

88
Outworld Productions Limited

MORTAL KOMBAT

ANNIHILATION

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MORTAL KOMBAT
ANNIHILATION

FADE IN:

1 EXT. TEMPLE OF THE ORDER OF LIGHT - EARTH - DAY 1

Dark clouds trample the sky and obliterate the sun.

OUTWORLD EXTERMINATION SQUADS literally "rain" down from a PORTAL which has literally ripped the sky open. These humanoid, hooded, Extermination Squad Warriors execute perfectly synchronized martial arts flips. They are nearly a hundred strong, and are armed with hand-to-hand combat weapons. This Army of Darkness is your worst nightmare.

From deep beneath the ground, a terrible RUMBLE surfaces in a crescendo of destruction as glorious, centuries old Asian temples, clustered around the base of a mountain, disintegrate into rubble --

-- Fierce WINDS swirl and howl, ripping limbs from trees and uprooting bushes in front of the temples --

-- Water is sucked from the lush temple ponds and streams, draining down into jagged fissures in the Earth, leaving behind only a barren, cracked crust of dirt.

WE PULL BACK to find five humans standing among all the chaotic destruction. They are heroes all, standing their ground. They are the CHOSEN ONES:

RAYDEN ... an Immortal who chooses to live on Earth and stand with humans ...

LIU KANG ... the rebellious warrior who has grown into a man by defeating Shang Tsung ...

KITANA ... a child of Edenia, now incomparably old, yet awesomely beautiful ...

SONYA BLADE ... the fiercest female warrior the Earth has to offer ...

JOHNNY CAGE ... a one-time celluloid fighter who has found real courage and devotion to his cause ...

If these Chosen Ones are the heroic matter of the Universe, they now realize they stand face-to-face against the terrible anti-matter, a legion of evil now revealed:

SHEEVA ... once Sindel's personal protector ...
Shokan ... a beautiful, towering, four-armed fighting machine ...

MOTARO ... horned Centauran warrior ... sworn enemy of Sheeva ... his race rules the highlands of Outworld ...

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

ERMAC ... appears like a traditional Ninja, only in red ... mysterious telekinetic powers ...

Suddenly, a massive SHAPE coalesces in the black clouds above. Vaguely human, definitely evil. Then, from this looming projection, a figure hurtles forward. It's:

SHAO-KAHN ... evil leader of Outworld ... a terrifying presence in full battle gear and a fearsome mask ...

Flipping through the air, landing expertly on an outcropping high above the destruction below.

Kahn confidently steps to the front of the pack, to the very edge of the outcropping where he roars:

KAHN

The Earth was created in six days!
So too shall it be destroyed! And
on the seventh day, mankind will
rest ... in peace!

Our heroes stare up in disbelief at the imposing figure of Shao Kahn -- his generals behind him are only indistinct figures.

RAYDEN

Shao Kahn. I should have known.

JOHNNY

This is not good.

KITANA

He's opened a portal.

LIU

(to Rayden)

I thought our victory in Mortal
Kombat closed that 'door?'

RAYDEN

What closes can also open again.

SONYA

What's that supposed to mean?

RAYDEN

This is not good.

Johnny pushes forward, flexing for combat.

JOHNNY

Somebody's gotta remind this
windbag, cheaters never prosper.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 2

1

A blast of wind blasts against them.

Johnny turns back to the others, his bravado faltering.

JOHNNY

Any volunteers?

No time to wait. The Extermination Squad quickly fans out to form a formidable half-circle around our heroes. Kahn orders his generals down from the outcropping and into battle.

Rayden steps forward, taking charge of his group, trying to keep them confident and together.

RAYDEN

There are many of them, but they do not think for themselves. That is your advantage.

(beat)

I will handle Kahn.

Out of eyesight to the others, Johnny squeezes Sonya's hand.

JOHNNY

Usually on a second date, I go with a romantic dinner at my place. Oh well ...

Now, all the Chosen Ones begin a mighty defense of the Earth against the Extermination Squads.

Johnny is faced with two Extermination Squad Warriors. He bobs and weaves like Ali in his prime, a tough target to hit.

Liu is attacked by three Extermination Squad Warriors armed with menacing combat weapons. He grabs hold of one of the warrior's weapons, using it to block, then attack, the second warrior.

Sonya must use her gymnastic abilities to flip through mid-air and counter her attackers.

One other Extermination Squad Warrior attacks Kitana with his long bo staffs, whirling it like an airplane propeller, driving her backwards ...

SINDEL ... once ruled Edenia as Shao Kahn's reluctant Queen ... resurrected after her mysterious death ... now a ghastly sight ...

Kitana turns and sees Queen Sindel, twenty yards away stepping out from behind the other generals. Kitana gasps in shock at the gruesome sight. Do her eyes betray her?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 3

1

KITANA

Mother ...? You're alive.

Stunned and revolted, Kitana is hit by an Extermination Squad warrior before she can get any closer.

Rayden double-flips over the generals, landing face-to-face with Kahn. They are inches apart.

RAYDEN

As long as I have the power, Kahn,
you will never rule this world!

Kahn begins to swing his arm like a sledge hammer, threatening Rayden.

KAHN

As long as the Portal remains open,
your powers grow less every second.
And my Extermination Squads will
annihilate your realm.

The generals face the other heros, ready for battle. But Rayden senses the danger and cleverly tries to bait Kahn.

RAYDEN

Only you and I can win or lose this
battle, Kahn! We both know that.
But do you have the courage!?

KAHN

Don't make me laugh.

Kahn and Rayden, two Immortals, circle each other. Scorpions in a bottle. Rayden uses his paqua technique to dodge and weave. Kahn's temper flares, and he clashes his wrist guards together, emitting SPARKS.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 4

Silence descends on the battlefield. With that, the two Immortals fight ferociously --

-- Kahn uses his shoulder charge move to knock Rayden off his feet, throwing him into and breaking a stone column --

-- With Rayden stunned, Kahn fires an ENERGY PHOTON projectile. Rayden must do a double front twist to avoid the deadly blast which continues to destroy another section of the temple. While in mid-air, Rayden untucks and does a double fisted flying punch into Kahn -- knocking him to the ground.

Rayden fights valiantly, actually gaining the upper hand on Kahn with his shock-punches and acrobatic quadruple flip-kicks. Watching from the sidelines, Liu is impressed.

LIU

Alright.

JOHNNY

The shoes. It's gotta be the shoes.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 5

1

Indeed, here on Earth, Rayden appears to be too powerful for Kahn who is knocked to the ground, forced to crawl.

Sensing he's losing, Kahn desperately grabs up the whip of a defeated Extermination Squad Warrior and lashes out at --

-- Sonya who is lassoed around her legs by the whip, then yanked violently away from her friends --

-- Shao Kahn reels her in, and before she has a second to react, he steps down hard on her windpipe.

KAHN

This ends now!

Rayden holds his fire.

RAYDEN

You hide behind a human?

KAHN

(derisive)

Why not, 'Lord' Rayden? You have hidden your entire, pathetic life behind them!

His fury surfacing, Johnny breaks away from his friends ...

SONYA

No, Johnny!

... and runs straight for Kahn, using a shadow kick to attack, trying to free Sonya from his clutches.

Kahn releases his foothold on Sonya, and in one spectacular, fluid move devastates Johnny who, out cold, stands a beat before collapsing under a merciless rain of blows.

With Johnny in his grasp, Kahn warns:

KAHN

Surrender, Rayden, or this one dies!

Rayden, standing with Liu and Kitana, holds a hand in the air, generating SWIRLS OF ELECTRICITY that arc around him.

RAYDEN

Then I will take your Generals, because Earth does not bend to the will of tyrants.

He points a charged finger at Motaro, Sheeva, Sindel and Baraka -- all now standing at the forefront of the Extermination Squad -- and encircles them with electricity.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 6

Sonya clenches her fists, waiting breathlessly. Kahn stares directly at Rayden. It is now a battle of wills.

KAHN

You would never let one of your precious humans die.

RAYDEN

Trade me for Johnny Cage.

Kahn considers this a moment, easing his vice-like grip on Johnny, giving the impression of concession.

KAHN

Come to me and kneel, Rayden!

Rayden looks uneasily at Liu, Sonya and Kitana.

RAYDEN

I have no choice.

Rayden releases his electric hold on the Generals and starts towards Kahn ...

KAHN

You fool!

Kahn lets out a blood curdling SCREAM, then brutally smashes Johnny!

SONYA

JOHNNY!

Sonya rushes to Johnny, critically wounded. Kahn's mocking laugh adds insult to injury.

Rayden is clearly shocked. Before he can act, however, Kahn uses the moment to catch him off-guard with a massive ENERGY PHOTON BLAST.

Liu and Kitana watch in fear as their mentor is BLOWN TWENTY FEET BACKWARDS!

Sonya, kneeling down at Johnny's side, struggles to find the words to express her emotions.

SONYA

Johnny, I just want you to ... I mean, what you did ... I ...

Sonya's eyes well up with tears. Johnny struggles to speak.

JOHNNY

I know ... Me ... too.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 7

Kahn, who looms over Johnny and Sonya, extends down a rigid hand and focuses all his energy.

KAHN

Your soul is mine.

SONYA

Noooo!!

Ruthlessly, Kahn kicks Sonya away, then slowly closes his hand, drawing Johnny's ETHEREAL SOUL from his seizing body into Kahn's fist.

KAHN

In six days you will all bow to me!

Kahn inhales Johnny's soul from his hand, then imbued with momentary super strength, impossibly leaps and flips back up through the portal.

KAHN

It has begun!

Rayden, finally shaking off the brutal photon attack, lunges after Kahn, who wisely disappears back through the Portal.

Kahn's evil, bellowing laugh rumbles like thunder in the blackening skies as the generals follow Kahn through the portal, which irises shut.

A RUMBLE begins to emanate from deep underground. Slowly, but powerfully, a stone GARGOYLE from Outworld begins to jut up through the Earth's crust. As it does, the others are forced to step back. The gargoyle raises Johnny's dead body, altar-like above the ground.

LIU

(enraged)

We can't let Kahn get away with this!

The Extermination Squad, however, has stayed on this side of the closed Portal. They begin to advance on our heroes.

RAYDEN

This is not a fight we can win here. We must go.

Rayden indicates a nearby temple, which they all make a break for, chased close behind by the Extermination Squad.

2 INT. TEMPLE CHAMBER - EARTH - DAY

2

Rayden and the surviving heroes (Liu, Kitana, Sonya) enter on the run. Everyone yells at each other to "Hurry up!" or "Look out!" Only Rayden stays calm.

RAYDEN
Everyone move back.

As he extends his hands to fire off an electrical blast ...

3 EXT. TEMPLE CHAMBER - EARTH - CONTINUOUS

3

... The arched doorway -- the only way inside -- crackles with ELECTRICAL ENERGY! The stone walls begin to rumble and crack. Soon, a mound of rubble has blocked the entrance.

The Extermination Squad Warriors are held at bay outside.

4 INT. TEMPLE CHAMBER - EARTH - DAY

4

With residual electricity still sparkling on the walls around the blasted entrance, stray sparks flutter down and ignite the tip of a wall torch, causing it to catch fire. Rayden touches the wall with his hand and discharges a small electrical charge which travels along the stone surface, lighting the 500 ancient oil lamps inset in the walls.

RAYDEN
We are safe. For now.

In the reflected light, the faces all seem scared and tense. Their dialogue is terse and overlapping.

LIU
I don't know if I call being
trapped in here 'safe.'

RAYDEN
Kahn has opened the Portal. Your
planet and Outworld have begun to
merge into one realm.
(bottom line)
Think of it as 'Hell on Earth.'

KITANA
(confused)
My mother ... resurrected ... how
is it possible?

RAYDEN
If I am correct, your mother Sindel
is the key to all this --

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

LIU
This can't be! We won the
tournament. The rules say the
Earth is safe for another
generation --

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 2

4

RAYDEN

-- Kahn has obviously cheated and broken the rules.

KITANA

How could the Elder Gods allow this!?

RAYDEN

I do not know. But Kahn must be stopped or your world will perish. We have only six days until annihilation --

LIU

(ready to fight)

I beat Shang Tsung. I can beat Kahn.

RAYDEN

Yes, you beat a great sorcerer to win the tournament. But you are no match for Kahn.

Kitana, who sees Liu's frustration, calms him with her wise words.

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*

KITANA

For ten thousand years I have wanted Kahn destroyed. He killed my family ... but I will not let him kill you, too.

Sonya, who has been silent until now just staring with unblinking inner fury at the burning embers, speaks up:

SONYA

If anyone's going to kill Kahn, it's going to be me.

KITANA

(shakes head)

No. Shao Kahn has lived for eons. His power is immeasurable.

RAYDEN

Listen to Kitana. If we do this right, no one should have to fight Kahn. To save the Earth ... we must close the Portal.

SONYA

So close it! You opened the last one, didn't you?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 3

4

RAYDEN

It is not that simple. Kahn was clever. Legend has it, he buried the body of his bride on Earth. Resurrecting her must have given him access to this realm.

KITANA

(angry realization)

Kahn used my mother --

RAYDEN

-- And so will we. By reuniting you with her, Kahn's spell will be broken. Your mother's soul will be at peace. And the Portal closed.

LIU

Listen to yourself. This is insane!

SONYA

I'm with Liu. I don't buy any of this. I say we just take our best shot with those cretins outside.

LIU

Rayden, we can beat them --

RAYDEN

-- ENOUGH!

He shoots a powerful BLAST OF LIGHTNING at the back of the chamber! Rocks and earth fall away, revealing a hidden passageway which leads to a light up ahead.

Now that he has their attention:

RAYDEN

You feel your hearts racing. Adrenalin clouds your senses. You think you are ready for what lies ahead. But, believe me, you are far from ready.

Downcast looks from Sonya and Liu do not go unnoticed by Rayden, who delivers a final "pump them up" sermon.

RAYDEN

I am telling you this for your own good. I have no powers in Outworld. And as the two realms merge, I will lose my powers here on Earth. Each of you must grow stronger.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 4

4

RAYDEN (CONT'D)

(bottom line)

Together we are the only hope.

As the others move off through the back of the chamber,
STAY ON Sonya as she hesitates before joining the others.

*

SONYA

(still bitter; sotto)

Together we couldn't even save
Johnny.

5 INT. VELOSPHERE MAP/ CAVE ROOM - DAY

5

With touch in hand, Rayden leads the group from the
claustrophobic passageway.

LIU

What is this place?

RAYDEN

During the Ice Age, your ancestors
fled below ground. As you will
see, the Great Wonders of your
planet are not all on the surface.

PULL BACK to reveal this chamber has huge vaulted,
cathedral-like walls. The cavern has a mystical AURA.

*

KITANA

These caverns are everywhere on
Earth. They were once stations.

*

LIU

I take it we're splitting up.

RAYDEN

We have no choice. There is too
much to do and very little time.

SONYA

What happened to your 'all for one,
one for all' pitch?

RAYDEN

We will all meet again in two days
at the Temple of the Elder Gods.
It is there we'll find another
portal. To Outworld.

(beat)

Hopefully by then we will all be
prepared for what lies ahead.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

Rayden looks solemnly at the mortals.

RAYDEN

You will face unimaginable odds and
the most formidable foes in Kahn's
generals ...

(beat)

Face it, we're screwed.

(breaks into smile)

Just kidding.

During this, Liu examines some ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHS carved
into the walls. The symbols accompany arrows and what
appears to be an intricate tunnel track grid.

LIU

I hope somebody's got a map. I
can't read these directions.

RAYDEN

Kitana will guide you. And I will
guide Sonya. We both have used the
velospheres many centuries before.

Rayden gestures to an earthen-style hangar at the back of
the cavern. A sort of underground Grand Central Station:

6 EXT. VELOSPHERE LAUNCH - EARTH - DAY

6 *

Spheres of different sizes, up to fifteen feet in diameter.
Globes made out of crude steel, reminiscent of some bizarre
design by an ancient Leonardo Da Vinci.

All are "parked" on stone pedestals lining a funneled main
line track WHOOSHING with wind. The main track connects to
a labyrinth of other other tracks.

LIU

What do these things do?

KITANA

Once inside, you can travel to
anywhere on Earth in mere hours.
The inner winds propel you.

To illustrate this, Rayden walks up to the main track and
drops his torch into the tunnel -- WHOOOOOOSH! The torch is
immediately extinguished and carried off into the labyrinth.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

(ALTERNATE VERSION)

RAYDEN

With a sufficient blast of
electrical energy. They can be
particlized and then reassembled
anywhere on earth.

KITANA

With you in them.

SONYA

You can count me out.

Rayden places a hand on each of Sonya's shoulders. He looks
her directly in the eye.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 2

6

RAYDEN

We need help, Sonya. I will take you to find your Special Forces partner, Jax.

SONYA

Forget it. If I die that's fine, but I'm not losing anybody else.

RAYDEN

Alone, you are vulnerable. But if you work as a team you two can overcome much. The sooner you learn this, the more valuable you are to the rest of us.

Slightly humbled, this momentarily shuts Sonya down. Liu indicates himself and Kitana.

LIU

What about us?

RAYDEN

You two will travel to the Hopi Mesa.

(off his reaction)

You did great last time, Liu, but you will need help for what we're about to face.

(the plan)

Seek out the counsel of one called Nightwolf. I will find the Elder Gods and demand answers for what Shao Kahn has done.

7 EXT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - OUTWORLD

7

A blackened, evil version of Mount Olympus, as it towers over the rubble of monuments of previous world's conquered.

At closer inspection, the foundation, walls and supports are all made up of the skeletons and carcasses of millions of warriors who found and lost to these evil forces.

Now bound to serve Kahn's empire, these imprisoned bodies and souls literally construct this vast monument to Kahn's successes. The different stages of the structure range from bones and ash of century old battles to some actual souls trapped in the construction of the walls and pillars.

Outworld "Guardgoyles," living versions of the Outworld gargoyles statues, stand sentinel along the towering walls. A noxious, gray fog serpentine around the turrets. Looking at these surroundings, we feel the eerie energy, as the tortured souls seem to gasp for breath.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

We are not pleased to be here. WE PUSH IN through a horrific, stained glass window ...

8 INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - THRONE ROOM - OUTWORLD

8 *

We are behind a gawdy, over-sized throne raised altar-like alcove that overlooks the enormous war table in the center of the space. The infamous Mortal Kombat emblem is emblazoned on the table. The emblem on the table has a large crack running through it. Torches line the walls which feature cobalt tile murals, Gothic style tributes to war and destruction. Two eerie SHADOW PRIESTS stand on either side of the throne.

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KAHN

Now unmasked, sits atop his throne brooding. An ominous SHADOW falls across the far wall, accompanied by a mysterious flickering of all the torches lighting the hall. A figure emerges from the darkness across the room.

SHINNOK ... a tall, hooded figure ... his piercing, unblinking black eyes are the only feature we see of his face ...

Kahn rises from his throne, breaks into a twisted smile.

KAHN

Father! Where have you been? The Portal is open. Earth is under attack. It is a glorious sight.

Shinnok keeps his distance. There is no closeness in this family.

SHINNOK

Tell me, did you make Rayden beg for his life before destroying him?

The smile tightens on Kahn's face. He looks away.

KAHN

Rayden is of no concern to us for as long as --

Before he can even finish his sentence, Shinnok travels across the war room in a BLUR OF MOTION. Startled, Kahn now has his father right in his face. Literally.

SHINNOK

(furious)
You let him live!?

KAHN

He could not be stopped!

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

SHINNOK
I have no use for excuses!

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 2

8

Shinnok brusquely turns from his his son.

SHINNOK

I have broken the Sacred Rules to open the Portal for you! If the Elder Gods learn of our plot, we shall both suffer the consequences.

Shao is obviously tense.

KAHN

I do not understand ... How can you fear the Elder Gods?

SHINNOK

With control of the Earth Realm our power will be absolute. Until the sixth day has passed we can take no chances with Rayden and his mortals. Do not underestimate the power of the human spirit.

KAHN

I will not fail you, father. I have another plan for Rayden and his mortals. A plan that will lead them straight to their destruction.

SHINNOK

Let us see what kind of leader you are.

And as he mysteriously appeared, so to does he suddenly disappear into the dark recesses of the altar alcove. Kahn whirls around, startled by the sounds of raucous VOICES in the war room ...

8A INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD

8A *

Now assembled around the war table are a collection of Kahn's lieutenants: Sindel, Sheeva, Motaro, Ermac, and a purple clad ninja, RAIN.

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RAIN

My squads have already claimed thousands of innocent souls on Earth.

MOTARO

I would have claimed millions.

SHEEVA

By now, you would be behind bars, on display in a zoo.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED:

8A

MOTARO
If the bars could keep you away, I
would welcome it.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED: 2

8A

REACTION SHOT - KAHN

Watching this, perplexed. Not sure if anyone has even noticed he's present.

BACK TO SCENE:

QUEEN SINDEL

Why Kahn tolerates you two wretched mongrels I cannot fathom, but I will advise him to have you put to death as quickly as possible.

KAHN (O.S.)

Silence!

Kahn strides down the altar steps, past the SHADOW PRIESTS lining the walls like sentinels -- two stand at the war room door.

KAHN

(to General)

What is your report?

RAIN

Two of Earth's best warriors have already been taken.

(proudly)

Kabal and Stryker.

KAHN

And did you make them beg for their lives before you destroyed them?

Much as Kahn flinched uneasily before Shinnok's same question, Rain now cowers before Kahn.

RAIN

But Master, I thought if I let them live that we could --

KAHN

(echoes Shinnok)

-- I have no use for excuses!

Kahn picks up an ornate Mallet off the table and SMASHES it down on top of the emblem. Purple fire laps up from the crack on the table, causing everyone in the room to hold their breath -- what's next?

KAHN

Rain, this can never happen again.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED: 3

8A

RAIN
(groveling)
Of course, Master. It will never
happen again, I swear to --

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WHOOMP -- Kahn slams the mallet into the Rain's gut.

Rain goes flying across the room, hits the wall, and
disappear into the firepit.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED: 4

8A

KAHN

(a stern warning)
It is true, it will never happen
again. It is also true that I am
in need of a new general.

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Kahn turns to the others, all now cowering with fear but
doing their best not to show it. Both Motaro and Sheeva
exchange uncertain glances. Who dares put their life on the
line.

KAHN

To die in duty, or here at my hand.
Let the decision be yours.

Motaro gets the point and hesitantly steps forward.

MOTARO

Centaurans are known for their
hunting prowess. As your general,
I will hunt down every single human
soul and spare no one.

Not to be outdone, Sheeva too steps up for consideration.

SHEEVA

Motaro can't be trusted. Long ago
I proved myself as the personal
protector of Queen Sindel. Your
orders are mine to follow.

MOTARO

Was it not under Sheeva's watchful
eye that the Queen killed herself?

Kahn looks between Motaro and Sheeva, strokes his beard.
Both creatures are standing tall, side by side, too scared
to breath as Kahn contemplates their fate. Finally:

KAHN

No. You are both too impetuous for
such important work.

(to Sindel)

You are my new general, Queen
Sindel.

(to Sheeva, Motaro)

Unless you have another point of
view?

Sheeva and Motaro glance at the lifeless body of the
Extermination General. Not a good point of view.

9 INT. VELOSPHERE LAUNCH - DAY

9 *

Inside a velosphere, Rayden fastens leather straps around
Sonya's wrists. She looks very apprehensive.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

RAYDEN

You will be moving so fast ...
it will be as though you are not
moving at all.

(ALTERNATE VERSION)

RAYDEN

You will be moving at the speed of
light ... it will be as though you
are not moving at all.

SONYA

(sarcastic)

That's comforting.

Rayden steps into the contraption along with her. Standing
face-to-face, he grasps the second set of leather straps.
Liu moves closer to the velosphere. He's worried but trying
not to show it.

LIU

What if Kitana and I don't make it
to the Temple of the Elder Gods on
time?

RAYDEN

We will wait. Without Kitana, we
cannot close the Portal.

KITANA

(also wary)

Are we certain there's no other
way?

RAYDEN

If there is, only the Elder Gods
will know.

(to Sonya)

Roll to your left!

With their combined weight, they roll the velosphere off its
pedestal. (Because the contraption is gyroscopic, the globe
spins but the passengers do not.) As the vehicle teeters on
the lip of the funnel track, Liu grabs a hold of the frame.

LIU

Wait!

(beat)

What if you are not at the
temple, Rayden?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 2

9

RAYDEN

Follow your instincts. But trust
no one. For you will be the target
of all of Kahn's fighters.
Remember, there are no rules this
time.

(to Sonya)

Once more, to the left!

Liu and Kitana step back as the velosphere drops down and
rolls off out frame. We hear the sound of WHOOSHING WIND
blocked --

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(ALTERNATE VERSION)

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Rolling the velosphere into tunnel tracks causes a surge of
electrical energy -- like ball lightning -- which engulfs
the vehicle ... and de-materializes it.

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(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 3

9

-- then an O.S. CRY from Sonya followed by a SHWOOOSH sound of the velosphere rocketing away.

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We stay ON Liu and Kitana, watching. Sonya's O.S. cries echo in the subterranean cavern, then quickly fade out.

*

KITANA

They are faster than I remember.

LIU

(unexcited)

I can't wait...

10
THRU
14

OMITTED

10
THRU
14

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

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15 EXT. FLATLANDS - EARTH - DAY

15

A heat shimmering horizon line broken only by a series of low metal structures in the distance.

Sonya appears from a cave in the shallow of the small foothills that rim the flatlands. Rayden watches her go:

RAYDEN

You will take the same track back,
and turn where I showed you.

SONYA

Don't worry about me.

Sonya surveys the unnatural landscape, bubbling with searing hot tar arising up from sink holes in the crusted dirt. TUMBLEWEEDS spontaneously combust as they roll through the incendiary tar -- a black haze pollutes the heat-shimmering air. Sonya reacts, covering her face in disgust:

SONYA

Is it like this everywhere?

RAYDEN

With each hour the Merger of the
Realms grows closer, more of Earth
will die.

Squinting into the overbearing sunlight, Sonya starts for the metal structures.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

RAYDEN

Sonya!

(she turns back)
I'm sorry about Johnny. But it
wasn't your fault. You need to
remember that.

She nods, but keeps walking, clearly carrying the burden of
guilt.

SONYA

(to herself)

Easier said than done.

Determined, she makes her way through the tar field, while
all around her clumps of scrub brush BURST INTO FLAMES as
they are touched by the incendiary black gunk.

16 EXT. MILITARY COMPLEX - EARTH - DAY

16

Sonya walks along the walled parameter of the complex. She
finds a gap section of the wall -- a burned out hole. She
enters.

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16A EXT. MILITARY COMPLEX CORRIDORS - DAY

16A *

Sonya cautiously searches the industrial gray corridors.
Upon hearing the sound of EXTERMINATION SQUADS approaching,
she looks for a place to hide -- below her, she spots a
grate. She lifts it up and jumps down, replacing the grate.

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17 INT. MILITARY COMPLEX - BIOTECH LAB - EARTH - DAY

17

Sonya drops into frame in a corridor outside the lab. As
Sonya steps through the opening, she scans her surroundings
with cautious eyes. The KLAXXONS are at full-volume.
She's in a secret, hi-tech military medical complex. We
hear EXPLOSIONS echoing from every direction.

With urgency, Sonya checks a few doors in the vicinity,
finding nothing.

SONYA

Jax?? Jax??

Finally, she throws the door open to a large hi-tech lab.
Inside an octagonal, plexiglass operating theatre is:

SONYA

Jax!

JAX ... Sonya's tough African-American partner ... a
practiced skeptic with a biting wit ...

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

Sonya hurries to Jax's side. He's unconscious and strapped to a chrome table. She moves quickly to free him.

He begins to stir and gain awareness, but remains a little groggy.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 2

17

JAX

I was supposed to be ... coming to
rescue you.

Sonya struggles with the restraining straps. Her tone is
clipped and impatient.

SONYA

Yeah, well, I couldn't wait.

(re: new arms)

What the hell have you done to
yourself this time?

JAX

Cybernetic strength enhancers.
Takes what you got and quadruples
the muscle capacity.

SONYA

You've got a real confidence
problem, you know that?

(re: straps)

These locks must be on some kind
of remote access mechanism.

Sonya runs over to a bank of computer equipment, tries to
access the unlock code. We see various readouts on the
monitors.

JAX

What's going on? What are you
doing here?

SONYA

The whole facility's been trashed
by an Extermination Squad. They'll
be here any second.

JAX

Extermination Squad!?

SONYA

All you need to know is they're
trying to kill me. And probably
you, too.

JAX

Me!? I don't even know these guys.
Where've you been anyway?

Frustrated and impatient, Sonya can't seem to find the code.

SONYA

I can't get you free, Jax!

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 3

17

JAX

Stand back. Let's see what I'm
made of ...

Sonya takes a step back from the table. Jax flexes his arms. The metal restraints bust apart at his Herculean effort. Sonya can't believe her eyes. Jax grins, proud of his newfound power.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 4

17

JAX

Wish I had these in high school.

Without warning the double corridor doors EXPLODE into the plexiglass enclosure!

SONYA

You're gonna wish you were back in high school ...

Jax rolls over to see through the smoke:

CYRAX ... Unit LK-4D4 ... prototype cyber-ninja built by Lin Kuei, the perfect martial artist, no feelings, no flaws.

Striding down the corridor, Cyrax expels a FIREBOMB from his abdominal launch cavity. The fiery ball hits the plexiglass and spreads -- momentarily engulfing the room -- not harming Sonya and Jax, who instinctively dive to the floor...

Sonya and Jax cautiously peek their heads up then immediately duck just as Cyrax fires another bomb which engulfs the whole chamber with a fire ball.

Cyrax steps up to the impenetrable partition and raises his fist, taking aim at the center of the plastic wall. Then a sudden burst of LIGHT shoots out of his hand producing A SHOCKWAVE OF ENERGY that ripples throughout the plexiglass enclosure ... SHATTERING IT!

Sonya and Jax rush for the doors on the opposite side of the bio lab, throwing them open to find --

-- Extermination Squad Warriors coming towards them from this corridor!

SONYA

Let's get outta here!

As Sonya and Jax begin to scramble around the large lab, they hear behind them:

CYRAX (O.S.)

Death ... is the only way out.

They spin around to see Cyrax closing in on them.

CYRAX

Major Briggs. And Sonya Blade.
Shao Kahn will be pleased.

JAX

Shao-What?!

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 5

17

Jax moves toward Cyrax while Sonya stands to face the
Extermination Squad Warriors who begin to encircle her with
deadly menace. Sonya charges in with double jump kicks,
taking out two of the warriors.

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(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 6

17

Meanwhile, Jax backs up as Cyrax advances deliberately, knocking over anything between himself and Jax.

JAX
I take it this isn't something we
can talk about?

In response to his question, Cyrax leaps at Jax and executes a flawless flying kick --

-- Jax is sent flipping over the operating table and into a bank of computers that spark and short circuit upon impact. Jax, totally surprised at how fast and fluid Cyrax is, gets to his feet, takes a defensive stance.

Cyrax jumps over the table and comes right for Jax. With blindingly fast martial arts moves, Cyrax lands an axe kick, a front kick and a palm strike to Jax's body.

Jax tries to retaliate, but it becomes clear that he doesn't have complete control of his new arms. Trying to crush Cyrax, Jax accidentally knocks the operating table over.

Cyrax then grabs Jax by the throat, scoring repeated punches to Jax's body and face. After this devastating assault, Cyrax reaches underneath Jax and flips him up and over sending him crashing into more computer equipment.

Sonya is surrounded by the Extermination Squad Warriors who wield staffs, periodically jabbing and slashing at her from all sides. Sonya boldly backsprings over to a glass supply cabinet and kicks it open in one fluid motion. Arming herself with a stainless steel bone saw, she's now ready to take on the warriors.

The CLANK-CLINKING of the metal RINGS OUT as Sonya skillfully parries and counters the Warriors' attacks. Sonya slashes at the warriors. This is one dangerous woman.

Cyrax turns, sees Sonya. He lifts his arm, readying his green energy net. Upon getting up, Jax notices Cyrax preparing to fire the net. Jax calls out:

JAX
Sonya! Heads up!

Sonya turns just as --

SKOOOSH! Cyrax launches the energy net at Sonya, who ducks at the last second as the net flies over her and lands on --

18 AN EXTERMINATION SQUAD WARRIOR

18

inadvertently hit by the net, which starts to tighten around the warrior. We begin to hear the BUZZING of tiny motors.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

We PUSH TO AN ECU of the net. The fibers are made up of millions of microbe-sized "flesh-eating" robots -- the latest in nano-technology.

19 BACK TO SCENE

19

The minuscule piranha-like machines dig in, tearing through the warrior's clothes ... working their way to his skin. As the warrior SCREAMS in pain:

Jax gets control of his arms and lands a series of punches on Cyrax. It has no effect on this high-tech killing machine. Cyrax calmly turns, unfazed, and closes in on Jax. Thinking fast, Jax rips down one of large over hanging operating lamps and uses as a shield just as --

-- Cyrax launches into a crushing back kick which hits the lamp instead of Jax. The bulb explodes, showering sparks everywhere. Cyrax kicks the shield away then lands another kick into Jax's ribs.

Jax, reeling, backs up and grabs one end of the operating table. Without intending to, he swirls it around, heaving it toward Cyrax who sidesteps out of the way as --

-- the operating table flies clear across the room, heading towards Sonya. Sonya leaps out of the way just as the table strikes --

-- Two more extermination squad warriors as they enter ... SMASH! Both are struck down by the table which now blocks the door.

Jax checks out his arms, marveling at his new found power.

JAX

Stylin'.

Meanwhile, with two warrior on her trail, Sonya tries to make her way to the lab door only to discover --

A THIRD WARRIOR

Waiting for her. In a flash, she leaps up onto a table just as the warrior lunges for her. Sonya kicks the warrior in the face, sends him flying across the room.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Cyrax rises from the floor, now covered with a chemical dust which fizzles and sparks. Jax, his confidence restored, POUNDS Cyrax in the stomach sending him crashing into the perimeter wall. Jax charges, pummels him with his now mastered cyber-arms and then grabs Cyrax by his "dredlock" headdress. Jax is about to deliver a final death blow when Cyrax releases the dreds from his helmet and ducks causing --

-- Jax to miss Cyrax, punching right through the wall, trapping his arm. Before Jax can react, Cyrax kicks Jax, pushing him deeper into the wall. Jax blocks with his free arm then lands a back kick to Cyrax's chin. Cyrax falls to the ground just as --

-- Another warrior goes flying past, a causality of one of Sonya backspring kicks, finishing him off. Sonya goes to help Jax who is struggling to remove his arm from the wall.

SONYA

It's a nice look, but I'd lose the wall.

Jax is about to respond to her wise crack when he notices --

20 REVEAL - THE GREEN NET

20

Now surrounds a full human skeleton! Just above it --

CYRAX

Preparing to fire another energy net.

JAX

Sonya, get down!

Sonya doesn't question him and ducks just as Jax pulls his arm out of the wall. Jax turns as Cyrax fires his net. With no other option before him, Jax leaps up, catches the net --

-- PUSH TO AN ECU where we see the tiny machines can't eat through this alloy --

-- Jax then lands and casts the net back onto --

-- Cyrax is momentarily caught in the net. Sonya then leaps onto Jax's shoulders, flips up onto Cyrax's shoulders, landing in a handstand. Turning her body in mid-air, she switches her hands to the other sides and with her forward momentum, swings down and executes a front kick right into Cyrax's back --

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

-- Sending Cyrax sprawling across the room into some exposed conduits in the wall. The pipes crack open -- smoke, steam, and liquids spew out.

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Sonya notices a reaction occurring with some spilled chemical powders (Iron Oxide, Aluminum) on the floor near a fallen, burning section of ceiling tile. The mixture gives off a phosphorescent glow.

*

Just as Cyrax is beginning to rise again, Sonya scoops up a handful of the explosive powder mixture and fiery ceiling tile, then blows the glowing powder at Cyrax and then --

*
*

-- FROOOOOOOOOSH! Sonya incinerates Cyrax with her "Kiss of Death" fatality.

Jax stands over Cyrax's charred, shorting-out body. His mouth is agape.

JAX
Damn. You bar-b-qued his ass.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: 2

20

Sonya notices a strange tattoo on Cyrax's body. Kneeling down, she inspects its colorful design: a mythological creature, half bird and half lizard.

SONYA

Look at this.

Suddenly, the TATTOO COMES TO LIFE, lashing out at Sonya, then biting its own tail and inexplicably consuming itself.

JAX

(jumps back)

Son of a bitch!

As the creature finishes consuming itself, it leaves behind an acidic residue which begins to burn through Cyrax's metal body. It reveals a multi-chambered, digital countdown panel. A series of LEDs count and lock off in sequence. RED LIGHTS start flashing from behind Cyrax's face mask and some mechanical whirring and clicking is heard.

SONYA

Does this mean what I think it does?

Jax looks at Sonya. No time to discuss it.

JAX

Too bad I didn't get myself some new legs.

They dash out into the corridor.

21 EXT. FLATLANDS - EARTH - DAY

21

Sonya and Jax are seen sprinting through the bubbling, black desert, getting as far away from the military facility before --

BABUUUUssssssshhh! A massive SHOCKWAVE OF ENERGY briefly umbrellas the entire military facility... before instantly collapsing in on itself and imploding the above ground portion of the structure into nothing more than a fire-scarred hull in the ground...

The initial shockwave displaces so much air, Sonya and Jax are literally blasted up and over the camera.

From the fiery background in the distance, the surviving Extermination Squad Warriors begin to emerge from the smoking underground hull.

22 INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERN - EARTH - DAY

22

Liu and Kitana walk away from the velosphere and find themselves inside a large, iridescent cavern. There is an urgency to their words and actions.

LIU

How do we get to the Hopi Mesa
from here?

Kitana starts up a flight of deconstructed steps leading to the first of two landings ... and a narrow stone, bi-level bridge crossing the hot flow of LAVA in the gorge below.

KITANA

(points)

We must cross that bridge.

STAY ON the lava as water from frozen stalactites drips down, instantly sizzling into smokey steam.

23 MYSTERY POV - LIU AND KITANA

23

Clearly, they are being watched by someone from down below in the cavern as they walk up to the first landing.

*
*

24 BACK TO SCENE

24

Kitana stops on the landing, turns to Liu -- behind them we see billowy smoke creeping, as if alive, up the stairs.

KITANA

Liu, if anything happens to me ...

LIU

I've lost everything, Kitana. I'm
not going to lose you, too.

Kitana smiles softly, touched by his valor. But their tender moment is rudely interrupted by the WHOOSHING SOUND of something materializing behind them --

SMOKE ... collascesing from the steam ... once a human assassin ... now another cyber-ninja built by Lin Kui ...

Kitana spins back to see a full contingent of an Extermination Squad crossing the bridge from the other side, blocking their exit out of the cavern.

Smoke throws Liu to the ground and FIRES ONE MISSILE from his metal chest cavity --

*

-- Liu dodges and does a backflip as the missiles whiz right above his chest and ...

*
*

*

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

KABOO-BOO-BOOOM! The middle section of the bridge's top and bottom level is exploded! Making escape even more difficult. The LAVA FLOW increases ... pouring out from newly formed cracks and crevices in the chasm.

As Smoke silently advances, Liu moves to take him on. With mechanized strikes, Smoke fights Liu ...

... while Kitana quickly moves up the stairs to stop four of the Extermination Squad warriors who were able to get across the bridge before it exploded.

In an impressive display, Kitana immediately take out two of the attackers with a jump split kick, sending them to their deaths in the LAVA below. Kitana fights like water, she is defensive, elusive. Then, as the other two staff wielding warriors attack, she fluidly evades their jabs, using Juijitsu like moves and the warriors' own inertia to counter the attacks.

Liu is confident, almost cocky. He delivers a series of blows, twisting side kicks, reverse wheel kicks, leg sweeps -- everything in his arsenal. But Smoke anticipates every move, the perfect killing machine proficient in every style of martial arts. Liu is losing his momentum, in awe of this cyber ninja's amazing skill.

A warrior leaps from above to attack Kitana with his staff. From her boot she whips what appears to be a set of ESCRIME STICKS. Kitana expertly slashes at the warrior, keeping him at bay. Like two gears working in harmony, the two block, duck and kick at each other. The warrior swings his staff at her head, she ducks and springs up launching a backward crescent kick --

-- which the warrior catches. He throws Kitana up onto the top landing. She does a triple backward somersault and lands on an outcropping -- only to come face to face with two more awaiting warriors emerging from behind the pillars.

Kitana quickly flicks her escrime sticks causing them to open up into METAL FANS. This catches one of the warriors off guard allowing her the opportunity to knocking him over the landing's edge.

The other warrior attacks with a BO STAFF --

-- Kitana, using her fans, slices the staff in two and then wheel kicks the rest of the broken staff out of his hand. They continue to battle as ...

Smoke continues to drive Liu up the stairs. But Liu uses his backwards momentum to run up the wall behind him. He delivers a devastating flying crescent kick to Smoke's head, but nothing fazes the steel-plated warrior.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: 2

24

Using a jumping back kick, Smoke sends Liu flying into the inner part of the cavern. Smoke leaps from pillar to pillar after Liu. Liu stays one step ahead of him, dodging Smoke's brutal kicks. Smoke continues to drive Liu back with kicks and punches, breaking off pieces of stone from the pillars. Finally, Liu reaches a massive wall -- he's trapped. Smoke steps up, preparing for the kill. Liu puts his hand on the wall and, incredibly, finds that he can press into it, like it is made from some type flexible material (rattan).

Liu runs at the wall and uses it to propell himself into a backflip. Liu flies over Smoke's head and uses his legs to grab Smoke by the neck. Liu flips Smoke over him and sends him sailing off into space --

-- in mid-air, Smoke tucks and lands on his feet.

Kitana finishes the last of the Extermination Squad Warriors, and looks up to see Liu and Smoke on the top landing.

Smoke jump kicks and sends Liu flying. Liu lands on the the edge of a landing, struggling to hold on. Then, Kitana's hand reaches down just in the nick of time. She helps Liu back up. Before Liu can thank her, he looks over to see --

-- Smoke's chest sliding open up as his abdominal launch mechanism readies to fire another missile --

Liu's attention is pulled toward a WOOOSHING sound coming from cavern rafters. He looks to find --

SUB-ZERO... the elemental power of cold... a masked, dashing rogue ... his own personal code of honor...

-- sliding down an ice pole, upside down ... the pole forming as he goes and dissipating into steam after him. Sub-Zero raises his hand toward Smoke and fires --

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: 3

24

-- an ICE SHOWER! Instantly freezing Smoke just as the head of the missile appears in his chest cavity in mid launch.

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LIU
What the -- ?

But before Liu can spot the source of the ice:

KITANA
Liu! The missile!

*

CU - THE FROZEN MISSILE

Blinks. About to detonate. The blink frequency quickening --

-- Liu spin kicks the Smoke ice statue with everything he's got ... sending it toppling over the ledge, into the gorge where it disappears from view ...

KA-BOOOOOSH! An offscreen explosion that so shakes the cavern Liu and Kitana fall to the ground.

Sub-Zero lands at the side of Kitana, who he gallantly helps to her feet.

*

SUB-ZERO
You must go. There will be others.

Liu joins them, suspicious of the warrior who stands before him -- there is a vague sense of recognition.

LIU
I killed you in the tournament.

Sub-Zero pulls off his hood, revealing the telltale RED SCAR across his eye. This is really Sub-Zero's younger brother.

SUB-ZERO
You killed my older brother.

LIU
(confused)
So why did you help us?

SUB-ZERO
I helped her. Because legend has it the princess is the key to stopping Kahn's plot.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: 4

24

LIU
(looks over ledge; re:
Smoke)
That thing work for Kahn, too?

SUB-ZERO
That 'thing' was once my friend ...
until our clan, the Lin Kuei,
betrayed us. They turned Smoke
into a cyber-ninja ... a perfect
killing machine designed to hunt me
down.

KITANA
You've been following us. Why?

SUB-ZERO
Two days ago, Kahn reprogrammed
Smoke to come after you instead of
me.

(beat)
His failure only means there will
be others.

LIU
Alright, so how do we get to
Nightwolf now?

Liu and Kitana anxiously stare across this hellish gorge
filled with flaming lava. The exit passageway is on the
other side will be tough to reach.

KITANA
We have a common enemy, Sub-Zero.
You must help us with your powers
if you want to stop Kahn.

Sub-Zero considers the request with steely eyes.

SUB-ZERO
Let's hope you succeed.

Stepping up to a pile of stone rubble collected from the
explosion the collapsed bridge, using his special powers,
Sub-Zero SHOOTs ICE ... filling in the broken middle
section of the bridge's top level with ice ...

*

Sub-Zero leads the way above the flaming gorge, followed by
Liu, then Kitana.

25 THE FLAMING LAVA

25

Still on the rise. A skeletal corpse floats to the surface in the burning stream of liquid rock. We are shocked when the corpse's eyes open and morphs into:

SCORPION ... an escapee from the Nether Realm ... owes allegiance to no one

As Sub-Zero, Kitana and Liu cross the treacherous ice bridge, Scorpion shoots his DOUBLE HEADED SNAKE ROPE from his hand up at the ice bridge wrapping several times around it --

-- Sub-Zero jumps back as Scorpion uses the rope to flip himself up onto the bridge, retracting his snake as he goes. Then, --

-- Still in mid air, Scorpion shoots his snake rope at --

SCORPION
Get over here!

-- Sub-Zero who backflips, leaving an ICE CLONE of himself on the bridge --

-- The snake rope gouges the ice clone, with one snake digging into the clone's head and the other snake into the clone's stomach. With a brilliant flash, both the snake rope and the ice clone explode in a shower of crystalized ice.

Scorpion retracts the now headless rope.

Wiping the sweat from his face, Sub-Zero looks down as he almost slips off the bridge.

Sub-Zero tries to summon moisture from the air, but his powers are ineffective in this boiling atmosphere. Scorpion moves in for attack, as Sub-Zero is without his secret weapon now --

-- Liu positions himself in front of Kitana. Because the bridge is so narrow there is nothing they can do but watch:

Scorpion and Sub-Zero exchange a series of devastating kicks and punches, each one unleashing a blinding fury of spinning kicks, reverse backfists, elbow smashes and more. Some find their mark, some expertly blocked.

Sub-Zero double flip kicks Scorpion who anticipates the move and counters it with a wild hook punch--

-- Sub-Zero blocks it and does a reverse judo grab, that Scorpion reverses with another move -- picking up Sub-Zero under his arm and slamming him down on to the bridge with a shoulder throw. CRAAAAACK!

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

The impact of Sub-Zero causes the top level of the bridge to give way and the two of them come crashing down onto the bottom level.

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Scorpion bounds to his feet and charges at Sub-Zero who is still reeling from the fall. Just as Scorpion reaches him, Sub-Zero grabs ahold of Scorpion's leg and under sweeps him, then finishes with a kick to Scorpion's face as he lands.

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Using his momentum, Sub-Zero unleashes a series of kicks --

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-- Scorpion returns with a devastating reverse spinning hook kick which Sub-Zero dodges -- Scorpion knocks out what's left of the supporting beams of the second level. The bridge may collapse at any second...

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Scorpion comes back with a turning kick, hitting Sub-Zero in the throat. With Sub-Zero staggering, Scorpion front sweeps and --

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-- SLAM! Sub-Zero hits the ground, face first. Taking the upper hand, Scorpion launches into a jumping inside-cresting kick, aiming for Sub-Zero's head. Sub-Zero rolls out just as Scorpion lands, smashing his foot through the bridge exposing the lava below.

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Scorpion moves quickly with a jumping spinning hook kick to Sub-Zero's face, knocking him into the hole. Sub-Zero, clings to the side of the hole with one hand, the lava only inches from his feet.

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(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 2

25

-- In the blink of an eye, Liu takes a running start across the bridge, the ice melting beneath his feet. Scorpion stands over Sub-Zero, about to finish him off, when he looks up to see --

LIU

Leaping into a flip, headed right toward him. Scorpion TELEPORTS, vanishing into thin air seconds before --

-- Liu lands at the edge of the hole, just in time to grab hold of Sub-Zero's hand as the fighter loses his grip on the ice. A most heroic save.

KITANA

Breathes a sigh of relief. But behind her, unseen by Kitana ... Scorpion RE-MATERIALIZES mere seconds later!

SCORPION

Suckers.

Kitana spins around to find herself in Scorpion's clutches as he DE-MATERIALIZES them both just as Liu looks up:

LIU

KITAAAANAAAAA!!!

But Liu can do nothing. He has bigger worries in front of him, namely the CRACKING noise of the bridge about to collapse. He hauls Sub-Zero up and the two of them leap just as --

-- The bridge disintegrates completely. Liu and Sub-Zero land on the other side, another close call. Liu is already on to the next problem.

LIU

I've got to find Kitana! Where could he have taken her!?

SUB-ZERO

Kahn wants you to go after her. Don't.

LIU

(frustrated)

You don't understand! Without Kitana, it's over! We've lost! And there's no way to --

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 3

25

SUB-ZERO

(stays calm)

-- You were on your way to find
help. Stay your path.

(beat)

What happened here should prove
you alone aren't ready for what's
ahead.

LIU

(defensive)

How do I know I can trust you?

SUB-ZERO

You don't.

As mysteriously as he appeared, Sub-Zero disappears into the
shadows on the other side of the cavern.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 4

25

Liu is left alone, scared and confused. He finds one of Kitana's wrist bands laying on the bridge. Turning it over in his hands, he fills with determination. His spirit recharged, Liu hurries off into the dark, exit passageway.

26 EXT. TEMPLE OF THE ELDER GODS - EARTH - DUSK

26 *

Sunset. Rayden stands at the foot of a sheer, majestic stone formation carved with religious iconography. Halfway up the bluff, cut deep into the stone, is a triangular temple entrance adorned with ancient columns.

27 INT. TEMPLE OF THE ELDER GODS - NIGHT

27 *

A high-ceilinged room with three arched doorways. Rayden kneels amidst hundreds of already lit CANDLES surrounding an ancient, circular shrine. The candles seemingly continue on into into a wash of bright light in every direction. Rayden bows his head in reverence then whispers a short prayer in an unfamiliar tongue.

Upon utterance of the final word, a faint WIND flutters through the shrine, bending the candle flames. Rayden rises as the wind becomes more fierce, whipping the flames into fiery flagellation.

THE DOORWAYS MAGICALLY TRANSFORM into three ethereal, larger-than-life faces. They are the ELDER GODS: ELDER GOD #1 representing faith and wind; ELDER GOD #2, love and water; and ELDER GOD #3, courage and fire. All identical in their vaguely human, asexual appearance, and their voice. Their eyes are like the sun, powerfully hypnotic.

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RAYDEN

I have come to the Eternal Palace
because your Sacred Rules have been
broken. Shao Kahn has invaded
Earth.

ELDER GOD #1

As always, Lord Rayden, you are
granted three questions.

RAYDEN

The first must be why this
treachery was ever allowed?

ELDER GOD #2

We do not control the destiny of
man.

ELDER GOD #3

Everyone possess the ability to
change their fate.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

Frustrated, Rayden struggles to maintain his reverence.

RAYDEN

So you will just stand by and watch
the ruination of Earth?

ELDER GOD #1

You were correct in believing
Kitana is the key to closing the
Portal.

RAYDEN

But if I reunite her with Sindel,
how can I be certain the Portal
will stay closed until the next
tournament?

ELDER GOD #2

Only when Shao Kahn is destroyed
will the future be safe.

RAYDEN

Then Kahn can be defeated?

ELDER GOD #3

You have no more questions, Lord
Rayden. But we have questions for
you:

ELDER GOD #1

After living among the humans do
you truly believe them worth
saving?

RAYDEN

More than anything I know.

ELDER GOD #2

Do you love them enough to
sacrifice your own immortality?

RAYDEN

If that is what it takes, yes.

ELDER GOD #3

Are you ready to fight, and die,
for them?

OFF Rayden's narrowing eyes we go to:

28 OMITTED

28

29 EXT. FLATLANDS - OUTSIDE CAVE ENTRANCE - EARTH - DAY

29

Using his enhanced arms, Jax easily carries Sonya to the safety of the nearby cave entrance -- the same one from which Sonya arrived earlier.

Sonya begins regaining consciousness.

SONYA

Put me down ...

Dropping to his knees, Jax gently lowers Sonya to the earth. She defiantly wriggles free from him.

JAX

Chill out, girl. You're safe now.

SONYA

(getting to her feet)
I can take care of myself. In case you haven't noticed ...

JAX

What, you want me to leave my partner out there as vulture bait? With some kind of hit squad on our ass?

During this, Sonya ignores him and limps towards the cave entrance.

30 SONYA'S POV - THE EXTERMINATION SQUAD

30

Ten of the surviving Extermination Squad, a mile away, head their way across the flatlands. Their imposing figures are silhouetted by the burning remains of the Army base behind them. The fire is spread across the widening lake of tar. This does look like Hell on Earth.

Jax continues his diatribe.

JAX

Alright, forget compassion. I want some answers from you before you go and get yourself wasted. Like where you disappeared to and why you ditched me at the pier last time?

SONYA

We've got bigger problems than our past. We've got to keep moving.

Sonya hurriedly drags her wounded self past Jax and closer to the entrance of the cave.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

JAX
(annoyed)
This is what really gets me about
you, Sonya: your attitude.

Jax takes catches up with Sonya, steps in front of her,
blocking the way.

SONYA
If you'd been through what I have
you'd have an attitude too.

JAX
Well you're gonna have to go
through me unless you come clean.

A tense moment. He means business.

SONYA
Have it your way. We're being
invaded by Shao Kahn.
(breaks free from him)
Happy now?

JAX
Shao Kahn? What the hell kinda
country is that?

Sonya shakes her head, frustrated. She grabs Jax by his
enhanced arms and looks straight into his eyes.

SONYA
Just trust me on this, Jax: Those
guys out there are warriors -- from
another place or another time -- I
don't really know. But their job
is to kill us.

JAX
Girl, what've you gotten us into
this time!?

SONYA
Look, it's complicated, but
basically me and some friends
kicked the butt of Shao Kahn's top
General -- that's where I
disappeared to -- and let's just
say Kahn's a real sore loser.
(beat)
Please, we have to go now.

Sonya pushes past Jax and heads into the darkness of the
cave.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 2

30

JAX
Into a dead end cave!? I'm sorry
but I don't got a death wish like
you!

From the darkness, all we hear is:

SONYA (O.S.)
Jax, some things you just gotta see
for yourself.

Jax follows after her.

JAX (O.S.)
Whoa. I take it the train's out
of the question.

*

31 EXT. HOPI MESA - EARTH - DAY

31

Across the vast desert and disappear over a barren sand dune. Each footstep eventually becomes a small SINKHOLE ... which opens up into a yawning hole between realms as the grains of sand are sucked into Outworld's eternal blackness.

32 FURTHER AHEAD

32

The footprints belong to Liu, now seen trudging beneath the searing sun. His shirt is off and draped over his head to soak up the sweat. His breath and steps have grown labored as fatigue takes its toll. Cresting another in a long procession of dunes, Liu stops and squints.

33 LIU'S POV - THE HOPI MESA

33

Three graduating, demon-like spires framed by a setting sun. Like a mystical stairway to heaven. Smoke plumes feather from the highest spire into the sky.

34 EXT. HOPI MESA/OUTWORLD RELIC - EARTH - SUNSET

34

Burning torches in the sand surround a dozen Native American Medicine Men kneeled before an OUTWORLD RELIC rammed up through the earth, which appears ash white all around the relic. One MEDICINE MAN leads the others in a solemn CHANT.

Liu kneels behind a relic, attempting to watch without being seen himself. He is startled when the lead Medicine Man now speaks from directly behind him, seemingly having appeared from nowhere.

*

MEDICINE MAN
Liu Kang.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

LIU
(shocked)
Weren't you ...? How did you ...?

The Medicine Man points off into the darkness.

MEDICINE MAN
Go deep into the night. You will
not find the Nightwolf. He will
find you.

Liu nods, uncertainly. This is downright spooky.

35 EXT. HOPI MESA - EARTH - NIGHT

35

Liu can be seen by the glow of a single torch moving through the dark desert. As a HOWLING echoes in the distance, Liu stops, stiffens. More howling. Closer. He waves the torch in every direction. His eyes are wide, alert. The wolf howls seem to come from all directions.

*
*

The howling continues, coming from all sides. Liu steps back onto something that SNAPS. He whirls around to see the SKELETAL REMAINS of a recently deceased animal. Liu relaxes a little, the tension momentarily relieved when:

THE CAMERA JUMPS AT HIM!

*

Knocking Liu down. Liu looks over and sees a white wolf bearing its fangs, then --

*
*

-- the Wolf transforms before our eyes into:

NIGHTWOLF ... a young Native American ... hip and flip ... historian of his tribe ... preserver of the Magics ...

NIGHTWOLF
Pretty cool, huh?

Nightwolf smiles, hops off of Liu, then pulls the stunned fighter to his feet.

LIU
Who are you? How did you do that?

NIGHTWOLF
Ha! Wouldn't you like to know?

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

Liu looks hard at the young man before him, sees something in his eyes.

LIU

You're the one Rayden sent me to find, aren't you?

Nightwolf circles Liu, sizing him up, somewhat unimpressed.

NIGHTWOLF

So you're Rayden's prodigy? I've seen better.

(off Liu's reaction)

Don't sweat it. I've seen worse, too.

LIU

If you are Nightwolf, you know I won Mortal Kombat.

NIGHTWOLF

The tournament had rules. This time anything goes.

LIU

You're no older than I am. What can you possibly teach me?

NIGHTWOLF

This body before you may have low mileage, but my soul has been handed down through generations, dating back to the time before the Ancient Tribe split.

LIU

What does all this have to do with stopping Shao Kahn?

NIGHTWOLF

After the ice melted and the Ancient Tribe of One spread out across the globe each people was given a battle secret to keep the powers balanced. The keeper of this secret forever lives on Sacred Land ... which is where you now stand.

LIU

(skeptical)

You're telling me you are the keeper of your people's secret?

NIGHTWOLF

Pretty impressive, huh?

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 2

35

Nightwolf, something of a showboat, unhooks the tomahawk from his belt and twirls it dexterously from hand to hand.

LIU

(starts away)

Look, I don't have time for these stupid games. It was a mistake even coming here ...

NIGHTWOLF

You think you're ready, Liu Kang. But if you were, would Kitana have been captured?

This raises Liu's ire. He clenches his fists, but controls his anger and replies evenly:

LIU

Can you help me get her back?

NIGHTWOLF

Maybe. But first you gotta put yourself in a dream state.

LIU

(losing patience)

And just how am I supposed to do that?

NIGHTWOLF

Well, there's a slow way, and there's a fast way.

Nightwolf continues to perform dexterous acts with his tomahawk.

LIU

(loses it)

We don't have time for the slow way!

NIGHTWOLF

(smirks)

That's what I thought you'd say ...

Nightwolf suddenly flips the tomahawk at Liu -- KUUUUUUNK! The blunt end of the crude weapon strikes him right between the eyes. Liu's eyes roll back into his head and he topples forward, face down at Nightwolf's feet.

NIGHTWOLF

Sweet dreams, Liu Kang.

36 EXT. CANYON PASS - EARTH - SUNSET

36 *

WE MOVE hauntingly through an ancient rocky passage, with purple and blue/green earth. The sky is dark and foreboding.

*
*
*

The solitude of the scene is disturbed by the furious sounds of THRASHING BRUSH and BREAKING TREE BRANCHES.

It's Jax, clearing a path, using his enhanced strength arms. Sonya is right on his heels. The brush is too dense to run, but they are clearly fleeing --

JAX

Ahhhh! Damn this is a drag!

*
*

They both stop for a moment. Jax notices puddles of water on the ground, shimmering, oil-like. Jax bends down and picks up a chunk of earth.

*
*
*

JAX

What's happening here?

*
*

Sonya shields her eyes, squints toward the skies.

*

SONYA

Nature's dying.

JAX

(grim realization)
Maybe this is the end of the world.

SONYA

(rare emotion)
Time's running out. The Merger of the Realms is almost done.

JAX

(annoyed)
You keep saying that Sonya, but it doesn't mean squat to me.

SONYA

I told you, we've only got a few days left. Use your imagination.

Sonya curtly pushes past Jax, who follows, grabbing her from behind by the arm.

JAX

You keep talking to me like that and I'm gonna split.
(has her attention now)
Okay. You drag me out of the base with some lunatic killers after us. You put me in a spinning ball and take me halfway around the world.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

JAX
If I'm gonna die today, at least
tell me why!

SONYA
Nobody told me why Johnny had to
die.

JAX
(totally confounded)
What is it with you? And who the
hell is Johnny?!

Shutting him out, Sonya turns and starts to walk away into
the thick brush. She has no intention of discussing her
pain. Jax is more exasperated now than angry.

JAX
I'm your partner, Sonya! If you
can't trust me, who can you trust!?

SONYA
(as she leaves)
Obviously nobody but me!

Jax just stands there a moment and throws up his arms in
complete frustration and hurries off ... in the opposite
direction Sonya went. *

37 EXT. MUD GULLY - EARTH - SUNSET

37 *

As Sonya angrily thrashes through the brush, sloshing
through PURPLE PUDDLES, she is startled by what she
discovers: *

AN OUTWORLD GUARDGOYLE

Angled up from the ground, looming large. Its gruesome
visage is frozen in a stone-carved growl.

Sonya relaxes a little when she sees it is not alive. Fear
behind her, she trods deeper into the jungle.

We STAY ON the guardgoyle as two red eyes blink inside the
black chest cavity. Long, sharp-nailed hands reach forth
from the abdominal darkness ... clutching the guardgoyles
ribs and pulling out its female form (which we only see as a
blur of motion) birthed into this world.

BACK ON Sonya as she trudges through the canopy of dying
greenery. She stops, cocks an ear. Sensing something
behind her. But as she spins around --

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

-- A flying kick to her face knocks her backwards into a PURPLE PUDDLE of mud. Sonya, lying on her butt, shakes off the shock and pain, looks up at her attacker silhouetted in a fighting stance at the edge of the mud puddle. It's:

MILEENA ... an exotic woman with a killer body ...
Kitana's illegitimate sister -- dressed similarly ...

SONYA
Kitana ...?

MILEENA
You wish.

Mileena jumps on top of Sonya, landing with her legs wrapped in a scissor-grip around Sonya's neck, choking her mercilessly her SAI... boxing Sonya's ears repeatedly, SCREECHING with delight!

As both women rumble in the mud, locked in a sexy death struggle, Sonya lands a particularly powerful blow to her face --

-- Causing Mileena's facial mask to MORPH briefly ... flickering ... revealing her hideously OVERSIZED MOUTH and JAGGED TEETH! Mileena rolls over with a vicious HISS!

Infuriated, Mileena lunges at Sonya with her SAI, which Sonya knocks out of Mileena's hand. Mileena reacts by knocking her senseless with a barrage of kicks and punches ... driving her backwards to:

THE GUARDGOYLE

Is alive behind an unwitting Sonya! Its ferocious face exhaling vaporized breath. Arms spread out, wing-like, about to finish off a dazed Sonya --

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 2

37

WHUUUUUNK! Jax delivers a lunging, two-fisted "pile driver," smashing the guardgoyle down into the mud ... cracking its stone visage, exposing a hideous SKELETAL CRANIUM beneath.

Sonya finishes Mileena with her own Sai. Jax helps Sonya to her feet.

JAX

I told you these arms were good for something.

It's an awkward moment for Sonya, who can't even look him in the eyes.

SONYA

I owe you one, Jax.

Jax notices something on the abdominal portion of Mileena's body in the mud.

JAX

It ain't over yet.

Jax points to another TATTOO on Mileena's back. The same as the one they found at the military base. And just like that tattoo, this one begins to move! The WINGS START TO FLAP as it becomes three dimensional!

Jax grabs for the creature, but it HISSES and eludes him as the small harpie vanishes into the shadows as Mileena's body submerges into the purple mud ...

JAX

I don't know how much longer I can take this all this wacked out crap.

No time to debate this as they both HEAR THE SOUNDS of the Extermination Squad Warriors returning to the other side of the mud gully.

SONYA

Unless we find my friends, we won't be around much longer to worry about it.

Jax and Sonya dash off into the jungle with the army of warriors in close pursuit.

38 EXT. HOPI MESA - BURIAL GROUND - NIGHT

38 *

Liu's eyes flicker open as he rouses to consciousness trying to orient himself. He notices a mummified corpse beside him. He is seized by terror realizing that he and the mummy --

*
*

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

-- hang upside down, legs apart, strapped to the wooden pole supports of a giant Native American burial platform! His arms, spread out, are tied to the base of the platform. A ceremonial death mask is set between his legs.

*
*
*
*

Nightwolf slowly circles Liu with a torch.

NIGHTWOLF

Glad you could join us. We've got a ton of work to do.

Liu is wild with panic. He screams at the top of his lungs:

LIU

Let me go!! I don't have time for this!!

Nightwolf bends down to Liu's eye level, cocks his head in Liu's direction.

NIGHTWOLF

Really? Well, I don't have time for your ignorance. So if you've got a problem, why don't you do something about it, tough guy?

Nightwolf takes a challenging stance over Liu.

LIU

I can't fight you like this!

NIGHTWOLF

(smiles)

Excellent. Signs of intelligence ...

(with conviction)

You've gotta learn to fight with inner strength, Liu. Your moves are important, but even the best warrior can be killed. It's the fire inside you, your everlasting faith in yourself, that can never be defeated.

Liu watches as Nightwolf hurls his tomahawk ... right between his legs -- SWUUUNK! Smashing into the death mask.

*
*

LIU

Are you trying to kill me?!

NIGHTWOLF

Here's the deal. You've got three tests to pass before you're ready for what lies ahead.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 2

38 .

Nightwolf's torch reveals an army of SPIDERS flooding from
the open crack in the mask hit by the tomahawk.

*

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 3

38

NIGHTWOLF

I know this sounds like a bunch of psychobabble, but it really does work. If your soul is pure.

Liu's eyes widen with uncertainty as the arachnids stream towards him ... up the wooden pole he is tied to ... and down his legs.

*

NIGHTWOLF

Now, the first thing we're gonna test is your courage ...
(mischievous smile)
This part's gonna blow your mind.

LIU

Why does it have to be spiders?

NIGHTWOLF

Because you're scared of spiders.

Nightwolf grins as the spiders reach Liu's head.

LIU

Ahhhh!

Liu shakes his head furiously, trying to get the spiders off him. Every move he makes brings about a YELP in pain.

NIGHTWOLF

The trick here is to overcome your fear. Every time you move, the spiders bite.

LIU

(enraged)

I know! I can feel it!

NIGHTWOLF

Relaaaax ... Their poison won't kill you, just expand your mind beyond into new directions.

LIU

If you're so damn smart and brave, why don't you fight Shao Kahn?

NIGHTWOLF

If Kahn dares to attack our Scared Land, I will be here to protect my people ... as I have for the last two hundred years.

Nightwolf starts to walk away with the torch.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 4

38

LIU

Wait! Where're you going!? You
can't just leave me here like this!

NIGHTWOLF

(calls back)

Wanna bet!?

Nightwolf disappears into the surrounding darkness as
mysteriously as he appeared.

Liu's face is pale, skin beaded with sweat. As the poison
takes hold, his eyes grow heavier ... and heavier ...
finally falling shut. As we slowly TURN THE CAMERA upside
down, upending reality...

CU - LIU'S EYES

Flick open, widening with confusion and surprise as:

LIU'S POV - UPSIDE DOWN - KITANA

Swathed in an ethereal, self-illuminating glow, walks
towards Liu on the same inverted plane, defying gravity.

LIU

Kitana!?

KITANA

I had faith in you, Liu Kang, but
you have failed me. You are not
the warrior I thought you were.

LIU

I am a warrior. And I will die to
win you back.

While she speaks -- played out on the panoramic horizon like
some surreal drive-in movie -- WE SEE TREATED IMAGES of
Johnny Cage's capture and defeat at the hands of Shao Kahn.

KITANA

Death is failure. It means nothing
to me ... or all the others
counting on you.

Liu hangs his head a little, humiliated by the truth.
Behind Kitana now are projected the TREATED IMAGES of her
own capture by Scorpion as Liu helplessly cries out her
name.

LIU

(self-doubt creeping in)
What if I fail you ... what if I
fail everyone?

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 5

38

Now Kitana's body shatters like glass, becoming Shao Kahn!
Liu, now alone in darkness, hears Nightwolf's disembodied
voice echo in his head:

NIGHTWOLF (V.O.)

Face your fears, Liu. Through them
you will find your primal power.
Your animal rage.

KAHN

You have no rage. Only guilt.

Liu wriggles to free himself from the ties binding his legs
to the pole ... but he cannot escape this vision.

KAHN

You once let your brother die ...
And Johnny Cage... You lost
Kitana ... you are not a leader.

As Kahn gets closer, Liu shows signs of panic.

NIGHTWOLF (V.O.)

Your fears cannot hurt you, Liu.
Believe in your destiny.

Kahn steps right up to him. Lips to his ears.

KAHN

You will fail, Liu Kang.

Liu clenches his fists and steels his resolve. He closes
his eyes and holds perfectly still.

NIGHTWOLF (V.O.)

Everybody has the power to change
the future. Find that power
within.

LIU

Yes ... I can feel it.

Incredibly, REPTILIAN SCALES begin to sprout on his arms.
Greenish black scales. Liu opens his eyes -- they now glow
red with fury. His face contorts with anger, starting to
take the shape of a dragon. And as his primal rage finally
surfaces --

-- Shao Kahn raises both fists in the air, lowers them like
sledgehammers and squashes his animality. Returning Liu
back to normal.

Shao Kahn disappears into the darkness, his laughter slowly
fading like a deep wound. Liu has tasted -- if only briefly
and partially -- the power inside him.

DISSOLVE TO:

39 EXT. HOPI MESA - EARTH - DAY

39

Liu lies motionless -- same position as we left him -- in the middle of a snowy blizzard. He awakens as the snow and wind savagely buffet his body.

LIU

Nightwolf?! Nightwolf?!

Liu's calls are lost in the rush of harsh winds which cause him to shiver violently. He surveys his predicament. It's nearly impossible to see in these conditions. Any direction he could travel appears hopeless. Still, he chooses a path and steadfastly sets out ...

40 ANOTHER ANGLE - LATER

40

Now Liu's hair is crusted with ice, his face bluing. In this total whiteout visibility is only ten feet. Liu staggers and falls to his knees, starts crawling. He does not look long for this world, or any world.

Finally, a pair of long, beautifully curved legs step into his path. With trembling surprise, Liu cranes his head up to see:

JADE ... a stunningly gorgeous, exotic woman ... wrapped only in furs ... so inviting and alluring yet ...

She carries a staff, the end of which is wrapped in burning gauze to create torchlight.

*

JADE

I am Jade. I have searched the mesa for you, Liu Kang. Nightwolf feared for your life.

LIU

(shivering)

So ... did ... I.

She kneels down beside him, plants the staff in the snow and uses the warmth of her own hands to caress his shaking body.

JADE

This snow. It falls from desert skies. Do you know why?

LIU

There's not much time left -- the end of the world is near.

JADE

Of all the horrors darkness holds, to die alone, that is my worst fear.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

Opening her furs up, Jade pulls Liu into heat-sharing embrace that he does not resist.

JADE

With you, Liu Kang, I am not afraid.

LIU

I don't even know who you are.

JADE

All you need to know is that I am here to help you.

As Jade tenderly strokes his head, Liu looks deep into her eyes, clearly affected by the sensuality of her touch.

JADE

Take my warmth, Liu. Let it give you strength for your battle.

LIU

You're almost too good to be true.

JADE

The same could be said about you ...

Falling under her spell, Liu allows Jade to tenderly kiss him on his lips.

JADE

We can defy the darkness by creating the light of new life.

Momentarily caught in her thrall, Liu moves to return her kiss ... but stops himself. Shakes away the urge.

LIU

No. I can't.

Jade snakes her arms around his waist, pulls him closer. There is a hunger in her voice, a desirous sexuality that would confound even a monk.

JADE

Together we could melt the snow, Liu Kang.

LIU

(pushes away)

Stop!

JADE

Together we could live our final days --

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 2

40

LIU

-- No!

(struggles)

My heart ... belongs to another.

Jade's eyes lower in apparent humiliation. Liu gently grasps her by the chin, raises her eyes to his.

LIU

If you're really here for me, Jade,
help us defeat Shao Kahn.

SMAAAAACK! Jade suddenly backhands Liu across the face,
completely shocking him.

JADE

You have chosen the wrong side, Liu
Kang. Now you will die alone.

In the blink of an eye, she whirls around, shedding her furs
and revealing her sexy fighting clothes. The snow around
them has magically vanished. Liu is confused, distracted.

LIU

Is this just another dream ...?

Jade takes advantage of his lapse and kicks Liu in the face,
sending him sprawling! Their sexual tension is now vented
in a fight between two lightning quick warriors:

Jade lifts Liu off the ground by the hair and knees him in
the face --

-- Jade steps back, ready to fiercely kick Liu in the ribs,
but Liu blocks the kick, takes hold of her foot and flips
her --

-- Jade triple backsprings at Liu, scoring a savage blow
with both feet. She smiles with derision:

JADE

How can you beat Shao Kahn when I
alone am too much for you?

-- Liu, angered now, forgets his chivalry and comes at Jade
with everything he's got in a relentless fury --

-- Jade grabs her burning staff and TRANSFORMS it into a
whip. The whip strikes, wrapping itself around Liu's neck.

Jade yanks, pulling Liu to the ground, then snaps the whip
back up, forcing Liu to his feet --

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 3

40

-- Jade lashes Liu again, wrapping the whip around his body. She pulls him towards her, kicks him in the gut and sends him sprawling. She snaps the whip again, but Liu is ready --

-- catching the whip with his arm and twisting it around his wrist. He pulls her to him and cracks her across the face with his free hand --

-- Jade pulls him back to her, elbowing him in the chin. Tied to one another, they continue to pull each other in and duck each other's blows, fluid like a dance. All their sexual energy super-charges their kombat.

Eventually Liu kicks the whip from Jade's hand. It falls to the ground and becomes a staff again. Liu comes at her both fists blazing. When he's got her reeling, Liu sweeps Jade's legs from underneath her!

Victorious, Liu straddles a prone Jade. He is filled with contempt, ready to deliver the finishing blow.

LIU

You have betrayed us all.

The ferocity on Jade's face melts ... turning to a smile ... and building to a playful laugh. Totally disarming Liu.

LIU

Now you laugh?

JADE

You are even more pure and faithful than I heard.

(beat)

You have passed the test, Liu Kang.

LIU

(incredulous)

A test? This was all just another one of Nightwolf's crazy tests?

She reaches up a hand, prompting Liu, somewhat tentatively, to help her to her feet.

LIU

We could have killed each other.

JADE

But we live.

Jade does not let go of his hand, pulling him along.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 4

40

JADE

Come. We must get to the Temple of
the Elder Gods. The others will be
waiting.

Liu breaks free from Jade.

LIU

I can't. If this was just a test,
it was only the second.
(humble)
I'm not ready yet.

JADE

Not ready to save Kitana? Because
I can take you to where she's
kept.

*

LIU

(suddenly anxious)
You've seen her? She's alive?

JADE

For now, yes. For how long, I
cannot say.

The sound of BATTLE HORNS blares in the distance.

JADE

Kahn is near. We must go.

Liu glances in the general direction of the horns, takes a
deep breath, then follows Jade's lead as they jog off
together across the tundra.

41 EXT. CORKSCREW PRECIPICE - EARTH - SUNSET

41 *

From atop a precipice beside a small fire, Nightwolf
observes Liu and Jade as they flee. Worried, Nightwolf
gazes to the heavens.

NIGHTWOLF

I tried, Rayden, but he's not
ready. He still doubts himself.

42 OMITTED

42 *

42A EXT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - OUTWORLD

42A *

This edifice of pure evil cuts the night sky.

*

43 OMITTED

43 *

43A INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD

43A *

Several shadow priest stands guard below a large wooden cage that hangs from wires above the enormous war table. Inside the cage we find --

KITANA

Imprisoned, scantily clad, tired... but suddenly alert when the massive double doors to the war room swing open for:

SHAO KAHN

entering the war room. Kahn gestures -- the shadow priests begin to lower the cage. Kahn moves to the table where a sumptuous tray of food and spirits sits untouched. He speaks to Kitana who has now been lowered to his eye level.

KAHN

All your past betrayals, I can
forgive. For you are my daughter,
Kitana.

He picks up the goblet of red wine and looks at Kitana.

KAHN

You have had no food or drink in
days. Please accept my offering.
For I do not want your death.

Kahn offers her the wine. Kitana drinks fully from Kahn's goblet, then defiantly spits the wine back in his face.

KAHN

(smiling, but ...)
You sorely test my patience.

KITANA

You destroyed my family. You drove
my mother to kill herself. I am
your enemy forever. So kill me now
if you dare.

KAHN

Foolish child. A struggling worm
on the hook lands a bigger catch
than a dead one.

(CONTINUED)

43A CONTINUED:

43A

*

43B
THRU OMITTED
4443B
THRU
44

45 EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - EARTH - DAY

45 *

A summit overlooking a winding dirt chasm lined with ancient, stone edifices (including The Temple of the Elder Gods). Sonya and Jax reach the precipice, out of breath, and take a quick look at the unbelievable vista before them -- the moonlit temples are both haunting and alluring.

THE SOUND OF BATTLE HORNS beckons Sonya to the other side of the temple mountain ... looking back from where they came:

46 SONYA'S POV - AN OMINOUS BLACK CLOUD

46

Stretching as far as the eye can see, slowly advancing towards the Temple of the Elder Gods. Anything it passes is left colorless and devoid of life.

At the head of this roiling, liquid-like mass is Shao Kahn, atop his black winged War Horse, a deadly beast almost entirely encased in ancient, Asian-influenced armor. Riding behind him on her own dappled steed is Sindel. And trailing them both, trot Kahn's legions of Centaurs and Extermination Squads.

*
*

SONYA (O.S.)

They're about twenty minutes behind
us ...

46A EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - EARTH - DAY

46A *

Sonya leads Jax over the precipice and down into the chasm.

SONYA

Let's pray Rayden has a good plan.

47 EXT. TEMPLE CHASM - EARTH - NIGHT

47

PICK UP Sonya and Jax walking along the chasm, dwarfed by the majestic temples on either side of them.

JAX
I don't see no mailboxes -- which
temple's the Elder Gods'?

Before Sonya can answer --

-- Jax is attacked from above, jumped by Jade leaping
down from atop an outcropping!

*

Jade connects with a full on foot to the chin which knocks
him onto his butt.

*

*

SONYA

*

Kicks Jade who goes flying. Suddenly, Sonya is surprised by
another fighter ... only to discover:

*

*

SONYA

Liu!?

Her attacker is Liu Kang.

LIU

Sonya?

JAX

You know this dude?

LIU

(to Sonya)

Is that Jax?

SONYA

Was. Yeah.

(re: Jade)

Who's she?

LIU

Jade.

(to Jade)

This is Sonya Blade.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

Jax stands, straightens his aching jaw then extends a hand to Jade, clearly smitten.

JAX

Major Briggs. You've got an incredible set of legs. For kicking, I mean.

SONYA

Where's Kitana?

LIU

(humbled)
She was kidnapped ... by Scorpion.

SONYA

You lost Kitana!? And you picked up --
(re: Jade)
-- her?

LIU

Jade helped me get here.

SONYA

You ask me, your judgment sucks.

In the distance, they hear the approaching sound Kahn's Extermination Squads -- more HORNS BLOWING -- echoing in the chasm below. Liu counters Sonya's verbal jab:

LIU

Well thanks to you we've got Kahn's Extermination Squads on our butt.

JAX

Can I make a suggestion here?
(has their attention)
Let's put this petty crap aside and worry about bigger things. Like stayin' alive.

SONYA

(to Liu)
Where's Rayden? He's the one with the plan --

LIU

-- We looked. He's not here yet.

JAX

So we're just gonna sit here and wait for this dude to show?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: 2

47

LIU
Sonya's right. Without Rayden it's
hopeless.

RAYDEN (O.S.)
Never give up hope ... !

It's Rayden, flipping down from a cliffside temple and
landing right in the middle of their circle. His priestly
locks have been shaved off. He wears leather battle gear.

RAYDEN
At least not so early in the
fight --
(notices Jade)
Who's the babe? Can she fight as
good as she looks?

LIU
Better.

RAYDEN
Good. Because I was expecting a
team of fighters. Instead I hear
fighters at war with each other.

SONYA
Give us a break, Rayden. We've
been through hell.

RAYDEN
Compared to what lies ahead, you've
been through nothing.

This silences the mortals, who exchange uneasy glances.

RAYDEN
Where is Kitana?

All eyes fall upon Liu, who looks stricken.

LIU
Kahn took her.
(shamed)
It's all my fault.

RAYDEN
This is not about blame. We are
together in this. Each of us must
help and support the others. Like
a family ...
(finally notices Jax;
derisive)
What's the deal with your arms?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: 3

47

JAX

I've known you one minute and
you're already dissin' me?

RAYDEN

I watched you fight back there.
You have the skills, but your arms
are not your strength. They are
your weakness.

JAX

Thanks for the tip, but these
things are state-of-the-art.

RAYDEN

Faith in yourself is all you need.
And I say that to all of you, not
just Jax.

Liu intervenes, his own personal agenda surfacing.

LIU

Look, faith is fine but we've got
to get Kitana back -- without her
we can't close the Portal.

We hear Kahn's BATTLE HORNS in the distance.

RAYDEN

(to Liu, Sonya)

My powers are leaving me. I will
try to open the Portal to Outworld
while I still can.

Rayden walks to the center of the chasm road ... A few grand
stone temples line the road. He stands on a massive rock
before the Temple of the Elder Gods. With the forcefulness
of a great sorcerer, he spreads his arms out and tilts his
head to the heavens.

Nothing happens.

JAX

(to Sonya)

Who does this guy think he is?
Moses partin' the Red Sea?

The others all turn at the sound of:

SHAO KAHN

Riding in on his war horse. Sindel behind him on her
mount. The army of Extermination Squads in tow as the
round the big bend in the chasm ... charging an inevitable
path to our heroes.

48 EXT. TEMPLE MOUNT - DAY

48 *

Sonya speaks to Rayden, with one eye on the advancing army.

SONYA

Whenever you're ready, Rayden!

Rayden steals a glance at the impending doom just down the chasm road ... and redoubles his concentration --

-- flashes of light shoot out from his fingertips! The others all hold their breath in anticipation.

*

49 EXT. TEMPLE ROAD - DAY

49 *

Shao Kahn pulls his horse to a stop in front of three red sandstone streaked temples ... a mere mile from the mortals. He speaks to Sindel.

*

*

*

KAHN

Destroy everything.

Sindel, all too happy to oblige, climbs off her horse, walks to the front of the evil army, surveys the situation and takes a deep breath ...

*

AAAARRRRRRHHHH! She unleashes her DEATH SHRIEK!

*

50 EXT. TEMPLE MOUNT - DAY

50

As the sheer mountain walls inside the chasm violently shake from the oncoming sonic boom ...

RAYDEN

Holds his ground, does not panic. And the electrical energy he summons from his hands turns from quick flashes ... to a constant STREAM OF LIGHT that shoots laser-like in a rainbow array of colors from the Temple of the Elder Gods ... forming a blue electrical hexagon that encloses Rayden and our heroes. A visible energy field swirls, radiating inward to Rayden in the center. In mere seconds, the Portal has opened all around our heroes but --

*

*

*

*

51 OMITTED

51

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

AAAAAARRRRRRHHHH! Sindel's visible SHOCKWAVE rolls inexorably through the long chasm like sonic wildfire! Racing closer to our heroes as the mountain walls literally begin EXPLODING. In a rapid succession:

-- Rayden disappears backwards in a flash of light as the portal begins to dissipate all around our heros. Rayden extends a hand out from the white energy field and grabs Sonya ... pulling her into the portal, which starts irisng closed as our heroes form a human chain and disappear into thin air --

-- The temples leading up to the portal EXPLODE in succession until it reaches... the Temple of the Elder Gods which BLOWS UP just milliseconds after our heros have completely vanished from sight. The portal begins to lose its vibrancy ... then fades ... gone.

Kahn and Sindel ride into frame, stare at the beautiful destruction before them -- not one temple is left standing. Neither are the mortals. Sindel pats her fright wig hair back into place.

QUEEN SINDEL

That was fun.

But rather than rage in defeat, Kahn smiles an incredibly evil smile.

KAHN

They have fallen into our trap.

(beat)

Proceed as planned. I will await your arrival in Outworld.

Sindel watches as Kahn spurs his black steed into flight, soaring off into the gray, foreboding sky.

52
THRU
54

OMITTED

52
THRU
54

55 EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - OUTWORLD

55 *

A cosmic rend rips open. Five figures are birthed from the gaping Portal, re-gaining their solid human forms.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

JAX
My skin is burning up ... but I'm
freezing inside.
(beat)
Feel like I got microwaved.

Rayden, the least fazed of the group by this otherworldly experience, steps to the front of the group. The others slowly join him, checking to make sure they're all there.

RAYDEN
You never do get used to that.

Once the Royal Road of Edenia, all that now remains are ravaged, black moss-covered temples lining the desolate, stone-inlaid avenue. All but Rayden and Jade are in awe of the ruined glory surrounding them. Above them the Outworld moons cast a purple pall over the landscape.

LIU
My God ... is that what I think it
is?

56 EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - OUTWORLD

56 *

LIU'S POV - THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE -- A rusted tangle of steel, partially pushed up through from Earth, lined with the ruined hulls of commuter cars.

*

Perching like crows on this desecrated icon are hundreds of Shokans.

*

RAYDEN (O.S.)
It's the Merger of the Realms ...

57 EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - OUTWORLD

57 *

The group is struck by the gravity of this image.

RAYDEN
Time is also our enemy.

LIU
All those people in their cars ...

RAYDEN
Pulled between realms without protection, they never knew what happened.

JAX
It's like a nightmare ...

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

SONYA
(determined)
We have to stop this.

JADE
To do that, we must rescue Kitana.

RAYDEN
(sarcastic)
Would you like to lead us now?

Liu senses Rayden's reluctance to accept Jade unconditionally.

LIU
Rayden, if it weren't for Jade, I wouldn't be here. And besides, she was on the inside.

The others exchange uncertain looks until Rayden speaks up:

RAYDEN
(to Jade)
So what is your plan?

JADE
Kahn most likely took Kitana back to his fortress, where I was held.

JAX
Hold it! Kahn? You mean Mr. Bad Attitude back there? You want us to go check out his crib? Uh-uh, no way! I ain't goin' on any suicide mission.

SONYA
(to Rayden)
Jax is right. That's probably just what Kahn wants us to do.

JADE
No. There's a secret passageway ...

Jade kneels down and draws a shape in the dirt. As she starts to fill in details of the war room:

JADE
It was the one I used to escape.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO*

57A INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - OUTWORLD

57A *

Jade's crude dirt drawing becomes an OVERHEAD VIEW of Kahn's sinister looking palace.

*
*

JADE (O.S.)

*

The Shadow Priests enter a trance like state when the lair is empty. They only awake when someone opens the war room door.

*
*
*
*
*

57B EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - OUTWORLD

57B *

Liu studies Jade's drawing.

*

RAYDEN

Then that's what we'll do.

*

Looking vindicated, Jade steps to the front of the group and darts up to the corner of a crumpling structure, checks for opposition. She gestures the others ahead.

57C EXT. ROYAL ROAD - OUTWORLD

57C *

Our heroes walk down the road uneventfully, until ... something catches Liu's eye. He goes to the side of the road and finds:

*
*
*

A COLLAPSED SECTION OF MURAL

*

comprised of intricate tile. Wiping away years of grime, Liu exposes a virtual snapshot of Edenia's lost idyll.

58 OMITTED

58

59 EXT. ROYAL ROAD - OUTWORLD

59 *

CU of THE MURAL -- Depicting Edenia's royal family: King Jerrod, Queen Sindel and Young Kitana. All posed before their splendid castle.

*

JADE (O.S.)

Kitana's family ... so many years ago.

60 EXT. ROYAL ROAD - OUTWORLD

60 *

Liu's face clouds with emotion as he touches the cracked tile featuring Young Kitana. As shadows fall over him, Liu looks up to see the others have gathered around him.

Liu turns around, gazing across the road at:

A RUINED TEMPLE

with columns extending on either side. Liu leads the group across the road and up the temple steps.

LIU

This was the place of the royal family's temple. Kitana told me I would find this here.

60A EXT. RUINED TEMPLE - OUTWORLD

60A *

The group approaches the temple, in awe of the magnificent architecture around them.

This reflective moment is rudely interrupted by an inhuman BATTLE CRY. Our heroes whirl around to see:

SINDEL!

She stands menacingly at the base of the stairs of the ruined temple, on the Royal Road behind them with thirty Extermination Squad warriors by her side. Sindel's hair is wild.

JAX

Looks like this bitch is havin' a bad hair day.

Sindel leaps up the stairs and lands in a cloud of dust.

Looking for a way out, our heroes are surprised when several of the columns beside them appear to magically MOVE ... then transform into --

-- four sinister REPTILES, classic ninjas dressed in green. The Reptiles have been there all along, blending into the background. Now, they assume their true color and come into view.

QUEEN SINDEL

It's a beautiful day for a massacre!

Sindel cackles sadistically as our heroes surmise their plan of action.

RAYDEN

They knew we were coming.

(CONTINUED)

60A CONTINUED:

60A

His statement is directed, almost accusingly, at Jade.

JADE
(defensive)
Obviously they followed us.

RAYDEN
Perhaps. But it may be a blessing
in disguise. We need Sindel to
close the Portal forever.

LIU
(to Rayden)
You get the hag. I'll go and
rescue Kitana. It will be
easier if only one of us goes.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

60A CONTINUED: 2

60A

Rayden considers this -- Is Liu ready for this? Rayden nods his agreement. A beat. Then Liu sprints off, down the road.

The Extermination Squad warriors attack Sonya, Jax, and Jade while Rayden attacks Sindel, surprising the evil queen with a powerful bicycle kick but Sindel is ready with one of her Energy blasts --

-- Rayden is sent crashing through the temple wall behind him and comes tumbling down ...

61 INT. RUINED TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

61

... landing on top of the temple's altar. Rayden gets to his feet. He senses something. Then, two Reptiles appear around him, dodging inbetween the columns, HISSING, ready to kill.

One of the Reptiles does an aerial cartwheel from one column to another over Rayden's head. Then the other one attempts a flying somersault over Rayden --

BAAAAAASH! Rayden lands a monstrous punch that sends the Reptile smashing up through the ceiling and onto ...

62 INT. TEMPLE BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

62 *

Where the Reptile lands in a heap of stone debris! Rayden springs up through the hole and flips in mid air. Then with a windmill kick, Rayden sends the Reptile flying off the balcony to its death.

Rayden is then kicked from behind and sent sprawling. He turns to find the other Reptile standing before him, clearly with the upper hand. As Rayden prepares for a long battle, we:

CUT TO:

63
THRU OMITTED
65

63 *
THRU *
65 *

(CONTINUED)

66 INT. KAHN'S WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD

66 *

Kahn and Shinnok stand together at a large, pentangle-shaped window in his fortress, gazing past the imposing spires upon his wretched kingdom.

KAHN

Behold the seeds of destruction.
Flowering before us...

67 INT. KAHN'S WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD

67 *

KAHN'S POV -- THE EIFFEL TOWER -- The ground violently shakes and splits below. The famous French icon rises up from a molten chasm. Stones tumble from its sides as it breaches the realms, leaving the once-grand monument horribly defaced and decrepit.

KAHN (O.S.)

One more night. Nothing can stop
us now.

68 INT. KAHN'S WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD

68 *

Shinnok glares disparagingly at his son.

SHINNOK

Nothing can stop us now -- except
your supreme idiocy.

(off Kahn's look)

How could you believe that the
ruination of the Elders' temple
would not put our plan in jeopardy?

KAHN

(has all the answers)

It was necessary, father. To
convince the mortals that their
only escape was through the portal.

SHINNOK

You seem confident that Sindel
will capture Rayden and his
mortals in your trap.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

KAHN

I swear to you father, on my soul,
all our millenniums of planning
will soon be rewarded. You will be
proud.

SHINNOK

(grave menace)

Know this: I will take your soul
myself if you fail me now.

Kahn is disturbed by his father's words. He changes the
subject.

KAHN

Let's us go view our new treasure.
I shall rally the Extermination
Squads and prepare for our
victory.

As they head out, Kahn looks up at Kitana in her cage above
the war table.

KAHN

It shall not be long before the
worlds merge ... and your friends
will be dead.

With a menacing laugh, he and Shinnok take their leave.

68A EXT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - OUTWORLD

68A *

In the shadow of Kahn's frightening palace, across the lake
of fire, WE FIND Liu cautiously entering a cave.

68B INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD

68B *

Moments later. The massive, shadowy alcove is now
ominously silent, only a few torches burning on the walls,
seemingly vacant except for ...

Kitana asleep in her cage. Her eyes open, she senses
something ... clutches the wooden slats in anticipation.

KITANA'S POV - KAHN'S THRONE

A head pokes up through a trap door on the floor in front
of the throne. Through the secret passageway emerges ...

LIU

Who leaps onto the war table.

(CONTINUED)

68B CONTINUED:

68B

KITANA

Liu! Up Here!

Liu approaches the cage cautiously, looking for a trap.
This all seems to easy.

KITANA

There's a crank on the wall! It
lowers the cage!

While Liu searches for the crank, one shadow priest steps
away from the wall. He steps into view, revealing himself:

*
*

BARAKA ... a bald mutant, dressed in a cloaked Shadow
Priest's robe, his face obscured by a hood ...

*
*

BARAKA

You may be brave, mortal, but you
are most definitely foolish!

*
*

CU - A GLINTING BLADE

Extends stiletto-like from Baraka's loose arm robing.

Baraka steps into the light, his cloaked figure seen fully.
He comes at Liu. Liu ducks, narrowly missing a swipe from
Baraka's blade. Liu responds with a sharp uppercut to
Baraka's chin, sending Baraka's hood flying off --

*

REVEAL BARAKA'S HIDEOUSLY DISFIGURED FACE! Which so
repulses Liu, it distracts him for just a moment as --

-- Baraka leaps on top of Liu, pinning him down between his
two arm blades. When Baraka smiles sadistically, sensing
victory, we catch just a glimpse of the mutant's mouth full
of RAZOR-SHARP TEETH. He snaps and snarls at Liu. Liu
bends his legs and kicks Baraka off him.

Inside her cage, Kitana scans the ceiling of the chamber and
sees:

Two more of the shadowy nomads EXTEND THEIR OWN RAZOR-SHARP
BLADES from their calves!

*
*

KITANA

There!

Liu looks up just as --

-- The nomads drop down in a flying kick, their calve blades
thrust forward, ready to do a little slice-and-dice. Liu
dives for cover, then rolls into position and expertly
awaits the advancing nomads, who attack simultaneously --

(CONTINUED)

68B CONTINUED: 2

68B

-- Liu, caught in the middle, jump split-kicks the two warriors in the face, only to realize this had almost no effect on the these incredible creatures!

One of the nomads uses his forearm sword and hits Liu at his feet, sending him sprawling! The nomad then leaps forward, his swords hyper-extended --

-- Liu jumps up into a flying kick and strikes the nomad in mid-air! When the nomad falls to the ground, one of its forearm swords has been knocked loose.

Liu spins to see Baraka and the other nomad closing in on him, their swords gleaming, ready for battle. Liu rolls to scoop up the other nomad's sword --

-- Baraka attacks, using vicious martial arts move to slash and slice at Liu --

-- KLING-KLANG-KLING! It's a blazing sword fight as Liu finds himself backed up against the wall. A nomad thrusts at Liu, but our hero quickly sidesteps ... and one of the nomad's sword lodges in the wall. Liu quickly axe kicks the sword and breaks it in two! Now he has two swords.

The battle rages on, and the nomads leap from wall to wall, relentlessly dive bombing Liu.

This has become a deadly aerial battle, with opponents jumping from ledge to ledge ... flying across the the empty chamber in amazing operatic aerial movements --

-- Liu meets one of his attackers in mid-air with a flying wheel kick --

-- The nomad is sent spiraling away, onto the roof of Kitana's cage where he's knocked out. Now it's two on one.

Baraka and the other nomad circle Liu. Baraka fakes an attack, while the other nomad charges rapidly to catch him off guard --

-- Liu is prepared! Using his two swords as supports, he sticks them into the wall ... swings around them ... and delivers a face smashing kick to the nomad! Two down, one to go.

Evading Baraka's lethal advances, Liu sneaks a glance up at Kitana ...

... and the other Nomad who is regaining consciousness above her. He begins to climb down the side of her cage --

(CONTINUED)

68B CONTINUED: 3

68B

-- Distracted, Liu falls prey to a savage attack from Baraka. With a vicious swing kick, Liu rips away most of Baraka's robe ... exposing the GROTESQUE FLESH which covers his body. Angered, Baraka charges --

-- As Liu's staggered against the wall, Liu looks up to see Kitana in imminent peril.

LIU
Kitana, behind you!

Kitana whirls around, meets the invading nomad with a savage kick to the face ... which sends him toppling --

-- But the mutant recovers, hooking a desperate blade onto the side of the cage, then using both arm blades to pry the bars open ... and flip himself inside the cage before Kitana can stop him!

BARAKA
(to nomad guard)
Kill her!

LIU
I don't think so.

With all the energy Liu can summon, he holds off Baraka's thrusting blade with his bare hands, then triple handsprings away from Baraka, and quickly begins to climb the wall, using the divots in the stone made by the nomads' blades ...

Just as Kitana gracefully spin kicks inside the cage, sending the invading nomad hard against the bars --

-- Liu leaps onto the roof of the cage ... reaching down, grabs and flips the dazed nomad up on top of the cage to continue the fight! The two battle precariously above the ground, swinging, swiping and blocking at one another --

-- The nomad leaps at Liu swinging his blades wildly. Liu runs to the edge of the roof, as if he's going to jump, then grabs the support cable, swings around ready to kick --

-- But the nomad anticipated the move and catches Liu in mid-air, throwing him down to the roof on the other side of the cage ...

Liu looks inside the cage for Kitana, but she's gone! He looks back: she's now climbing onto the roof of the cage.

Liu quickly gets up as the nomad stands, his arm blades pointed at him. Suddenly, the nomad pulls his arms back and two small knives shoot out from his elbows. Liu ducks just as the knives fly past him and cuts two of the corner wires holding up the cage. The cage lists to that side --

(CONTINUED)

*

*

*

68B CONTINUED: 4

68B

-- Then, like boomerangs, the knives fly back to the nomad. They are reset, and ready to be fired again. The nomad smiles, like a cat toying with a mouse.

Just to make matters worse, Baraka appears on the other side of the cage. Liu sprints to the center of the cage just as the nomad fires off his boomerang knives. Liu dives for the ground as the knives pass over him and one hits Baraka, smack in the middle of the forehead. Baraka falls dead off the cage.

The nomad, in shock, at what he has done, is caught off guard as his boomerang blades return and stab him in the chest --

-- Liu and Kitana have a moment to catch their breath and are about to kiss when --

SHEEVA

Appears at the war room door. A menacing sight.

SHEEVA
The date's over.

Liu has to think quick. He looks up at the center wire holding the cage. Liu retrieves the knife from the dead nomad and, with Kitana in one arm, he leaps up, grabbing hold of the top part of the wire. With a swift cut of the knife, Liu slice the wire below him that connects to the cage.

The cage hangs by just two wires now. Liu gives a hard kick to the cage sending it swinging out --

The wires snap and the cages goes flying toward --

-- Sheeva ... who just has time to look up in shock before the cage comes sailing down on top of her -- squishing the beast like a bug.

Liu and Kitana swing over to one of the ledges.

LIU
I told you I wouldn't lose you.

KITANA
(making him earn it)
I was beginning to wonder ...

Before they can kiss, they hear a loud, shrill WARNING HORN! Liu leads Kitana to the secret passageway in front of the throne.

68B EXT. RUINED TEMPLE - OUTWORLD

68B *

All is quiet until ... SMASH! A Reptile comes crashing though the temple wall, dead on arrival. Seconds later, Rayden steps out through the broken bricks dusting himself off. Sonya, Jax and Jade gather around Rayden and the toppled temple. They each show the scars of battle.

*
*
*
*
*

JAX

Something went right for a
change ... we won.

Jax, obviously thrashed, drags a captured Sindel over to the others who are gathered in a loose huddle.

RAYDEN

Who finished off Sindel?

JADE

After she blasted you, I surprised
her from behind.

*
*

JAX

(arm around Jade)
Guess she did come in handy after
all.

*
*

With his boot, Rayden rolls Sindel's body over onto her back: she's out cold.

69 INT. RUINED TEMPLE - OUTWORLD

69 *

Liu leads Kitana inside the decaying temple. The stone walls are broken and full of holes and there is no roof atop this barren structure. Kitana stops, gasps at the sight of:

*

SINDEL'S PRONE BODY

Laid out on a decaying altar from Edenia's glory days. Jade stands beside the queen's body, makes eye contact with Kitana.

KITANA

What are you doing here?

LIU

She helped me rescue you.

*

Overwhelmed, Kitana is at a loss for words. Rayden steps up next to her.

RAYDEN

You can end this, Kitana. Only
your love can reunite her body and
soul to break the hold Kahn has
over your mother ... and close his
Portal to Earth.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

69

Liu guides a cautious Kitana over to her mother's side. Jade and Kitana come face to face. Biting back her emotion, Jade finally throws her arms around Kitana. In a sisterly embrace, Jade whispers:

JADE

I want it to be like it was. For you, for us. For Edenia.

Liu gently moves Jade away from Kitana, then steps back with the others, all hanging back respectfully in the periphery.

Kitana just stares at her mother. Her emotions are conflicting: hope and disbelief mixed.

She reaches down her hand to push the tussled hair from Sindel's face. Running fingers across her mother's face, she traces the familiar terrain. Then, finding Sindel's hand, Kitana kneels beside the altar. With genuine reverence, Kitana tenderly kisses her mother's cold, pale hand.

The others watch on in breathless anticipation. Liu looks anxiously to Rayden, who restrains a smile while gesturing back to mother and daughter ...

Sindel's eyes flicker open. First wide with fear, they quickly focus on Kitana. The fear instantly subsides, giving way to recognition and a heartfelt smile.

QUEEN SINDEL

Kitana? Is that you?

Kitana is so shocked ... she forgets to breathe. Liu is truly moved. Rayden lays a supportive hand on Liu's shoulder and smiles proudly.

RAYDEN

The Elder Gods have served us well.

KITANA

Mother ... I have prayed for the day when our love would bring us together again.

SONYA

Wait ...

Sindel's maternal smile gives way to an EVIL LAUGH.

QUEEN SINDEL

Love?! I never loved you.

Kitana backs away in disbelief, her face aghast.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: 2

69

QUEEN SINDEL

With such a pathetic child as you,
what reason was there to live?

KITANA

(horror turns to hatred)
I knew it could not be true.

Rayden is equally stunned.

RAYDEN

It ... cannot be.

QUEEN SINDEL

But it can, it is, and you are
powerless --
(sneering)
-- 'Thunder God.'

She starts to laugh again, then, like a whip, she snaps her
hair out at Rayden -- it rips right through his battle
gear -- catching him right below his shoulder blade.

RAYDEN

Ahhhhhhhhh!

Rayden falls to the ground clutching his shoulder. Sonya
and Jax quickly gather around their fallen mentor.

Now Jade too exposes her true, evil nature when she turns to
Liu Kang.

JADE

You've lost! You've been tricked!

QUEEN SINDEL

It's over, you fools! You've
wasted your precious time on a wild
goose chase -- now the merger is
nearly complete!

LIU

(enraged; to Jade)
How could you do this to us?!

JADE

(evil smile)
It was soooooo easy. That's what
made it fun.

Sindel begins to levitate off the altar ... up through the
collapsed temple ceiling ... where she emits an ear-piercing
DEATH YELL that echoes across Outworld, signaling her troops
to arms.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: 3

69

LIU

You will die for this, Jade!

Jade runs from the temple, escaping out the back as Liu starts after her:

RAYDEN

Let her go, Liu! Now is not the time!

But Liu is filled with hatred and cannot be stopped. In hot pursuit, Liu chases after Jade to the edge of the ruined temple, where he pulls to an abrupt stop. He peers through the broken bricks.

70 LIU'S POV - WARRIORS IN THE FAR DISTANCE

70

Hundreds of Extermination Squad, Shokan and Centaurian warriors, all swarming down the Royal Road! From this distance they appear the size of ants, but they are coming from every direction. There appears to be no escape.

71 RETURN TO RUINED TEMPLE

71

Liu spins back to his friends, speaks gravely:

LIU

It's an ambush.

Kitana rushes over to look through the holes in the brick. She turns to the others.

KITANA

If we go our separate ways maybe one of us will make it to Kahn.

SONYA

(bitter)

Forget it. We lost. It's over. Rayden's plan didn't work --

JAX

-- We trusted you, man! And what happens? You take us on a goddamned wild goose chase!

LIU

(to Rayden)

I don't understand. You were advised by the Elder Gods.

RAYDEN

(hard to admit)

The Gods must have lied to me.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

KITANA
(incredulous)
How could that be, Rayden?

RAYDEN
(humbled)
My faith was blind. I have failed
you all.

JAX
Hey, forget your Gods! And
Immortals and all that crap! I say
the only ones we can trust from
here on out are humans. Nobody
else.
(beat)
Not even Rayden.

KITANA
Don't you understand. By leading
us here, he is mortal now just like
you. All his powers have been
sacrificed.

SONYA
That's even worse -- how do we stop
Kahn now?

All eyes fall upon Rayden.

RAYDEN
There is more to this than Kahn.
If Sindel was not the key to the
Portal, Kahn had someone else open
it for him.

JAX
(looking out window)
We've got about five minutes before
we're history.

Rayden moves to the window, looks for himself. Sonya spots
the STRANGE TATTOO now revealed on Rayden's shoulder --
where he was wounded. The same marking we saw on Cyrax and
Mileena.

SONYA
(points it out)
That tattoo. I've seen it before.
On a robot. And a woman. Both
tried to kill me ...

JAX
(finishes her thought)
... and both of them worked for
Kahn.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: 2

71

The others gather around, confounded by this revelation.
All staring down at Rayden.

LIU
(doesn't want to believe)
First Jade ... and now you, Rayden?

Rayden just stares at his tattoo for a moment, then looks at
the others with revelation in his eyes.

RAYDEN
It is true. I led you into this
trap ... but I did so unknowingly.

He's putting all the pieces of the puzzle together now.

RAYDEN
This tattoo is a family crest,
endowed by my father to my brother
and me. It alone allows safe
passage between realms for the
bearer and his passengers.

SONYA
If it's your family's, how can
Kahn's side have them, too?

Rayden actually appears excited with his powers of
deduction.

RAYDEN
Because my father is one of the
Elders Gods ... and only they can
bestow such a marking.

SONYA
Your dad's an Elder God!? Funny,
you failed to mention that before.

RAYDEN
Don't you see? It must have been
my father who lied to me ... who
opened the Portal himself!
(bottom line)
He knew I would trust the Gods.

JAX
Wait a minute: if you and your
brother were the only ones to
actually get these crests ...

RAYDEN
Shao Kahn is my brother.

A shocking, horrific conclusion. Its impact is seen on the
faces of all the others.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: 3

71

RAYDEN

It is the only explanation.

72 EXT. FORTRESS COMPLEX - OUTWORLD

72 *

Kahn, in full battle gear, addresses his remaining generals and Shadow Guards at the base of a massive slate stairway. In a half circle, behind Kahn, are his Shadow Priests with torches. Below him in a field of slate and rock are the Extermination Squads. To the right, the marvel of French engineering, the Eiffel Tower stands poised but out of place in this haunted world.

*
*
*
*
*

KAHN

You are witness to the dawning of
Mankind's final day! By nightfall,
the two realms will be one!

(emphatically)

Destiny will be ours! Rayden and
his mortals have fallen for my
trick and failed to stop us!

(sneering)

Go now! Join the others -- bring
Rayden and his pathetic mortals to
bow at my feet. So that with their
dying breaths, they will see the
birth of the greatest army in
existence!

CHEERS go up for Kahn. Next to Kahn, over looking the
armies moving out... we find Shinnok already standing. As
they both stare pensively, expectantly at Outworld, we
hear:

*
*
*

LIU (V.O.)

Why would your father betray you
and choose Kahn?

RAYDEN (V.O.)

Because Liu, power is the most
important thing to my father. But
he always wanted to keep it in the
family ... and he knew I wouldn't
join him.

Because it appears that Kahn's plan has indeed worked, we
see Shinnok do the unthinkable: he pats his son on the
shoulder, offering a brief, silent moment of encouragement.

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

RAYDEN (V.O.)

Years ago my father decreed that
his heir to the family throne must
be strong enough to kill his own
brother in battle if necessary.

(beat)

I beat him, but I could not kill
him. And for my 'weakness', I was
banished to the Earth Realm.

LIU (V.O.)

For not killing your brother?

Kahn and Shinnok share a sick smile.

*

RAYDEN (V.O.)

Back then my father believed Earth
was a pitiful world for the weak.
Whatever became of my brother, I
did not know ...

72A OMITTED

72A

73 INT. RUINED TEMPLE - OUTWORLD

73

Rayden concludes his story for the group. All these painful
memories have dredged up unexpected emotions in the
immortal.

RAYDEN

... until now.

JAX

(shakes head)

Man, you got one dysfunctional
family.

BATTLE CRIES can be heard in the near distance.

KITANA

Our time is almost up.

RAYDEN

Kitana's right. And only one thing
is certain: Kahn must die.

LIU

This time you're going to kill him?

RAYDEN

I could not then, I cannot now.

(bottom line)

I can do no more for you.

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

The group is stunned. Rayden continues to the broken stones and looks out at the advancing Extermination Squad Warriors.

LIU
(demanding)
So what do we do?

RAYDEN
(to the group)
You will do your best. That is all
that can be expected.
(beat)
You will find him at his newest
prize. It is that way.
(he points)
I will prey for you all.

*
*
*
*

With that, Rayden climbs up and over the wall before anyone even has a chance to protest.

A few moments of despairing silence are broken when Sonya hears sounds outside the window. Peeking out, she sees a splinter group of Extermination Squad Warriors approaching.

SONYA
They're almost here!

JAX
We're screwed! Totally screwed!

The group degenerates into AD LIBBED confusion and fear. Nobody knows what to do, who to turn to. Except Kitana.

KITANA
Listen to me!
(has their attention)
Liu is our best hope.

All eyes fall on Liu, who feels their need for a leader.

LIU
I want to fight Kahn ... but I
don't know if I'm ready.

As the sound of approaching warriors echoes throughout, Kitana steps forward, right up to Liu.

KITANA
If you believe in yourself Liu,
then I believe in you, too.

Liu hesitates a moment, looks to all of them. The others nod their agreement to Kitana's vote of confidence.

LIU
Together we can do this.

74 EXT. RUINED TEMPLE - OUTWORLD

74

From a perch outside, a hidden Rayden watches Liu leading our heroes over the back wall and deeper into Outworld ... cleverly eluding the advancing armies.

Rather than appearing worried, Rayden smiles and shouts:

RAYDEN

Who wants a piece of the Thunder
God!?

75 INT. KAHN'S WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD

75 *

A vicious backhand sends Jade sprawling across the table, scattering maps and attack plans.

Rolling to her knees, Jade glares hatefully up at Shao Kahn.

JADE

(cold steel)
It was not my fault. I did
everything you ordered.

Kahn walks around the massive table where Queen Sindel, Motaro, Ermac and other henchmen are seated.

KAHN

Your job was to lure them to an
ambush. If they escaped, then you
failed me.

Kahn looms over her now, a terrifying presence.

JADE

(desperate)
Your men were too slow. We could
never have stopped them alone.

QUEEN SINDEL

Listen to her. She speaks the
truth. We would have died trying.

KAHN

(enraged; to Sindel)
You! You are already dead!
(to Jade)
And you. Will be soon.

With a powerful hand, Shao Kahn grabs Jade by the neck and lifts her off the ground. Her shrill scream is reduced to a choked gurgle as Kahn strangles her to within a breath of death ... before hurling her out at:

75A INT. KAHN'S WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD

75A *

THE STONE RELIEF -- A darkly colorful depiction of a hideous beast ... which ANIMATES as Jade crashes into the stone ... its gnarly mouth opening and swallowing her whole. The stone relief remains unbroken.

*
*
*

75B INT. KAHN'S WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD

75B *

Kahn now whirls around to face his other lieutenants, specifically Sindel.

KAHN

You will mount a defense around my newest temple! Prepare for Rayden to make one last attack!

QUEEN SINDEL

You said Rayden was no longer to be feared.

His anger erupting, Kahn SMASHES his fist down upon the massive table. Cracks splinter across the dragon emblem on the surface of the table. Blood-red molten lava seeps up into the cracks.

KAHN

I am to be feared! For if you fail me now, I will feed your rotting corpse to the worms.

Kahn turns and strides over to his throne and slumps into the enormous chair. Hand on chin, he contemplates his own demise. Ermac snickers, low and raspy.

MOTARO

Your hallowed position atop the wormpile appears most tenuous.

Motaro trots over to Sindel's side.

MOTARO

Now your failure will be our opportunity.

More insidious snickering from Ermac. Kahn slams his fist down so hard the room seems to shudder.

KAHN

Get out! All of you!

They all look at Kahn before they leave. Ermac is the last to go, he closes the enormous doors behind him.

SHINNOK (O.S.)

You had me believing your plan had actually worked ...

(CONTINUED)

75B CONTINUED:

75B

Startled, Kahn rises to see his father emerging from the shadows, never stepping clearly into the light.

SHINNOK

But you have underestimated Rayden
and his humans yet again.

KAHN

Everything is under control.
I have ordered Sindel --

SHINNOK

-- If you think yourself to be the
ruler of all realms, you must be
the one who stops them!

KAHN

You are an Elder God! Sway the
balance in our favor.

Shinnok gets right in Kahn's face, almost causing his son to
cower under the force of his father's words.

SHINNOK

You fool! Destroying their temple
has them searching for answers.
All along I have warned you that we
cannot risk their involvement.

KAHN

(hesitant)

What does this mean?

SHINNOK

It means our destiny now lies in
your hands alone. I can do no
more with the Elders.

KAHN

You chose me, father. You must
trust me now.

(beat)

I will not disappoint you.

Shinnok's look is hardly one of encouragement.

76 EXT. TAJ MAHAL - OUTWORLD

76

The familiar architecture juts like a piece of broken glass
through the awful doom of Outworld.

Liu, Sonya, Jax and Kitana pass the defiled turrets. They
stop a moment, staring at it, silent and stone-faced. Their
eyes tell us they are ready to meet their fate, whatever it
may hold. Finally:

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

SONYA

There's so little time left.

KITANA

Whatever time we have, we must use well.

JAX

Are we really ready to die here?

The question hangs in the air like a bomb. Finally:

LIU

If we die ... we will die in battle. Together.

The group acknowledges their collective destiny as ...

Liu takes the first uncertain steps, leading the others ahead to the scene of their inevitable confrontation with Shao Kahn. Incredibly, another familiar Earth structure has breached the realms before them. It is the Temple of the Order of Light!

KITANA

The Temple of the Order of Light.

LIU

(incredulous)

My home.

SONYA

In Outworld? Liu ... your family.

77 INT. TEMPLE OF THE ORDER OF LIGHT - OUTWORLD

77

What was left standing of the glorious temple on Earth has resurfaced in Outworld, crooked, cracked and crumbling. It has been blackened by the soot from a hundred fires.

*

Several dilapidated temple shrines lead to a large, inner courtyard.

78 AT THE REAR OF THE TEMPLE

78

At the far end of this decay sits Kahn, surrounded by Sindel, Motaro, Ermac and the others.

Hidden in the shadows behind him, WE SEE Shinnok, who cocks his head to the side, sensing something. He nods to Kahn, who stands and announces:

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

78

KAHN
That must be my army coming ...
herding the mortals to their doom!
(to Sindel)
Prepare for the final battle.

79 AT THE FRONT OF THE TEMPLE

79

Liu leads the others inside the temple. From here, they can see Kahn and his group across the long courtyard. As they take steps towards their unknown destiny, both groups -- Liu's and Kahn's -- hear a familiar voice:

RAYDEN (O.S.)

KAHN!

Everyone looks in the direction of the sound to see:

80 RAYDEN!

80

Stagger in through a side temple entrance -- much closer to Kahn than to the mortals. He's badly beaten, his clothes shredded. All the vibrancy and life has been knocked out of this man as he falls to his knees. A tragic, defeated man is all that kneels before his father and brother.

KAHN
(outraged)
Where is my Extermination Squad!?

RAYDEN
(smirks despite the pain)
I sent them on a field trip.

*

81 LIU

81

Turns to the others, overcome with this realization:

LIU
Rayden didn't abandon us.
(beat)
He saved us.

82 SHINNOK

82

Steps up to Rayden, looming over him menacingly.

SHINNOK
So good of you to join us, son.
In less than one hour, the 'Merger
of Realms' will be complete.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED:

82

Rayden looks up at his father.

RAYDEN

Father, this does not have to happen. You alone have the power now to end this --

SHINNOK

-- Stop! I do not want to remember you this weak.

RAYDEN

It is not weak to value life.

SHINNOK

I offer you one final chance to return to my side, Rayden. To rule all realms with your family.

It is with sadness that Rayden sees that his father is unredeemable.

RAYDEN

(points back at mortals)
That is my family.

SHINNOK

(snarls)
Then you shall die with the rest of your pathetic human race!
(to Kahn)
Finish him.

Knowing what he must do, Kahn rises from his thrown and gazes down upon his brother, engorged with power.

KAHN

You should have killed me while you had the chance, brother.

RAYDEN

My brother is already dead -- his soul anyway.

Angered at this insubordination, Kahn unloads a massive ENERGY BLAST at Rayden ... hurling his body across the courtyard ... where it crashes in a heap of dust and debris a few feet in front of his mortals.

LIU

Rayden!

Liu alone rushes forward to his dying mentor. Rayden's chest heaves, struggling for air, in mortal pain. Still, he manages a smile.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED: 2

82

RAYDEN

You have passed your final test,
Liu. You are ready now.

LIU

But I failed the second test.

RAYDEN

No. You remained loyal to Kitana,
in spite of Jade. And now you have
found faith in yourself ... by
stepping forward to face Kahn.

LIU

(emotional)
You cannot die.

RAYDEN

I am proud to die ... a mortal ...
like you.

Rayden's life-force visibly expires in front of Liu.

Kahn settles back into a seat on his throne, pleased by the
course of events.

KAHN

Today is the beginning of the end.
(to his leaders)
Show them the way to oblivion!

Taking their cue, Sindel leads Motaro and Ermac to eliminate
the mortals. While Liu stays at side of his dead friend and
mentor ...

THE OTHER FIGHTERS

Eyes now burn with the fire of confidence and the adrenaline
of knowing this might be the end. They speak looking
straight ahead, unblinking.

JAX

(re: Motaro)
Mister Ed is mine.

KITANA

I will take my mother.

SONYA

(re: Ermac)
Leftovers again.

As planned, they square off:

Jax takes on Motaro. Strength against brute strength.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED: 3

82

Kitana fights Sindel. Mother and daughter to the death.

Sonya battles Ermac. Feminine wiles versus paranormal ninja powers.

83 OVERHEAD VIEW

83

The final battle has begun. All three fights carry the fighters into the smaller, adjacent temples where each warrior circles his opponent, feeling out the other's strength and weakness.

84 LIU

84

Lifts his head from Rayden's body. His reddened eyes narrow as fury boils the sadness from his face. Slowly, he begins the long, inexorable walk across the main temple courtyard towards Kahn. First he passes:

85 JAX/MOTARO

85

All of Motaro's awesomely brutal special moves (kicks, sweeps and projectiles) are incorporated here. Jax uses bionic rushes and ground smashes. When he gets too close, though, Jax is leg whipped by Motaro's lethal tail.

Angered, Jax pounds the ground, rocking the entire temple with a single fist. Temporarily stunned, Motaro gets pummeled by Jax with kicks and punches --

-- Jax gets too close, though, and is snatched up by the centaur and flung into a column. Upon impact one of his arm enhancers BUSTS into a dozen pieces. Jax panics. Motaro senses his weakness.

MOTARO

You are afraid. For you only
have you now ...

Reeling in sudden self-doubt, Jax finds himself backed up against a wall as Motaro advances.

MOTARO

Without your weapons you are no
match for Motaro!

There is a moment of indecision, then Jax rips off the other one, too. He revels in the feel of his own muscles and a newfound sense of inner confidence.

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

85

JAX

Hey, I got everything I need to
take you down right here.

Freed of the metal devices, Jax seems to surge with
adrenalin and newfound confidence.

JAX

Time to put your ass out to
pasture.

As Jax flips at Motaro and launches into a barrage of
powerful martial arts moves ...

86 SONYA/ERMAC

86

Sonya jumps back, attempting to get away from one of Ermac's
flip punches! They engage in a blindingly fast martial arts
fight on the steps that sees both fighters repeated blows --

-- Sonya takes notice of which step she's on, then ducks a
kick and rolls down a step to set up Ermac for her
spectacular "Upward Bicycle Kick" move!

This only angers Ermac, who miraculously splits into two
separate fighters: Ermac and ...

NOOB SAIBOT ... an identical Ninja, dressed in all black.

Now it is two against one. They come at Sonya with a warp
speed barrage of punches --

-- Sonya cannot move fast enough to avoid the assault!
Suddenly, she finds herself backed up against a column. On
the ropes and clinging to consciousness.

SONYA

JAX ...!

(takes all her strength)

Help!

87 JAX

87

Sees that Sonya is in dire straits and finds within him the
resolve to finally close with Motaro, who tries to
headbutt --

-- Jax dodges the move and grabs one of his horn, swinging
himself up onto Motaro's back.

JAX

Gotcha!

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

Once he has Motaro in his clutches it's all over for the general. Strangling Motaro with his powerful legs, Jax simultaneously pummels him with his own arms. Each punch is harder than the last, finally bringing the beast to the ground in a defeated heap.

Jax rushes over to the adjacent temple to help Sonya. He confronts Noob Saibot with a triple kick, quickly finishing him with a crushing shoulder slam.

JAX

Do it!

Sonya gathers up her strength, and finishes Ermac off with a super brutal, from-her-ankles uppercut!

JAX

You okay, girl?

SONYA

(somewhat sarcastic)

I didn't really need your help --

JAX

-- But you asked. And that means we're partners now. For real.

88 KITANA/SINDEL

88

On the uneven marble steps, Kitana blocks every move Sindel can throw at her. When Sindel lands a vicious blow, Kitana instinctively strikes back.

QUEEN SINDEL

Is that any way to treat your mother!?

KITANA

(coiled fury)

My mother is dead.

QUEEN SINDEL

And soon will be her daughter!

Kitana absorbs Sindel's high-heeled swing kick, then another. Before she can fight back, Sindel unleashes a vicious combination move that leaves Kitana vulnerable ...

Jax and Sonya are about to intervene, but Sonya holds Jax back:

SONYA

She doesn't need our help.

And Sonya was right ...

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED:

88

Kitana adroitly spins out of harm's way and surprises Sindel with a perfectly executed leg-whip combination that brings the evil queen to her knees ... where Kitana takes her down hard, face to the floor. Held in submission by a wrestler's move.

KITANA

Whatever you are, you will live to
see the end of Kahn. To give my
mother's soul peace.

Now, all three heroes, finished with their own battles, turn to watch the main event.

89 LIU

89

Continues on, striding with lethal intent past his fighting friends. Completely oblivious to everyone and everything around him except his mortal foe: Kahn. As Liu moves past ...

90 LIU KANG/SHAO KAHN

90

At this point, we are moving into the films most spectacular fight (special fx and fight moves).

LIU

That just leaves you and me, Kahn.

KAHN

Know this. Your death will be
slow. For I want you to see the
ruination of all you cherish.

Kahn spin kicks at Liu, knocking him down --

-- Liu returns the move, evening the score. Kahn's temper flares -- he tries to kick him, but Liu employs Rayden's acrobatic flip-kick and not only eludes the attack, he also lands another punishing blow on Kahn with two feet to his face!

After Liu scores a particularly jarring hit, Kahn uses both hands to bash Liu with everything he's got. Liu staggers, hurt badly.

KAHN

Pathetic and weak. Rayden has
clearly molded you in his image.

Mercilessly Kahn keeps attacking Liu, weakening his body and spirit. Driven to his knees, Liu is nearly defeated.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

90

KAHN

Face it, Liu Kang ... You will fail.

There it is: Liu's worst fear. But this is not some vision. This is really happening. And Liu closes his eyes for just a moment, summoning the strength to convert his fear into power ...

NIGHTWOLF (V.O.)

Everybody has the power to change the future. Find that power within.

CU - LIU'S EYES

Redden with rage. The pupils dilate in anger.

LIU

(to himself)

I can feel it.

As Kahn lords over his wounded opponent, about to deliver the finishing blow, Liu's BODY MORPHS into a muscular, GREEN DRAGON. His animality. Fifteen feet high. Sharp, armored scales. Teeth the size of steak knives.

KAHN

Impressive! You come prepared. But not good enough ...

Kahn then MORPHS himself into a towering SIX-HEADED HYDRA. Nearly twice the size of the Dragon.

Each oversized head -- held on six foot long necks -- boasts three green eyes and a ravenous mouth that opens impossibly wide.

The other fighters react to the sight of the two massive creatures center stage.

JAX

Now I've seen everything.

Instantaneously the two creatures attack, the dragon lunges, biting hard into one of the Hydra's necks --

-- In turn, the other five Hydra heads bite into the Dragon's torso!

Both screaming in agony, Kahn and Liu quickly TRANSFORM BACK into their human forms. Each fighter, both badly wounded, staggers in pain away from the other.

Liu steps up and stands over Kahn, who is on his knees. A trickle of blood dribbles from his neck wound.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: 2

90

LIU
Your blood flows, Kahn. Just like
the blood of a ... mortal.

Shao Kahn rises, starts toward Shinnok, who watches with
defiantly crossed arms from the shadows.

KAHN
Father! How can this be!?

SHINNOK
I warned you there would be
consequences for breaking the
Sacred Rules!

KAHN
But I never imagined this!

SHINNOK
(disgusted)
Are you so pathetic you can't even
beat a worthless human?

LIU
(in charge)
Not this one.

Liu spins Kahn around and assaults him with a rapid-fire
knee and elbow combination. Liu seems energized with the
confidence he can truly win --

-- But Kahn suckers Liu into a careless uppercut and
surprises the fighter with a leg whip --

-- While Liu is down, he's ruthlessly kicked into
submission.

KAHN
Nothing can alter your destiny --
nor mine!

As Liu struggles to stay alive ...

91 LIU KANG/SHAO KAHN

91

Barely escaping Kahn's clutches, Liu unleashes a torrid
assault of his own. Quick punches and kicks in a fierce
display of martial arts prowess.

Kitana, Sonya and Jax have moved closer to cheer him on:

JAX
Yeah! Kick his ass!

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED:

91

SONYA

No mercy!

KITANA

Finish him, Liu!

Every blow has just been a set up for a devastating spin kick that sends Kahn sprawling across the arena and landing at Shinnok's feet!

SHINNOK

Must I do everything for you!?

Disgusted, Shinnok is about to step in and help his faltering son --

-- but the two other ELDER GODS materialize behind him in as WATERY VISAGES (like we saw earlier) ... then the faces TRANSFORM into human forms. Together they create a cubical, blue ENERGY BARRIER around Shinnok, encaging him instantly.

ELDER GOD #1

For abusing your power, Shinnok,
and breaking your Sacred Oath, you
are banished to the Nether Realm.

ELDER GOD #2

Where you shall spend eternity
imprisoned with the soulless dregs
of existence.

Shinnok's cry is muffled by the energy barrier, which rapidly folds in on itself ... until it has disappeared!

ELDER GOD #1

The fate of the universe will be
decided as it should be.

ELDER GOD #2

In Mortal Kombat.

Kahn gets to his feet and once more tries to vanquish Liu. It is to no avail. Liu hauls a wobbly Kahn to his feet and unloads a series of punishingly accurate blows which Kahn tries in vain to block!

WITH EACH BLOW OUTWORLD "GLITCHES" WITH RIPPLES OF DISTORTION!

When Liu finishes Kahn with a devastating uppercut that sends Kahn high into the air --

-- the villain's body lands defeated on a temple floor that ripples like liquid instead of stone. And in that instant, Outworld begins to UN-MERGE ... forming a horrific, grinding vortex all around and Kahn ...

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED: 2

91

KAHN

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!

... and literally tearing him apart as he's sucked into oblivion. As this happens, the icons of Earth magically sink back into the dirt.

Around out heroes the crumbling temple pieces are pulled up into the vortex, and are replaced by the pristine originals -- the Temple of the Order of Light is being restored to its exquisite earthly state.

Suddenly, all is calm. Daylight shines in from the outside. They are back:

92 INT. TEMPLE OF THE ORDER OF LIGHT - EARTH - DAY

92 *

Liu, bloody and battle weary, stands alone breathing hard. He feels a soft hand on his shoulder. Startled, he spins around. It's Kitana. Her smile says it all. There is no hesitancy in her actions: she rewards Liu for his uncommon valor with a lasting kiss. Interrupting this tender moment is a woman's voice:

QUEEN SINDEL (O.S.)

Kitana? Darling ...?

Nearby, Sindel sits up from a prone position on the ground. She looks disoriented and groggy. Her skin has a normal pallor, the evil rasp now gone from her voice. Her royal beauty has been restored, along with her life.

KITANA

Mother?

Kitana rushes to her mother, pulls her up and into a loving embrace. It's a tearful reunion, one observed by a proud Liu.

KITANA

I cannot believe it's true ...

QUEEN SINDEL

Finally ... I am freed of Kahn's hold on me.

(re: Liu)

Thanks to your brave friend.

Kitana invites a bashful Liu to join their reunion. Both mother and daughter drape their arms around their hero.

QUEEN SINDEL

For your heroism, I pledge my kingdom.

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

92

Liu basks in the glory of his newfound family.

KITANA

I will never forget this moment,
Liu Kang.

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED: 2

92

Jax and Sonya join the trio.

JAX
(aside to Sonya)
I know who's gettin' some tonight.

SONYA
(points)
Hey, what's up with that?

Nearby, the two Elder Gods kneel over Rayden's body muttering in an unfamiliar tongue. It's a bizarre ceremony. Rayden looks dead as a doornail.

Miraculously, however, his body begins to glow and, momentarily, his eyes flutter open. As he groggily sits up, the Elder Gods step back. Rayden now has the appearance of a hologram.

RAYDEN
Was I ... dead?

ELDER GOD #1
Yes.

RAYDEN
I was a mortal. Mortals cannot be reborn.

Liu and the others come over to observe.

ELDER GOD #2
No. But Elder Gods can.

RAYDEN
Elder Gods ...?

ELDER GOD #1
It is only right that Shinnok's son be allowed to replace him in the Eternal Palace.

ELDER GOD #2
Now you become one of us.

Rayden stands. His now shimmering spirit looks smilingly upon Liu, Kitana, Sonya, Jax and Sindel.

RAYDEN
I feel like a proud father ...

Everyone reacts, but clearly Liu is the one who takes this comment to heart.

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED: 3

92

RAYDEN

If only I could remember who your
mothers were.

(wry smile)

Just kidding.

Rayden's wit dissipates the emotional tension of the moment
for the mortals who clearly hate to see him go.

RAYDEN

I will be watching you all. So
stay out of trouble. And stick
together. You're a family now.

The three Elder Gods now DE-MATERIALIZE into the sky. Jax
turns to Sonya:

JAX

I gotta tell you, that was the
longest week of my life.

SONYA

Could've been worse -- could've
been the last week of our lives.

Jax smiles and soul-shakes Sonya's hand.

KITANA

Will you stay here, Liu? Or will
you return to Edenia with me?

LIU

(making her earn it)

Hmm. Tough call. I mean, you'd
think I could do better than a ten
thousand year old princess?

(ALTERNATE VERSION)

Sub-Zero emerges from behind a temple pillar.

SUB-ZERO

Good move, Liu Kang. You trusted
me.

From behind another pillar, Armani jacket over his shoulder,
sunglasses on, emerges Johnny Cage. Sonya breaks into a
huge smiles.

JOHNNY

Don't tell me it's over! I haven't
even broken a sweat.

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED: 4

92

(Johnny and Sonya hug.) Everyone laughs and smiles. For now, life is good again. *

(ALTERNATE VERSION)

92A EXT. HOPI MESA - DAWN

92A

Nightwolf stands atop a precipice, silhouetted by the rising sun. He raises his tomahawk triumphantly and howls in victory.

CUT TO:

93 EXT. THE NETHER REALM - PRISON - NIGHT

93

As WE PAN across the desolate landscape past the decaying remains of assorted species, we hear an eerie, chilling wind blowing across the vast emptiness.

We arrive at a towering, black prison fortress which rises to infinity, surrounded by seemingly endless black, onyx walls of immeasurable height --

-- KA-BAAAAAASH! A concussive explosion opens a gaping hole in the onyx wall, sending several Nether-dweller guards hurtling right at the camera!

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

From inside the prison we hear the violent sounds of destruction ...

WE PUSH IN closer, through the gaping hole, past total devastation and Nether-dweller guards' bodies scattered everywhere. Out from the smoke strides:

94 SHINNOK

94

Ready for revenge. He turns back to see:

QUAN CHI ... a dangerous sorcerer ... bald and blue-skinned ... piercing red eyes masked by blue leather battle gear ...

This fearsome villain hurls another prison guard out the front entrance, then steps up to Shinnok's side.

SHINNOK

Together, Quan Chi, we are unstoppable.

The two villains share a mad, infernal laugh, and we:

FADE OUT.

THE END