo)
Know how to use...

Ovo gives her a *you've got to be kidding* side-eye as she expertly checks out the gun.

OVO
Nice gun!

GIANNA
Oddly enough, we got lots.

Using a DNA pass key, Lucas opens the door slowly.

Pushes it open and peers in.

LUCAS
Speaking of babies, where's that
pointer thing with the plastic one
when we need him?

Looks OK. He opens it all the way.

INT. GRIBBINS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Afternoon sun shines through window blinds.

The huge apartment is sparsely filled with furniture and not much of anything else. What's there is strewn about.

LUCAS
Looks like someone got here first.
Wonder what they were looking for?

OVO
What are WE looking for?

GIANNA
Anything that can make sense of
what happened.

Searching through stuff. Quickly, nothing left to check.

OVO
Maybe they found it.

About to leave, Lucas points to a button on a wall.

LUCAS
Gianna. Remind you of anything?

He presses it. Just like with the gun room, a door opens.

Laszlo 2 JUMPS out.

He SLAMS Lucas to the floor and RACES for the door.

Ovo tries to tackle him, but he tosses her away like a doll.

Laszlo 2 opens the door and is out at a run.

Ovo picks herself up and is after him.

Gianna helps Lucas up and they follow.

EXT. GRIBBINS' BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

The race is on!

EXT. THE CITY - AFTERNOON

Down streets. Past parks. Flying past buildings.

G & L try to keep up, but Ovo, of course, is faster.

Laszlo 2 is even faster. Like a machine. Quad after quad.

Laszlo 2 ducks behind buildings, trees, and races in different directions to shake Ovo off, but it isn't working.

Finally, he stops around a corner. Pulls out an alien gun.

Peeks around the corner, gun up and ready.

Ovo reaches the quad's central gazebo.

Laszlo 2 FIRES, but it ricochets off the gazebo's side.

PEOPLE there scatter.

The chase parameters changed, Ovo raises her gun.

Ovo races to Laszlo 2's corner, but he's down the street.

She stops so Gianna and Lucas can catch up as they make it to the tree line.

OVO

I think I know where he's going.

They race away from the trees toward the auditorium and the circle of chairs.

EXT. CHAIR CIRCLE - CONTINUOUS

Gianna angles left to circle around. Ovo does the same going right. Lucas races straight from the auditorium to the chairs.

Because Laszlo 2 is almost at the chairs, Gianna cuts short her circling to head more directly toward him.

Lucas is closest to Laszlo 2. Gianna is now behind Lucas a hundred feet.

Laszlo 2 stops. Turns. Raises his gun to shoot at Lucas.

Lucas drops, aims at Laszlo 2.

Both FIRE at the same time.

Laszlo 2 missed, but Lucas' shot strikes the target squarely who collapses. Practice with the gun room items paid off.

Ovo quickly reaches Laszlo 2. Kicks his gun away. Kneels down to his side, pointing her gun at his head.

OVO

Why?

Laszlo 2 is dying.

Tries to speak, so Ovo bends down, ear to his mouth. He whispers something.

OVO (cont'd)

What the hell does that mean?

Lucas makes it to the circle. Kneels down, panting.

Laszlo 2 is dead.

Lucas looks around next to him.

LUCAS

Gianna...?

Lucas looks back. Sees her, horrified.

Laszlo 2 missed Lucas, but hit Gianna.

Lucas races to Gianna who is in a heap on the ground, blood pouring out of a large caliber hole.

LUCAS (cont'd)
NO NO NO NO NO!!!

Reaching her, rips off his shirt.

Tries to staunch the blood. There's too much.

Ovo arrives.

OVO
Come on. We're taking you to a
MedBed. You'll be up in no time.

GIANNA
No... No... I won't make it.

LUCAS
Don't be silly. It's not too late.
It's...

It's sinking in. She's right. The shirt is blood soaked.
Blood pool is growing big. Fast.

Instead of trying to lift her, Lucas sinks to the ground and
takes Gianna's head in his lap.

Ovo steps away, leaving the two for their last few moments.

LUCAS (cont'd)
You can't die. What will happen to
our dream of being the next Walter
and Emily? And now, a child...

GIANNA
It was a good dream, wasn't it? But
it looks like it's small appliance
heaven for me instead.
(smiles)
Wouldn't you know it? I finally
decide you ARE my type, and...

She's gone. Lucas WAILS.

PEOPLE from the city are racing toward them.

An EAR PIERCING SCREECH fills the air.

Overhead, a one hundred foot long spaceship SMASHES through the immense dome and STREAKS over the mountains.

The dome seals itself which stops the SCREECHING from the escaping air.

The ship ROARS over the top of the auditorium missing it by only a few feet as a COUPLE up on top duck.

The ship CRASHES, SKIDDING along the ground to finally stop ten feet from Lucas holding Gianna.

After a moment, the door opens.

Stumbling out first is former IBI (Interplanetary Bureau of Investigation) Detective Inspector ELLIE PERCERA (29).

She's badly shaken, and clearly not just from the crash.

Ellie's wearing a beat up IBI jacket with the IBI patch on her shoulder. Below that, one stripe and two smudges where stripes had been.

On her breast, her holographic IBI badge with a big X over her picture, title, and name.

At her side is CARLON (29). Exhausted, but with a bearing that shows breeding and all that.

They're followed by a 9 year old girl, KIRSTA, and EVAN who appears mid-20s, but seems far older somehow.

Lucas won't leave Gianna, so Ovo reluctantly goes to the four only to find they're more shaken than injured.

OVO

Who are you people? Where did you come from?

CARLON

The Dominion's central world, Domoni. But it's gone.

OVO

What do you mean, gone?

Ellie can barely think, much less talk. Shock.

ELLIE

The machine... The TerraMECH. Billions of people. It ground the planet's surface... and the people... Ground to dust. And it's my fault.

Ovo doesn't know what to say.

EXT. NEW EARTH

LOOKING DOWN on the entire domed enclosure.

SLOW ZOOM in to auditorium to bay houses as RESIDENTS are streaming towards the ship, Lucas, and Gianna.

SLOW ZOOM to Evan, Krista, Carlon, and Ellie talking to Ovo.

INT. ROCHE'S 'OFFICE' - DAY

REVEAL this is a huge projection where Roche, standing behind his desk, has been zooming the view.

Mrs. Quimby rushes in.

MRS. QUIMBY
What's happened?

ROCHE
What's happened is what we feared.
The reason we built New Earth. The
TerraMECH returned and destroyed
one of the human's planets, Domoni.

MRS. QUIMBY
Wasn't Evan and Kirsta just there?

ROCHE
They're safe. just arrived on New
Earth. But something else has
happened down there. Giannia's
dead.

MRS. QUIMBY
No! Was it one of the Antis?

ROCHE
I don't know. Come on. We need to
get down there.

MRS. QUIMBY
Like Gianna said, *"What the fuck is
going on?"*

The pair race out of the room as the screen slowly AUTO-
ZOOMS out until the whole New Earth structure is in view.

FADE OUT