

G E A R S O F W A R

by
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Based on the game
by Epic Games

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1

EXT. SERA - SPACE - DAY

1

A MAGNIFICENT PLANET revolves gently in a star-filled galaxy, great swaths of GREEN CONTINENTS and BLUE SEAS beneath swirls of WHITE CLOUD. It could be Earth...

...but it's not. For now we see a SECOND MOON peeling around the face of the planet, caught in its gravitational embrace.

Over this, the eerie voice of THE QUEEN resounds godlike.

THE QUEEN (V.O.)

For seventy-nine years, the humans of Sera waged wars over control of Imulsion, a new fuel discovered in the underground caverns of a place they called "The Hollow"...

(pause)

...this would be the last time they ever fought each other.

FADE TO BLACK.

In the darkness, the MAIN TITLE sears onto screen:

G E A R S O F W A R

2

EXT. PROMONTORY FORTRESS - SERA - DAY

2

CLOSE ON: A MOUSE-LIKE CREATURE scurrying out of a crack in a stone wall and darting about. It has pure white fur and beady eyes, twin tails dangling behind it...

...suddenly, a CLAWED FIST clamps down on the creature. PULL BACK TO REVEAL: A LARGER FOUR-LEGGED ANIMAL lying in wait by the base of the stone wall. Its jaws dribbling with ravenous anticipation.

It rears up on its hind legs, alert to danger...

...but it senses nothing and goes to eat its lunch.

WHAM! BOTH ANIMALS DISINTEGRATE IN A CLOUD OF RED MIST...

...a "BLADE" SURFACE-TO-SURFACE CRUISE MISSILE punching into the wall where they stood at three times the speed of sound.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL: A SPECTACULAR FORTRESS hewn into the end of a promontory that grows out from the mountain range behind it. HIGH WALLS, IMPREGNABLE RAMPARTS and FORTIFIED GATES...

...a BEAUTIFUL CITY extends below the promontory. SKYSCRAPERS and MONORAILS. An oasis in an otherwise rocky, desolate land.

More BLADE MISSILES pound the fortress relentlessly, spewing CHUNKS OF STONE and ROCK FRAGMENTS over the city below. Fires flare up everywhere...

...other MISSILES strike the long, flat promontory itself. We see several large MISSILE CRATERS "excavated" in this manner.

All of a sudden, the barrage stops.

Smoke clears, dust settles, fires crackle.

And now DOZENS OF MUZZLES peer out through BUNKER SLITS all over the fortress. Some thick-barreled, some thin. ARTILLERY PIECES and MACHINE GUNS.

CAMERA RACKS to an ARTILLERY BUNKER where we now see an ENEMY SOLDIER spotting something through his HI-TECH BINOCULARS...

...he barks orders at his COMRADES who all follow his gaze.

And now we see what they see. A LINE OF DARK SHAPES appearing over the mountains, heading along the huge promontory towards the fortress.

3

EXT. RAVENS - SKIES - DAY

3

CLOSER NOW: THE DARK SHAPES revealed to be a terrifying FLEET OF "RAVEN" WAR HELICOPTERS, each powered by DUAL ROTORS which generate a cacophonous DOUBLE THUMPING SOUND...

...all the Ravens look beat to shit. There's nothing pretty or clean here. These birds have seen years of heavy action.

Stamped near each of the SHIELDED COCKPITS is a CIRCLE WITH EIGHT PRONGS. This is the official insignia of the COALITION OF ORDERED GOVERNMENTS and we will see it, and variations of it, throughout the story.

Each Raven is armed with a pair of six-barrelled MINI-GUNS, wielded by AIR CREWMEN. EIGHT SOLDIERS or "GEARS" packed in the troop bays.

Scattered among the fleet are several "KING RAVENS" which are twice the size of their transport brethren. The Kings are the workhorses of the fleet...

...most of them carry large "CENTAUR" TANKS suspended on long cables beneath them. The Centaurs have four huge wheels, like MONSTER TRUCKS WITH CANNON TURRETS.

(NOTE: All Seran technology has a "real-world" feel to it -- practical, hard-hitting, but twisted enough to appear alien.)

4

INT./EXT. MARCUS' RAVEN - SKIES - DAY

4

CAMERA RACKS to one of the lead Ravens where EIGHT GEARS are waiting inside to deploy. These are all battle-hardened young men, nobody over twenty-five...

...they wear combat-scarred ARMOR PLATING on their shoulders, groins, and legs. SNUB PISTOLS on their thighs and stick-like FRAG GRENADES on their belts. Techno-samurai warriors.

All of them carry "LANCER" ASSAULT RIFLES. A stockless weapon with a SPRING-LOADED, TEN-INCH BAYONET underneath its barrel.

It's quiet in here, only the muted SOUNDS OF THE ENGINES.

One of the Gears is clicking through DIGITAL PHOTOS of his family, another is reading a hand-written PAPER LETTER, while a third is talking privately on a CELL PHONE-LIKE DEVICE...

...a fourth Gear is absently thumbing the TOP BULLET of a LANCER MAGAZINE, testing the spring. CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.

CLOSE ON: MARCUS FENIX perched in the back, listening to the clicking of his magazine as he stares at a dormant RED LIGHT on the far wall...

...he wears a BLACK RAG over his head, SERGEANT STRIPES on his collar. His eyes cold and grim, seen way too much war.

ANGLE ON: DOM SANTIAGO beside Marcus, carving up a piece of fruit with his COMBAT KNIFE. Dom has a GOLD RING in his ear and a HEART TATTOO on his right arm...

...the intricate tattoo bears one word: "MARIA".

A WOMAN'S VOICE crackles over the RAVEN'S SPEAKERS now, call-sign "KING-ONE". The Gears ready for combat as she speaks...

KING-ONE'S VOICE

Attention, all units. This is King-One, on approach to target. Wheels down in one minute...

(pause)

...give 'em hell, Gears.

DOM

Who wants to go hunting?

MARCUS

You tag 'em, I'll bag 'em.

...and with that, Marcus slaps his MAGAZINE into his Lancer.

ARTILLERY EXPLOSIONS begin to rock the chopper now, but the seasoned Gears are unphased. They just hunker down and ride it out. Marcus sees Dom still eating his fruit...

...he shoots Dom a look, but Dom sees no reason to stop.

5 EXT. PROMONTORY FORTRESS - SOUTHERN TERRITORIES - DAY 5

MUZZLE FLASHES light up the fortress walls as the cannon fire with righteous fury. PLUMES OF SMOKE hang in the morning air.

6 INT./EXT. MARCUS' RAVEN - SKIES - DAY 6

The Gears lift in their seats, fighting the powerful G-FORCES as their Raven dives under the ARTILLERY FIRE and skims above the promontory...

...the RED LIGHT begins to flash now and the Gears get ready to deploy, clipping on their BATTLE HELMETS and RADIO MIKES.

Marcus passes around a PLASTIC PHOTO of a MIDDLE-AGED MAN in a commander's uniform, labeled: "HIGH VALUE TARGET #1"...

...the Gears glance at the photo as Marcus speaks to them.

MARCUS

Some guys have to be forced into being good. We've chased this son-of-a-bitch from Kalona to the Seven Isles. He's got nowhere else to run and you can be sure he's gonna make us walk through hell to get him.

Just now, the Raven next to them takes a direct hit...

...through the TROOP BAY WINDOWS, they see Gears tumbling out in flames, SCREAMING as they fall and crash into the ground.

MARCUS

As always, make sure that you find cover. Whatever you have to do...

(pause)

...this ain't no fucking game.

DOM

For the COG!

GEARS

For the COG!

Here they go. Hearts beating. Palms sweating. *This is it...*

7 INT./EXT. MARCUS' RAVEN - ROCK PROMONTORY - DAY 7

The Raven touches down on the promontory two hundred yards from the FORTRESS WALLS. The TROOP BAY DOORS rack open...

...and the Gears leap into a HURRICANE OF ENEMY FIRE.

An ENEMY BULLET slices through the BATTLE HELMET of the Gear directly in front of Marcus before he can even climb out..

...and Marcus just grabs the collar of the DEAD GEAR'S ARMOR PLATING, holding him up as a human shield as he clambers out and charges forward.

MORE BULLETS quickly chew the corpse apart...

...but now Marcus lunges into a MISSILE CRATER.

The Raven launches back up into the war-torn skies, skirting overhead as its MINI-GUNS rake the deadly fortress bunkers.

8 EXT. MISSILE CRATER - ROCK PROMONTORY - DAY 8

ANGLE ON: MARCUS holed up in his MISSILE CRATER with several other Gears, including Dom. A MEDIC GEAR is urgently setting up a triage station behind them...

...it's total chaos. ROUNDS FLYING. ARTILLERY EXPLODING. THE SCREAMS OF WOUNDED AND DYING MEN. The survivors hug the dirt.

DOM

I guess this means he really is in there.

MARCUS

Aw, ya think?

DOM

Where the hell are the Centaurs?

CAMERA RACKS to the KING RAVENS thundering above now, cutting the LONG CABLES which are holding their CENTAUR TANKS below.

Marcus and Dom daringly peer over the lip of their crater.

WHAT THEY SEE: DOZENS OF CENTAUR TANKS hitting the ground, wheels running, SHOCK ABSORBERS taking the brunt of it...

...we catch glimpses of them rushing away from us towards the FORTRESS WALLS, firing multiple HIGH-EXPLOSIVE CANNON SHELLS, taking out several bunkers.

Then one of the tanks EXPLODES with a DULL THUD. Thrown into the air, its underbelly ripped apart. Dom and Marcus flinch.

DOM
That wasn't artillery.

MARCUS
Mines.

A VOLLEY OF ENEMY BULLETS sends them back under cover...

...all they can do is listen to more DULL THUDS reverberating through the ground as more ANTI-TANK MINES rip the vulnerable CENTAURS apart.

The other Gears in the crater hear this, too...

...their faces grim as the DULL THUDS finally stop.

Just now, another Gear leaps into the crater with Marcus and Dom. This is CAPTAIN HOFFMAN. He wears a PEAK CAP with a COG INSIGNIA on his bald head...

...yelling back at the ENEMY GUNFIRE defiantly.

HOFFMAN
You blind motherfuckers! Would it help if I ran into the bullets?

DOM
Sir, they took out the Centaurs.

GEAR #1
Anti-tank mines. They're all over the place.

HOFFMAN
I know, I saw it.
(scoffs)
Another proud day for Group Intel.

GEAR #2
They better not be aborting the mission.

HOFFMAN
You think the COG would get us all dressed up, take us out, and send us home with a goddamn kiss on the cheek? Hell, no. We are all getting fucked today, gentlemen.

Hoffman points up at the war-torn sky...

...where a KING RAVEN circles the battlefield.

HOFFMAN

New orders. We're to advance on the objective until we get within range of our Longspears.

MARCUS

There's no cover up there, Captain.

HOFFMAN

Well, shit...you can all just take cover behind me.

Hoffman pulls a "GNASHER" SHOTGUN off his back...

...twirling it around by its TRIGGER GUARD, one-handed.

CLICK-CLACK. The TRIGGER GUARD is also the COCKING LEVER and we realize he's just loaded a round into the firing chamber.

HOFFMAN

(into radio mike)

All units, this is Charlie-One.
Advance on my mark. Three. Two.
One. Go-go-go.

All over the battlefield, Gears SCREAM and CHARGE...

...fully one-third of them are SLAUGHTERED as they pile over the tops of their craters, mowed down by BULLETS and SHELLS.

The rest sprint like mad through a chaotic frenzy of blood, bullets, and confusion. ENEMY TRACERS piercing two and three Gears at a time.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS "roadie-running" across the promontory. The CAMERA BEHIND him, a little to the side. Following along like a documentary cameraman...

...he passes a wrecked CENTAUR TANK. We glimpse the TANK CREW struggling to escape, only to be riddled by ENEMY BULLETS.

CAMERA RACKS to the KING RAVEN above...

...as an ARTILLERY SHELL punctures its belly.

The helicopter plunges towards Marcus and Dom, its DUAL ROTOR BLADES slicing up an UNLUCKY GEAR only a few steps behind...

...they hit the dirt as the mortally wounded chopper THUNDERS over their heads and PUNCHES into the ground, SKIDDING on its side another thirty yards.

9 EXT. KING-ONE - ROCK PROMONTORY - DAY

9

ANGLE ON: MARCUS & DOM quickly lunging back to their feet and slamming up against the underside of the WRECKED RAVEN, using it for cover, amazed that they're still alive...

...they soon notice a GAPING HOLE in its belly. Marcus ducks through the hole into the helicopter while Dom stays outside.

10 INT. KING-ONE - ROCK PROMONTORY - DAY

10

INSIDE THE KING RAVEN: MARCUS finds the bodies and various parts of six FEMALE DISPATCHERS, all of them officers. Some still strapped in their seats in front of a staggering array of electronic hardware...

...their LCD MONITORS project live feeds from various cameras mounted outside the King. Other monitors pinpoint the various locations of the infantry squads.

HALF OF THE SCREENS are still functioning, but the others are sparking or dead. ENEMY BULLETS constantly ping off the hull, like a thousand jack-hammers.

ANGLE ON: ANYA STROUD still working one of the consoles...

...she wears a bloodied LIEUTENANT'S UNIFORM, a RADIO MIKE on her ear, eyes expertly flicking across her various screens.

We instantly recognize her voice to be that of KING-ONE.

ANYA
(into headset)
Roger that, Control. King-One is
down but still functioning.

MARCUS
You okay?

Anya reflexively whips out a SNUB-PISTOL...

...aiming it at Marcus until she sees he's a Gear.

MARCUS
You hurt? Need a medic?

ANYA
(into headset)
Requesting fire mission on enemy
bunker at grid two-two-one, four-
two-oh.

MARCUS

Talk to me, Lieutenant. Are you injured? Are you in shock?

ANYA

(into headset)

Roger that, Control. Relay the coordinates and fire for effect.

MARCUS

Suit yourself, lady.

Anya flicks a glare at him as he climbs back out.

11 EXT. KING-ONE - ROCK PROMONTORY - DAY

11

A MACHINE GUN BUNKER lies ahead at the bottom of the FORTRESS WALLS. Marcus glances at Hoffman who's found cover behind the wrecked CENTAUR TANK thirty yards back...

...the captain grabs a GEAR who's carrying an RPG launcher, known as a "LONGSPEAR". The other Gears give COVERING FIRE.

The LONGSPEAR GEAR lines up on the bunker...

...but suddenly, the MACHINE GUN tears him apart.

His LONGSPEAR tumbles out of reach between the CRASHED RAVEN and the WRECKED TANK. Marcus and Dom gaze at it, then swap an exasperated look.

DOM

I'll get it.

MARCUS

(shakes his head)

If you died, Maria would just kill me anyway.

Marcus unclips his BATTLE HELMET...

...then sprints out towards the LONGSPEAR.

BULLETS pepper the rocks at his feet. He dive-rolls, picking up, aiming, and firing the LONGSPEAR in one smooth movement.

WHOOSH! The WARHEAD launches at the bunker...

...disappearing through the narrow FIRING SLIT.

It's a one in a million shot. The bunker EXPLODES violently outwards, leaving a MASSIVE HOLE in the FORTRESS WALLS...

...in the next second, Hoffman charges past Marcus.

 HOFFMAN
 That's my boy...
 (to the others)
 Gears! Fill that breach!

CUT TO:

12 INT. BUNKER/CORRIDORS - PROMONTORY FORTRESS - DAY 12

Marcus and Dom scale the BUNKER RUBBLE with dozens of other Gears, pushing into the fortress and gunning down more ENEMY SOLDIERS...

...driving into the corridors now. The battle is fierce and claustrophobic, often only a few yards between either side.

CUT TO:

13 INT. CORRIDORS - PROMONTORY FORTRESS - DAY 13

CAMERA RACKS to Marcus "lancing" an ENEMY SOLDIER with his SPRING-LOADED BAYONET, catching him in the heart, then pushing on...

...passing Dom as he hurls a FRAG GRENADE into an ARTILLERY BUNKER. He ducks as the JARRING EXPLOSION blasts past him.

CUT TO:

14 INT. COMMAND CENTER CORRIDOR - PROMONTORY FORTRESS - DAY 14

Marcus and Dom now prowl along a fortified corridor with Hoffman and several other Gears, eyes on the DOUBLE DOORS ahead of them...

...an ENEMY SOLDIER suddenly charges towards them down a tangent corridor, wearing a BOMB VEST and SCREAMING.

He's caught by a STREAM OF LANCER BULLETS...

...but he still manages to DETONATE his BOMB VEST.

Three Gears are killed instantly in the DEAFENING EXPLOSION, the rest shake the ringing from their ears and keep pressing relentlessly forward...

...reaching the DOUBLE DOORS now, Marcus SHOOTs THE LOCK and kicks the doors open. The Gears storm inside, BLASTING AWAY.

15

INT. COMMAND CENTER - PROMONTORY FORTRESS - DAY

15

This is the command center, a small room densely-packed with COMPUTERS and PLOTTING TABLES. The ENEMY SOLDIERS in here are mostly clerks...

...they bear little chance. The well-trained Gears drop them with their Lancers. Look, point, shoot. Look, point, shoot.

A DOOR OPENS across the room.

The Gears train their Lancers.

ANGLE ON: A MIDDLE-AGED MAN wearing a COMMANDER'S UNIFORM, the same one from the PLASTIC CARD we saw earlier. This is HIGH VALUE TARGET #1...

...and the Gears recognize him instantly, holding their fire as he stands there in the doorway, glaring directly at them.

The COMMANDER lifts a PISTOL...

HOFFMAN

No!

...the PISTOL digging under his chin.

BANG! The top of the COMMANDER's head shears off and his body simply collapses to the floor, a look of hate forever stamped upon his bloodied face...

...a WOMAN appears in the door, shocked and crying. A YOUNG BOY rushes out past her and cradles the COMMANDER, sobbing.

YOUNG BOY

Papa!

None of the Gears shows any remorse...

...except Marcus, who's riveted to the spot.

CAMERA HOLDS ON: MARCUS watching the boy mourn over his dead father. Something in him refusing to pull his eyes away...

...over this, we hear the stately voice of CHAIRMAN EMMERSON.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON (V.O.)

The death of Commander Niles has brought the Union of Independent Republics to its knees.

DISSOLVE TO:

16

EXT. EPHYRA - COALITION TERRITORIES - DAY

16

A FLOCK OF GREY LONG-WINGED BIRDS flies past as our CAMERA SWEEPS high above the gleaming capital city of Ephyra which sits on the edge of a sparkling blue sea and extends outward like a giant horseshoe...

...in the middle of the horseshoe is a vast military complex called Jacinto. About the size of Manhattan, Jacinto is built on a natural plateau which rises gently above the city.

(NOTE: Like the much smaller promontory fortress we saw in the opening, consider Jacinto as the original "castle" and Ephyra as the metropolis that grew around its walls.)

Baroque-styled COLONNADES and DOMES are sprinkled across the city, along with several CANALS and BRIDGES. A MAGNETIC TRAIN runs lazily on an ELEVATED TRACK...

...a city of dreams, a place of hope, humanity at its best.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON (V.O.)

And so, after decades of bloody conflict, the Pendulum Wars are coming to an end.

17

EXT. SEAPORT - EPHYRA - DAY

17

ANGLE ON: A MASSIVE FLAT SCREEN MONITOR, broadcasting the speech by charismatic statesman, CHAIRMAN EMMERSON...

...he's in a PRESS ROOM somewhere, speaking INTO CAMERA.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON (ON MONITOR)

And the good people of Sera will once again be united, sharing the invaluable benefits of Imulsion as discoverers had once envisioned.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL: THE MONITOR is one of several suspended above an enormous seaport where three huge "LEVIATHAN CLASS" WARSHIPS are lined up at different berths...

...several more are steaming into the harbor behind them.

GEARS carry their KIT-BAGS and WEAPONS as they file off the warships into the waiting arms of their FAMILIES and FRIENDS on the docks below...

...it's an emotional homecoming. These men have been away a long time. People are SCREAMING and CALLING OUT and CRYING.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS & DOM on a cargo ramp, filing off one of the warships. Dom anxiously scans the faces in the crowd below...

...he goes ballistic when he sees his beautiful wife, MARIA.

DOM
There she is, there she is!
(calling)
Maria! Maria, baby! Up here!

MARIA
Dom!

Marcus smiles and trails after Dom...

...pushing their way through the crowd.

DOM
Excuse me, coming through. Gotta
kiss my baby. Gotta get some lovin'
from my woman.

Finally, they reach Maria who's standing with their children, BENEDICTE (7) and SYLVIA (5). The kids' eyes light up when they see their father...

...they rush towards him, almost bowling him over. Dom drops to his knees and envelopes them. Kissing their little faces.

DOM
How'd you get so big? Look at those
muscles! How's my little princess?

And now Dom turns to Maria...

...sweeping her up and kissing her.

DOM
God, I missed you.

MARIA
And you're gonna show me all night
long, soldier.

BENEDICTE
Shoot many bad guys, Uncle Marcus?

MARCUS
Two hundred and seventy-three KIAs
confirmed. But the actual figure's
probably a lot higher.

The children trade a look, Marcus gets uncomfortable...

...fortunately, he's saved by Dom who picks up his kids, kissing them again. Maria greets Marcus with a warm hug.

MARIA

Thanks for bringing him home to us.

MARCUS

No problem, glad to get rid of him.

She returns to her husband, holding him close. Marcus hangs back, watching this, something bittersweet in his smile...

...he looks around at the other Gears. Each one of them has someone waiting for him. *Not Marcus*. But he doesn't seem to have expected any different.

A thought flickers across his face. He gathers his KIT-BAG and walks away from Dom and his family, weaving through the crowd, walking off alone.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS track his movement...

...panning endlessly upon rooftops and poles.

CUT TO:

18

EXT. COURTYARD - FENIX ESTATE - DAY

18

Marcus now stands outside a stately mansion on the outskirts of the city. A LARGE FOUNTAIN with a COG INSIGNIA ripples in the courtyard before him...

...as he gazes at the house, we realize Marcus is hesitating, the huge, wooden FRONT DOORS before him more frightening than any battlefield bunker.

Marcus drops his KIT-BAG and rings the DOORBELL...

...he waits several seconds, but there's no answer.

He glances up at the SURVEILLANCE CAMERA mounted next to the doorway, smiling awkwardly at it, feeling like an idiot, but there's still no answer.

19

EXT. SIDE WALL - FENIX ESTATE - DAY

19

Marcus walks around the side of the house and climbs up the wall using what seems to be a familiar combination of LEDGES and DRAIN PIPES...

...soon reaching a STAINED GLASS WINDOW on the second floor.

20 INT. STAIRCASE - FENIX ESTATE - DAY

20

We see Marcus jiggle the lock on the STAINED GLASS WINDOW and swing it open, climbing inside, and locking it once more...

...now he takes a long look around the house. He's at the top of a magnificent dual staircase that leads to the grand foyer on the bottom floor. A CHANDELIER hangs above.

Marcus descends the staircase, eyes wandering. He stumbles on a fold in the carpet, accidentally knocking a MARBLE BUST off its stand at the bottom of the staircase...

...he clumsily returns the bust, glancing at the inscription.

PRESENTED TO DOCTOR ADAM FENIX
DEAN OF THE EAST BARRICADE ACADEMY
FOR ADVANCES IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

21 INT. LIVING ROOM - FENIX ESTATE - DAY

21

Marcus now enters an overly-decorated living room, stopping at the sight of a large FRAMED PHOTO of a BEAUTIFUL WOMAN on the wall...

...she just smiles back at Marcus, oblivious to his presence.

Still gazing at the woman, Marcus takes a seat on the closest couch, finding it so overloaded with THROW CUSHIONS that it's uncomfortable...

...he removes one of the THROW CUSHIONS and goes to drop it on the floor when all of a sudden it EXPLODES in his face.

BANG! The GUNSHOT startles Marcus.

FIVE MORE SHOTS follow in rapid order.

The poorly-aimed bullets chew up the ornate furniture and several of the other THROW CUSHIONS as Marcus reflexively dives behind couch...

MARCUS

Wait, Dad! It's me! It's Marcus!

...through the GUNSMOKE, we now see ADAM FENIX in the doorway holding an ANTIQUE PISTOL. He wears rumpled civilian clothes, obviously doesn't get out much.

Adam looks good for his age, but behind his glasses, we sense a dark sorrow hidden somewhere inside the depths of his soul.

Adam peers through the GUNSMOKE as it clears, speaking in a manner that suggests he rarely speaks to anyone at all...

ADAM

Marcus?

MARCUS' VOICE

Yeah, don't shoot, okay?

...and now Marcus gingerly rises from behind the couch. Adam lowers his ANTIQUE PISTOL, relieved to see that the voice is actually his son's.

Marcus smiles, mistaking his father's relief for compassion.

ADAM

I thought you were a burglar.

MARCUS

What kind of burglar rearranges your couch?

ADAM

You broke in.

MARCUS

I rang the doorbell.

ADAM

I was downstairs.

MARCUS

Of course, you were.

Stand-off, both men stare at each other...

...finally, Marcus grabs the ANTIQUE PISTOL.

MARCUS

What're you doing with this thing anyway?

ADAM

It was a gift from the Chairman.

MARCUS

No, I mean you should have a semi-automatic. The double pull on this thing adds a half a second between each shot.

Adam looks at his son like he's from another planet. Marcus unbuckles the semi-automatic SNUB PISTOL on his thigh...

...shoving the sleek weapon into his father's hands.

MARCUS

And don't forget to take the safety off...unless you're shooting at me.

ADAM

You'll need this more than I will.

MARCUS

Haven't you heard? War's all but over. There was a big scene at the docks this morning. Everyone seeing their families.

Marcus looks to see if his father gets the message. They make an awkward move towards his each other, as if to embrace...

...but then Marcus realizes that Adam's heading for the THROW CUSHIONS, setting the SNUB PISTOL down on a coffee table, and gathering the torn cushions.

ADAM

These were your mother's favorites.

MARCUS

Getting a little old, weren't they?

Marcus turns to a nearby DRINKS TRAY...

...and pours himself a shot of DARK LIQUID.

MARCUS

Still running your precious geobots around the Hollow?

ADAM

The Hollow is the last unexplored frontier. It *must* be researched...

MARCUS

And I wouldn't understand, right?

Adam just stares at him in reply...

...and Marcus smiles, downing his shot.

ADAM

Where...where are you staying?

MARCUS

Don't worry, a buddy of mine has a couch I can use.

Adam tries to hide his relief, but Marcus senses it anyway.

MARCUS

So I heard you're developing some new kind of doomsday weapon at the Academy.

ADAM

That's classified.

MARCUS

Too bad you couldn't get it done in time. We might've actually used it.

ADAM

You should be grateful we never had to use it. We all should...

(pause)

...now if you'll excuse me.

MARCUS

What, that's it?

ADAM

I have a lot of work to do.

MARCUS

It's been eight years...you really have nothing else to say to me?

ADAM

I think everything was said back then, don't you?

MARCUS

Okay...you know what? Go back to your work. This was a dumb idea.

ADAM

Marcus.

Marcus stops in the door. A look in Adam's eyes suggests he's about cross the room, say all is forgiven, and hug his son...

...but in the end, he can't. Or won't. And Marcus knows it.

MARCUS

See ya 'round, Dad.

And he continues on out. Adam hears the FRONT DOORS open and SLAM SHUT, his eyes falling to the SNUB PISTOL on the table.

CUT TO:

22

INT. GEARS BAR - EPHYRA - NIGHT

22

COUNTRY/URBAN MUSIC serenades a downtown Gears bar, the walls lined with MILITARY CITATIONS, PHOTOS OF GEAR SQUADS, and COG PROPAGANDA POSTERS...

...the place is packed with DRUNK GEARS celebrating the peace with their WIVES or GIRLFRIENDS. Dom and Maria are making out like teenagers on the dance floor, drunk and horny.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS sitting alone at the end of the counter, his drink untouched before him as he stares up at the BAR TV...

...the BAR TV is showing a game of "Thrashball". A team-based sport where heavily-padded men thrash each other with hockey-like sticks in pursuit of a ROUND BALL.

Marcus doesn't seem interested, his thoughts far away...

...just now, Dom stumbles up nearby and orders some drinks.

DOM

Yo, Marcus. Where you been? We were looking for you at the docks.

MARCUS

Bought a truck.

DOM

You bought a truck?

MARCUS

Figured I'd be needing some way to get around town now.

DOM

You spend all day doing that?

MARCUS

Couldn't find one that matched the color of my eyes, what's it to you?

Dom backs off, glancing at the BAR TV as the "Cougars" score a goal against the "Trolls" and the scoring PLAYER'S PROFILE appears on screen...

...number eighty-three AUGUSTUS "THE COLE TRAIN" COLE. A huge man with a huge personality. He barks raucously INTO CAMERA.

COLE (ON TV)

I'm the Cole Train and I bring the pain. I bring the pain, baby!

Dom scoffs at Cole's antics, unimpressed.

DOM
Division playoffs?

MARCUS
Yeah...twenty I-bucks says the
Cougars win.

DOM
There's thirty seconds left and the
Cougars are down three points.

MARCUS
I got a lucky feeling.

DOM
Okay, you crazy bastard.

They shake hands and turn to face the rest of the bar...
...watching Maria dancing on her own, her sexy hips swaying.

DOM
Man, I hope the kids are asleep
when we get home.

MARCUS
I'll give you a ride.

DOM
You ain't staying out?

MARCUS
Not really in the mood.

DOM
Not in the mood? It's the party of
the century, Marcus. The whole damn
planet's out tonight.

Marcus shrugs a nothing answer...

...and Dom looks at him, realizing.

DOM
You went to see your father, huh?

But Marcus doesn't reply, downing his drink...

...just now, the bar erupts in cheers. Marcus and Dom turn
back to the BAR TV to see Cole make a bold interception and
bolt down the field with the ball.

Dom SCREAMS for the Trolls to thrash Cole. But Cole scores and jams his face in the camera, YELLING and WHOOPING...

COLE (ON TV)

That one's for the highlight reel!

...the FIVE REFEREES sound their sirens, ending the game.

DOM

I hate that guy.

MARCUS

Yeah, yeah. Pay up, asshole.

DOM

I'll get you later, I promise.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. GEARS BAR - EPHYRA - NIGHT

23

Later, Marcus helps a very drunk Dom and Maria out of the bar and guides them towards a brand-new, FLAT BED TRUCK parked on the street nearby...

...unfortunately, the truck has been boxed in.

DOM

Nice truck. Too bad you got boxed in. Let's get some more drinks...

MARCUS

There's room.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS track Marcus as he stomps over to his truck, climbs inside, STARTS THE ENGINE, and backs up...

...WHAM! His REAR BUMPER smashes into the vehicle behind. Dom and Maria stand there, dumbfounded, watching as Marcus shifts forward and hits the vehicle in front.

ANGLE ON: THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS darting back and forth as Marcus shoves the two offending vehicles out of his way...

...finally, he pulls out and lowers his window with a grin.

MARCUS

What'd I tell ya?

Dom and Maria stare at him in an inebriated daze, speechless.

CUT TO:

24 INT. DOM'S APARTMENT - EPHYRA SUBURBS - NIGHT 24

The FRONT DOOR opens on Dom's darkened city apartment. Marcus tosses the KEY CARD onto a nearby table and virtually carries a barely coherent Dom inside...

DOM
I'm just saying, clearly you've got issues...

MARCUS
Is that right?

DOM
But I'm here for you...ever you wanna...you know, talk and shit.

MARCUS
I'll think about it.

...as he carries Dom down the hall, Maria pays a BABYSITTER.

CUT TO:

25 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 25

Marcus unceremoniously dumps Dom on his bed and throws the covers over him. But as he goes to leave, Dom grabs him...

DOM
Marcus...? Remember when I said all that stuff about you having issues?

MARCUS
You just said that in the hall.

DOM
I want you to know that none of it matters to me...

MARCUS
Thanks, Dom.

DOM
I love you, man. You saved my life more times than I can...think of.

MARCUS
You saved mine, too.

...and Dom just looks at him and nods, remembering this.

Maria enters the room now, glancing at her husband...

MARCUS
You're wife's here. She's gonna be
expecting...

...but Dom passes out. Marcus shares a smile with Maria.

CUT TO:

26 INT. HALLWAY/SYLVIA'S BEDROOM - DOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 26

Marcus creeps through the hallway, on his way out...

...as he passes Sylvia's bedroom, we see the girl lying awake
in her bed, clutching a stuffed, dinosaur-like TOY ANIMAL.

SYLVIA
Uncle Marcus?

MARCUS
Yeah?

SYLVIA
I'm scared.

And Marcus hesitates in the doorway...

...unsure how to handle this sort of thing.

MARCUS
Well, uh...what're you scared of?

SYLVIA
The monsters.

MARCUS
What monsters?

SYLVIA
The ones who come up from under the
ground and take people away.

MARCUS
(grins)
Aw, they're just stories folks tell
to scare little kids. You, uh...you
go to sleep now, okay?

And he leaves, but Sylvia is clearly not assuaged.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. FENIX ESTATE - EPHYRA - NIGHT 27
A FULL MOON and a CRESCENT MOON hang above the Fenix estate.

28 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 28
A MASSIVE CYLINDRICAL TURBINE GENERATOR rolls steadily to the side of a pair of heavy STEEL DOORS. The CHISELED STONE WALLS tell us we're underground.
FLUORESCENT LIGHTS hang low in various recesses, illuminating several HALF-BUILT "GEOBOTS" which look like the Mars Rover.
ANGLE ON: ADAM sitting at his messy L-SHAPED DESK, working on a peculiar HANDHELD DEVICE about a yard long, with a gun-like trigger at one end...
...we'll come to know this weapon as a LASER DESIGNATOR for a top-secret COG military project called the "Hammer of Dawn".
SIX MONITORS sit above him, each one labeled with a different name: "CLIFF", "MIKE", "ROD", "ANNE", "KIM", and "LEE"...
...they all show LIVE FEEDS from six GEOBOT CAMERAS moving forward in various dark tunnels. ONBOARD LIGHTS provide the only illumination.
The POVs are shaky, just knee-high off the ground...
...all of them revealing nothing but endless tunnels.
ANGLE ON: A GROUP OF TRIANGULATED LIGHTS on the desk beside Adam which project a three-dimensional, HOLOGRAPHIC MAP...
...we recognize the familiar CITYSCAPE OF EPHYRA and JACINTO in the map and see a LABYRINTH OF TUNNELS extending below the surface, vast and deep.
There are six "ends" to the tunnels which are slowly growing deeper, each tagged with a name from one of the six monitors.
Adam now removes a BROKEN CRYSTAL from the LASER DESIGNATOR, examining the crack across its face. He dumps the crystal in a BOX OF BROKEN CRYSTALS and sits there a moment...
...eyes falling on Marcus' SNUB PISTOL, sitting on his desk.
ADAM
Contact...Marcus Fenix.
The AUTO-PHONE in his computer hears him and BEEPS dutifully.

29 INT./EXT. MARCUS' TRUCK - EPHYRA SUBURBS - NIGHT 29

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS turn atop every STREET LIGHT as Marcus' truck rushes past. Inside, the vehicle's LCD SCREEN flashes at Marcus: "INCOMING CALL FROM ADAM FENIX"...

...at first, Marcus goes to tap the CANCEL BUTTON. But then he chooses "ACCEPT", waiting for his father to speak to him.

30 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 30

Adam sees the "CALL ACCEPTED" appear on his screen. He goes to speak, but suddenly notices some unusual AMBIENT LIGHT on CLIFF'S MONITOR.

ANGLE ON: CLIFF'S MONITOR revealing an underground chamber of stalagmites and stalactites, each covered with phosphorescent IMULSION CRYSTALS...

...suddenly, "something" flashes across the screen. *Something huge.* As big as a man. With legs and arms. And a loping gait.

The image startles Adam and he lunges back, then he quickly stops the GEOBOT with some taps on his COMPUTER KEYBOARD...

...panning the ONBOARD CAMERA around, scanning the tunnel.

31 INT./EXT. MARCUS' TRUCK - EPHYRA SUBURBS - NIGHT 31

Meanwhile, Marcus is left with an empty phone line.

MARCUS

Hello?

32 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 32

Adam hears MARCUS' VOICE over the line and he automatically hangs up the call. Riveted to CLIFF'S MONITOR as the ONBOARD CAMERA slowly turns...

...the POV ROTATES three hundred and sixty degrees, but now Adam cannot find the creature again. He rubs his tired eyes.

33 INT./EXT. MARCUS' TRUCK - EPHYRA SUBURBS - NIGHT 33

Marcus sees the "CALL CANCELLED" message appear on his screen and he curses under his breath, tearing off along a DIRT ROAD away from the SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS.

34

INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT

34

Back with Adam as he issues some new commands to CLIFF from his computer. We see CLIFF'S POV begin moving again through the softly-lit chamber...

...suddenly, the POV shifts sharply. Something has picked the GEOBOT up. Shaking it around violently like a kid with a toy.

Adam watches, spellbound...

...as the LIVE FEED abruptly dies..

He frantically taps commands into his computer, but the LIVE FEED doesn't return, leaving only SNOW STATIC on the screen.

Just now, there's movement on LEE'S MONITOR...

...a blinding MUZZLE FLASH and then it dies, too.

The others follow suit now, one after the other. All of the ONBOARD CAMERAS jolted in some way, their LIVE FEEDS cut...

...until Adam is left staring in shock at six blank screens.

CUT TO:

35

EXT. MARCUS' TRUCK - LOOK-OUT POINT - NIGHT

35

Marcus parks at a look-out point, the TRUCK RADIO on as he pops a can of alcohol and sits on the hood, staring at the CITY LIGHTS below...

RADIO VOICE

...all seventy-three nation states signed the non-aggression pact this morning, pledging not to provoke or invade other signatory nations. COG officials called it indelible proof that world peace has indeed come in our time.

...upon hearing this, Marcus groans.

MARCUS

Shit.

PULL BACK ON: Marcus drinking alone on his truck under a line of WIND TURBINES, old and forgotten and decaying with rust...

FADE TO BLACK.

36 EXT. CHAP'S GAS STATION - EPHYRA - DAY 36

Marcus pulls his truck into a local gas station and feeds the tank from one of the IMULSION PUMPS, then he heads inside...

37 INT. CHAP'S GAS STATION - EPHYRA - DAY 37

...finding a CARRY BASKET near the door, Marcus nods to the old STATION CLERK behind the counter and begins to shop for food among the aisles.

The amount of different brands is confusing...

...and Marcus finds himself unable to pick anything.

He notices someone standing beside him, also staring at all the food. It takes him a moment to recognize it's Anya...

...she now wears CIVILIAN CLOTHES and looks quite stunning.

MARCUS
Lieutenant.

ANYA
Have we met?

MARCUS
Last time I saw you, you stuck a gun in my face.

Anya pauses, remembering him now...

...and she's immediately embarrassed.

ANYA
Oh. Right. Sorry about that.

MARCUS
Ironically, that's how most of my relationships with women end.

ANYA
Wow, your parents must be proud.

MARCUS
I'm Marcus.

ANYA
Lieutenant Stroud.

Marcus grins, getting the message...

...then flatly ignoring it as he follows her up and down the food aisles. Each looks just as disoriented as the other.

MARCUS

What're you looking for?

ANYA

Just soup, I need some soup. How about you?

MARCUS

I don't know...got invited to a picnic in the park. What do you bring to a picnic?

ANYA

I'd go with protein infantry bars.

MARCUS

You know how to spice them up? You take some condensed cream and some salt tablets...

ANYA

...and mash them together inside a used mortar shell, I know.

Marcus smiles, clearly liking her...

MARCUS

Maybe's there's a place that sells field rations.

...she smiles with him, then picks a CAN OF SOUP and goes to pay the CLERK. Marcus grabs some other food and follows her.

MARCUS

So is the soup for a date?

ANYA

What business is that of yours?

MARCUS

Well, if it's not, then I suggest we share it on our first date.

ANYA

And if it is?

MARCUS

Well, then I'll shoot your date.

Anya glances at Marcus, unimpressed...

...she grabs her food from the clerk and suddenly moves in close to Marcus. It's both sexy and a little intimidating.

ANYA

Two things you should know about me: One, I outrank you. And Two, I'm always armed.

MARCUS

(eyeing her body)
Where?

ANYA

You don't find *that* out till the second date.

With that, Anya turns and walks out to her vehicle...

...and Marcus just smiles, paying the old STATION CLERK.

STATION CLERK

Makes you wonder what happens on the *third* date.

Marcus looks at the STATION CLERK, then gathers his food.

38

EXT. CHAP'S GAS STATION - EPHYRA - DAY

38

Marcus finds Anya removing the IMULSION PUMP from her open-topped, JEEP-LIKE VEHICLE next to his. He places his food in his truck and heads over.

Anya climbs into her jeep and STARTS THE ENGINE...

...but Marcus lingers by her window, staring at her.

She's not unused to this kind of attention, staring right back at him with a look that says, "*What else you got...*"

...and Marcus returns the look with surprising sincerity.

MARCUS

It was real gutsy what you did that day, staying in that chopper.

ANYA

You did okay yourself...Marcus.

She gives him a grin and drives off. Marcus smiles, returning to his truck and hanging up the PUMP NOZZLE, watching her go.

CUT TO:

39 INT./EXT. MARCUS' TRUCK - CITY PARK - DAY

39

Marcus pulls in to the curb beside a picturesque city park, the RADIO PLAYING in his truck. We hear the brief words...

RADIO VOICE

...an unspecified disturbance has broken out at the Lethia Imulsion Mine. A spokesman for the mining facility confirmed that police and paramedics have been dispatched --

...but the report is cut off when Marcus kills the engine.

CUT TO:

40 EXT. PLAYGROUND - CITY PARK - DAY

40

Benedicte and Sylvia play on a children's fort while Maria lays out a picnic spread nearby. Marcus and Dom cook lunch at one of the park BARBECUES...

...as Maria approaches and checks on the food.

DOM

By the way, Maria's got another friend for you.

MARIA

There are conditions. You ain't breaking *this* girl's heart.

MARCUS

I don't do that. You must have me confused with someone else.

MARIA

When was the last time you spent the night with a girl? The whole night?

MARCUS

I'm not a morning person.

MARIA

You want to meet anymore of my friends, you gotta commit to a proper relationship. That means sticking around for breakfast.

Maria moves off to set the plates out...

...leaving Dom and Marcus at the BARBECUE.

MARCUS
What was that about?

DOM
Peace time. Rules are changing.

MARCUS
Doesn't mean I'm gonna settle down
and have kids. That's you...that's
not me.

DOM
Yeah, about that...

Marcus looks at Dom, sensing bad news...

...and Dom hesitates, unable to share it.

DOM
I've been meaning to tell you.

MARCUS
Spit it out, Dom.

DOM
Maria's father offered me a job at
the plant.

MARCUS
What, security?

DOM
Assistant manager.

MARCUS
You're gonna leave the Gears?

DOM
Everyone says the Gears have got no
future anymore.

MARCUS
Six more months, you make sergeant.

DOM
Sorry, man. I wanna be home more. I
wanna be there for my kids. I don't
expect you to get it.

Dom takes the food over to Maria now. And as Marcus watches
them, his shock wears off and turns into bitter resentment.

CLOSE ON: MARCUS as his eyes drift to the dozens of other FAMILIES scattered about the park. A FATHER plays tag with his SON, a MOTHER reads a book with her DAUGHTER...

...and though he's surrounded by people, Marcus looks to be very much alone and lost. Standing there in the park without direction or future.

ALL SOUND FADES. The children's laughter. The adults' talking and calling. The creaking swings. The passing city traffic...

...everything shut out in this moment as Marcus looks around.

It begins with a tremor.

The ground quivering gently.

Marcus is the first to notice.

He glances over at Dom who feels it now. The TREMORS growing rapidly violent. Maria's already turning towards the kids...

...who start to notice and SCREAM with fear. PARENTS rush to scoop up their CHILDREN. Calls of "Earthquake!" ringing out, blending with the SCREAMS OF PANIC.

Marcus darts towards Benedicte and Sylvia who are frozen on a CLIMBING GYM. Dom and Maria right behind him. Seconds away when suddenly...

...the whole playground lifts four feet upwards. The ground beneath swelling like a balloon. The children HOWL and CRY.

And in the next instant, the "balloon" bursts...

...and the playground is ferociously sucked down.

Dom and Maria go ballistic, their children ten feet in front of them one instant, then plummeting underground the next...

...still clinging to the CLIMBING GYM. Calling out for their parents as they drop into a GIGANTIC HOLE along with all the other CHILDREN and PARENTS on the playground in that moment.

Maria SCREAMS, collapsing to her knees.

Dom tries to catch her, holding her close.

Marcus charges towards the edge of the hole.

Throwing himself down on his knees, barely keeping from going over, as he peers over the top to discover what seems to be a bottomless abyss...

...a MENACING FACE suddenly springs up INTO FRAME an inch from Marcus. GROWLING with animalistic rage, up close and personal, in Marcus' face.

The creature's head is almost skeletal. No nose cartilage on its face, just a BONY SNOUT. Its TEETH FILED to points, like a wolf. MUSCLES STRAINING under its HAIRLESS SKIN...

...we'll come to know this thing as a "DRONE", a foot soldier like Marcus. A warrior bred for combat. It wears ad hoc ARMOR PLATES, dripping with AMMO and GRENADES.

Marcus glimpses DOZENS OF DRONES climbing up all sides of the hole on long ladders. Compact "HAMMERBURST" ASSAULT RIFLES on their backs...

...in the same second, the DRONE in front of Marcus draws its HAMMERBURST on him. Point blank. Marcus instinctively recoils as it FIRES.

A SIX ROUND BURST catches Marcus on his cheek...

...a three-inch slice in the skin under his right eye.

The crowd hears the GUNSHOTS, sending a ripple of alarm and confusion throughout the park. Most people can't see Marcus and don't know what's happened yet.

He tumbles backwards, gripping his bloody face. A razor-sharp pain crippling him so heavily that he can't even scramble out of the way to save his life...

...the DRONE loops its Hammerburst back over its shoulder and starts to climb the rest of the way out of the hole, its eyes on Marcus reeling six feet away.

Dom's there in the next heartbeat...

...picking up Marcus, dragging him away.

Pulling him back into the ever-panicking crowd as the DRONES emerge out of the hole on all sides and level their weapons.

There's no hesitation, no pause, no warning.

The creatures simply OPEN FIRE on every man, woman, and child in sight. Raking them with their HAMMERBURSTS, scything whole swaths of people...

...we glimpse the chaos around Marcus as Dom gathers Maria and spirits them away. Maria is still SCREAMING hysterically for her children, unwilling to leave in spite of the inherent danger.

Behind them, the DRONES continue to pour out of the EMERGENCE HOLE. Spreading throughout the park with ruthless persecution as the slaughter begins...

...they don't run, they don't chase, they simply march with guns blasting. Routinely reloading when necessary. It's like "work". Pure wanton genocide.

CAMERA RACKS to a DRONE shooting into a thick crowd. Another throws a GRENADE into a GAZEBO. A third one knocks a defiant man to the ground and shoots him.

A YOUNG WOMAN begs for her life...

...but another DRONE guns her down.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS quickly stumbling along with Dom and Maria, still faltering from his BLOODY WOUND. They're following the crowd away from the EMERGENCE HOLE...

...when all of a sudden, the ground begins to shake again.

A TREE rises and falls in front of them. Several PEOPLE lose their balance and plunge into this SECOND EMERGENCE HOLE...

...the crowd stops short, hoping against hope. But now dozens more DRONES climb out and BLAST their weapons into everybody, pushing the crowd back.

Nowhere to go now, every man for himself...

...all around, people are running and falling.

Marcus urgently looks for a way out of this. CAMERA RACKS to his truck still parked on the curb. Marcus desperately shoves Dom and Maria towards it...

...and they scuttle through the deadly CROSSFIRE, dodging the scattering crowd while leaping past the dead and the dying.

41

INT./EXT. MARCUS' TRUCK - CITY PARK - DAY

41

ENEMY BULLETS zip and crack through the air around them as Marcus lunges in behind the wheel and keys the IGNITION. As Dom opens the door for Maria...

...a DRONE lines up and fires at them.

Maria SCREAMS with pain, caught in the leg.

Dom unceremoniously throws her inside the truck and Marcus floors the accelerator. Dom quickly scrambling in behind...

...but the Drone isn't finished with them yet. Leaping up onto the hood of another PARKED CAR and launching into the air after the truck.

42

INT./EXT. MARCUS' TRUCK - EPHYRA SUBURBS - DAY

42

The DRONE lands in the FLAT-BED, rolling right up to the REAR WINDOW and ROARING at the humans in front. Marcus swerves and the creature stumbles...

...dropping its HAMMERBURST over the side, but still managing to hang onto the truck itself. HOWLING with unbridled fury.

Marcus glances at Maria bleeding profusely beside him as Dom checks her wound. She's going into shock now, eyes deadening as she gazes at Dom.

MARCUS

How bad is it?

DOM

She needs a fucking hospital!

Marcus turns sharply, dodging frenzied TRAFFIC and terrified PEDESTRIANS. More GUNFIRE on every street. These things seem to be everywhere...

...WHAM! The DRONE punches through the REAR WINDOW.

Dom grabs its arm, trying to wrench off its digits as Marcus continues to navigate through the battle-strewn streets...

...he turns a corner and SCREECHES to a halt before a SWARM OF DRONES striding down the street towards him. The DRONE in the back slams against the window.

Marcus backs up and turns around...

...the DRONES shooting at the truck.

Now the DRONE in the back grabs Marcus' face, blinding him and digging its claws into his wound. Marcus SCREAMS with a fierce pain...

...slamming his elbow into the creature's arm, forcing it to release its grip. Marcus glowers with rage at the DRONE.

MARCUS

(to Dom)

Take the wheel!

Dom climbs over Maria as Marcus opens the DRIVER'S DOOR...

...and Dom continues to race through the city streets as his friend swings back onto the FLAT-BED with the furious DRONE.

They launch at each other with bare hands...

...grappling and wrestling and clawing and punching.

It's a bloody, savage pit fight. Neither opponent willing to give any quarter. But the DRONE is twice as strong as Marcus and finally gets the upperhand...

...pushing his face down on top of the JAGGED GLASS of the broken REAR WINDOW. Marcus strains against the mighty drone, a GLASS SHARD looming towards his eyes.

He glances at Dom who's behind the wheel...

...too busy driving to notice Marcus' plight.

MARCUS

Dom?

Dom looks back and realizes Marcus isn't doing so well. Dom slaps an arm over Maria, bracing her in the seat as he hurls the truck into a spin...

...both the DRONE and Marcus are thrown backwards. Flailing around on top of one another. The DRONE'S HEAD striking the side of the FLAT-BED.

Dom completes the spin and continues driving, glancing back to see Marcus leaping remorselessly upon the STUNNED DRONE.

Marcus lets loose his anger now...

...slamming the DRONE with hit after hit.

Exhausted, he finally backs off. Standing on the FLAT-BED as he stares at the BLOODIED CREATURE before him. Amazingly, the thing is still alive...

...and not only that, it looks far from defeated. Glaring up at Marcus with its GLEAMING EYES. BLOOD swirling in its jaws as it HISSES with malevolent spite:

DRONE

Ground walkers!

Marcus raises his leg...

...and CURB-STOMPS its neck.

CUT TO:

43

INT./EXT. WAITING ROOM - HOSPITAL - DAY

43

Marcus bursts through the EMERGENCY ROOM DOORS of a nearby city hospital. Clearing the way for Dom who's carrying Maria in his arms...

...the scene in here is one of utter bedlam, the waiting room inundated with SCREAMING, WOUNDED CIVILIANS and the EMERGENCY WORKERS who have brought them in.

Everyone's clamoring for the attention of the frantic DOCTORS and NURSES who rush about treating whoever they get to first.

A DOCTOR slips on all the blood on the floor...

...but Marcus catches him, keeping him from falling.

DOCTOR
(looks at him)
Your face...

MARCUS
My friend's been shot. Severed the
artery. If you can just clamp it.

The DOCTOR quickly checks Maria's leg...

...then helps Dom put her on a WHEELED GURNEY.

DOCTOR
I need a clamp!

A NURSE rushes over with a METALLIC CLAMP and the DOCTOR just dives right in, finding the GUSHING ARTERY and clamping it.

Dom cradles his SCREAMING WIFE, whispering through his tears.

DOM
I love you, baby. I love you so
much...

MARIA
The children...

DOM
I know, I know...

MARIA
My poor babies...

Both of them are crying now, overloaded with emotions as the DOCTOR and the NURSE wheel the gurney through some doors...

...leaving Marcus in the waiting room, feeling for them. Only just now processing things like the pain from his own wound.

Marcus looks about and finds a SUTURE KIT on a mobile shelf in the corridor. He steals the kit and finds his way to the nearest restroom.

44 INT. RESTROOM - HOSPITAL - DAY

44

The windowless, tiled room is much quieter than the waiting room. Marcus sets the SUTURE KIT on the sink and washes his wound with hot water...

...then he begins to STITCH the gash on his face, grimacing at the pain. Barely noticing the SOUNDS OF GUNFIRE outside.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. EMERGENCE HOLE - CITY STREETS - DAY

45

The GUNFIRE is much louder out here. CAMERA SWEEPS over the battle-strewn streets. BUILDINGS are bullet-ridden. CARS are on fire. BODIES lie everywhere.

DRONES patrol the streets in squads of four, hunting for any stragglers. KICKING down doors and SHOOTING through windows.

ANGLE ON: AN EMERGENCE HOLE on a city street, ringed by left-over gravel and rubble. A LARGER DRONE climbs out on a ladder and pushes the regular DRONES back...

...this is LIEUTENANT THAWN. He's an elite "THERON GUARD" and wears FULL-BODY ARMOR, his eyes covered by a VISORLESS HELMET which leaves just his teeth exposed.

Thawn's armed with the unusual looking "TORQUEBOW" which is a cross between a rifle and a hunting bow, a SHARP BLADE on it.

THAWN

Bow for the General.

The DRONES kneel around the EMERGENCE HOLE...

...as a monstrous creature begins to climb out.

The first we see of it is a leg, like a giant crab leg. Its THICK-VEINED EXOSKELETON ribbed with JAGGED BONES and filed to a SHARP TIP...

...the leg digs into the street, smashing through CONCRETE RUBBLE like butter. Then another leg appears. And another.

There are EIGHT LEGS in all, lifting its insect-like body out of the EMERGENCE HOLE. Twenty smaller CENTIPEDAL LEGS hefting its rear quarters...

...it's known as a "CORPSER", a LEATHERY HELMET covering its glowing eyes, its huge jaws crammed with needle-like teeth.

And as if the CORPSER isn't frightening enough, the CREATURE riding upon a saddle-like seat on its back is even worse. He looks like a THERON GUARD...

...only ten feet tall and twice as bulky. Clad in regal, FULL-BODY ARMOR. Except for his head which is marked by a LEATHERY STRIPE on his bald crown.

This is GENERAL RAAM.

Raam climbs down from the CORPSER, handing the reins to one of the subservient DRONES. His eyes taking in the destruction his army has caused...

...now Thawn clears a path through the DRONES as Raam walks away from the EMERGENCE HOLE towards an ABANDONED BUILDING.

46 EXT. ROOFTOP - ABANDONED BUILDING - DAY

46

Raam and Thawn climb to the shattered rooftop which affords then a panoramic view of the burning city and the DRONE ARMY doing their work.

Raam's voice bellows above the GUNFIRE...

...like a cobra and a lion rolled into one.

GENERAL RAAM

Serve the Queen!

DRONES hear him almost everywhere, turning to see him up on the rooftop. They ROAR in response. Raam's eyes sparkle with savage determination.

CUT TO:

47 INT. WAITING ROOM - HOSPITAL - DAY

47

Marcus returns to the chaotic waiting room, his FACIAL GASH now stitched. He finds Dom sitting against a wall, gazing at a TELEVISION MONITOR opposite...

...images show NEWS FOOTAGE of PEOPLE RUNNING and DRONES on their heels, FIRING unflinchingly at everything that moves.

Marcus kneels beside Dom, watching with him a moment...

DOM
She's gonna be okay... She got the
last of the...of the antibiotics.

...and Marcus just nods, continuing to watch the monitor.

ON THE MONITOR: A REPORTER does a stand-up INTO CAMERA on an empty, battle-torn street. The SOUND OF GUNFIRE close but not alarmingly so...

...his face is dirty and speckled with the blood of others.

REPORTER (ON MONITOR)
...nobody appears to know what they are or what they want. All we know so far is that they came from under the ground in a co-ordinated strike all over the city and began to kill every man, every woman, and every child in sight.

LIEUTENANT THAWN appears on the ROOFTOP behind the REPORTER who's clued in to this by his CAMERAMAN. The REPORTER turns.

REPORTER (ON MONITOR)
We don't want to fight you! We want to live in peace!

Thawn ruthlessly draws his TORQUEBOW...

...the tip of an arrow PULSATING WITH LIGHT.

REPORTER (ON MONITOR)
No, no. Wait --

THUNK! Thawn fires and the REPORTER stiffens...

...turning back to the CAMERA with a look of shock, the ARROW BOLT stuck in his chest and HISSING like a slow-burning fuse.

In the next moment, the REPORTER blows to pieces...

...and the CAMERA GOES BLANK, replaced by a COG INSIGNIA.

As Marcus stares at the monitor, we see that he's regained a sense of purpose and meaning. He glances at Dom beside him.

MARCUS
We've got work to do.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. FRONT GATES - JACINTO - DAY

48

The massive FRONT GATES of Jacinto rise like walls of Troy at the end of a wide street that winds its way up from the city.

Hundreds of CIVILIAN VEHICLES have been abandoned haphazardly on this street, all rudely pushed aside by dozens of MILITARY BULLDOZERS and CRANES...

...clearing the way for several battle-worn PUBLIC BUSES.

49 INT./EXT. PUBLIC BUS - JACINTO - DAY

49

Marcus and Dom ride one of the PUBLIC BUSES which has been shanghaied into COG service. The bus is filled with OFF-DUTY GEARS, some of whom we recognize from the bar scene...

...most of them have cuts and bruises, all of them bear the same quiet look of vengeance that we see on Marcus and Dom.

GEAR #1

It's the fuckin' Union, man. I'm telling ya.

GEAR #2

Those things look like Union troops to you? They came from *underground*.

GEAR #1

Who the fuck cares where they came from? They're some kind of genetic, mutant freaks bred by the damn UIR to come up here and fuck us as soon as we signed the peace accords.

GEAR #3

It's happening everywhere. Even the unaligned territories. They're not human.

GEAR #4

Where the fuck are the flyboys? Why aren't they dropping tri-bombs down those holes?

GEAR #3

First place they tunneled under was Wembley Airfield. The entire Eighth Fighter Wing is gone.

Just now, Dom points something out to Marcus ahead of them.

WHAT MARCUS SEES: THE FRONT GATES of Jacinto are flooded with CIVILIANS trying to get inside. SECURITY GEARS keep them back while they let the busses through...

...we hear a GEAR'S VOICE on a LOUDSPEAKER.

GEAR'S VOICE

All civilians are advised to return to their homes. We're not accepting volunteers at this time.

Marcus notices one civilian spring to the head of the pack, passionately CURSING and SHOUTING at the SECURITY GEARS...

...we recognize him as AUGUSTUS COLE, the Thrashball player.

COLE

Let me in there! I gotta get me a gun! I gotta kill something, man!

BAIRD

Hey, asshole. Get back in line.

DAMON BAIRD is one of the other CIVILIANS in line, a PAIR OF SUNGLASSES over his eyes. Cole and Baird start fighting...

...and Marcus just watches as the FRONT GATES close on them.

50 EXT. PUBLIC BUS - JACINTO - DAY

50

The CAMERA SWOOPS over Jacinto's HIGH WALLS and GUN TURRETS now as it follows the busses through the sprawling grounds.

There are buildings and factories, parade grounds and firing ranges, statues and memorials. All awash in frantic activity as the Gears prepare for war once again.

51 EXT. BARRACKS - JACINTO - DAY

51

The busses stop outside the infantry barracks in the middle of the complex where the Gears are being unloaded. Marcus and Dom clamber out of their bus...

...joining hundreds of other Gears who are rushing for their individual barracks. Hoffman is here, shouting to everyone.

HOFFMAN

Gear up and find your squad. Form up by the APCs in five minutes.

Marcus glances behind as a vehicle SCREECHES to a halt...

...it's an ARMADILLO ARMORED PERSONAL CARRIER (APC). It's got six wheels and three machine gun turrets. This one looks like it has barely escaped with its life.

The FRONT HATCH opens and two black-clad, SPECIAL OPS GEARS emerge with SUBMACHINE GUNS, beckoning a third person out...

...it's Adam, looking shell-shocked and frightened. A dozen emotions race across Marcus' face when he sees Adam. In the end, anger wins.

Marcus darts through the chaos, intercepting his father...

MARCUS

What's going on? What are these things?

ADAM

You're all right...

MARCUS

What's going on, Dad?

ADAM

I don't know, I...

MARCUS

You don't know...? What, you mean all those years looking around the Hollow, you somehow *missed* all the giant fucking monsters with machine guns?

ADAM

I saw something last night. It...it picked up one of my geobots and...

MARCUS

Then why didn't you warn someone?

ADAM

There wasn't time!

MARCUS

Aw, bullshit...

SPECIAL OPS GEAR

Dr Fenix, we have to go right now!

...the SPECIAL OPS GEARS rush Adam into a bunker and Marcus doubles back towards his barracks with a scowl on his face.

CUT TO:

52

INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - DAY

52

The COG Command and Control Center is a far grander version of the one we saw in the Promontory Fortress. Brimming with ELECTRONICS and MONITORS...

...built like an underground bunker, the place is currently consumed with chaos, everyone talking over everyone else as they struggle to deal with the cataclysm.

ANGLE ON: ADAM being escorted through the VAULT DOORS by the pair of SPECIAL OPS GEARS. By the look on his face, we sense that Adam's been here before...

...he glances at a BANK OF MONITORS which show several cities in flames, as well as growing DEATH TALLIES around the world.

ANGLE ON: CHAIRMAN EMMERSON staring balefully at an enormous, circular PLOTTING TABLE in the center of the hi-tech room...

...the table shows an ELECTRONIC MAP OF EPHYRA. ENEMY-HELD AREAS are in red, surrounding Jacinto. While COG-HELD AREAS are in blue, inside Jacinto and in various parts of the city.

GENERAL MOORE, stalwart commander of the COG military forces, looks on with Emmerson. Neither of them notice Adam approach.

GENERAL MOORE

So far, we've counted twenty-three of these emergence holes inside the city. Their soldiers hold the areas around each hole and they're trying to link up with each other now in a move to surround us.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON

Why haven't they burrowed up under Jacinto yet?

GENERAL MOORE

We don't know, Mr Chairman.

ADAM

It's the granite. This place is built on a very hard granite substrata. They probably can't tunnel through it.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON

What else do you know, Doctor?

Adam considers these words carefully now...

...glancing about at the chaos all around him.

ADAM

Firstly, the Hollow must be much deeper than we ever suspected if these creatures have bred for so long without us knowing.

GENERAL MOORE

How could any living thing breed down there?

ADAM

They're humanoid which suggests they come from the same gene pool, but when and how we split into two species is anyone's guess.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON

These things are punching up all over the planet, killing without pause or prejudice. Why, Doctor? Why do they hate us? What did we ever do to them?

Adam stares quietly at the terrified Chairman...

...and Emmerson realizes he's starting to lose it.

GENERAL MOORE

Mr Chairman? We're ready to proceed with the counterattack.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON

(looks at him)
Kill 'em all.

CUT TO:

53

EXT. FRONT GATES - JACINTO - DAY

53

The behemothic FRONT GATES of Jacinto yawn open to reveal a staggering COG MILITARY FORCE rolling out like Hell's fury.

Hundreds of CENTAUR TANKS roaring through the gates, turrets wheeling about. Hundreds more ARMADILLO APCs rumbling beside them in Squad-Groups of eight.

Dozens of RAVEN HELICOPTERS thundering overhead. AIR CREWMEN wielding their MINI-GUNS. Gears in each of the TROOP BAYS...

...the SECURITY GEARS on the ramparts all cheer them along.

54 INT./EXT. KING-ONE - SKIES - DAY

54

CAMERA RACKS to a new King-One flying above. Anya's inside, relaying orders along with six other FEMALE DISPATCHERS...

...their monitors show SURVEILLANCE CAMERA FOOTAGE of the city. DRONES seem to be in full control, rampaging through the war-torn streets.

ANYA

Attention All Units, this is King-One. Advance on designated targets and deploy...

(pause)

...be advised, re-inforcements are currently unavailable. Good luck.

55 INT. ARMADILLO APC - JACINTO - DAY

55

CLOSE ON: MARCUS absently testing the SPRING MECHANISM of a LANCER MAGAZINE as he rides in an APC. CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.

Seven other GEARS are riding with him...

...we see Dom next to him, simmering with rage.

MARCUS

Dom.

DOM

What?

MARCUS

Get your head in the fight.

Dom glances at him sharply, then succumbs with a nod.

CUT TO:

56 EXT. ROOFTOP -- ABANDONED BUILDING - DAY

56

General Raam stands on the rooftop of the abandoned building, his THERON GUARD with him. From here, he can see the enormous oncoming COG MILITARY FORCE.

He turns and leads the THERON GUARD back down...

...as we begin to hear the first SOUNDS OF FIGHTING.

CUT TO:

57

INT./EXT. ARMADILLO APC - HOUSE OF SOVEREIGNS - DAY

57

Back with Marcus in the claustrophobic confines of his APC as it rumbles through the streets. The others are tense, waiting for the order to deploy...

...listening to Marcus who speaks over the roar of the APC ENGINES and the sound of ENEMY BULLETS striking the hull.

MARCUS

We got sucker-punched. Caught off guard without our guns. Well, now it's time to show these assholes that pissing us off was the worst fucking idea they ever had...

(pause)

...don't bunch up out there. Don't forget your cover. And don't you stop shooting till every last one of them is dead.

DOM

For the COG --

-- WHAM! A ROCKET PROPELLED "BOOMSHOT" GRENADE hammers into the side of the APC. The CAMERA STAYS INSIDE THE VEHICLE as the EXPLOSION rips through the unfortunate Gears.

Two of them simply disintegrate...

...their blood showering the others.

FLYING SHRAPNEL lacerates a third one.

The vehicle somersaults sideways, quickly FLIPPING over twice before it CAREENS off something and SPINS around violently...

...the sudden change in direction throws the Gears all over the interior of the APC. Marcus and Dom brace themselves as a fourth Gear's spine snaps, killing him.

Finally, the APC CRASHES into something else, thus bringing the whole jarring experience to a sudden, ferocious stop...

...in the ensuing silence, we begin to hear GUNFIRE outside.

The APC has landed on its side, the Gears piled on top of one another. The dead among the living and the SCREAMING WOUNDED.

Marcus pushes a DEAD GEAR off him..

...regaining his bearings, looking about.

Half the squad is already dead. And they haven't even gotten out of the APC yet. More ENEMY BULLETS begin bouncing off the hull again now...

...adding to the EXPLOSIONS and SCREAMS outside.

MARCUS

Dom?

DOM'S VOICE

I'm okay.

Marcus looks through the smoke to where the voice is coming from under one of the DEAD GEARS. A second later, Dom pushes his way through, dazed but unhurt...

...there are four Gears up and moving now, more or less in fighting shape. Dom checks the APC DRIVER who's also dead, impaled on his STEERING LEVER.

Dom hits the HATCH RELEASE button...

...but the FORWARD HATCH doesn't open.

DOM

Controls are fried.

MARCUS

Try the manual release.

Another Gear heaves on a STEEL LEVER by the FRONT HATCH which opens it an inch before it strikes an immovable BRICK WALL...

...a second Gear helps him, but neither can open the hatch.

GEAR #1

Shit, we're stuck in here. We're
fucking stuck!

Marcus stares at the Gear, considering this. All of a sudden, a PATCH OF SUNLIGHT hits his eyes from above. And he looks up at the CLEARING SMOKE...

...to see a JAGGED HOLE in the side of the APC where the BOOMSHOT struck. Marcus climbs up and pushes his head out through the hole.

WHAT MARCUS SEES: A RAGING FIREFIGHT on the streets outside the majestic House of Sovereigns in the heart of the city...

...the APC SQUAD-GROUP has taken a pounding. One of the APCs has been destroyed completely, BLACK SMOKE pouring out a hole in its nose.

Another APC has been spun about in the middle of the battle-strewn street, probably what spun Marcus' APC around seconds ago. Gears stumble out of this APC, dazed...

...only to be ruthlessly gunned down by the encroaching DRONE FORCE, sixty of them swarming up the street with HAMMERBURSTS and BOOMSHOT GRENADE LAUNCHERS.

The remaining five APCs are all rushing up now and unloading their Gears directly into the path of the ENEMY FUSILLADE...

...dozens of Gears fall before they even make it five yards.

The surviving forty or so Gears immediately take cover behind CONCRETE PLANTERS, METAL DUMPSTERS, and ABANDONED VEHICLES...

...as the APC MACHINE GUNS lay down streams of COVERING FIRE.

BACK IN THE APC: MARCUS ducks down as ENEMY BULLETS attempt to take his head off. The others read his face and know it's not going well out there...

...after a moment, Marcus steals himself and looks at them.

MARCUS

Gather guns and ammo. We go through this hole. There's a guard shack we can take cover in. Let's move.

The Gears respond to the order, taking weapons off WOUNDED and DEAD GEARS. Marcus grabs a "LONGSHOT" SNIPER RIFLE and loops it over his back...

...then returns to the hole and forces his way through it.

58

EXT. HOUSE OF SOVEREIGNS - EPHYRA - DAY

58

The entire place is swamped with GUNFIRE. Microscopic SHARDS OF GLASS fall like rain from various office building windows.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS scrambling out of the APC wreck and "roadie-running" through the FALLING GLASS to a small GUARD SHACK in a nearby parking lot...

...he dives through a window, safe from the ENEMY BULLETS as Dom and another Gear join him. Dom stands in the doorway and fires wildly at the DRONES.

Another BOOMSHOT GRENADE streaks towards them. Marcus yanks Dom back in just as the grenade whips through the doorway...

...and passes out the window behind them, EXPLODING nearby.

Around them, the DEAD and WOUNDED are piling up fast, the DRONES pushing forward relentlessly from cover to cover as they target the Gears...

...distant EXPLOSIONS and GUNFIRE are constant, giving us the sense that what we're witnessing is one very tiny part of one very large battle.

ANGLE ON: A GEAR LIEUTENANT taking cover near Marcus...

GEAR LIEUTENANT
(into radio mike)
Not one step back! You hear me? Not
one step!

...the Lieutenant is suddenly lacerated by a MACHINE GUN.

CAMERA RACKS to THREE DRONES who have set up a TROIKA MACHINE GUN on a pile of rubble fifty yards from Marcus' GUARD SHACK.

A LOADER DRONE attaches the AMMO CANS while a SPOTTER DRONE points out targets with a LASER-DESIGNATED HELMET VIEWFINDER, and a SHOOTER DRONE triggers the TWIN BARRELS accordingly...

...the effect is devastating. The LARGE SLUGS cut through all manner of cover. Bricks. Cement. Cars. Gears are torn apart.

CUT TO:

59

INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - DAY

59

General Moore approaches Emmerson at the PLOTTING TABLE where the enemy RED AREAS are now overrunning the COG BLUE AREAS.

GENERAL MOORE
Sir? We're losing units faster than
we can replace them.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
How is that possible? These are all
experienced soldiers we're throwing
at them, right?

GENERAL MOORE
The best we've got.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
How many units have we lost?

GENERAL MOORE
Two entire tank platoons, seven APC
Squad-Groups, and one downed Raven.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
Send units to retrieve the wounded.

GENERAL MOORE
Mr Chairman, we don't have --

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
We don't leave our people behind --

GENERAL MOORE
Mr Chairman? We need to think about
calling a retreat.

Emmerson stares at the General, chilled by this news.

CUT TO:

60

EXT. HOUSE OF SOVEREIGNS - EPHYRA - DAY

60

CLOSE ON: MARCUS peering through the MAGNIFIED SCOPE of the
LONGSHOT SNIPER RIFLE he took from the APC, focusing on the
deadly TROIKA MACHINE GUN CREW...

...he takes his time, zeroing in on the SHOOTER DRONE with
his scope. Waiting for the creature to expose its cranium.

BAM! One shot sunders the SHOOTER DRONE'S head...

...a dark GUSH OF BLOOD spurting up from its neck.

Marcus expertly RELOADS as the LOADER DRONE hurries to take
over the machine gun, the SPOTTER DRONE looking for Marcus.

BAM! The LOADER DRONE stumbles...

...its steel BATTLE HELMET torn off.

BAM! A SECOND SHOT punctures its head...

...its body collapsing lifelessly in a heap.

ANGLE ON: The SPOTTER DRONE finally locking onto Marcus. The
CRIMSON BEAM from its HELMET VIEWFINDER disappearing down the
barrel of his SNIPER RIFLE.

The SPOTTER DRONE roars with fury...

...BAM! Marcus' shot kills it instantly.

Now the Troika is unmanned and silent. The twenty or so Gears
still alive start to shoot back at the advancing DRONE FORCE,
cutting down some of them.

ANGLE ON: DOM suddenly charging out from the relative cover of the GUARD SHACK towards the idle TROIKA MACHINE GUN...

MARCUS

Dom, wait!

...but Dom doesn't hear him, his eyes burning with vengeance.

He scuttles from cover to cover towards the abandoned machine gun, diving almost suicidally through ENEMY BULLETS before he finally reaches it...

...but now a DRONE looms up before him.

Dom empties a FULL CLIP into it, point blank.

The creature finally falls, riddled with bullets.

As that one drops, a SECOND DRONE charges up to Dom.

With no time to reload, Dom triggers the SPRING-LOADED BAYONET on his Lancer. Striking the SECOND DRONE in its chest...

...but to his horror, the BAYONET SNAPS uselessly on the DRONE'S hardened skin. Dom looks at the snarling DRONE.

WHACK! The DRONE ruthlessly belts Dom to the ground...

...in the next second, Marcus charges onto the scene with a FULL MAGAZINE, pushing the DRONE back and finally killing it.

Marcus drags Dom to his feet, yelling in his face...

MARCUS

Goddammit, Dom! I'm getting sick
and tired of saving your ass!

...they take cover as ENEMY BULLETS crackle past them.

Marcus begins sniping and Dom swivels the TROIKA MACHINE GUN on the DRONES. Between the two of them, they account for six DRONES in five seconds...

...many of the DRONES are caught in the open, not expecting their own machine gun to be suddenly turned against them.

CAMERA RACKS to several other Gears who see this and charge forward from their cover, falling in beside Marcus and Dom, joining the assault...

...the Gears hurl FRAG GRENADES to reach the DRONES hiding behind cover. The powerful explosions tear them to pieces.

But now the ground begins to TREMBLE beneath them...

...one of the HUGE COLUMNS from the House of Sovereigns rocks and now topples as the street erupts, hurling CONCRETE DEBRIS everywhere.

The force of the EXPLOSION catches the Gears by surprise, flinging several of them into walls and DESTROYED VEHICLES.

ANGLE ON: THE EIGHT PRONGS OF THE CORPSE bursting out of the EMERGENCE HOLE with savage wrath. Stabbing some Gears who are trying to crawl away...

...we see GENERAL RAAM riding the creature. LIEUTENANT THAWN follows, rapidly firing his TORQUEBOW at the fleeing Gears.

Several Gears BURST APART violently...

...as the GRENADE-TIPPED ARROWS detonate.

Dozens more DRONES climb out of the hole now, HAMMERBURSTS blazing as Raam slides off his mount and unsheaths a JAGGED SWORD from his saddle...

...the huge general ruthlessly decapitates a WOUNDED GEAR as he marches through the crumbling COG ranks like Hell itself.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS hurling Dom into a METAL DUMPSTER...

...then following right behind, screaming into his mike.

MARCUS

King-One, this is Echo-Two! We are surrounded and taking fire! Request back-up ASAP!

61 INT. KING-ONE - SKIES - DAY

61

Anya flicks over to SURVEILLANCE CAMERA FEED of the battle outside the House of Sovereigns as she listens to Marcus.

ANYA

Negative, Echo-Two. All units are already deployed. Sit tight, we'll come get you ourselves.

62 EXT. HOUSE OF SOVEREIGNS - EPHYRA - DAY

62

Dom pops up and guns down a DRONE. A HAIL OF BULLETS replies a second later, slapping into the dumpster, indenting but not piercing its metal walls.

A BOOMSHOT smashes into them now, shoving the METAL DUMPSTER backwards on its wheels. DUMPSTER TRASH flies everywhere...

...the two Gears pick themselves up and fire back when they can, but the DRONES are swarming towards them in numbers too vast to comprehend.

All of a sudden, there's a TREMENDOUS ROAR...

...here comes KING-ONE, slamming down beside them.

DUAL CANNONS on its nose blast the DRONES back as six WOUNDED GEARS stumble out and help lay down additional COVERING FIRE.

Dom and Marcus rock the METAL DUMPSTER over...

...and scramble towards the massive helicopter.

Raam glances at Thawn who fires his TORQUE BOW at the chopper only to see it glance off and EXPLODE harmlessly elsewhere...

...the general glares at his lieutenant, Thawn just shrugs.

63 INT./EXT KING RAVEN - HOUSE OF SOVEREIGNS - DAY 63

Marcus and Dom climb aboard the helicopter now, helping the other WOUNDED GEARS back inside. Settling in where they can around the DISPATCHERS...

...several BOOMSHOTS chase the King Raven as it launches and thunders away. Marcus catches Anya's eyes and nods a thanks.

64 EXT. HOUSE OF SOVEREIGNS - EPHYRA - DAY 64

General Raam watches the chopper go, then starts to make his way up the grand steps of the stately House of Sovereigns...

...and Thawn follows, reloading his TORQUE BOW. Around them, the DRONES cull the few surviving Gears. Firing into the back of their heads.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. FRONT GATES - JACINTO - DUSK 65

As the sun sinks, King-One flies back over Jacinto. Below, a long line of WOUNDED GEARS and SMOKING VEHICLES limps back in through the gates.

DISSOLVE TO:

66 INT. BARRACKS - JACINTO - NIGHT

66

Marcus stands under a HOT SHOWER in his barracks, staring at the tiles as all the grime and blood washes off his body...

...we've never seen him look so haunted as he is right now.

CUT TO:

67 INT. BARRACKS - JACINTO - NIGHT

67

With a towel around his waist, Marcus opens his LOCKER and replaces his COG TAGS around his neck. But for Marcus, the place appears empty...

...he glances at the names on the adjacent lockers, several of which have had a crude "X" marked upon them in RED TAPE.

Adam appears in a doorway now...

...staring at his son for a moment.

ADAM

Your commanders told me you did everything you could out there.

MARCUS

I lost my entire squad. I really don't feel like talking about it.

ADAM

All right...

MARCUS

You don't get it, do you? I fought side by side with those guys. They were my family.

ADAM

I know...and I know what it's like to lose family.

MARCUS

Don't play the pity card with me -- she was my mother. And I was just a kid. How do you think I felt?

ADAM

I wasn't talking about your mother.

Marcus stares at Adam, caught off guard...

...as a SPECIAL OPS GEAR enters the barracks.

SPECIAL OPS GEAR
Dr Fenix? Commissariat wants to see
you right away.

CUT TO:

68 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

68

It's late. The Command Center has quietened down. Chairman
Emmerson and General Moore talk to Adam around the PLOTTING
TABLE, which is now almost entirely red.

ADAM
No... No, you can't.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
I'm afraid, we have no choice.

ADAM
It's a blunt weapon, it doesn't
discriminate between friend and
foe.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
And if there was any other way...

ADAM
Think about the millions of people
you'll kill. *Innocent* people.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
Dammit, do you think we haven't?

GENERAL MOORE
Dr Fenix, I appreciate your concern
but the fact is we're facing total
annihilation. The Sky Wing has been
virtually wiped out. Sea Group's in
ruins. And Ground Command has lost
ninety percent wounded or KIA. As
for Jacinto...we fully expect to be
overrun before dawn.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
Have the Hammer of Dawn online in
one hour. And pray that it works.

Adam stares at Emmerson and finally gives a reluctant nod.

CUT TO:

69

EXT. FIELD HOSPITAL - JACINTO - NIGHT

69

Marcus walks among WOUNDED and DYING GEARS in a vast field hospital set up on the parade grounds. He sees Gears crying over fallen comrades, others just staring blankly at nothing.

Exhausted military SURGEONS and MEDICS treat whoever they can still save. There are no screams here, only TENUOUS WHIMPERS.

CAMERA RACKS to a DEAD GEAR on a table...

...as other Gears zip him up in a BODY BAG.

Marcus stops by a NOTICE BOARD filled with PHOTOS of missing LOVED ONES, dozens of faces with names and numbers to call...

...as he stares at the photos, he notices Anya sitting on a nearby MILITARY STATUE, head in her arms, face stained with tears as she sobs.

She sees Marcus and looks away...

...he hesitates, then approaches her.

Anya feels him sit beside her. She wipes her eyes, trying to get control. Marcus has no idea what to say, unfamiliar with this sort of intimacy...

...she glances at him, her voice trembling.

ANYA

My brother's dead. Kevin...I think he's dead. I...saw his name on the lists. Must be, he's dead. Lucky, I guess...the body was still able to be recognized. I've heard so many, so many aren't...

(pause)

...you know, we never got along. He was always so critical. Honestly, I don't understand why I'm so... God, all these people are dead...and I'm crying over someone who...someone I didn't even like very much.

She looks at him and he just gazes at her...

...reaching for her hand which she gratefully takes.

And they just sit there on the statue, watching Gears begin to hurry past, hitching rides on tanks and APCs heading for the FRONT GATES.

Marcus climbs down off the statue with Anya. They spot Dom passing by, loading his rifle and strapping on his helmet.

MARCUS
What's going on?

DOM
They're gonna scorch the planet,
wipe these things out for good.

ANYA
Scorch the planet?

DOM
We're evacuating everyone we can
into Jacinto. We gotta hustle, man,
Maria's out there.

CUT TO:

70 INT. PRESS ROOM - JACINTO - NIGHT 70

Chairman Emmerson stares grimly INTO CAMERA in a small press room somewhere inside Jacinto, hesitating before he speaks.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
As all of Sera has learned, peace
is fragile.

71 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 71

In the command center, Adam oversees eight HAMMER OF DAWN TECHNICIANS who sit at a bank of monitors, pushing various switches in sequence...

...one of them relays the countdown into her mike.

HOD TECHNICIAN
Detonation of orbital beams will
commence in three minutes...

72 INT. PRESS ROOM - JACINTO - NIGHT 72

Back to Emmerson, speaking gravely.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
In less than fifteen hours, this
new, ruthless enemy has rendered
most of our world leaders either
helpless...or dead.

73 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - EPHYRA - NIGHT 73

Marcus and Dom and several other Gears hurry FAMILIES out of their apartments into waiting CIVILIAN BUSSES while they fend off an attacking DRONE HORDE...

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON (V.O.)
Rest assured, we will not let this
bloody rampage go on any more. Nor
will we surrender.

...a LITTLE GIRL drops her TOY DOLL and runs back for it, but Marcus throws her onto the nearest bus, ignoring her screams.

74 INT./EXT. KING-ONE - SKIES - NIGHT 74

King-One flies above the apartment building. Anya keeps her eyes on her monitors, relaying orders to the Gears below.

75 INT. PRESS ROOM - JACINTO - NIGHT 75

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
Tonight, the Coalition of Ordered
Governments will employ its entire
arsenal of orbital beam weapons to
exterminate the enemy and take back
our planet.

76 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 76

HOD TECHNICIAN
Two minutes, fifteen seconds...

77 EXT. FRONT GATES - JACINTO - NIGHT 77

A long line of CIVILIAN REFUGEES and VEHICLES snakes up along the road into Jacinto, guarded by Gears, heading for the open FRONT GATES...

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON (V.O.)
Citizens should immediately make
their way to the Jacinto military
complex. For now, Jacinto seems to
be safe from these creatures, these
locusts.

...a team of SECURITY GEARS checks vehicles, finding a DRONE clinging to the underside of a truck. They blow it to pieces.

78 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

78

HOD TECHNICIAN
One minute, fifty seconds...

79 INT./EXT. WAITING ROOM - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

79

Marcus and Dom are now evacuating Maria's hospital. Maria's in a WHEELCHAIR, adamantly refusing to go with the Gears...

...there is HEAVY WEAPONS FIRE in the distance, which Marcus keeps one ear on while he waits for Dom to get Maria outside into their APC.

MARIA
No... No, I can't...can't leave the city. Not yet. I won't.

DOM
Everybody's evacuating, honey...
(grabbing her)
...we have to go now.

MARIA
Don't touch me!

80 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

80

HOD TECHNICIAN
Ninety seconds...

81 INT./EXT. WAITING ROOM - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

81

Dom wheels Maria out of the hospital, but she pulls herself out and falls to the ground. Pain shooting through her leg.

MARIA
I'm not leaving without them! I'm not leaving my children behind! I won't!

DOM
Honey...the children are gone.

MARIA
They're not gone. They're...they're playing in the park.

Marcus and Dom share a look, the HEAVY WEAPONS FIRE closing.

82 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 82

HOD TECHNICIAN
Twenty-five seconds...

83 INT. PRESS ROOM - JACINTO - NIGHT 83

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
For those citizens who cannot reach
Jacinto...the Coalition appreciates
your sacrifice.

84 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 84

HOD TECHNICIAN
Ten, nine, eight...

85 INT./EXT. WAITING ROOM - HOSPITAL - NIGHT 85

Marcus gives Dom a look and they resignedly pick up Maria,
carrying her outside to the APC. Maria fights valiantly but
the Gears are too strong.

MARIA
No! No!

Just now, a monstrous "BRUMAK" stomps around the corner. The
BRUMAK looks like Sylvia's toy dinosaur. Hunched over on two
powerful legs, a short tail suspended behind...

...chains drip off its body, its arms strapped with BOOMSHOTS
and TROIKA MACHINE GUNS. Its many eyes incandescent through a
leather BATTLE HELMET.

Marcus and Dom stare at the BRUMAK in shock...

...then they dive into the APC and burn rubber.

86 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 86

HOD TECHNICIAN
Three...

87 INT./EXT. ARMADILLO APC - EPHYRA - NIGHT 87

Dom restrains Maria inside the speeding APC as Marcus shoots
one of the onboard MACHINE GUNS back at the pursuing BRUMAK.

88 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 88

HOD TECHNICIAN

Two...

89 INT./EXT. ARMADILLO APC - EPHYRA - NIGHT 89

The APC swerves wildly about the streets to avoid a BOOMSHOT GRENADE from the BRUMAK. The EXPLOSION almost capsizes them.

90 INT. PRESS ROOM - JACINTO - NIGHT 90

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON

May History forgive us, this is the only way.

91 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 91

HOD TECHNICIAN

One.

92 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 92

General Moore gives the HAMMER OF DAWN TECHNICIANS a nod, and they tap their keyboards. Adam turns, heading out the door...

93 EXT. HOUSE OF SOVEREIGNS - EPHYRA - NIGHT 93

...all over the city, PARTICLE BEAMS shoot down from the sky and walk across buildings and vehicles to meet in COLUMNS OF PULSATING ENERGY.

The beams SHATTER everything in their path.

Structures CRUMPLE. Trucks and cars CATAPULTED.

Everywhere, DRONES are caught by the beams. BURNT and BLOWN to pieces. No cover is safe. The beams cut through it all.

94 INT. HOUSE BASEMENT - EPHYRA - NIGHT 94

A FAMILY huddles in the basement of their house. The FATHER rises, staring out the ground-level window at the terrifying PARTICLE BEAMS rushing towards him...

...he turns and envelopes his family as they are INCINERATED.

- 95 INT./EXT. ARMADILLO APC - JACINTO - NIGHT 95
The APC rushes towards the FRONT GATES of Jacinto, pursued by both the BRUMAK and the compounding CONCUSSION BLAST from all the PARTICLE BEAMS...
...the beams catch the BRUMAK and it SCREECHES in pain as it burns up fifty yards behind them. Marcus watches it perish as they escape through the gates.
- 96 INT./EXT. KING-ONE - SKIES - NIGHT 96
As King-One flies back over Jacinto, Anya sees the APC return on her monitors. She sits back and breathes a sigh of relief.
- 97 INT./EXT. ARMADILLO APC - JACINTO - NIGHT 97
The APC stops just inside the gates. Dom carries his wife out and collapses on the ground as Marcus climbs out behind them, staring sadly at his friend...
...he turns to see THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES around him, staring at the PARTICLE BEAMS still firing beyond the ramparts, their faces wracked with grief.
Marcus follows their eyes up to the beams...
...noticing a FIGURE standing upon the ramparts.
- 98 EXT. EMERGENCE HOLE - CITY STREETS - NIGHT 98
General Raam watches one of the PARTICLE BEAMS walking toward him. He growls and then turns back into his EMERGENCE HOLE...
...and Lieutenant Thawn trails him, escaping the destruction.
- 99 EXT. RAMPARTS - JACINTO - NIGHT 99
Adam stands on the ramparts, gazing at the city as PARTICLE BEAMS rain down, leaving untold devastation in their wake.
Marcus joins his father, the two of them sharing a look. In Adam's eyes, Marcus sees the guilt of a man responsible for the end of the world...
...together, they watch the beams fall as we ---
FADE TO BLACK.

100

EXT. STREETS - EPHYRA - NIGHT

100

A vast STRETCH OF RUBBLE flickers in the shadows of several fires. It was probably once the city's "Rodeo Drive", lined with plants, stores, and cafes...

...a PAIR OF SMALL FEET whips past CAMERA. A child's feet. In the next few seconds, four PAIRS OF DRONE BOOTS follow them.

ANGLE ON: A SCRAWNY CHILD gripping a LOAF OF BREAD, filthy and terrified. Running for his life through the rubble which he seems to know well...

...the FOUR DRONES follow him closely, taking POTSHOTS at him when they can. One of them armed with a COG GNASHER SHOTGUN.

Their horrible faces show no hint of doubt in their pursuit of the boy. Just another human that must be exterminated. A rodent. A bug. Nothing more.

All of a sudden, the boy runs straight into someone...

...he gasps with shock, looking up at the UNSEEN FIGURE.

ANGLE ON: THE FOUR DRONES catching up to where the boy was a few moments ago. The DRONE LEADER halts the others with a low grunt, sensing that the child is nearby.

The DRONES scan the rubble...

...it's quiet here, perhaps too quiet.

The SOUND OF A CHAINSAW echoes to the left. STARTING UP with a roar, REVING menacingly, then dying into eerie silence...

...and the DRONES don't know what the hell to make of it. We see them shift about nervously. Angling their weapons on the direction of the sound.

But now they hear the SOUND OF ANOTHER CHAINSAW to the right of them. REVING UP LOUDER this time, like a nightmarish call to combat, before finally ebbing.

The DRONES are spooked, glancing at one another...

...the DRONE LEADER gives one a nod. The DRONE charges toward the sound of the first chainsaw, disappearing around a corner a few yards away.

They hear a CHAINSAW REV UP suddenly...

...and slice into flesh, the DRONE howling.

The other DRONES tense and listen as the UNSEEN DRONE stops howling. And they hear the DULL THUD of a CORPSE hitting the concrete ground.

And then silence.

Just the fires burning.

Now the SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS.

The three remaining DRONES draw their weapons on the corner, listening to the approaching footsteps, set to unleash their worst on whoever it is.

CLOSE ON: MARCUS peeling around the corner, his LANCER in his hands. *It's been modified.* A CHAINSAW now sits underneath its foregrip instead of the bayonet...

...as Marcus REVS his BLOODIED CHAINSAW, we see his FACIAL WOUND has now healed, leaving a JAGGED SCAR under his eye.

The DRONES go to fire on Marcus. None of them noticing Dom who leaps down from the rubble behind with his own CHAINSAW-MOUNTED LANCER.

The nearest DRONE whirls around...

...only to fall under Dom's CHAINSAW.

Before this DRONE hits the ground, Dom turns and FIRES on the next closest DRONE. Riddling it with bullets, five feet away.

The DRONE LEADER instinctively goes to shoot Dom...

...remembering only too late that Marcus is behind him.

Marcus cuts his CHAINSAW across the DRONE LEADER's chest, its hands flailing about as it dies. BLOOD SPURTING everywhere...

...finally, Marcus kicks the IMBRUED CORPSE to the pavement.

ANGLE ON: THE SCRAWNY CHILD standing atop a pile of rubble in the shocking silence that follows, eyes and mouth agape...

...the Gears approach him carefully, stowing their weapons.

DOM

It's okay, you can come with us. We
can protect you.

But the boy just turns and scurries off into the rubble with his precious LOAF OF BREAD, terrified as much of the Gears as he was of the DRONES.

Dom goes to run after the boy, when suddenly a small group of MEN and WOMEN peel out of the shadows before them, as if they were there all along...

...these people are just some of the so-called "STRANDED" who couldn't make it to Jacinto in time, but somehow survived the apocalyptic Hammer of Dawn strikes.

They're dressed in rags, all armed with crude BOWS AND ARROWS and ANTIQUE GUNS. They stare at the Gears, fiercely defiant.

A BEARDED MAN stands at their fore...

...the SCRAWNY BOY now hiding behind him.

DOM
We're not the bad guys.

Just now, they all hear the POWERFUL STOMPS of an approaching BRUMAK. Accompanied by its fearsome roar. Marcus and Dom whip around to face the noise...

...when the look back, the STRANDED have all vanished.

Marcus and Dom instinctively melt away into the darkness as the horrific creature rounds the corner, searching for them.

CUT TO:

101 EXT. FIELD HOSPITAL - JACINTO - DAY

101

The field hospital now mainly treats malnourished REFUGEES as well as several POST-TRAUMATIC PATIENTS who just wander about the place aimlessly...

...we find Marcus and Dom walking through the hospital. Both men are dressed casually, LANCERS slung over their shoulders.

DOM
Seeing your girlfriend tonight?

MARCUS
She's not my girlfriend.

DOM
Right, that's still "not you", huh?

MARCUS
We have an arrangement, works real well for both of us.

Dom shakes his head, unimpressed but unsurprised.

DOM

How do you do it, man? Whole world is shot to pieces and you're still so...offline.

MARCUS

When I'm out there, my head's in the fight. I'm not worrying about anybody else. That's what keeps me alive.

DOM

If you ain't got nobody to worry about, then what the hell are you fighting for?

Marcus looks at him, unable to answer...

...as they approach an EMPTY BED where a dour-faced MILITARY SURGEON is conferring with some NURSES. Dom gets a sickening feeling in his gut.

SURGEON

Private Santiago...

DOM

What's wrong? Where's Maria?

SURGEON

I think we should go talk in my office. If you'll come with me?

DOM

Where is she, Doctor?

SURGEON

I'm afraid, we don't exactly know.

MARCUS

What does that mean?

SURGEON

It means she's left the hospital.

DOM

You lost her? That's what you're telling me? You fucking lost her?

SURGEON

It seems she got onto an aid convoy somehow. It was heading out for one of the Stranded settlements when we lost contact with it.

DOM
Which settlement? Where?

SURGEON
We don't know that either.

DOM
Goddammit!

Dom hurls the EMPTY BED on its side and storms off. Marcus glares at the apologetic SURGEON and NURSES, then follows.

CUT TO:

102 INT. BARRACKS - JACINTO - DAY

102

Marcus finds Dom gearing up in their barracks, gathering his ARMOR PLATING and as many LANCER MAGAZINES as he can carry...

MARCUS
Listen to me...

DOM
I'm going after her.

MARCUS
She could be anywhere by now.

DOM
I ain't leaving her alone out there with the grubs.

MARCUS
If Hoffman finds out, he'll court-martial your ass.

DOM
Screw Hoffman.

MARCUS
You wanna spend ten years in the penitentiary?

DOM
She's my wife, Marcus.

MARCUS
Dom.

...but Dom just storms out with his gear. Marcus lets him go.

CUT TO:

103

INT. ANYA'S BUNK - OFFICER'S BARRACKS - NIGHT

103

Marcus sits by a SMALL WINDOW in a dorm-like room, gazing out at the city. Watching HAMMER OF DAWN beams fall sporadically, close and far...

...he's half-undressed, a heavy tension in his eyes. A SLEEPY VOICE from the darkness behind snaps him out of his thoughts.

ANYA (O.S.)

Hey...

Marcus turns to look at Anya who's stirring in her single bed nearby. This is her room. Not much larger than a prison cell, and decorated sparsely...

...he smiles hesitantly, unsure what to say.

ANYA

Didn't know you were still here.

MARCUS

Yeah, I...is this okay?

ANYA

Sure...wanna come back to bed?

Marcus hesitantly climbs into the small bed with her, the two of them clumsy with each other. Clearly, they don't "snuggle" often, if at all...

...they lie there uncomfortably for a long, awkward moment.

MARCUS

You, uh...you ever worry about me when I go out there?

ANYA

Worry about you?

MARCUS

Yeah, you know...

ANYA

I thought we agreed not to talk about that sort of thing.

MARCUS

It's just that, I think...I think that I'd like to worry about you.

Anya can't help but be touched by this...

...she turns to him, studying his face.

ANYA

What's stopping you?

MARCUS

I don't know...guess, I'm used to being on my own.

ANYA

You still have your father.

MARCUS

Not since mom got killed. We barely saw each other after the funeral.

ANYA

How did she die?

MARCUS

Some experiment she was doing for him in the Hollow. A mining drill got too close...nobody survived.

ANYA

That's...horrible.

MARCUS

Next ten years were worse. Finally told him I wished he'd been the one down there that day. We didn't talk for another eight years after that.

ANYA

Marcus, this may be hard for you to hear right now...but you're one of the lucky ones. So many of us have lost everyone we had on Emergence Day and since then. You still have your father.

Marcus doesn't know how to reply...

...she looks at him, touching his face.

ANYA

Whatever happened, you have to forgive him. Or you'll never be able to worry about me or anyone.

Marcus stares at her, considering this reluctantly.

CUT TO:

104 EXT. BARRACKS - JACINTO - DAWN

104

Marcus waits outside the barracks in the early haze of dawn, still struck by Anya's words. He sees Dom materialize through the fog before him.

Dom looks bloody and beat, a GUNSHOT WOUND in his arm...

MARCUS

You find her?

...and Dom shakes his head, his face riddled with emotion as he silently continues into the barracks. Marcus watches him.

CUT TO:

105 INT. CORRIDOR - WEAPONS LAB - DAY

105

Marcus waits in the dingy corridor of what looks to be the basement of a factory. A pair of SECURITY GEARS guard a set of doors nearby...

...all of a sudden, the DOORS OPEN to reveal Adam in a white lab gown. The looks on their faces suggest they haven't seen each other in a while.

Adam approaches Marcus, holding his eyes.

ADAM

You look well.

MARCUS

You look old...

(off his look)

...not "old" old, just older.

ADAM

What do you want, Marcus?

MARCUS

I wanted to...you know, see you.

The DOORS OPEN again, revealing a LAB TECHNICIAN...

LAB TECHNICIAN

Dr Fenix? We're ready for you.

ADAM

You want to come and watch this?

...and Marcus hesitates, then follows Adam into the lab.

106 INT. WEAPONS LAB - JACINTO - DAY 106

Marcus trails Adam through a vast weapons lab, looking about at various LAB TECHNICIANS working on a multitude of next-gen devices and weapons...

...including a massive, EIGHT-PRONGED CONTRAPTION which sits inside a separate GLASS-ENCASED, EXPLOSION-PROOF CHAMBER.

MARCUS
Nice place you got here.

ADAM
It serves its purpose. How's that chainsaw working, by the way?

MARCUS
(shrugs)
Serves its purpose.

ANGLE ON: A SMALL ROBOT slicing through a SHEET OF METAL with a BLOW TORCH attached to one of its arms. What seizes Marcus' eyes is that the robot is *hovering*...

...it gives a series of SOFT BEEPS as they walk past, finally reaching an OBSERVATION WINDOW where they both look outside.

107 EXT. FIRING RANGE - WEAPONS LAB - DAY 107

WHAT THEY SEE: A WEAPONS TECHNICIAN standing on an outdoor firing range. The SKELETAL HULKS of various DESTROYED TANKS and APCs spread around him...

...in his hands lies a smaller, more refined version of the HAMMER OF DAWN LASER DESIGNATOR we saw in Adam's lab before.

108 INT. WEAPONS LAB - JACINTO - DAY 108

Marcus spots the strange-looking weapon.

MARCUS
What's that?

ADAM
Mobile, hand-held designator for the Hammer of Dawn satellites.

Marcus looks at him, surprised...

...as the TECHNICIAN fires the weapon.

109 EXT. FIRING RANGE - WEAPONS LAB - DAY 109
WHAT THEY SEE: A SINGLE RED LASER BEAM shoots out of the end of the weapon and focuses on a DESTROYED TANK a safe distance away from the TECHNICIAN...
...SIX LINES OF LIGHT fire down from the skies above and form a circle around the tank, "walking" quickly towards the beam.

110 INT. WEAPONS LAB - JACINTO - DAY 110
Marcus notices his father's eyes light up with excitement...

111 EXT. FIRING RANGE - WEAPONS LAB - DAY 111
...but then there's a LOUD CRACK and the LASER BEAM cuts out.

112 INT. WEAPONS LAB - JACINTO - DAY 112
Adam's crestfallen. The WEAPONS TECHNICIAN carries the LASER DESIGNATOR inside. Adam removes the CRACKED CRYSTAL, showing it to Marcus...

ADAM
Gordillium. One of the strongest crystals in the world.

MARCUS
What's it supposed to do?

ADAM
Focus six particle beams from any of the thirty-four Hammer of Dawn satellites in geosynchronous orbit twenty-two thousand miles above the planet.

MARCUS
Sounds simple enough.

ADAM
The enormous power surge overwhelms the atomic structure of any crystal we can get our hands on.

MARCUS
Bummer.

...and he casually tosses the BROKEN CRYSTAL back to Adam.

Adam can tell Marcus is being deliberately aloof. But he just ignores this for now, turning to the TECHNICIAN beside him...

ADAM

Inform the Commissariat that the final test was unsuccessful, and that we need to launch Operation Messiah immediately.

...the LAB TECHNICIAN nods and hurries off to do his bidding.

ANGLE ON: ADAM moving to a computer and attaching a PDA-LIKE DEVICE to it. Marcus watches as Adam types some commands...

113 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - DAY 113

...back in Adam's private home lab, COMPUTERS boot up and the three-dimensional, HOLOGRAPHIC MAP OF THE HOLLOW flickers on.

114 INT. WEAPONS LAB - JACINTO - DAY 114

Marcus watches curiously as Adam now DOWNLOADS the map of the Hollow onto his PDA, moving with a clear sense of urgency...

MARCUS

What's Operation Messiah?

ADAM

I'm going to retrieve an Imulsion crystal. It's the only thing I've yet to try.

MARCUS

Imulsion crystals only grow in the Hollow.

ADAM

Yes, I'm aware of that.

MARCUS

Nobody's been in the Hollow since Emergence Day, that's suicide.

ADAM

Hammer of Dawn is the only thing we have that kills *anything* they have, correct? If we can put that kind of power in the hands of each Gear, we just might turn this war around.

...and Adam heads for the doors, leaving Marcus speechless.

115 INT. CORRIDOR - WEAPONS LAB - DAY

115

Marcus follows his father back out into the corridor. Adam doesn't slow down, challenging Marcus to keep up with him.

MARCUS

You can't go down there alone.

ADAM

I've asked Colonel Hoffman to find me some Gears.

MARCUS

I'm a Gear, you could've asked me.

ADAM

Don't be ridiculous.

MARCUS

You know, when I was a kid, all I ever wanted was for you to include me in your work. And now when I can finally help...

(pause)

...forget it. Good luck. I hope you find your goddamn crystal.

Adam stops and looks at Marcus...

ADAM

She was in the Hollow, *helping* me, when it happened. So many times, I wish it had been me down there that day. She would've known what to do, how to raise you...

(pause)

...I didn't even know how to face you. I still find it difficult.

...this raw admission hits Marcus hard.

MARCUS

Dad...I'm not gonna get killed down there.

ADAM

(pause, sighs)

Could I have that in writing?

They stare at each other and share an unlikely smile.

CUT TO:

116 INT. BARRACKS - JACINTO - NIGHT

116

A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS shows EIGHT GEARS suiting up for their mission, including Marcus and Dom. Clipping on armor plating, buckling boots, loading weapons...

...we INTERCUT THIS with LIEUTENANT MINH YOUNG KIM addressing his squad. Kim is a by-the-books believer in all things COG.

KIM

Listen up, I want all weapons safed
and all loose equipment taped down.

117 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

117

Meanwhile, TECHNICIANS unscrew and disconnect the electronic PLOTTING TABLE in the middle of the Command Center, shifting it aside to reveal...

...a rusty, GRATED PLATFORM underneath in the shape of the COG INSIGNIA. EIGHT LIGHTS buried in the platform flick on.

KIM (V.O.)

We'll be descending to the Hollow
via an old elevator shaft that was
used to deploy spy-bots during the
Pendulum Wars.

ANGLE ON: ANYA being escorted into the Command Center by some SECURITY GEARS. Hoffman shows her to a DISPATCHER'S CONSOLE.

118 INT. BARRACKS - JACINTO - NIGHT

118

Back to Kim in the barracks.

KIM

The Hollow is all enemy territory,
gentlemen. It's their home, their
base of operations. We're going in
light and quiet, avoiding contact
when possible. Understood?

DOM

(vengefully)
For the COG!

GEARS

For the COG!

CUT TO:

119 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JAGINTO - NIGHT

119

The EIGHT GEARS now file into the Command Center, led by Adam who wears an EAST BARRICADE ACADEMY JUMPSUIT, a BACKPACK over his shoulders...

...the group stops by General Moore and Chairman Emmerson.

GENERAL MOORE

Gears, you have a chance to really do some good today. Make me proud.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON

Be safe, men. Dr Fenix, come home with that crystal.

ADAM

I'll do my best, Mr Chairman.

ANGLE ON: THE PLATFORM illuminated by EIGHT LIGHTS which are built into the grated metal in the familiar shape of the COG INSIGNIA...

...a PAIR OF TECHNICIANS hold LONG HOSES at the edge of the platform, hands on the valves. Watching the Gears walk past.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS sharing a look with Anya who's sitting at her console. He gives her a discreet, reassuring smile...

...and climbs onto the platform, peering down through the grated gaps to discover only a dark and seemingly endless elevator shaft below.

Hoffman approaches them now...

...his eyes running over the Gears.

HOFFMAN

I will hold the elevator shaft open as long as I can. If I see one grub trying to climb up, I will seal it, whether you've made it back or not.

(to Kim)

Get it done, Lieutenant.

KIM

Yes, Sir!

The TECHNICIANS begin to lower the GRATED PLATFORM into the ground now. The Gears tense, each unsure if he'll return...

...we see Marcus keeping his eyes on Anya as long as he can.

120 INT. PLATFORM - ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT

120

It's quiet inside the elevator shaft. Nothing happens for several seconds. Marcus and Dom trade a look. Then without warning, the PLATFORM PLUNGES...

...the Gears rises off their heels, their stomachs in their throats. One of them pukes his last meal all over the wall.

Down and down they go to impossible depths...

...the air rushing up through the GRATED FLOOR.

Marcus notices his father's pained face as they drop, this is obviously hard for him. Marcus moves over to Adam who quickly grabs onto his arm for support...

...finally, the PLATFORM STOPS ten feet from the bottom.

The Gears steady themselves uneasily. Leveling their weapons all around them. Again, nothing happens for several seconds.

Adam and Marcus look about anxiously, waiting to see what happens next. A SUDDEN METALLIC CLANG makes everybody jump uneasily...

...and then the PLATFORM lowers the last few feet.

121 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

121

And the vast expanse of the Hollow finally comes into view on all sides, a full three hundred and sixty degrees around them as they reach the bottom...

...words can only barely convey the breadth and depth of this place. *Indeed, it is an entire world unto itself down here.*

There are endless CAVES and CAVERNS.

Gigantic SUPPORT COLUMNS of TWISTED STONE.

Virtual forests of STALACTITES and STALAGMITES.

All lit by the AMBIENT GLOWS emanating from several pools of fluorescent yellow IMULSION scattered about the quiet place.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS taking the first human step into the Hollow in years, his LANCER leading the way. He scans the rocks and ledges around him...

...there could well be a DRONE lurking behind every one.

Marcus signals the Gears forward. Kim and Dom and the others fan out behind Marcus, weapons trained on the rocky chasms...

...we see the fear in their eyes, kept in check only by their training and focus. They form a defensive perimeter about the elevator shaft.

Kim turns now and gives a nod to Adam...

...who cautiously steps off the platform.

CLOSE ON: ADAM looking around the Hollow, both fascinated and terrified by it. He bends and touches some of the moist soil, his thoughts drifting...

...he looks about to see everyone waiting for him. Adam picks himself up, removing a PDA from his pocket and turning it on.

Kim keys his HEADSET MIKE, speaking softly:

KIM
Control, this is Beta-One. We have
reached the Hollow. No contact with
the enemy.

122 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

122

Emmerson, Moore, and Hoffman stand behind Anya in the Command Center. She sits at the DISPATCHER'S CONSOLE, talking into a RADIO MIKE.

ANYA
Roger that, Beta-One...good luck
down there.

123 INT. ELEVATOR - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

123

Kim turns to Adam who's examining his PDA...

KIM
That thing going to help us find
your Imulsion crystal, Doctor?

ADAM
(pointing)
This way.

...and Kim glances at Marcus who takes the lead. Kim falls in step behind Marcus with Adam close behind. The others follow.

DISSOLVE TO:

124 INT. BRIDGE - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

124

Adam now guides the team along a narrow "bridge" through the Hollow. An endless fall awaits either side. Everyone keeps an eye on where they tread.

ANGLE ON: ADAM studying his PDA which projects a smaller copy of the THREE DIMENSIONAL HOLOGRAPHIC MAP we saw in his lab...

...just now, Kim turns around in front of him.

KIM
How much further?

ADAM
You'll know when you see it.

Kim rolls his eyes, *typical fucking scientist...*

...as a PILE OF LOOSE ROCKS gives way under his feet.

He falls but Marcus spins around and catches his arm, pulling him up as the rocks fall to oblivion. Kim sighs with relief.

KIM
Thanks, I owe you one.

Marcus just nods and continues ahead. Adam watches closely.

DISSOLVE TO:

125 INT. IMULSION LAKE - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

125

Jaws drop as the group now emerges into a tremendous cavern, cascading rivers of IMULSION falling into a gigantic lake of glowing currents...

...they spread out over a large PLATE OF ROCK which wobbles unsteadily under their feet. HOT STEAM rising up through the cracks, glowing red and bubbling quietly.

DOM
Hey, Marcus. How much you think all that juice is worth?

MARCUS
Don't think I can count that high.

Adam now guides them into a tunnel at the edge of the lake.

DISSOLVE TO:

126 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

126

Back up in Jacinto, Anya and the others wait anxiously for news. All of a sudden, KIM'S VOICE crackles through on the console speakers.

KIM'S VOICE
Control, this is Beta-One. We've
found some crystals.

127 INT. CRYSTAL FOREST - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

127

Now we see that the team has emerged from the tunnel into an enormous forest of STALAGMITES and STALACTITES, many of which are joined as support columns...

...on every one are dozens of IMULSION CRYSTALS, shining like gold nuggets, giving the low-ceiling chamber an almost other-worldly radiance.

This is where ADAM'S GEOBOT went offline...

...and now Adam finds out why -- something has pounded it as flat as a pancake. The Gears gather around the old machine.

DOM
Looks like someone got stepped on.

KIM
Doctor, if you'll just get busy
picking, we'll get out of here.

ADAM
It has to be perfect... The exact
size and shape, the exact texture.

MARCUS
Give us some dimensions.

As they begin to look around, Kim makes a call.

KIM
Control, this is Beta-One. We've --

128 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

128

Anya waits for the rest, but doesn't hear anything.

ANYA
Beta-One? Come in, Beta-One.

129

INT. CRYSTAL FOREST - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

129

But Kim's gone still, eyes on the CAVE WALL where everyone is beginning to hear something unusual in an adjacent chamber...

...it sounds like FOOTSTEPS, heavy and unusually fast.

Kim walks forward, gingerly placing his ear against the cave wall. Listening to the FOOTSTEPS as they seem to pass by...

...then all of a sudden, they stop. Nobody knows what to make of it. But now, the FOOTSTEPS start up again. This time, they grow RAPIDLY LOUDER.

Something huge is running full bore towards them. The Gears level their weapons, backing up. Marcus urgently grabs Adam.

The unseen creature draws rapidly closer...

...the FOOTSTEPS THUMPING, increasing in speed.

KIM

Take cover!

Responding automatically, the Gears dive behind BOULDERS and COLUMNS. In the next instant, the CAVE WALL EXPLODES with an ear-splitting concussion...

...catapulting jagged CHUNKS OF ROCK at the Gears who hide behind their cover. Marcus drags Adam behind a column as a BOULDER whips past them.

They hear the creature give a HIDEOUS HOWL...

...and Marcus carefully peers around his column.

WHAT HE SEES: A FEMALE DRONE standing in the debris of the shattered cave wall. She's at least two feet higher than a regular drone and twice as fearsome...

...like the Brumak, chains drip off her body, wrapping around her fists which have been fused shut. She has fangs for teeth and spikes on her back.

She's called a "BESERKER" and for damn good reason. Her fury is the most frightening thing about her. *This mama's angry...*

...and none of the Gears has ever seen anything like her.

KIM

(into headset)

Contact.

130 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

130

That one word sickens everybody's guts back in Jacinto. Anya glances at Hoffman who peels away, hurrying for the ELEVATOR SHAFT where SPECIAL OPS GEARS keep watch...

...the TECHNICIANS on the hoses get ready to open the valves.

ANYA

Get out of there, Beta-One. Get out now, you understand?

131 INT. CRYSTAL FOREST - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

131

The Gears hide behind their cover, the BESERKER unmoving.

ANGLE ON: ADAM noticing a beautiful IMULSION CRYSTAL about the size of a cell phone on the stalagmite before him, and the look in his eyes tells us this is the right one...

...he removes a PADDED CASE from his BACKPACK, using a PAIR OF TWEEZERS on the crystal. A FAINT SNAP as it pulls free.

The sound reaches the BESERKER's ears...

...and she whips her head around to Marcus.

He reflexively draws his Lancer, ready to shoot. Finger on the trigger. But then the creature just looks away from him.

And Marcus quietly holds his fire...

...watching the BESERKER sniff the air.

She takes a few steps forward, as if picking up a scent. The CLUSTER OF SPIKES on her back raising in primal anticipation.

CAMERA RACKS to a FRIGHTENED GEAR just twenty feet away from the enormous monster. He knows it's close and he doesn't want to get killed by it...

...lunging out from behind his cover, the FRIGHTENED GEAR now begins SHOOTING at the BESERKER. Emptying his rounds into it, SCREAMING with fear.

MARCUS

Hold your fire!

But the BESERKER has already locked onto the sound...

...and charges towards the FRIGHTENED GEAR as he fires.

The LANCER BULLETS have little effect on the creature and the FRIGHTENED GEAR dives behind a column as it hurtles near him, SCREAMING with rage...

...WHAM! The BERSERKER smashes right through the column as if it was butter. Instantly trampling over the FRIGHTENED GEAR.

He SCREAMS IN AGONY as she hammers him with both FUSED FISTS.

ANGLE ON: A SECOND GEAR opening up on the BESERKER now. The creature whirls around to the sound, leaving the BLOODY PULP that was the FRIGHTENED GEAR...

...then barreling across the chamber towards the SECOND GEAR, crashing through three more SUPPORT COLUMNS, threatening to cave in the entire chamber.

The SECOND GEAR tries to run...

...but the BESERKER pounds him flat.

MARCUS

It's blind! It can't see us!

The BESERKER spins towards Marcus...

...casting its MENACING SCOWL upon him.

MARCUS

Shit.

Now she blasts towards Marcus, blowing through more SUPPORT COLUMNS. Marcus picks Adam up and stumbles back with him...

...the SOUND OF A CHAINSAW saves them from certain death.

The BESERKER stops dead in her tracks, zeroing in on Dom who is deliberately REVVING the CHAINSAW on his Lancer, enticing the thing away from Marcus...

...she GROWLS and HISSES, forgetting about Marcus and Adam who are virtually right underneath her. Still and silent.

Kim sees what Dom's doing now...

...and starts REVVING his CHAINSAW.

Now the BESERKER glances Kim's way, caught between the two sounds. She starts to charge at Kim but now the other Gears start up their CHAINSAWS...

...forming a rough circle around the confused beast, taunting it. And then on Kim's order, all of the CHAINSAWS go silent.

ANGLE ON: THE BESERKER unsure where anyone is anymore.

Kim signals to what's left of his squad to fall back the way they came. Adam silently places the glowing IMULSION CRYSTAL in his pocket and returns the PADDED CASE to his BACKPACK...

...then he follows Marcus towards the tunnel entrance.

It's a matter of how quietly and carefully you can move past six hundred pounds of living, breathing Death. The slightest noise and you're gone...

...and all of the Gears know it. Eyes flicking between their feet and the BESERKER. Some of them even hold their breaths.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS & ADAM squeezing past the creature, barely six feet away. She sniffs for them, looking around and past them, but not at them...

...they feel her STINKING BREATH on their necks as they pass by. Treading silently upon the rocky ground, glancing back at the creature to make sure she's not chasing after them.

CAMERA RACKS to a THIRD GEAR as he accidentally bumps the tip of his Lancer against an IMULSION CRYSTAL buried in a column.

Instantly, the BESERKER launches at him...

...he's too close to run or even turn around.

She just lunges at him, crashing through yet another SUPPORT COLUMN and pummeling the unfortunate Gear to mush in a matter of a few moments...

...and everyone else watches, frozen, unable to help.

All of a sudden, there's a LOUD GROAN from the ceiling. Some more rocks begin to fall. The BESERKER has taken out one too many SUPPORT COLUMNS...

...and now the ceiling starts to collapse.

MARCUS
(calling)
Run!

The Gears don't need to be told twice, darting through the forest of STALAGMITES and STALACTITES as the ceiling falls behind them...

...the BESERKER charges after them, bowling over more and more SUPPORT COLUMNS as she goes which just makes the whole thing worse.

The Gears dive inside the tunnel that brought them to this chamber. Dom checks for Marcus, then follows the others...

...now Marcus waits for Adam who's the last to arrive. The BESERKER inches behind him, reaching with her FUSED FISTS, trying to catch him.

Marcus pitches Adam into the tunnel, following his father as the ceiling collapses onto the BESERKER, burying her alive in a THUNDEROUS CRUSH OF ROCKS...

132 INT. TUNNELS - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT 132

...and the Gears back up, catching their breaths in the quiet that follows. Dom glances at Marcus through the falling dust.

DOM
Think anybody heard that?

And now they begin to hear movement all over the tunnels...

...HUNDREDS OF FEET storming through the Hollow towards them.

CUT TO:

133 INT. TUNNELS - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT 133

The team is now running as fast as they can through a maze of tunnels. DRONES appear constantly out of side passages, their HAMMERBURSTS BLAZING...

...the Gears return fire when they can, but mostly they just keep running. Marcus keeps his father moving. Kim reports in:

KIM
Control, this is Beta-One! We have the crystal and we're falling back to the elevator now!

134 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 134

The SOUND OF GUNFIRE ripples over the console speakers...

KIM'S VOICE
Do not seal the shaft! Repeat: Do not seal the shaft! We'll make it!

...but the look on Emmerson's face reveals he's not so sure.

CUT TO:

135 INT. IMULSION LAKE - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

135

The five Gears and Adam reach the Imulsion lake now...

...scrambling out of the tunnel onto the PLATES OF ROCK.

Marcus tosses a FRAG GRENADE into the tunnel behind him just as the DRONES appear. The EXPLOSION rips through the tunnel, buying the group some time.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! The Gears freeze. POUNDING FOOTSTEPS in the caverns above somewhere, echoing down an enormous passage...

...rocks and dust fall from the cavern's ceiling. The Gears listen to it, fingers on triggers. Their worst fears coming to pass when they see it.

The CORPSER. Climbing down. HOWLING.

It punches down onto the PLATES OF ROCK, dislodging several pieces. The Gears all lose their footing. A FOURTH GEAR falls into the Imulsion...

...sinking as he SCREAMS, his skin peeling off his face.

CAMERA RACKS to GENERAL RAAM on the back of the huge CORPSER, sword in hand. Howling at the scared humans with feral rage.

GENERAL RAAM

Die, humans! Die!

Marcus and the others OPEN FIRE on Raam, but the CORPSER locks its giant FRONT LEGS together, forming a shield...

...as the Gears reload, the CORPSER rears up and strikes.

The hard blow slams everyone back. Marcus and Dom are knocked down while Adam is thrown out onto a dislodged PLATE OF ROCK.

The impact of Adam's fall knocks him out...

MARCUS

Dad!

...pushing the PLATE OF ROCK across the lake.

Marcus sees this but now has to return his attention to the CORPSER. He notices a GROUP OF ROCKS on the ceiling directly above it, and he begins SHOOTING at them...

...some of the rocks begin to fall and the other Gears pick up on what he's doing. All four of them now target the rocks.

The GROUP OF ROCKS tumbles free under the concentrated LANCER FIRE, plummeting right on top of both them and the CORPSE...

...several rocks SMASH apart the remaining plates and now the big creature has nowhere to stand. Raam leaps off its back as it slides into the Imulsion.

He lands on another floating PLATE OF ROCK...

...turning to see his CORPSE sink in the Imulsion.

Raam ROARS with anger, helpless to stop it as he balances on his PLATE OF ROCK. Watching the CORPSE slowly disappear...

...he glares at the Gears and sees Dom give him the finger.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS at the edge of the few remaining PLATES OF ROCK still clinging together. Watching his father drift off towards the far side of the lake...

...suddenly, the CORPSE rears up in front of Marcus. He just stands there as its glowing, IMULSION-SCORCHED LEGS slam into the ground either side of him like gigantic daggers.

The CORPSE SCREAMS furiously...

...then sinks back into the Imulsion.

CAMERA RACKS to Adam as he reaches the far side of the lake, beginning to stir when LIEUTENANT THAWN appears out a tunnel nearby with his TORQUE BOW...

...he SMACKS Adam and carts him off as Raam reaches them. The general turns and bellows back across the lake at the Gears.

Marcus SHOTS at Raam with his Lancer...

...but he's too far away to do any damage.

Marcus is furious and desperate, doesn't know what to do. Dom and Kim pull him away. He keeps BLASTING AWAY at Raam, shaken forever by this moment...

KIM

Fall back, Sergeant. We can't do anything thing for him now...

(Marcus hesitates)

...fall back, that's an order.

...and Marcus cannot refuse, reluctantly turning and leaving his father behind. The weight of this written upon his face.

CUT TO:

136 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

136

FEROCIOUS GUNFIRE echoes up the ELEVATOR SHAFT and over the CONSOLE SPEAKERS. Everyone's tense, listening to KIM'S VOICE.

KIM'S VOICE

Control, this is Beta-One. I see the elevator.

ANYA

We hear you, get your team aboard.

137 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

137

Kim makes it to the GRATED PLATFORM and turns around...

KIM

Move it, Gears!

...the three others are about twenty yards back, fending off the DRONE ONSLAUGHT. The creatures coming at them from every direction. It's truly frightening.

The DRONES hit the Gear next to Dom...

...and he goes down, wounded and dazed.

Another DRONE goes to finish him off, but a blast of LANCER FIRE pushes the DRONE backwards into the marauding pack...

...the CAMERA RACKS to Marcus reloading his Lancer. He sees Dom hauling the WOUNDED GEAR and he decides to make a stand behind some nearby rocks.

He grabs the WOUNDED GEAR'S GNASHER SHOTGUN, checking to make sure it's loaded, then he waits for the DRONES to approach...

...BOOM! Marcus pops and fires point blank into a DRONE. The SHOTGUN blasts it back, tearing its arms off and ripping its chest, hurling blood all over him.

ANGLE ON: KIM rushing out to help Dom pull the WOUNDED GEAR into the platform. They call for Marcus over the GUNFIRE...

...but Marcus isn't listening, caught in a bloody rampage as he exacts his toll. Emptying his SHOTGUN, then automatically switching to his LANCER.

He empties three magazines in thirty seconds...

...but the DRONES keep coming like an angry flood.

138 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 138

The SOUNDS OF THE BATTLE are terrifying to those up in the Command Center. Emmerson nervously approaches Hoffman...

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
Raise the elevator, Colonel.

...and Hoffman reluctantly gives the nod to the TECHNICIANS.

139 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT 139

And the platform starts to rise as Dom and Kim carry the WOUNDED GEAR aboard. Kim growls angrily into his HEADSET:

KIM
Stop the elevator! Repeat, stop the
elevator! We're not all aboard!

ANYA'S VOICE
Orders from the Chairman, Beta-One.

DOM
Let's go, Marcus!

ANGLE ON: MARCUS still holding off the DRONE onslaught. He glances back and sees the platform rising but he keeps on.

Now his LANCER MAGAZINE clicks empty. And he loops it over his shoulder and draws his SNUB PISTOL. Firing away with it in SHORT BURSTS...

...soon, the SNUB PISTOL runs out of ammo and only now does Marcus turn for the platform. ENEMY BULLETS clipping at his heels as he lunges aboard.

ANGLE ON: THE DRONES rushing to the elevator shaft, glaring up at the absconding platform. They can hear it ascending.

140 INT. PLATFORM - ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT 140

All four Gears begin to catch their breaths as the platform rises through the elevator shaft. Kim checks on the WOUNDED GEAR, pulling out a MED-KIT.

The WOUNDED GEAR breathes hard, bleeding profusely...

...all of a sudden, a stutter of HAMMERBURST rips up through the gaps in the GRATED PLATFORM and punches up into his back, killing him instantly.

Kim and Dom turn their LANCERS below. Marcus grabs the DEAD GEAR'S LANCER and joins them. Firing until the HAMMERBURSTS finally stop...

...and now shocking silence falls on the elevator. Kim looks at the DEAD GEAR while Dom just stares blankly at the walls.

CLOSE ON: MARCUS who lets his Lancer fall aside. His hands shaking as he begins to crack. All the emotions welling up inside him in this moment...

...he grits his teeth and stares at the descending walls all around them. Dom and Kim are tactful enough not to notice.

CUT TO:

141 INT. QUEEN'S CHAMBER - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

141

CLOSE ON: ADAM looking bloody and weak as he's dragged along by LIEUTENANT THAWN through an eerie chamber somewhere inside the Hollow, lit by small POOLS OF IMULSION...

...he's obviously been beaten. Nose bleeding, face bruised, barely conscious. Trying to look around to see where he is.

More THERON GUARDS line the cave walls, glowering and HISSING at Adam as he passes them. General Raam marches ahead of him, carrying his BACKPACK...

...finally stopping and kneeling before a large SET OF STEPS.

Thawn roughly hurls Adam to the floor. As he struggles to sit up, we hear a FAMILIAR VOICE echo through the large chamber.

THE QUEEN (O.S.)

The human animal is an intriguing paradox. So weak. So fragile. Yet so desperate to attack, take, and destroy.

At first, we think we're hearing her in voice over...

...but then, we realize Adam has heard her speak, too.

WHAT HE SEES: A SILHOUETTED FIGURE partly shrouded behind a set of white, transparent drapes at the top of the stairs...

...she has the figure of a human woman wearing a regal dress, and though we never quite see her face, we glimpse her hands, feminine and beautiful, as she touches the drapes. She is the QUEEN who has narrated our story thus far with her gentle yet chilling voice.

Adam is stunned by her appearance, realizing now that Raam and the THERON GUARDS are all kneeling in deference to her.

She beckons Raam with a look. He climbs the steps and gives her ADAM'S BACKPACK. We see her hands find the PADDED CASE, opening it to find that it's empty...

...she turns to look at Adam, slumped before her.

THE QUEEN

Welcome to the Hollow, Dr Fenix. I had long hoped that we should meet one day.

ADAM

You...you know my name.

THE QUEEN

We know a great many things about you, Doctor. You were the one who designed the Hammer of Dawn...

(pause)

...had you not, we surely would have leveled Jacinto years ago.

ADAM

How can you be... You're one of *us*, you're human...

THE QUEEN

Humans are cruel. I am not.

ADAM

You've slaughtered millions.

THE QUEEN

I've done what was necessary. And now so will you.

ADAM

What do you want?

THE QUEEN

You came here to gather an Imulsion crystal. For what, I wonder? What would you risk so much for? A new weapon, perhaps? Something greater than the Hammer of Dawn?

No reply. The Queen looks at Thawn who grabs Adam's LEFT HAND and ruthlessly dunks it in a small POOL OF IMULSION nearby...

...and Adam SCREAMS with unholy pain as his skin burns off.

THE QUEEN
I can have the skin burned from
your body, limb by limb.

ADAM
Please...

THE QUEEN
You will bring me this new weapon.

ADAM
I can't... It's in Jacinto, they'll
never let me...

THE QUEEN
Then you are of no use to us.

Thawn goes to throw him in the IMULSION POOL...
...but something occurs to Adam and his eyes narrow.

ADAM
Wait...
(pause)
...there's a prototype in my lab.

CUT TO:

142 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

142

The platform rises into the Command Center now and Hoffman
and the SPECIAL OPS GEARS help their battered brethren off.

Hoffman gives the nod to the TECHNICIANS who open the valves
on their hoses, spraying POLYMER SEALANT through the gaps in
the GRATED FLOOR of the elevator.

HOFFMAN
Where's the doctor?

KIM
He...he didn't make it, Sir.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
The crystal?

MARCUS
Dr Fenix had the crystal.

Anya glances at Marcus, his somber face says it all...
...suddenly, a GRATING SHRIEK echoes up through the shaft.

143 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - THE HOLLOW - NIGHT

143

CAMERA RACKS through the GRATED FLOOR, plummeting down into the elevator shaft, past falling streams of sealant back into the Hollow...

...where we get our first look at a "WRETCH". An evil, mutant version of the four-legged animal we glimpsed in the opening.

It shrieks through a mouth-full of RAZOR-SHARP TEETH which are covered in DECAYING BLOOD. A CHAIN LOOP on its chin and an EXPLOSIVE strapped to its back...

...this is one foul-looking creature.

The WRETCH leaps up onto the sides of the shaft, digging its claws into the wall and climbing swiftly towards the top...

...it moves like a gorilla, bounding from side to side.

ANGLE ON: FIVE OTHER WRETCHES held back by chains as DRONES arm the EXPLOSIVES on their backs. Now they let the WRETCHES lunge into the shaft after the first one...

...just as the POLYMER SEALANT piles at the base and hardens into rock, closing the elevator shaft off from the Hollow.

144 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

144

The LEAD WRETCH now punches up into the GRATED FLOOR of the platform, giving the TECHNICIANS a fright. The SPECIAL OPS GEARS fire at it...

...but the creature determinedly hangs on to the metallic grating, even as their bullets chew its body to pieces.

HOFFMAN

Goddammit, kill that fucking thing!

BOOM! The EXPLOSIVE on the WRETCH's back detonates.

The CONCUSSIVE FORCE rips the CIRCULAR ELEVATOR apart.

Both the SPECIAL OPS GEARS and the TECHNICIANS are killed.

Everybody else takes cover as METALLIC DEBRIS flies about the room, taking out MONITORS and CONSOLES all over the place...

...we glimpse Marcus and Anya and Dom all hitting the floor, buffeted by the force of the explosion. Hoffman survives the blast, but looks worse for wear.

And now in the aftermath...

...come the other five WRETCHES.

They scale the walls of the ELEVATOR SHAFT and leap into the Command Center. Spreading out in every direction before they can be cut down...

...their EXPLOSIVES detonate one after the other. Tearing the electronics to pieces whilst killing and wounding most of the TECHNICIANS in here.

Marcus and Anya scuttle for cover...

...as EXPLOSIONS rip over their heads.

CAMERA RACKS to the LAST WRETCH galloping towards the HAMMER OF DAWN CONSOLE. Dom manages to shoot it just in time...

...but the EXPLOSIVE detonates in the next second anyway.

ANGLE ON: EMMERSON looking up tentatively. His eyes jumping to the HAMMER OF DAWN CONSOLE which has been destroyed...

...and a look of pure horror sweeps across his bloodied face.

Hoffman stands groggily, bleeding from several cuts. He sees the destroyed console and staggers over to it, checking some of the blank monitors...

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
(to Hoffman)
Is it working? Tell me, it's still
working.

...but the look on Hoffman's face tells him otherwise.

A river of horror washes over Chairman Emmerson's face.

Hoffman glances at Anya who swiftly returns to her CONSOLE, grabbing her HEADSET MIKE and flipping some switches...

...glancing at Marcus gravely as she begins to speak:

ANYA
This is Control... Enemy units have
breached the Command Center. Hammer
of Dawn is offline. Prepare for the
immediate defence of Jacinto.

Marcus quickly peels outside with Dom and Kim on his heels.

CUT TO:

145 EXT. JACINTO - VARIOUS - NIGHT

145

Marcus and Dom stride through the mass panic that has now engulfed Jacinto. GEARS and REFUGEES rushing about like the end of the world has come...

...and perhaps it has. CENTAUR TANKS race to defend the walls of the enormous fortress, their CANNON MUZZLES poking through various FIRING SLITS.

ARMADILLO APCs form a defensive semi-circle around the FRONT GATES as RAVENS launch behind them, taking to the skies with their MINI-GUNS.

146 EXT. RAMPARTS - JACINTO - NIGHT

146

Gears scramble up onto the ramparts, taking up positions with their LANCERS and LONGSHOTS. Piling up FRAG GRENADES at their feet. Some are even armed with LONGSPEAR RPGs.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS standing on the ramparts with Dom, absently testing the SPRING MECHANISM of a LANCER MAGAZINE as he gazes over the wall. CLICK. CLICK. CLICK...

...we don't see what the Gears see at first, but the sheer terror on their faces is enough to scare the hell out of us.

HOFFMAN

This is it, gentlemen. No place to fall back to after this. If we lose Jacinto, mankind itself may well be lost forever.

Marcus slaps in his magazine and lines up.

CAMERA RACKS to some Gears a little further down the line. We recognize privates COLE and BAIRD, manning one of the machine guns together...

...a big grin of anticipation on Cole's face.

COLE

(under his breath)
I'm the Cole Train and I bring the pain... I bring the pain...

BAIRD

Shit, I gotta be stuck on this gun with you?

Baird shoots his machine gun partner a long-suffering look.

CAMERA SWEEPS over the ramparts now to reveal a truly massive LOCUST FORCE bearing down on the FRONT GATES OF JACINTO...

...there are endless waves of DRONES out there, and several BRUMAKS loping along with them. Their combined WAR SCREAM is utterly terrifying.

ANGLE ON: GENERAL RAAM marching with his army...

...his JAGGED SWORD in his hand as he barks orders.

ENEMY BULLETS and BOOMSHOT GRENADES begin to punch into the gates and walls by the thousand. The night air is lit up with TRACERS and EXPLOSIONS.

The GUN TURRETS on the ramparts open up.

CENTAUR TANKS roar through their firing slits.

And all along the line, the Gears begin SHOOTING.

CUT TO:

147 EXT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 147

CAMERA RACKS back to Chairman Emmerson as he's rushed out of the Command Center bunker into a waiting APC just outside...

...the Chairman pauses to stare at the Gears fighting on the ramparts. A SPECIAL OPS GEAR forces him inside the APC and it rapidly drives away.

CUT TO:

148 EXT. EMERGENCE HOLE - EPHYRA - NIGHT 148

ETERNAL FIRES light up an old emergence hole on an otherwise quiet city street. The SOUNDS OF THE BATTLE in the distance.

A RUSH OF WIND pushes up out of the hole...

...followed by a terrifying AIRBORNE CREATURE.

It's called a "REAYER", a sort of organic flying motorbike with six SQUID-LIKE LEGS that dangle underneath its body...

...steered by Thawn with Adam clinging to the saddle behind him, his LEFT HAND now bandaged. Thawn guides the Reayer up into the air, away from the battle in the background.

CUT TO:

- 149 EXT. JACINTO - VARIOUS - NIGHT 149
Back at Jacinto, the battle rages ferociously. General Raam directs his troops, eyes on the FRONT GATES looming ahead.
- 150 EXT. RAMPARTS - JACINTO - NIGHT 150
CAMERA RACKS to the Gears up on the ramparts, shooting down at the DRONE HORDE. One by one, the Gears fall to the streams of ENEMY BULLETS from below...
...a BOOMSHOT GRENADE from a BRUMAK takes out one of the GUN TURRETS. Gears fall out in flames as others go to help them.
ANGLE ON: COLE BLAZING AWAY at the oncoming DRONES...
- COLE
Bring it on, baby! This's my kind
of shit!
- ...beside him, Baird takes up the fight with his LANCER.
CAMERA RACKS to Marcus firing his LANCER with Dom. A powerful EXPLOSION at the FRONT GATES suddenly catches their eyes...
...and they turn to see the FRONT GATES shatter before them.
- DOM
That ain't good.
- 151 EXT. FRONT GATES - JACINTO - NIGHT 151
The semi-circle of APCs around the torn gates belches GUNFIRE as DRONES start to push through. The first ones are cut down, but more still come...
- 152 EXT. RAMPARTS - JACINTO - NIGHT 152
...the Gears on the ramparts turning to shoot down at them.
CUT TO:
- 153 EXT. FENIX ESTATE - EPHYRA - NIGHT 153
The Reaver swoops towards Adam's house, depositing Thawn and Adam by the COG FOUNTAIN in the courtyard out the front...
...then it launches back into the sky, circling protectively.

154 INT. STAIRCASE - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 154

The FRONT DOOR opens and Thawn ushers Adam inside the great mansion. Adam's whole body is trembling with tension...

ADAM
It's this way.

...and he reluctantly leads Thawn towards a STAIRWAY DOOR.

155 INT. STAIRWELL - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 155

Adam and Thawn descend a narrow stairwell, lit by IMULSION LAMPS. Adam stumbles, but Thawn keeps adamantly him going.

156 INT. CELLAR/ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 156

They emerge in an underground cellar, lined with WINE RACKS and WINE BARRELS. The place is decayed and forgotten. There are COBWEBS in every niche...

...ignoring it all, Adam slowly leads Thawn to a WINE RACK at the end of the cellar. The only one with a DOOR FRAME around it. Adam presses against it, pushing it back.

Automatic gears catch the WINE RACK and wrench it to the side to reveal a familiar pair of heavy STEEL DOORS. Adam taps the buttons on a DOOR PANEL...

...and the heavy STEEL DOORS slide open.

The TURBINE GENERATOR is still turning, providing scant power to the lab, the LASER DESIGNATOR PROTOTYPE still on the desk.

Thawn eyes the weapon, running his hands over it...

...now he looks up to see that Adam's holding the SNUB PISTOL Marcus gave him. And before Thawn can react, Adam SHOTS him.

BANG! BANG! BANG! The bullets fly fast, striking Thawn in his chest and arms, knocking him back towards the open doors...

...and Adam just keeps SHOOTING, pushing him into the cellar.

Now Adam hits a switch by the entrance and the DOORS CLOSE on Thawn. The Lieutenant HOWLS with rage, PUNCHING the doors...

...and Adam grins with relief, admiring the SNUB PISTOL.

CUT TO:

157

EXT. RAMPARTS/FRONT GATES - JACINTO - NIGHT

157

Here come the BRUMAKS now, bursting through the destroyed FRONT GATES, launching BOOMSHOT GRENADES at everything...

...there's no chance to run or hide. Both the APCs and the TANKS are ripped into shreds of metal. BULLETS start flying in every direction.

General Raam storms through the gates...

...cutting down Gears with his JAGGED SWORD.

GENERAL RAAM

(shouting)

Kill them!

Some Gears get some lucky shots in, but LANCER BULLETS have no effect. Raam looks around, relishing the battle he's in.

CAMERA RACKS to Marcus on the ramparts...

...as he glances down at the chaos below him.

WHAT HE SEES: One of the APCs opens its FRONT HATCH. The APC CREW runs for their lives, only to be shot by several DRONES rushing through the gates...

...before they can take the APC, Marcus grabs a LONGSHOT and takes them out one by one with a series of rapid HEADSHOTS.

CUT TO:

158

INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT

158

A team of TECHNICIANS desperately tries to repair the HAMMER OF DAWN CONSOLE as Anya relays orders at her console...

...she quickly punches a button as another call comes in.

ANYA

This is Control.

ADAM'S VOICE

This is Doctor Adam Fenix...

(pause)

...I'd like to speak to my son.

And Anya is momentarily at a loss for words.

CUT TO:

159 EXT. RAMPARTS/FRONT GATES - JACINTO - NIGHT 159

A PITCHED BATTLE ignites the grounds by the FRONT GATES now, DRONES taking cover in the wreckage of the APC lines, firing at the Gears on the ramparts...

...several CENTAUR TANKS have pulled back from their firing slits, engaging the BRUMAKS that have shoved their way inside under Raam's direction.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS & DOM barely able to keep the DRONES at bay, desperately SHOOTING and RELOADING with the other Gears...

...one of the DRONES leaps onto the ramparts and kills three Gears before he's finally shot down. Other DRONES follow and drive the Gears apart.

Marcus and Dom are now shooting in opposite directions. The DRONES swarming all around them. All of a sudden, they hear ANYA'S VOICE on their HEADSETS...

ANYA'S VOICE
Private call for Sergeant Fenix.

...they share a quick, confused look.

MARCUS
(into headset)
This is Fenix.

ADAM'S VOICE
Marcus?

Marcus can't believe it...

...his father's still alive.

He takes scant cover on the ramparts behind a crate, blocking his ears from the the noise as he shouts into his RADIO MIKE.

MARCUS
Dad, where are you?

160 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 160

In his lab, Adam hears Thawn PUMMELING the STEEL DOORS. The hinges are starting to crack under the relentless pressure.

ADAM
At the house. I haven't got long,
they're outside my door.

161 EXT. RAMPARTS - JACINTO - NIGHT 161

A DRONE lurches at Marcus, he BLASTS it backwards.

MARCUS

Stay where you are, I'll be right there.

162 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 162

Adam can hear the FEROCIOUS GUNFIRE over his line.

ADAM

No, don't. This is not a call for help. I...I want to apologize...

163 INT. COMMAND CENTER - JACINTO - NIGHT 163

Anya can't help listen to Adam and Marcus on her HEADSET.

164 EXT. RAMPARTS - JACINTO - NIGHT 164

And though Marcus is heavily engaged in a furious FIRE-FIGHT, the words now coming through his HEADSET MIKE tear him apart.

ADAM'S VOICE

...for not being there for you when you were young... I was wrong...and I'm sorry.

165 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 165

Adam stumbles on his words, barely able to get them out.

ADAM

Anyway, I...I wanted you to know.

166 EXT. RAMPARTS - JACINTO - NIGHT 166

And Marcus simply doesn't know what to say...

MARCUS

Okay, Dad... Okay...

...and now the line goes dead, leaving Marcus ashen.

CUT TO:

167 INT. CELLAR - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 167

Down in the cellar, Thawn is going ballistic. Smashing WINE RACKS and hurling WINE CASKS. He draws a "BOLTOK" PISTOL and fires at the doors...

...but none of the rounds has much impact.

168 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 168

Adam turns to the LASER DESIGNATOR PROTOTYPE still sitting on his desk. Then he glances at a huge machine across his lab...

...it's marked in red with a single word: "INCINERATOR".

CUT TO:

169 EXT. RAMPARTS/FRONT GATES - JACINTO - NIGHT 169

Marcus falls in line beside Dom, peeling the HEADSET off and firing his LANCER. More and more DRONES are climbing through the rubble of the FRONT GATES now...

...the CAMERA RACKS to a SQUAD OF DRONES who attack a CENTAUR TANK. Leaping aboard and wrenching open the TURRET HATCH, and then BLASTING inside with their HAMMERBURSTS.

A LONGSPEAR flies at a BRUMAK from the ramparts...

...driving it back, but receiving a BOOMSHOT in return.

ANGLE ON: COLE blasting at the LOCUST HORDE with his MACHINE GUN, valiantly emptying a whole AMMO CAN at a huge BRUMAK...

COLE

Reload!

BAIRD

I don't think we're gonna make it out of this one.

COLE

As long as we got bullets...

...and Baird just loads the can, and they both keep shooting.

ANGLE ON: A THERON GUARD drawing its TORQUEBOW on Marcus who ducks just as the EXPLOSIVE-TIPPED ARROW whips past him...

...he SHOOTs at the THERON GUARD as it darts behind cover.

Marcus pauses, still thinking about his father. He glances at the APC abandoned by its crew earlier. Sitting there below...

...now he glances at Dom beside him. Dom catches the look, but doesn't understand it. Marcus makes his decision as he hears the words come out of his mouth.

MARCUS
He's alive, Dom.

DOM
What? Who's alive? Marcus!

But Marcus is already peeling away...

...and Dom realizes who he's talking about.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS scuttling across the ramparts to Hoffman who is firing his GNASHER SHOTGUN at DRONES, ducking to RELOAD as Marcus reaches him...

MARCUS
I have to go. My father made it out. I have to go and help him.

HOFFMAN
Go? Are you fucking with me?

MARCUS
They're gonna kill him, Sir.

HOFFMAN
Goddammit, Fenix. I need every gun I've got right here. Get back to your post.

MARCUS
You don't understand, they're in his house!

HOFFMAN
Get back to your post! That is a direct order, Sergeant! Get back to your post now!

MARCUS
But he's my father...

HOFFMAN
Your father was the one who got us into this mess --

...and Marcus just swings, SLAMMING Hoffman in the jaw.

The colonel goes down hard, out cold. Dom rushes up, staring at Marcus and Hoffman with several other Gears. Marcus looks back at Dom...

...then scrambles down from the ramparts. Dom gives Marcus heavy COVERING FIRE as he darts towards the abandoned APC.

170 INT./EXT. ARMADILLO APC - JACINTO - NIGHT

170

Marcus dives through the FRONT HATCH, stowing his LANCER as he grabs the controls and quickly fires up the ENGINES...

...a DRONE appears in the HATCHWAY, raising its HAMMERBURST at Marcus. He hits a switch and the FRONT HATCH slams shut, slicing off the DRONE'S WRISTS.

ANGLE ON: THE HANDLESS DRONE howling in agony as the APC'S HEADLIGHTS flare on. Marcus kicks the vehicle in gear, the six wheels spinning fast...

...running over the HANDLESS DRONE as it tears towards the hole in the FRONT GATES, suffering a BARRAGE OF ENEMY FIRE.

Marcus ignores the BULLETS and GRENADES...

...narrowly avoiding an angry BRUMAK'S FIST.

Zeroing in on the gates now, Marcus steers towards a slanted PILE OF RUBBLE. Speeding up over the bumpy ramp and launching through the FRONT GATES.

ANGLE ON: GENERAL RAAM noticing the absconding APC...

...he growls bitterly, but has more important objectives.

Lines of DRONES fire at Marcus. One of them latches onto one of the APC's MACHINE GUNS, hissing at him through the firing slit. Marcus simply reaches over and TRIGGERS the weapon...

...sundering the DRONE'S HEAD and driving on into the city.

171 EXT. RAMPARTS - JACINTO - NIGHT

171

ANGLE ON: DOM catching a glimpse of the APC escaping...

DOM
Crazy bastard.

...he grins and keeps on FIRING at the never-ending DRONES.

CUT TO:

- 172 INT./EXT. ARMADILLO APC - EPHYRA - NIGHT 172
- Marcus tears along the "viaducts", raised highways that cut through the city. The APC'S ENGINE is screaming on hi-revs, WHEELS SPINNING, all gauges in the red.
- As he dodges the debris-strewn viaducts, Marcus's eyes flick between the distant GUN FLASHES of the battle behind and the dark road ahead in his lights...
- ...palms sweating, Marcus grips the wheel and pushes onwards.
- CUT TO:
- 173 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 173
- CRANK! Metal on metal. The STEEL DOORS shudder. Adam watches, terrified, as the tip of Thawn's TORQUE BOW BLADE shoves its way through the doors...
- ...using the blade like a crowbar, Thawn gradually peels the STEEL DOORS apart. He ROARS furiously as he glimpses Adam.
- The old man lifts the LASER DESIGNATOR PROTOTYPE...
- ...and gingerly places it in the enormous INCINERATOR.
- Hands trembling, Adam goes to press the "START BUTTON", but then suddenly notices something out the corner of his eyes.
- WHAT ADAM SEES: A COG APC appearing on the lab's SECURITY MONITOR, screeching to a halt outside his house. The FRONT HATCH opens and Marcus storms out...
- ...and Adam's shocked, removing his hand from the button.
- 174 EXT. COURTYARD - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 174
- The APC'S ENGINE is smoking profusely as Marcus charges out towards the house, a sixth sense telling him to look up...
- ...as the RIDERLESS REAVER swoops in behind like a flying shark. Its jaws CLAMPING down by MARCUS' EAR as he rolls, taking cover.
- As the Reaver loops around, Marcus pops up firing FULL AUTO into its side. The Reaver howls with pain, veering sharply, SLAMMING into the house...
- ...leaving a GAPING HOLE in the upper level corner room.

- 175 INT. ADAM'S LAB/CELLAR - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 175
- They feel the Reaver's impact down in Adam's lab. Adam stares at Thawn who hesitates, the STEEL DOORS pried open an inch...
- ...finally, Thawn yanks his TORQUE BOW BLADE out of the doors and turns back into the cellar. Storming away from the lab to deal with the threat above.
- In his lab, Adam turns to his SECURITY MONITOR where he sees Marcus fighting for his life against the riderless Reaver...
- ...now he sees Thawn on another monitor, climbing the stairs.
- ADAM
(under his breath)
Marcus...
- 176 EXT. COURTYARD - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 176
- Marcus pops the pin on a FRAG GRENADE...
- ...as the RIDERLESS REAVER opens its jaws.
- Marcus ducks, tossing the FRAG GRENADE into its mouth as it lunges for him. The Reaver tries to spit the GRENADE out as it takes to the skies...
- ...but the FRAG GRENADE explodes, PIECES OF REAVER raining on Marcus as he takes cover behind the walls of Adam's house.
- 177 INT. ADAM'S LAB - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 177
- Adam quickly reaches into his pocket...
- ...and removes the small IMULSION CRYSTAL.
- Frantically, Adam hauls the LASER DESIGNATOR PROTOTYPE out of the incinerator. Popping the hatch and inserting the crystal.
- 178 EXT. COURTYARD - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 178
- Outside, Marcus opens the FRONT DOORS to find Thawn standing there. Marcus gets the first strike in. REVVING his CHAINSAW and lunging at him.
- Only the CHAINSAW BLADES don't break Thawn's skin...
- ...instead, Thawn's skin breaks the CHAINSAW BLADES.

Marcus glances at the ruined chainsaw, glances at Thawn. Then glances at THAWN'S FIST as it arcs up towards him and strikes him in the chin...

...catapulting Marcus backwards ten feet into the fountain.

179 INT. STAIRWELL - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 179

Meanwhile, Adam hurries up the stairwell. Lugging the hefty LASER DESIGNATOR PROTOTYPE. He stops to catch his breath...

...then his face sets determinedly and he pushes himself on.

180 EXT. COURTYARD - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT 180

Marcus slowly regains his senses in the stagnant water of the fountain. Notices Thawn striding towards him. Marcus goes to fire his LANCER...

...but he's out of ammunition. He quickly RELOADS but jams the weapon in his haste. Marcus smacks the side of the gun.

MARCUS
Goddammit, c'mon!

Thawn climbs into the fountain now...

...picking up Marcus and pulling him close.

The two of them glare at each other as Thawn HOWLS, drops of saliva spitting at Marcus. He doesn't blink, staring back.

Thawn raises his TORQUE BOW BLADE...

...and Marcus grimly prepares for death.

Both of them notice the RED LASER BEAM fix on Thawn's arm at the same time. Thawn's confused, eyes following the beam...

...to find Adam standing up in the GAPING HOLE of the house above them. The LASER DESIGNATOR PROTOTYPE in his hands, its tip glowing red.

SIX LINES OF LIGHT suddenly shoot down from the night sky...

...quickly walking towards Thawn who just ROARS as the beams rip into him. Instantly, Thawn's body snaps rigid and glows.

Marcus pushes himself away, rolling to the ground nearby.

CUT TO:

181 EXT. RAMPARTS - JACINTO - NIGHT

181

On the ramparts fifteen miles away, Hoffman is back up on his feet and FIRING away when he glimpses the HAMMER OF DAWN beam splitting the night sky...

...a few Gears down from him is Dom, he also notices this.

DOM
You see that, Sir?

HOFFMAN
Well, shit me a river...

DOM
Somebody's got the Hammer of Dawn working again.

Just now, a RAVEN flies past the ramparts above...

...a look between them says they have the same idea.

HOFFMAN
(into headset)
This is Hoffman. I need a Raven on my position ASAP.

CUT TO:

182 EXT. COURTYARD - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT

182

Adam shuts off the beam and Thawn collapses in the fountain, half of which has been destroyed by the HAMMER OF DAWN blast.

Now he notices Marcus stirring below...

...and he hurries back inside his house.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS still weak from Thawn's strike. He sees Adam appear in the door and drop the LASER DESIGNATOR PROTOTYPE as he runs to his son...

...but before Adam can get there, Lieutenant Thawn rises out of the fountain behind him. *His skin melted from the beams.*

Marcus sees Thawn step out of the fountain...

...his glowing eyes now fixed upon Adam's back.

Only now does Adam read the terror in Marcus' face. He whirls around as Thawn grabs him by the collar, lifting him up...

...then driving his TORQUE BOW BLADE through Adam's gut.

MARCUS

No!

Adam gasps, blood oozing out his mouth. Thawn hisses at him and casts him aside. Marcus watches as his father collapses to the ground...

...turning to see the Lieutenant loading his TORQUE BOW.

CUT TO:

183 INT./EXT. RAVEN - SKIES - NIGHT

183

Dom and Hoffman are now riding away from Jacinto in the back of a Raven. Dom points the RAVEN PILOTS towards Adam's home.

CUT TO:

184 EXT. COURTYARD - FENIX ESTATE - NIGHT

184

Marcus scrambles for cover behind a garden wall...

...as Thawn fires a GRENADE-TIPPED ARROW BOLT at him.

BOOM! The garden wall disintegrates and Marcus has to find new cover. This time, Marcus charges Thawn as he fires...

...the arrow clips Marcus' shoulder but doesn't stick.

Marcus quickly closes the gap between them as Thawn reaches for his last ARROW BOLT. But he doesn't get to reload...

...because now Marcus is lunging at him.

Both of them wrap their hands around the ARROW BOLT, each one trying to stick the other. Thawn is strong, but the Hammer of Dawn strike has weakened him...

...meaning the battle is barely even. And now Thawn is slowly getting the upperhand, inching the ARROW BOLT towards Marcus.

Marcus SCREAMS with rage, sensing defeat...

...when his eyes fall on Thawn's TORQUE BOW.

The weapon is slung on a strap, dangling near. Marcus grabs it with one hand, swiping the blade across Thawn's chest...

...the Lieutenant HOWLS with the pain, briefly distracted.

And now Marcus sticks Thawn with the ARROW BOLT...

...plunging the EXPLOSIVE TIP into the Lieutenant's head.

Marcus dives aside as Thawn desperately tries to yank the ARROW BOLT out of his head. BOOM! His head EXPLODES...

...and his decapitated body sinks lifelessly to the ground.

Marcus stumbles over to his dying father, gently picking him up as the Raven blasts over the roof and touches down nearby.

Dom lunges out and runs over to Marcus who quickly points him to the LASER DESIGNATOR PROTOTYPE lying by the fountain where Adam dropped it...

...he grabs the weapon as Marcus carries his father aboard.

CUT TO:

185 INT./EXT. RAVEN - SKIES - NIGHT

185

The Raven races back to Jacinto now, still gripped in a life or death struggle. The CREWMEN begin firing at the DRONES...

...as Dom opens up with the LASER DESIGNATOR. PARTICLE BEAMS shooting down from the sky, catching HORDES OF DRONES in the open. *They don't stand a chance.*

186 EXT. FRONT GATES - JACINTO - NIGHT

186

CAMERA RACKS to General Raam glaring up at the helicopter with unbridled fury. He calls to those around him, starting to retreat...

...those who can't escape in time get fried by the beams.

187 INT./EXT. RAVEN - SKIES - NIGHT

187

Hoffman watches the destruction with smug satisfaction, then turns his icy gaze on Marcus who's still holding Adam in his arms as they circle Jacinto.

CLOSE ON: MARCUS & ADAM buffeted by wind and lit by BURSTS OF LIGHT from the Hammer of Dawn beams. Adam looks up at his son and smiles affectionately...

...and then his eyes close. Marcus holds his father close.

FADE TO BLACK.

188 EXT. HOUSE OF SOVREIGNS - EPHYRA - DAY 188

SECURITY GEARS ring the House of Sovereigns once again. Some APCs rumble past a CENTAUR TANK as SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS pan.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON (V.O.)
Sergeant Fenix, we have heard all
the evidence presented before us.

189 INT. FORUM CHAMBER - HOUSE OF SOVEREIGNS - DAY 189

Marcus stands inside a DONUT-SHAPED TABLE, HAND-CUFFED and on trial in a forum chamber surrounded by spectator galleys...

...as Emmerson and seven COG COMMISSARS sit around him.

CHAIRMAN EMMERSON
But in spite of your long service
record, the facts remain that you
disobeyed a direct order from a
superior officer, you struck that
officer, and you abandoned your
post in the middle of battle...
(pause)
...and so we hereby sentence you to
forty years in the Jacinto Maximum
Security Penitentiary.

The mixed crowd CHEERS and BOOS. Marcus glances up at Anya who's devastated. Then he looks at Dom who's livid. Now he glances at Hoffman who's also in the crowd...

...the colonel isn't exactly happy, but he's pleased that justice has been done. Marcus turns his gaze on Emmerson.

Over this, we hear the QUEEN'S VOICE return once more.

THE QUEEN (V.O.)
The humans of Sera were fortunate
to win this battle, but they would
never win another...

190 EXT. PENITENTIARY - JACINTO - DUSK 190

SECURITY GEARS march Marcus through the enormous courtyard of a military penitentiary inside Jacinto, surrounded by immense walls and guard towers...

...there are PRISON BARS on the windows and SECURITY GEARS on the catwalks. SEARCH LIGHTS switch on in the flagging light.

ANGLE ON: MARCUS as he stops for a moment outside the PRISON DOORS. Turning to glance back at the sun. We notice a silent calm washing over him...

...then he simply continues into the prison, the LARGE DOORS closing on him. CAMERA PULLS BACK slowly on the penitentiary.

THE QUEEN (V.O.)
...instead, they would continue to fight against an enemy they did not understand. An enemy that would not give up. Could not give up.

CAMERA PULLS BACK further to see the whole of Jacinto...

191

EXT. KING REAVER - SKIES - DUSK

191

...further and further until a gigantic "KING REAVER" looms INTO FRAME. This one is twice the size of the regular ones, and twice as terrifying.

General Raam sits atop this Reaver...

...eyeballing Jacinto with murderous rage.

THE QUEEN (V.O.)
An enemy that would finally force all of humanity to take their last inevitable steps toward extinction.

Raam abruptly turns his KING REAVER around, swooping towards us. The KING REAVER opens its massive jaws and HOWLS as we --

FADE TO BLACK.

ROLL CREDITS.

SUPER: FOUR YEARS LATER

In darkness, we hear the SOUND OF WRETCHES scrambling about madly. GROWLING and CLAWING at something out of reach...

192

INT. MARCUS' CELL - PENITENTIARY - DAY

192

...and we FADE IN on the METAL GRATES that form the ceiling of Marcus' prison cell. A PAIR OF WRETCHES struggling to get through to Marcus below.

He just stares up at them...

...watching them DRIBBLE and HISS.

A BURST OF GUNFIRE scatters the wretches. Marcus turns to the door as the VIEWING SLIT racks open to reveal DOM'S FACE...

...he spots Marcus inside the cell and turns to someone.

DOM

Jack, rip that door.

We hear a SERIES OF ELECTRONIC BEEPS in response.

Marcus stands back as a SHOWER OF SPARKS bursts through the CELL DOOR where the lock should be. A moment later, the door swings open...

...to reveal that "JACK" is a hovering robotic assistant, like the one we saw earlier in Adam's vast weapons lab.

Jack retracts its BLOWTORCH and rises OUT OF FRAME...

...as Dom enters the cell, a KIT BAG over his shoulder.

MARCUS

What're you doing here?

DOM

Getting you out.

(dumps the kit bag)

Here, put this on. You'll need it.

Marcus opens the KIT BAG...

...to find his WAR VEST inside.

MARCUS

You could get into a lot of trouble for doing this.

DOM

Not anymore. Things've changed. We better go.

MARCUS

What about the other prisoners? We can't just leave them here.

DOM

They're gone. Commissariat pardoned everybody.

MARCUS

Is that right?

Marcus emerges from his cell now, fully suited up...

...checking the HAMMERBURST Dom has provided for him. Dom pauses a moment to take in his friend, back in uniform.

DOM
Welcome back to the Gears.

MARCUS
Shit.

Marcus cocks the HAMMERBURST, CLICK-CLACK, and then we --

CUT TO BLACK.