

NEW GODS

By
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Warner Brothers
Feature Animation

Based on characters created
by Jack Kirby

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FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

Millions of stars hang against the infinite darkness. Two planets of equal size orbit each other:

NARRATOR (V.O.)
New Genesis and Apokolips are planetary siblings alone in the universe. Equal in size but opposite in nature.

APOKOLIPS

a fiery orange, molten mass of bubbling lava.

NEW GENESIS

a serene planet covered mostly by water, green covered hills, and sandy beaches.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
From the beginning, the two planets were locked in a war which seem destined to last forever.

BATTLE FIELD

Lines of New Genesans and Apokoliptans, armed with futuristic weapons, clash in hand-to-hand combat. The New Genesan Army is well outfitted and coordinated, while the Apokoliptans are frenzied and wear ragtag uniforms.

NARRATOR
The Apokoliptan Army was fierce, barbaric and --

BOY
(O.S.)
Wore ugly clothes.

WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

EXT. NEW GENESIS - AMPHITHEATER - DAY

The BOY is ORION, ten-years-old, with a devilish smile and feisty eyes. The NARRATOR is a thirty-year-old teacher who stands on the floor of an amphitheater/classroom. He circles a HOLOGRAPH which displays the narrated images.

NARRATOR

Orion, this is a lesson about your planet's proud history. I would hope you, of all people, would listen respectfully.

Orion slouches down. Next to him, a ten-year-old boy with blond hair giggles. This is LIGHTRAY.

BACK ON HOLOGRAPH

The bloody aftermath of battle. Bodies are strewn across the fields of war. Fires burn.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Countless lives were lost, until the day Highfather built the shield protecting our peaceful planet from the marauding Apokliptans.

DEFENSE SHIELD

A network of SATELLITES form a laser powered force field around New Genesis. Apokliptan attack ships try to penetrate the shield but are incinerated on contact.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

While New Genesis prospers under the leadership of Highfather...

NEW GENESIS CITY

Rebuilt. Grand. Crowds of smiling New Genesans cheer HIGHFATHER. He's square-jawed with long hair and a wizened face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The maniacal Darkseid wastes his planet's natural resources stockpiling weapons of war...

APOKOLIPTAN WORKERS

slave day and night on assembly lines. Masses of Apokliptans bow down to DARKSEID. A tall, emotionless, warrior whose eyes glow red.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Foolishly believing that one day the battle will continue --

ORION

Good. Maybe they'll blow up school.

Orion smiles at his fellow students who laugh along.

NARRATOR

Enough, Orion. Perhaps three weeks of community service will help sharpen your listening skills.

LIGHTRAY

(sotto to Orion)
The dog poop patrol.

Bam! Orion kicks Lightray in the shins.

LIGHTRAY

Oww. Pigface.

NARRATOR

Lightray, do you wish to join your friend?

Lightray shakes his head and lowers his eyes.

Each student has a bracelet with a blue stone on it, as does the teacher. This is their MOTHERBOX COMPONENT, their link to the main computer of New Genesis, which controls the defense system, and the New Genesans themselves.

A soothing voice speaks from the stones.

MOTHERBOX

Lessons are now over.

NARRATOR

Thank you Motherbox. Be well, children, and remember, the shield, powered by Motherbox, will continue to protect New Genesis.

The Students stand and form an orderly line, except Orion, who tries to push his way out the door.

MOTHERBOX

Orion, be patient.

ORION

But--

MOTHERBOX

Now don't make excuses. You don't want me to report you to the Guardians, do you?

ORION
No, Motherbox.

MOTHERBOX
Remember, politeness is the bedrock of
New Genesis.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS - ESTABLISHING .

A lush planet of crystal blue oceans, dense jungle and thriving woods.

SUPER: TEN YEARS LATER

NEW GENESIS CITY

hovers above both land and water. A utopian vision with artful utilitarian architecture. The NEW GENESANS are convivial and orderly. On their wrists, each wear a Motherbox component with the blue glowing stone.

EXT. NEW GENESIS - GRAND PLAZA

Eight different roads intersect in the central hub of New Genesis.

New Genesans wait patiently to cross. Some stand on HOVERDISCS (floating skateboards) and others ride ASTROGLIDERS (hovering sled vehicles). Many are also on foot. Blue stones flicker.

MOTHERBOX
(from bracelet)
It is time to cross.

From one corner, a group of New Genesans makes their way across the plaza. The other groups wait patiently.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS - FRUIT MARKET

A WOMAN sifts through a bucket of red, pear shaped fruits.

MOTHERBOX
(from bracelet)
Shake the Mana Fruit. If you hear the pit. You know it's ripe.

WOMAN

Thank you Motherbox. What would I do without you?

ANOTHER ANGLE - an ELDERLY MAN tries to cut to the front of the line.

MOTHERBOX

(to elderly man)

That is the second time today, Jeriah. If you insist on being rude, I will tell your wife about this. Do not test me.

ELDERLY MAN

(crossing legs)

I'm sorry. It's just I have to go to the bathroom.

MOTHERBOX

You should have thought of that before we left home.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS - ALLEY - DAY

In the darkness, we SEE only the shadow of a MAN hunched over an Astroglider.

MOTHERBOX (O.S.)

What are you doing?

MAN (O.S.)

I figured it was a good day for a drive.

The shadow takes a screwdriver and pops something off of the astroglider. Suddenly he darts out. He comes into the light.

He's ORION. Now, twenty-years-old, athletic and roughly handsome.

MOTHERBOX (O.S.)

Orion, No!

EXT. NEW GENESIS - STREET

Orion's Astroglider rushes through the streets, hovering just above the ground. Rounding a corner, the sled fishtails into a WHEATGRASS STAND, knocking it over. The green ooze pours into the street. The OWNER screams at Orion, but we hear only the ROCKET, as Orion charges ahead.

EXT. NEW GENESIS - GRAND PLAZA

As ORION tears through the center of New Genesis, whooping in delight, we...

SLOWLY PULL BACK from the city.

CONTINUING THE PULL BACK until we view...

EXT. SPACE

NEW GENESIS sparkling in the vast blackness.

ANOTHER ANGLE reveals...

A ferocious METEOR SHOWER rips through the starry space between Apokolips and New Genesis. A few of the ROCKS burn up as they hit the New Genesian LASER SHIELD. Suddenly, hurtling toward New Genesis is a flaming METEOR which is more than half the size of the planet. It slams into the shield. The shield's power surges for a moment.

The laser systems vaporize the massive METEOR.

Slowly, the shield returns to full capacity.

ON ONE SATELLITE

Badly damaged, it slowly breaks from the network and comes off orbit. It drifts away from New Genesis.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - ESTABLISHING

A stifling, brooding inferno. The planet is covered by vast volcanic plains and small highland plateaus. Lava bubbles and spits. Clouds of methane gas whirl in the air. Pockets of electrical storms pepper the planet. Towering over the planet is a statue of DARKSEID.

EXT. APOKOLIPS CITY

An iron metropolis. Apokolips City is built upon large steel pontoons which float on the volcanic plains. The pontoons are densely packed with multilevel structures which are connected by a spider web of causeways, catwalks and bridges.

ANGLE ON

DARKSEID'S CITADEL - a 1,000 foot high statue of Darkseid, dominating the square. A castle built in Darkseid's evil image.

The square in front of Darkseid's citadel is made of cracked concrete blocks, with pockets of lava.

EXT. SPACE

The NEW GENESIS SATELLITE begins to glow red as it enters Apokolips' atmosphere.

EXT. APOKOLIPS - LAVA MILLS

APOKOLIPTAN WORKERS shovel molten rock into large buckets which carry the lava to aqueducts high above.

Many of the workers are so horribly burned or maimed that they no longer appear human.

EXT. APOKOLIPTAN ATMOSPHERE

WE HEAR a SCREAMING SOUND as the SATELLITE rushes toward the planet.

INT. LAVA MILLS

The roof of the Lava Mill gives way as ...

SLAM!

The satellite plunges toward the ground, pinning a WORKER'S leg underneath. DESAAD (a sadistic, disgusting man, whose body is covered with scars from self flagellations) approaches.

DESAAD

A gift for Lord Darkseid.

(dancing)

I'm going to be his favorite! I'm going to be his favorite!

Crying, the worker bangs his fist on the satellite.

WORKER

My legs!!!

Desaad notices the trapped worker struggling to push the satellite off his crushed legs.

DESAAD

Hold still. My Fahrenknife will cut you free.

Desaad pulls out his FAHRENKNIFE, a knife which burns hot and instantly cauterizes the wound after the amputation.

DESAAD

Ready, on my count, one - two - three!

Slice!

The worker lifts his torso up with his hands. He stares in horror at his legs still crushed under the satellite.

WORKER

My legs!?

DESAAD

(imitating)

My legs, my legs. Always me, me, me.
Now get back to work stubby.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

In this majestic room HIGHFATHER holds court. The Socratic leader of the New Genesans.

In the center of the room is the heart of New Genesis...

MOTHERBOX.

A breathing-flesh-covered-light-filled-computer. She has large limb-like tubes which connect to the ALPHA SWIRL. A blue colored energy from the core of New Genesis.

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER, a young woman with an otherworldly aura works at a control panel. Her fingers slide over a flat opaque panel. Willowy and delicately sculptured, Dreamer is chief advisor to Highfather.

MOTHERBOX

Unfortunately, we did lose one of the satellites. We should be able to replace it within the week. But the meteor was half our size! And the shield held beautifully.

HIGHFATHER

Excellent. I knew our defenses were impenetrable.

There is a pregnant pause.

HIGHFATHER

You have something else don't you?

MOTHERBOX

It's Orion. It seems he has the itch to go joyriding again.

Highfather is exasperated.

HIGHFATHER

When will he grow up?

Dreamer turns to Highfather.

DREAMER

Like his father, his spirit is strong.

HIGHFATHER

But unlike me, he never listens. Notify the guardians at once.

INT. NEW GENESIS - GUARDIANS CENTER

Two rows of astrogliders are readied by the door. There is a map of New Genesis city and a jail cell which is immaculate and empty. This is the headquarters of the policemen of New Genesis - THE GUARDIANS.

They are led by LIGHTRAY, now twenty-years-old, dashingly handsome, with blonde hair and a million dollar smile. He stands at the front of the room before THREE GUARDIANS - clean cut and eager to please.

LIGHTRAY

All right, let's settle down. Tarek, how'd you do yesterday?

GUARDIAN #1

I arrested a man for oversleeping.

The Guardians gasp.

GUARDIAN #1

And the worst of it is Motherbox tried to wake him four times.

LIGHTRAY

Good work. Give me your report.
(to Guardian #2)
What about you?

GUARDIAN #2

I had one jaywalker. And an impudent fourteen-year-old I caught giving dirty looks to her father.

GUARDIAN #1
Will the madness never end?

GUARDIAN #3
I caught a man cursing.

LIGHTRAY
At who?

GUARDIAN #3
I believe at himself. He had just
dropped a neutro-engine on his toe.

Lightray rolls his eyes.

LIGHTRAY
Anything else?

GUARDIAN #3
I had a bad one. A real criminal.

LIGHTRAY
(perks up)
Yes?

GUARDIAN #3
Using the salad fork on the meat dish.

LIGHTRAY
(sarcastic)
How dare he?

Suddenly, the blue stone on Lightray's wrist flickers.

MOTHERBOX
(from Lightray's bracelet)
Lightray, he's at it again.

LIGHTRAY
Anyone up for chasing Orion?

GUARDIAN #2
We don't have to go really fast I hope.

GUARDIAN #1
Perhaps he'll get bored and stop?

LIGHTRAY
Who knows what a scoundrel like Orion
could have done. Maybe he's disabled the
air filtration system. He could be
polluting the environment.

GUARDIAN #3
Bastard.

GUARDIAN #2
Make him pay.

LIGHTRAY
(to himself)
Works every time.

They hop on their Astrogliders, flick on the sirens and dart out.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS CITY - DAY

Sirens wailing, the Guardians give chase. Orion speeds toward the edge of the city.

GUARDIAN #2
I'll initiate automatic over-ride.

Guardian #2 points a DEVICE at Orion's Astroglider. Nothing.

LIGHTRAY
Don't waste your time. He's junked the over-ride by now.

Orion races faster than before. The Guardians jet away from the floating city...

EXT. NEW GENESIS - WILDERNESS

... into the lush wilderness. Tall Sequoia trees and vividly colored flowers.

Orion weaves between the trees like a slalom course. He approaches a

TWISTED TREE.

He glides up the side of the tree and then rockets backward over the other guardians. WHOOSH!

GUARDIAN #3
Ohmigod...

GUARDIAN #2
He's out of his mind.

ORION
Cool move off the tree, huh?

LIGHTRAY
I save your life, and you brag?

ORION
Oh, right. I almost forgot. Thanks.

LIGHTRAY
(smiling)
You're under arrest.

ORION
(smiling)
I know.

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPS - PRISON

Deep in the bowels of Apokolips is a prison within a prison.

A beaten and bloodied YOUNG PRISONER is dragged in. The four guards are beautiful, amazonian FURIES, the female soldiers of Apokolips.

BARDA (jet black mane, she speaks quietly and carries a big steel staff);

LASHINA (a peroxide blonde who wields a steel cat-o'-nine-tails);

BERNADETH (leonine red hair, tight fitting camouflage fatigues, a bevy of Fahrenknives hang from her garters);

and STOMPA (chestnut hair, a lumber jack shirt with enormous high heeled platform boots - Heavy Matter Boots.)

They drag the prisoner up to the receiving desk, where GRANNY GOODNESS waits. Granny is a short, blue haired harpy.

GRANNY
What's this naughty one in for?

LASHINA
He learned to read.

YOUNG PRISONER
I didn't mean to. It- it was an accident!

GRANNY

Turn that frown upside down, grumpy clown! Put him in with the other geniuses. I have a big announcement for them.

They drag the Young Prisoner through a portal, into a hive like structure where twenty men sleep in hanging cages.

A GIGANTIC MOBILE constructed of images of Darkseid, circles high above.

Signs read: Kill for Darkseid, live forever.
Cruelty breeds respect!
You're not a liar, if you lie for Darkseid.
Maim anyone today?

Granny Goodness enters on a floating dais. She sprays the young men with a hose. Their eyes snap open.

GRANNY

Wakey wakey, sleepy heads.

SLAVES

(tiredly chorusing)
Good morning Granny Goodness.

GRANNY

Good morning children. Granny has simply dee-lightful news! Finally, you will be able to use those peace loving brains of yours. You are going to build just the cutest little weapon so that kindly lord Darkseid can blow to itsy-bitsy pieces those naughty New Genesans! Now, won't that be fun?

ON SCOTT FREE

Twenty-years-old, underneath the layers of grime is a handsome face. His hair is matted and his body thin.

SCOTT

You'd have a better chance of getting us to eat your mole hairs.

Granny brushes her hairy mole with her finger.

GRANNY

Naughty Scott! Bad Mr. Man! No sludge after nappy time for you.
(to Furies)
Ladies, lower the cribs.

The Furies turn primitive winches, lowering the cribs.
The shackled men begin exiting. Scott sniffs at Stompa.

SCOTT
Stompa is that you, or did you step on
something with those dainty shoes?

Stompa grins and punches him in the face. Bam! Granny
shoots her a look as Scott shakes his head.

GRANNY
Now what do we say before abusing the
orphans?

STOMPA
Please?

Barda turns to Scott.

BARDA
(whispering)
Quit flirting with the hags.

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPS - LOW TECH LABORATORY - LATER

The New Genesan Satellite sits in the center of the room,
with Desaad hovering over it like a proud parent. Other
machines built of scrap metal lie on tables scattered
throughout the lab.

SCOTT
...you can forget about it.

DESAAD
What then? Maybe another one of your
famous prison breaks. I think the last
time your motley crew tried one of those
you made it as far the maze before we
sprayed you with acid wash.

GRANNY
Ah, the good old days... acid wash was
all the rage back then.

SCOTT
(to Desaad)
Someday, we'll break out of here.

Desaad grabs an OLD SLAVE. He pulls him near and takes a
FAHRENKNIFE and points it at his eye.

DESAAD

If you want, I could make him the
lookout.

Scott lunges for Desaad but Lashina whips him around the
ankles. He falls to the ground.

Everybody stops, and looks at the door.

DARKSEID is framed in the door way. He walks into the room
casually, a solicitous, almost kindly air about him.

DARKSEID

Hello, everybody. How are we all doing?

Well, I hope.

(to prisoners)

How's the food down here? Are you
getting enough?

The Prisoners all look at Granny, who scowls at them.

PRISONERS

(chorusing)

Yes, lord Darkseid.

SCOTT

My crib is a bit drafty.

Darkseid turns his "friendly uncle" stare on Scott.

DARKSEID

Ah, Scott Free. How many times must we
dance this dance? It seems every time
we meet, someone around you dies. First
your Mother, then your brother... then,
who was it, your uncle, or did I execute
your sister first? The dynamics of our
interaction could use some examination.

Scott stares at Darkseid defiantly.

DARKSEID

But let's try to put that behind us,
shall we? You rebuild this satellite,
and perhaps none of your friends here
will die? It'll be like a fresh start
for the two of us.

The other prisoners all look at Scott, fear in their eyes.

SCOTT

Alright.

Darkseid claps Scott on the shoulder like an old pal.

DARKSEID

Good lad! Now, I've got to run, but I'd like to thank everybody for their time and effort in this matter.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S ZIGGURAT

New Genesans cluster on the stairs of the noble building. Unfriendly whispers race through the throng as Orion is escorted by the Guardians.

VENDOR

How dare you knock over my stand. That wheatgrass took me all morning to cut.

VENDOR #2

(shaking his fist)
Menace.

LIGHTRAY

Your father's probably cursing the day he outlawed capital punishment.

ORION

More like the day I was born.

Orion trudges up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

His face red, Highfather paces before Orion.

ORION

... but no one got hurt.

HIGHFATHER

Do you understand what it means to be a New Genesan? I don't think so. You put the lives of my people and the Guardians in danger.

ORION

Danger's exciting. They could use a shocker every now and then.

HIGHFATHER

This is not some playground where you can run wild.

ORION

No, it's a stinking prison. Even the food sucks.

HIGHFATHER

Are actions without consequence? They are not. I'm assigning you to three months of community service.

ORION

That's it? Come on, you can do better than that. Make it three hundred years. I don't care. I can't do what I want anyway.

HIGHFATHER

Orion, I don't want to have this discussion again. I promised your Mother I would keep you safe.

ORION

Safe? I'm dying of boredom.

Dreamer enters. Her pace hurried.

DREAMER

Excuse me, Highfather. I'm sorry to interrupt but...

HIGHFATHER

What is it Dreamer?

DREAMER

I fear the errant satellite has crashed on Apokolips.

Highfather's eyes widen.

HIGHFATHER

Was it destroyed?

DREAMER

There's no way to tell from here.

HIGHFATHER

Let us pray so.

Orion steps forward.

ORION
What are we going to do?

HIGHFATHER
Nothing that concerns you Orion.

Orion shakes his head.

ORION
Right. Around here nothing ever concerns me.

Orion storms out.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - DARKSEID'S CITADEL

The eyes of the enormous Darkseid statue glow red. We PUSH in through the eye openings to see...

INT. APOKOLIPS - DARKSEID'S CHAMBER

DARKSEID standing before a blood red twister-like spiral of LAVA. The twister is the OMEGA SWIRL. The planet's core energy which rises into the center of this domed room.

Orgasmic joy lights Darkseid's face as Omega Energy arcs from the Swirl into his raised hands. Desaad enters.

DESAAD
The corruptor is ready my liege.

Darkseid throws a toggle switch and a large section of floor rises up from a lower level. On the elevating floor is a giant device.

THE CORRUPTOR is a behemoth TWIN BARREL CANON connected to the New Genesan SATELLITE.

DESAAD
I had a quick "encouragement" session with the prisoners and the ones that are still alive managed to finish a bit early.

Scott and the other prisoners roll the large device across the room.

DARKSEID
Excellent. Fabulous. Great job, everyone.

The prisoners point the twin barrels of the Corruptor into the eye openings of the Citadel.

DARKSEID

Once the shield goes down, I'll send in my bomber pilots-- they're such a wonderful bunch, I'd like all of you to meet them-- anyway, when the last New Genesan is exterminated I'll have a new planet to play with.

DESAAD

(gleefully)

Well, we have pretty much destroyed this one.

DARKSEID

It's time my friends to expand our horizons.

Darkseid grabs a cable and goes over to a device connected to the Omega Swirl.

SCOTT

Stop!

DARKSEID

(turns back)

Excuse me?

SCOTT

You can't power the Corruptor with the planetary core.

DARKSEID

Why not? It is after all my planet.

SCOTT

But if you drain the core, Apokolips could collapse.

DARKSEID

Oh really Scott, you are so doom and gloom.

Darkseid attaches the cable. Lava begins to flow into the Corruptor. Scott lunges at the cable. But Darkseid swiftly pounces on him and flips him to the floor.

DARKSEID

What we have here is a failure to communicate. Desaad, turn the boy over to Granny, so she can help him "mature."

(MORE)

DARKSEID (cont'd)
(to Scott)
Thanks again for all the fabulous help.

The lava fills the Corruptor. The cannons begin to shake.
WHAM! Red colored BEAMS emanate from its twin barrels.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - GUARDIANS CENTER

Orion, dressed in a BLUE JUMPSUIT, enters holding a bucket and mop. Lightray is tightening a bolt on one of the many astrogliders.

ORION
Master criminal reporting for duty sir.

LIGHTRAY
Let me guess. Six months?

ORION
Only three.

LIGHTRAY
That's not too bad.

ORION
Guess not. Sorry about this morning. I just wanted to take a ride on my own.

LIGHTRAY
Don't sweat it. The guys could use some fresh air.

ORION
I don't know about Tarek. Did you see his face when he tried to follow me through those trees? He looked like he was about to hurl.

LIGHTRAY
He did. All afternoon.

ORION
Remember that time in school when I tied him to the scrubber robot?

LIGHTRAY
And he stayed there all night, just to get you in trouble.

ORION
Me? In trouble? Why, you're joking?

Orion drops the bucket to the ground.

LIGHTRAY

Listen, I know you hate it that you can't be a guardian. But you're Highfather's only son and one day you'll be our leader.

Orion begins mopping the floor.

ORION

I don't want to be a leader. I just want to live my own life.

(then:)

Don't you ever get sick of this place?

LIGHTRAY

I don't know. I guess it is kind of boring sometimes. But maybe that's the price of order.

Orion swabs the mop back and forth.

LIGHTRAY

Hey, what do you say we get out of here? Go to the games. That cute girl from the healing center will be there.

ORION

I'm already in enough trouble.

LIGHTRAY

Come on, I'll cover for you.

ORION

Tough choice. Shirk, or work. Can you give me a minute?

Lightray smiles. Orion drops his mop.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS - STADIUM

Enormous twenty foot STATUES sail across a checkered arena. The game slightly resembles chess; however, the board is as large as a football field.

The stands are packed with wide-eyed New Genesans. A statue begins to move from the back row diagonally toward the middle. The New Genesans applaud.

ANGLE ON - Orion and Lightray as they enter the stadium.

Lightray scans the crowd for his friends.

Suddenly, the crowd gasps as all the floating statues rise high into the air.

ORION

I've never seen that move before.

LIGHTRAY

I don't think it's a move, look!

SLAM! SLAM! SLAM!

The automatic doors to the arena begin opening and closing.

Large fountains begin to shoot water high into the air drenching the crowd.

The statues plummet into the stands. One by one. People run for cover.

LIGHTRAY

Motherbox, what's happening?

MOTHERBOX

I don't know.

The spectators rush to the exits, as the statues crash into the stands, destroying the stadium.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

Highfather rushes into the chamber, where Dreamer is busy working at Motherbox's controls.

MOTHERBOX

A computer virus from Apokolips has already corrupted twenty percent of my functions.

HIGHFATHER

Can we partition the infected area and purge the system?

DREAMER

Already tried.

Highfather glances at the Alpha Swirl, and gives an involuntary start. He turns to face the Swirl, where a HOLOGRAPH of DARKSEID calmly watches him.

DARKSEID

Hi. I hope things are well. I thought it only polite to thank you for the gift. You wouldn't believe the wonderful things you can make with one of these satellites. Truly amazing. If you'll just be patient, my people will be done soon.

HIGHFATHER .

What do you want?

DARKSEID

Well, I thought if you just hand over your planet, we could all avoid a lot of trouble. It's the best way.

HIGHFATHER

Never.

DARKSEID

You're not working with me here. In fact, I'm sensing hostility. I really didn't want to destroy those pretty buildings you have, but I guess you can't invade a planet without breaking a few eggs. Well, it's been a genuine pleasure talking to you. I'll be over in a bit, let's say we have a face to face.

The HOLOGRAPH dissolves.

DREAMER

The virus is spreading at an exponential rate.

MOTHERBOX

In one day, it will have completely taken over.

DREAMER

We must destroy that satellite.

ON MOTHERBOX

We see a RED COLORED VIRUS snaking its way through the living machine.

CUT TO:

LASHINA (O.S.)
It's just not fair...

Lightray looks for a place to hide, but there is nowhere he can go. Just as the Furies round the corner, Lightray jumps off the catwalk, and catches onto a steel beam underneath.

LASHINA
Granny always picks Barda for the fun
torture jobs.

STOMPA
We're stuck killing some stupid New
Genesans, while she gets to inflict slow
and burning pain on a prisoner...

Stompa's heavy matter boots shake the entire catwalk, and Lightray swings back and forth, almost losing his grip.

STOMPA
What's she got that we don't?

LASHINA
Shiny manageable hair?

The Furies pass and Lightray swings up to the catwalk.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - LAVA MILLS

Guardian #1 sneaks up on an elderly WORKER. The worker is bent over shoveling lava.

The Guardian bonks him on the head. The worker collapses to the floor.

GUARDIAN #1
I pity the Apokoliptan that gets in my
way.

Guardian #1 begins to move and his HEAD rolls off his shoulders.

BERNADETH (O.S.)
You were saying.

Guardian #1's head is on the ground looking up at Bernadeth. His headless body is stiff. Still standing.

GUARDIAN #1
Who are you?

EXT. NEW GENESIS - STADIUM

Lightray and Orion try to keep the frightened New Genesans from trampling each other as they mob the exits.

MOTHERBOX
(to New Genesans)
Please children. Keep order.

Lightray struggles to hold open the automatic doors so people can exit.

WOMAN
My baby.

A young girl trips and Orion reaches down to help her up.

ORION
Give me your hand.

Suddenly, the doors SNAP forward. It's about to crush the girl. Orion slams his shoulder into the heavy metal gate, holding it at bay. The woman picks the girl to her feet.

WOMAN
Thank you.

The last of the New Genesans file out past Orion. He pushes with all his might on the heavy steel doors.

EXT. NEW GENESIS - GRAND PLAZA - DAY

Suddenly, the previously precise and ordered traffic system of New Genesis has broken down.

SMASH!

Everyone seems to be going wherever they want.

BANG!

Astrogliders collide with people movers.

Orion and Lightray sprint to help lift an overturned Astroglider off an old man.

LIGHTRAY
On my count. One, two, three...

The two boys right the Astroglider.

CRASH!

A fifty astroglider pile up. New Genesans run for cover as every mechanical device on the planet breaks down.

An emissary from Highfather runs toward the two boys.

EMISSARY
(out of breath)
Lightray ... quickly ... Highfather
needs you.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

Highfather and Dreamer direct their conversation to Lightray and the other THREE GUARDIANS, who are fastening on battle armor.

Orion stands nearby. Motherbox's blue glow is increasingly replaced by the red virus.

DREAMER
Motherbox is in great pain.

HIGHFATHER
In less than a day, we will be vulnerable
to Darkseid's attack.

LIGHTRAY
What can we do?

DREAMER
You must go to Apokolips and destroy the
satellite transmitter.

ORION
I'll go with them.

HIGHFATHER
I'm warning you Orion. Do not interrupt.

Lightray looks at Orion. He shrugs, sympathetic. Orion lowers his eyes, rage brewing.

HIGHFATHER
Motherbox, open the Boom Tube.

A BOOM TUBE

opens seemingly from the fabric of space itself. It is a flickering, iridescent portal which leads to a time-space foreshortening tunnel.

HIGHFATHER

This will carry you to Apokolips. From there you must track down the signal. The rest is up to you.

Lightray throws Orion a confident grin and steps in the portal.

WHOOSH!

The Guardians are instantly carried away.

Orion, every line of his body angry, turns, and stalks out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPS - NAUGHTY NURSERY

A room off of the main prison. Torture devices that would make the Marquis De Sade squeamish hang on the walls: head crushers, thumbscrews, etc. Granny and Barda stand before Scott. He is locked in a futuristic Iron Maiden. Thousands of razor sharp nails press into his skin.

GRANNY GOODNESS

Time for a little tough love, Scotty.
(perusing her collection)
Kneecap drilling? Eyelid searing?
Torture du jour is electric rack with a side of disemboweling.

SCOTT

(ponders for a beat)
I'm sorry, what was the special?

Granny does a slow burn, then throws down her demonic tools in frustration.

GRANNY

Time-out for you, Mr. Wisenheimer.

Scott smiles smugly.

GRANNY

Barda, continue the behavior modification without me. Granny's off to the salon for a gasoline enema.

SCOTT

Don't smoke for at least an hour afterwards.

Granny exits. Barda pulls tight Scott's restraints. But Scott smiles at Barda.

SCOTT
So you wanna go see a show? Hit the beach? Frolic in the lava? Maybe --

BARDA
I'm going through with it.

SCOTT
You say that every time.

BARDA
But this time I mean it, Scott. You're getting too old to protect.

SCOTT
And you're too sexy not to kiss -- so I guess that makes us even.

Scott twists a RING on his finger. A small wire strip pops out and burns into the lock of the Iron Maiden which falls open. Scott slips out. He spreads his arms...

SCOTT
Honey, I'm home.

Scott closes his eyes and puckers up. Barda pushes him away.

BARDA
Scott, why can't you just fall in line?

SCOTT
How about I just fall in love?

Barda grows impatient.

BARDA
It's for your own sake. You're the best scientist on the planet. If you devote yourself to Darkseid--

SCOTT
(interrupting)
Darkseid? But I'm already hopelessly devoted. To you.

Barda raises an eyebrow.

SCOTT
Soon I'll get us off this armpit in the sky.

BARDA
I don't want to hear your escape plans anymore. It is our destiny to serve Darkseid.

Scott crosses toward the door.

BARDA
Where do you think you are going?

SCOTT
Barda if I don't stop Darkseid, every person on this planet will die. Is that what you want?

Scott turns and leaves. Barda makes no move to stop him.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HALLWAY

Dreamer walks down the corridor. We HEAR a ruckus.

INT. ORION'S ROOM

Dreamer throws open the door. Orion stands with a chair in his hands, about to toss it through a window. He's fuming. His room is in shambles. He's destroyed all of his belongings. Only a single object, a GLASS CYLINDER rests on a mantel. Inside the cylinder is a HOLOGRAPH of him and Highfather. Dreamer forcefully grabs hold of his arm. Orion spins ready to throw a punch, but freezes when he sees Dreamer.

DREAMER
Orion you must get control of yourself.

ORION
I'm sick of this place.

Orion strides to the Holograph Cylinder and picks it up.

ORION
See this? It's from graduation. The day I asked him if I could enter guardian training.

He hurls the cylinder at a mirror. CRASH!

ORION
He ignored me. Like he didn't even hear me.

DREAMER

Maybe if you showed him some respect he might listen to you.

ORION

Listen to me? You're kidding. He thinks I'm still a kid. Someone he can lecture.

DREAMER

All I'm trying to say is --

ORION

(interrupting)

Forget about it. There's no use in trying to talk to someone like him.

Dreamer starts for the door. She pauses and turns back.

DREAMER

Perhaps you're right.

Dreamer exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS

The Guardians land. They each brandish a GUN and a TRACKING DEVICE.

LIGHTRAY

Split up and triangulate the signal of the transmitter. We'll regroup and blow it to hell.

The men join hands and are off.

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPS - FURIES BARRACKS

Half gym and half dressing room. Some of the furies lift weights while others primp.

An alarm BLARES. Lashina, Stompa and Bernadeth quickly pick up their weapons and disperse.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - CATWALK

Lightray stealthily advances over an unstable catwalk.

Bernadeth wields a FAHRENKNIFE.

BERNADETH

The name's Bernadeth. But you can call me Bernie. It's nice to meet you. Are you heading my way?

She scoops up Guardian #1'S head and drop kicks it off screen.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - CRAGGY PLATEAU

Guardian #2 recoils when he notices two shadowed figures approaching. Stompa and Lashina walk into the light.

GUARDIAN #2

All right, women with whips. I might like it here after all.

LASHINA

Hello handsome.

STOMPA

Want us to rock your world?

STOMPA slams down her HEAVY MATTER BOOTS, sending a shock wave through the ground. GUARDIAN #2 is flung in the air, OFFSCREEN. He doesn't come back down, and the Furies look up.

He is impaled on a spike that hangs from the ceiling.

STOMPA

Oh shucks, premature evisceration.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - CALDERA FIRE PIT

A semi-active volcanic crater.

IN LONGSHOT we see Darkseid riding a STEPPENWOLF - a monstrous dog-like creature with paws of steel enabling it to traverse the lava. Desaad rides behind him.

CLOSE ON DARKSEID

DARKSEID

Nothing like the thrill of a hunt to get the old juices flowing.

Lava bubbles under the Steppenwolf's paws as it lurches ahead. A team of Steppenwolf riders flank Darkseid. One of the riders sounds a HORN!

GUARDIAN #3 struggles to climb a craggy hill.

DESAAD hands DARKSEID charged ELECTRO-AXES. Darkseid hurls the ax. End over end, the electro-axe flies through the air.

DESAAD

Fore!

THUNK!

Guardian #3 tumbles into the pool of lava below. SPLASH!

DARKSEID

Fabulous.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - CATWALK

Lightray charges down the catwalk.

CRACK!

His legs are tangled by Lashina's whip. He falls off the catwalk and hangs from some scaffolding. It begins to teeter. Lashina whips the remaining steel brace and Lightray falls in a heap of twisted steel. Lashina looks down at the pile. Only Lightray's hand sticks out from the pile. It twitches, then goes still.

Lashina YAWNS, turns and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

Orion is sweeping the marble floor.

MOTHERBOX

(weakly)

He's just scared of losing you too.

ORION

I just want the chance to prove myself.

Suddenly, Motherbox's voice comes sharply into focus.

MOTHERBOX
 There's an emergency message from
 Apokolips.

Orion hits a button which illuminates a WALL SCREEN.

It's Lightray, surrounded by collapsed scaffolding. His
 image frozen.

ORION
 Motherbox, start the message.

ZAP! The wall screen comes alive. The transmission is fuzzy
 and jerky.

LIGHTRAY
 Send help to Apokolips. I repeat. Send
 help.

The transmission cuts off.

ORION
 Open the Boom Tube. I'm going after him.

MOTHERBOX
 I can't. It's against regulations.

ORION
 I hate to do this.

Orion drops to the floor and pulls himself under the control
 panel.

MOTHERBOX
 What are you doing, Orion? Stop. That
 tickles.

Orion springs to his feet.

ORION
 It's just a quick fix over-ride.
 (beat)
 I have to save Lightray.

The Boom Tube opens.

MOTHERBOX
 Orion!!

Orion takes a deep breath and steps in the Boom Tube. WHOOSH!

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSEID'S CHAMBER

Granny stands before Darkseid. Her shoulders slumped, avoiding eye contact with Darkseid.

GRANNY

...I'm really, really sorry. If it helps, I already punished the Furie responsible for letting Scott escape. Such a naughty child.

DARKSEID

Granny, I'm concerned about you. You are not as young as you once were. Perhaps it's time you retired. I'm sure I can find a nice place for you to enjoy your golden years.

GRANNY

(truly afraid)

Oh, no my lord. I'm still the same nasty bitch I was three hundred years ago.

DARKSEID

Well then, run along and find the boy. I have complete confidence in you and your team.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - LAVA MILLS

The boom tube opens and Orion tumbles into a corridor.

He begins to creep down a darkened corridor.

ORION

(whispering)

Lightray!

He lifts a steel trap door in the floor and peers into the darkness below.

ORION

Lightray!

We HEAR an echo.

LIGHTRAY

Help.

INT. APOKOLIPS - FURNACE

Orion cautiously steps down through the trap door. It is pitch black.

WHOOSH!

Jets of fire shoot back and forth above the pit. The fire streams act like a STROBE LIGHT - piercing the darkness only for a moment. They throw enough light for Orion to see that is a burial chamber. Orion is surrounded by skeletons half hidden in the dark.

LIGHTRAY

Orion.

Orion kneels beside Lightray.

ORION

You okay?

LIGHTRAY

Oh yeah, I'm just lying here in a pile of bones for fun.

Orion begins to lift Lightray.

LIGHTRAY

Oww. I think my leg's busted.

Lightray drapes his arm over Orion's shoulder.

ORION

The others?

LIGHTRAY

(shakes his head)

It's up to us to take out the transmitter.

ORION

I'm taking out the transmitter. You're going back to New Genesis.

Orion lifts his wrist.

ORION

(to Motherbox bracelet)

Open the Boom Tube.

The Portal opens before them. Orion helps Lightray to the portal.

LIGHTRAY
But you can't do it alone.

ORION
I have no choice.

Suddenly, a shadow falls across Orion's back.

SCOTT makes a mad dash for the portal. Orion tackles him.

WHOOSH!

The Portal closes and Lightray is whisked away.

Scott gets to his feet and throws two quick punches at Orion's chest, then jumps backward in time to avoid...

POW!

Orion's huge fist slams into a girder where Scott had been an instant before. Scott is behind Orion. He sweep kicks Orion's legs out from under him. Orion falls back, then jumps up. Scott is not in view. Orion glances around, then climbs out of the furnace, dodging the steadily timed blasts of fire above.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

The Boom Tube opens. Lightray falls onto the floor. Highfather and Dreamer rush into the room.

LIGHTRAY
Orion...

HIGHFATHER
'Orion?' 'Orion' what?

LIGHTRAY
He saved me.

Highfather runs to the portal just as it closes.

HIGHFATHER
Motherbox, open another tube. I must save my son.

MOTHERBOX
The virus is spreading too fast. If I open another Boom Tube, I will have to divert energy from the defense grid. The shield could dissolve.

DREAMER

We would be completely vulnerable.

Everyone looks at Highfather, while he stares at the virus snaking its way through Motherbox. Finally, he sags.

HIGHFATHER

All that is left -- is to hope Orion succeeds.

EXT. APOKOLIPS - LAVA MILLS

Orion moves between two machines, searching. A pipe flies out of the darkness, coming at Orion's head. Orion catches it just in time, but it has distracted him long enough for Scott to jump on his back. Both boys fall off a ledge, and land on the lip of a giant bucket.

A MILL WHEEL

which transports molten lava to an aqueduct above. Now it is transporting them, too. The giant bucket is filled with lava, and the two boys each hang on an edge.

SCOTT

Take me to New Genesis.

ORION

Never.

Orion pulls himself back up, just in time to get Scott's elbow in his face. Orion stands, and Scott backs away, but the lip of the bucket is only a foot wide, and there's nowhere he can run. Orion grabs Scott and holds him over the molten lava. Their eyes lock.

SCOTT

Take me with you. I'll help you stop Darkseid.

A heavy, weighted net falls from above, pinning Scott to the ground.

FURIES land all around the two boys. Orion swings his fists, pounding a few of them. But more pile on, until he collapses under their sheer numbers. But the net that held Scott is EMPTY!

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPS - NAUGHTY NURSERY

Bernadeth and Lashina lock Orion into a restraining device, and spin him around to face Darkseid. Out from behind Darkseid steps Desaad.

DARKSEID

It's wonderful having you here, I'm glad you could make it.

He steps up to Orion, pulls off Orion's Motherbox unit, and crushes it underfoot. Orion spits at Darkseid. Desaad quickly wipes the spit from Darkseid's face.

DARKSEID

I need a moment.

Desaad and the Furies scurry out of the room. As soon as the door is closed behind them, Darkseid's usual air of solicitous congeniality drops away, revealing a snarling, angry beast. Darkseid puts his hand over Orion's face.

DARKSEID

Now you listen to me, you filthy piece of trash, and you listen well. You are not behind your precious shield anymore. You are on my planet now, and people die here all the time, for any number of reasons. First and foremost -- because I want them to.

A stream of RED OMEGA ENERGY shoots from his fingers.

CLOSE ON ORION

as the Omega Energy attacks his body. We HEAR Darkseid's voice as Orion writhes in pain. He sounds completely calm and in control again.

DARKSEID

Desaad, if you would?

Desaad shuffles in.

DARKSEID

Thanks. Now please, go ahead and begin projection. I'd like to bring Highfather in on this meeting.

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

Once again, a HOLOGRAPH materializes.

DARKSEID

Hi. Things are going well here, and I hope the same is true for you. I've got a new proposal. I'll give you the straight shot on this one, Highfather-- your planet for your son.

Orion musters a bit of strength.

ORION

Father, don't ...

Darkseid casually hits Orion so hard that he loses consciousness.

Highfather winces, then steels himself.

HIGHFATHER

I won't bargain with you.

DARKSEID

Now that's a shame. Your son seems like a fine lad. He would have gone far. You take care. And do stay in touch.

The HOLOGRAPH disappears.

INT. APOKOLIPS - NAUGHTY NURSERY

BACK ON DARKSEID

DARKSEID

(to Desaad)

I'll leave the boy under your supervision. Have fun, but leave him alive. He may be of some use.

(to Granny)

And you still have one particular piece of unfinished business.

Darkseid exits.

GRANNY

(to Furies)

Alright ladies, we've got a rocket scientist on the run. I want a cross-sweep pattern covering every sector between here and the Caldera Fire Pits. Move out!

The Furies march out behind Granny. Desaad sidles up to Orion and opens a canister.

Out pours a gaseous cloud of POISON. He pulls it close to Orion. Desaad slaps Orion hard across the face, bringing him to.

DESAAD

Time to wake up and smell Apokolips.

Orion is tortured by the poison gas. He is slowly transformed, his face hardening, his eyes aglow. Desaad breathes it in freely like a junkie.

DESAAD

Feel it burn your veins. It's the power of darkness, the power of pain, the rush of anger. Kinda makes you all tingly inside, huh?

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

Panic sweeps across Highfather's face.

DREAMER

Highfather, our only hope is to ready the defense ships.

HIGHFATHER

Round up the people. Tell them that once again they must defend their planet.

EXT. NEW GENESIS - GRAND PLAZA

The floating city is leaning dangerously, sinking into the ocean. All devices controlled by Motherbox are broken. Astrogliders crash into each other. Lights flicker. Small fires burn. Water runs through the streets.

Dreamer makes her way through the chaotic city. Everywhere she goes, confused, scared people approach her.

OLD MAN

What do we do, Dreamer?

LITTLE GIRL

Help, Dreamer!

She stops before a low building that looks older than many of the other buildings in the city. Dust coats the doors.

A SIGN READS:

MILITARY SITE: No access without Motherbox Authorization.

EXT. NEW GENESIS - DEFENSE SHIP HANGAR

Dreamer tries to force open a DOOR, but it is stuck. She turns to the crowd of scared New Genesans.

DREAMER

Please!!

The crowd stands watching in confusion.

MAN

We can't touch the doors without word from Motherbox!

WOMAN

Those are off limits.

DREAMER

Listen to me! Motherbox is ill. I have word from Highfather.

MAN

(into bracelet)
Motherbox?!?

Motherbox is silent. The blue stones on their wrists are blackened.

DREAMER

I beg you to help save this planet, and yourselves.

MAN

I'm sorry. We can't.

WOMAN

We'd like to. But not without permission.

The New Genesans walk away leaving Dreamer alone to open the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - FURIES BARRACKS

Scott breaks into Barda's quarters, and starts to root through her clothes. Barda enters.

BARDA

What are you doing here?

Scott holds up a halter top.

SCOTT
I thought you might like to role-play.

Barda collapses. Scott rushes to her side. Her back is bloodied from Granny's torture.

SCOTT
Who did this?

BARDA
Granny.

SCOTT
Because of me?

He gets his answer from Barda's expression.

SCOTT
Come on. We're getting out of here.

BARDA
I can't.

SCOTT
But it's our chance. That New Genesan can help us.

BARDA
I'm not leaving.

SCOTT
You have to.

BARDA
No Scott, this is my home.

SCOTT
You call this a home?

BARDA
I'm an Apokoliptan and always will be. So are you. You can't change that.

SCOTT
We can go to New Genesis and be anything we want.

BARDA
No. I'm staying.

Scott gets angry.

SCOTT

Fine. I don't need you.

He starts to put on some Furie clothes, but he doesn't know how all the straps work. Barda strains a smile.

SCOTT

I'm better off without you.

Frustrated, Scott yanks a harness, and tries again.

SCOTT

I'm not gonna miss this place anyway.

He trips and falls over.

BARDA

Run before you get us both killed.

SCOTT

(waving a high-heeled boot)
I'm going to stop Darkseid. Then, I'll
be back for you.

With one boot on, Scott dashes off.

BARDA

(to herself)
Goodbye.

EXT. NEW GENESIS - DEFENSE SHIP HANGAR

Alone, Dreamer finally manages to crack the doors. She slips in.

INT. NEW GENESIS - DEFENSE SHIP HANGAR

Inside are row upon row of mothballed New Genesan Defense ships. Dreamer pries open a ship's door.

INT. NEW GENESAN DEFENSE SHIP

Sitting at the control panel, she tries to start it. The engine begins to turn over.

FLASH! A FIRE breaks out. Dreamer rushes to the engine room. The flames grow higher. She uses an extinguisher to fight the fire.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - NAUGHTY NURSERY

Scott, dressed in drag (punk-rock bright red wig with matching lipstick), sashays toward Bernadeth and Stompa who are standing guard at the entrance.

BERNADETH

Who are you?

SCOTT

I'm the new Furie in town. Name's Lipsafire.

STOMPA

(unimpressed)

You got a special power?

SCOTT

Special power? Girlfriend, everything about me's special.

BERNADETH

(suspicious)

Like what?

Scott huddles the girls and whispers in their ears. They reel back.

SCOTT

I am Furie hear me roar!

STOMPA

That is truly disgusting.

SCOTT

Wanna demonstration?

The girls shake their heads. With that, Scott passes the Furies and surreptitiously lifts a FAHRENKNIFE off of Bernadeth.

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPS - NAUGHTY NURSERY

Scott enters and seductively poses at the door.

DESAAD

What do you want?

Scott curls his finger, beckoning Desaad.

DESAAD
Mmmmm, you must be new.

Desaad creeps up to Scott.

SCOTT
And you must ...

Scott KNEES Desaad in the groin.

SCOTT
... Be in a lot of pain!

Smiling, Desaad struggles to catch his breath. He starts to get to his feet but Scott is too quick. In a matter of seconds, Scott has Desaad trapped in one of his own devices.

ON DESAAD

Sitting in a chair. Large chains connected to pulleys above twist around his arms. An IRON BRANK crushes his face. The only visible part of his body is his ear-to-ear smile.

Scott throws off his wig and runs to Orion. Orion is racked with shivers.

SCOTT
You're lucky I'm a nice guy.

ORION
(hoarse)
Really?

SCOTT
If you bring me to New Genesis I'll help you.

ORION
I don't need your help.

SCOTT
Okay.

He turns to leave, stops, and turns back to face Orion.

SCOTT
By the way, have they poured molten lava into your ear yet?

DESAAD
(groaning)
That's next.

Desaad rolls on the ground and Scott gives him another kick.

ORION
On second thought...

Scott starts to free Orion.

SCOTT
If I do this, you have to open that
portal. From New Genesis I can reverse
the corruptor beam.

ORION
Okay.

Scott frees Orion.

SCOTT
We don't have all day. Open that portal.

Orion falls to his knees and picks up the pieces to his
Motherbox Unit.

SCOTT
Don't tell me.

ORION
Can we get a ship and fly back?

SCOTT
Oh, sure. Maybe Darkseid will lend us
his flagship. Are you crazy? They'll
blow us to pieces before we get in the
hangar.

ORION
Then we destroy the transmitter. Here.

Orion staggers toward Desaad.

ORION
(to Desaad)
Where is it? The transmitter?

DESAAD
You'll never get me to talk.
(beat)
Unless you torture me.

Orion flicks a switch on the torture device. A motor
sputters to life. It lifts Desaad several feet in the air
above the chair. The seat of the chair is a bed of nails.

SCOTT
(to Orion)
Hey, you don't have to --

ORION
Not now.

SCOTT
But.

ORION
Shh.

The motor whines and begins to bounce Desaad up and down on the seat of nails.

DESAAD
Yes!!!! Yes!!!!

SCOTT
If I could interject?

ORION
What is it?

SCOTT
I know where the corruptor is.

ORION
Why didn't you say so?

Orion turns off the torture device.

DESAAD
(petulant)
Now why'd you have to go an' do that?

ORION
He enjoys torture?

SCOTT
Welcome to Apokolips.

CRASH! The door splinters into pieces and the Furies storm in.

SCOTT
Follow me.

Scott and Orion dive into a small tunnel at the far end of the room.

INT. APOKOLIPS - SERVICE TUNNEL

Scott and Orion crawl through a filthy service tunnel, and Scott stops under a grating.

Suddenly, the ground SHAKES.

ORION

What was that?

SCOTT

Darkseid is draining the planetary core to power the corruptor. It's setting off chain reactions planetwide. If we don't disable that thing soon, Apokolips will implode.

ORION

That's fine with me.

SCOTT

It won't be so fine if we're still here when it happens and he's strolling around New Genesis.

ORION

What are you saying?

SCOTT

I see this isn't going to be easy. Try to read my lips. On this planet you'll need all the help --

ORION

(interrupting)

I don't need anyone's help.

SCOTT

Okay, well, have fun. I'll wait here.

He gestures at the grating. Orion pulls himself up and peers through.

EXT. APOKOLIPS - BASE OF CITADEL

The square is filled with attack ships being fueled and readied.

PARADEMONS, the citadel guards, fly everywhere. They have large guns mounted on their shoulder harnesses and whiz around on flying discs.

Twin red beams emanate from the statue's eyes - the CORRUPTOR BEAM.

INT. APOKOLIPS - SERVICE TUNNEL

Orion turns back to Scott. A look of defeat on his face.

ORION
What were you saying?

SCOTT
You mean, before you interrupted me?

ORION
I'm sorry. You're right. I'm all ears.

SCOTT
I have some friends...

CUT TO:

EXT. DARKSEID'S CITADEL - TERRACE

It is filled with limp, pale brown shrubs. A small fountain sits in the center and randomly spits out pathetic drops of water. Granny and Desaad stand before Darkseid.

GRANNY
...We'll soon have them in custody.

DARKSEID
Promising news. Listen Granny, if for some reason you're unable to find the boys, I've picked out a nice rest home for you. It's being dug as we speak.

GRANNY
Maybe I should take a more hands on approach to their capture.

DARKSEID
Now that's the spirit. Think proactively. And good luck.

Granny waddles off. Darkseid turns to Desaad.

DARKSEID
What is the status of the corruption virus?

DESAAD

We almost have complete control of Motherbox. Three more hours, and we will bring the shields down.

DARKSEID

Excellent. I must ready the troops.

Darkseid strolls to the edge of the terrace. Desaad sounds a BLARING HORN that resonates throughout Apokolips.

All of the Apokoliptans turn toward the Citadel and look up at Darkseid.

DARKSEID

My fellow Apokoliptans, today is the day of reckoning for the New Genesans. Now, many of you will die horrible deaths in the next few hours, but remember, to die for Darkseid is to live forever.

We hear a few weak cheers.

DARKSEID

I'm not getting quite the response I'd hoped for.

The Parademons train their guns on the crowds. Electrified bullets whiz over their heads. The crowd begins to cheer wildly.

CROWD

Hail Darkseid! Hail Darkseid!

DESAAD

Maybe next time we should hire a warm-up.

Darkseid punches Desaad sending him twenty feet backwards. In ecstasy, Desaad smiles. A few teeth fall on the floor.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - ATTACK SHIP HANGAR

Apokoliptan ships begin to rise. They are large and equipped with a variety of guns. This fleet seems invincible.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS - GRAND PLAZA

Highfather appeals to the dazed New Genesans.

HIGHFATHER

Please, you must help Dreamer. These ships are our only hope for survival.

MAN

(to Highfather)

You, yourself, taught us only to follow Motherbox's orders.

HIGHFATHER

I was wrong.

The crowd buzzes. Could Highfather have been wrong?

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - PONTOON

Scott and Orion come to the edge of a pontoon. The only way across the lava to the other pontoon is a drawbridge, which is up. Scott is fiddling with a control box.

SCOTT

If I can jerry-rig this thing, I'll get the bridge down.

ORION

Well hurry.

SCOTT

Do you want to do this?

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPS - CONTROL BOOTH

Granny sits in a small booth with surveillance feeds from all over the prison. She is watching Scott and Orion work on the control box.

GRANNY

Oh, Scott found a playmate. How cute.

She hits a switch on her control board.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - PONTOON

Scott notices a red light blinking on the control box to the drawbridge.

SCOTT

Oh, no.

ORION

Hm?

Orion glances over, but Scott is gone. He looks around, and Scott is running toward the chasm of lava. Orion takes off after him.

ORION

We'll never clear it!

SCOTT

We don't have a choice.

Scott runs right off the edge. Orion leaps after him. The boys are not going to make it - they are still 50 feet short of the far side.

ANGLE ON

THE CONTROL BOX. It is shaking violently, then EXPLODES.

The SHOCKWAVE propels the boys the rest of the distance.

ORION

(in midair)

Remind me again. This is the easier way?

SCOTT

Trust me...

The boys are flying toward a large, glass tube. They tumble into the tube and drop out of sight.

INT. APOKOLIPS - CONTROL BOOTH

Granny grins, and hits more switches. At the bottom of the tube, two Furies wheel a massive gun to the opening. They fire. BLAST!

INT. APOKOLIPS - TUBES

Pulses of energy ROAR up the tube toward Scott. He pulls out a SHORT ROD, and fires down between his feet, dissipating the pulses just before they hit him. He and Orion drop through the smoke of the dissipated pulses. Suddenly, the tube begins to move. It writhes like a snake, and the two boys are thrown about and tossed into another tube.

In this tube a fireball hurtles toward them. Scott slams his feet into the side of the tube, coming to a stop. Orion crashes into him.

ORION

What do we do now?

SCOTT

I was hoping you'd know.

Orion looks around, punches the side of the glass tube, shattering it. They crawl out the side just as the fire roars past.

The tube writhes again, throwing them off. They are still high up in the air, the only thing nearby is a giant stone bust of Darkseid, sculpted out of the wall. Orion manages to grab onto the edge of the nose, and Scott grabs onto his foot. Scott climbs over Orion, into a nostril, and Orion follows.

INT. APOKOLIPS - STONE BUST

ORION

That was bright.

SCOTT

Hey we made it, if only by a nose.

Suddenly, the rock underneath their feet crumbles, and they fall into a hole in the wall. They land in a shower of debris, and Scott looks around.

INT. APOKOLIPS - LOW TUNNEL

The walls are closing in.

SCOTT

Oh, no.

ORION

What?

SCOTT

Whenever I say "Oh, no?" it means Run!

They bolt off.

INT. APOKOLIPS - CONTROL BOOTH

Granny watches them on the surveillance feed. They are in a huge maze, and there are giant insect-like creatures everywhere.

GRANNY

(singing)

Amazing Grace. How sweet the sound that
saved a hag like me! Scott once was lost
and now is found ...

INT. APOKOLIPS - MAZE

At various points in the maze there are giant ACID WATERFALLS, and the floor sections tilt suddenly, making Orion and Scott slide toward the waterfalls. They grab onto the walls and pull themselves to a level part of the floor.

They round a corner, and come face to face with a GIANT BUG. Scott turns to run away, but Orion runs straight for it, dodges a mandible, and climbs up its hairy leg. Scott follows him. The two boys sit on the Bug's back. The Bug thrashes, trying to buck them off, but Orion kicks it, and it starts running.

PARADEMONS round the corner, and stop in shock as the bug barrels toward them.

ORION

Yee-haw!

The bug catches one Parademon in his jaws and crushes him.

Another Parademon leaps up and climbs on the bug. Orion kicks him just as he reaches the top, and Scott runs around behind Orion.

SCOTT

Yeah, take that!

Two other Parademons reach the top of the bug on either side of Orion, and start moving toward him. Scott looks ahead, then shoves Orion right off the edge of the bug, and leaps after him. Orion lands hard on the ground, rolls over and grabs Scott.

ORION

I could have taken them.

SCOTT

Yeah?

He points toward the bug - The Parademons just have time to look shocked before they and the bug plunge into an ACID WATERFALL.

SIZZLE!

Orion grabs the lip of the floor section and pulls the floor up. He and Scott jump down through the hole.

INT. APOKOLIPS - STEAM ROOM

They are in a big room filled with rusty pipes of all sizes, going in all directions. The pipes let off intermittent bursts of steam.

SCOTT

Wow. I've never been here before.

ORION

So, where do we go?

SCOTT

Maybe you didn't hear me ...

ORION

Well you better figure out where we are quick, because ...

GRANNY (V.O.)

You needn't go anywhere, children!
Granny has come to you!

Pipes are knocked aside, revealing Granny's control booth, which has sprouted multiple arms and legs. It looks like a GIANT SPIDER, and sitting at the center of it, Granny. Six of the arms train themselves on the boys, and shoot a greenish fluid at them. Scott and Orion duck behind separate pipes, and a game of cat-and-mouse ensues in the steamy shadows.

Orion dives as a laser from the arm blasts the pipe he was hiding behind. Scott, circling around behind Granny, stops, and looks at a VENT. He closes it. Quickly, he starts closing every vent he comes near. With the vents closed the pipes begin to rumble under the pressure. He looks up from a vent to find a giant muzzle inches away from his face.

GRANNY

Nighty night, Scott!

ORION

Hey!

Orion runs out of the darkness, waving his arms.

ORION

I'm the one you want! Darkseid wants me!

Granny hesitates, and Scott runs between the legs of her control room. Granny takes a bead on Orion, but the pipes behind her are starting to shake, and turn red. Orion grabs Scott, and they climb into the mouth of the giant muzzle, just as the pipes EXPLODE.

GRANNY HOWLS!

And everything goes dark. After a moment, Scott turns on a small light on his sleeve. He and Orion are still in the muzzle of the giant gun, but it is face down on the floor. With a mighty HEAVE, Orion lifts it, and he and Scott crawl out into the pipe room. It is a shambles. The muzzle is no longer attached to an arm - in fact the entire control booth is in pieces. There is no sign of Granny except for her HIDEOUS BLUE WIG hanging from a pipe.

SCOTT

Wow. She wigged out.

Orion shakes his head.

ORION

Let's go find your friends.

They exit through the hole that Granny made entering.

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPS - PRISON

The steel door of the prison rattles and swings open. Scott and Orion enter.

SCOTT

Ah, the places of my youth!

He goes over to the control and lowers all the cribs. The prisoners all peek out of their cribs but stay in them.

SCOTT

C'mon! You're all free.

One by one, the prisoners start to come out and look around them as if in a daze.

ORION

Why are they in here?

SCOTT
They thought for themselves.

Scott heads for the door and Orion and the prisoners follow.

INT. APOKOLIPS - LOW TECH LABORATORY

As our heroes enter the lab, the ground shakes again. Everybody braces themselves until the quake passes. Scott leads everyone over to his sprawling lab table, and starts picking up devices, handing them to prisoners as he does.

SCOTT
(holding up a device)
Oxidizing gun? Think not. It's actually an aging gun.
(hands it off)
Soundwave transmitter? Actually a regression therapy gun. Very dangerous.
(hands it off)
Rivet gun? Rivet gun. But hey, it's still pretty dangerous.

ORION
You've been waiting for this a long time, haven't you?

All the other prisoners nod and grin. Orion looks around, realizing that for the first time he's part of a group. He smiles. PRISONER #1 goes over to his own worktable and picks up a pair of WHITE DISKS, about a foot in diameter. One of them has a crack down the middle. He hands them to Scott.

SCOTT
(groaning)
I hate these things.

ORION
What are they?

SCOTT
You'll see.
(to everyone)
Know that this is going to be dangerous. But if you're up for it, we need your help.

The Young Prisoner from the beginning steps to the fore.

YOUNG PRISONER
What do you need?

Scott looks at Orion. Orion stares at everyone waiting to hear him speak. He's frozen.

SCOTT

Well..? Ten minutes ago you couldn't keep your mouth shut, now you got stage fright?

Orion stands up a little taller.

ORION

Uh ... It's nice to meet you all ... I just wanted to ... a ... thank you.

PRISONER #2

Thank us, hell. If you can get us outta here, we'll thank you.

PRISONER #3

Just tell us what you want us to do. We've got your back.

Orion takes on this responsibility head-on.

ORION

Okay. First, we need to ...

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

Highfather puts a splint on Lightray's leg.

LIGHTRAY

...Orion just wants to be like the rest of us. He doesn't want special treatment.

HIGHFATHER

But he is special. He's my son. I tried to take care of him, as I do all New Genesans.

LIGHTRAY

Maybe we need to take care of ourselves.

Highfather takes that in.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - SERVICE TUNNEL

Our heroes creep along. The ground shakes again.

SCOTT

The tremors are getting closer together.
It won't be long before ...

ORION

Ka-boom?

SCOTT

More like ...

Scott makes a wet SOUNDING RASPBERRY.

Orion opens the grate, and everybody scrambles out.

EXT. APOKOLIPS - BASE OF CITADEL

The square is deserted, except for a few Apokoliptan workers entering the citadel with their heads down. They are dragging carts.

The new arrivals look up, to see hundreds of ATTACK SHIPS in formation sitting in the sky.

The APOKOLIPTAN ATTACK FORCE, in all its might.

BOOM! Sonic booms right out of the atmosphere.

Scott, Orion and their new friends move over to the line of Apokoliptan workers, and head for the entrance. Suddenly, a gnarled hand reaches out and grabs Scott's arm. Both boys turn to find a SENT WORKER with one eye, looking at them.

BENT WORKER

There's guards just inside the door. Best
you be careful.

A few workers take off their CLOAKS. They give them to Scott, Orion, and the Prisoners. Orion and company fall into the line of Apokoliptans making their way in.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS - DEFENSE SHIP HANGAR

Dreamer is rewiring a ship's console. Highfather enters. He turns to address the frightened throng of New Genesans who stand idly watching.

HIGHFATHER

Please, you must believe in yourself.
Motherbox can no longer help us. We must
find the strength within ourselves to
make a stand.

The New Genesans look at each other. A New Genesan MAN steps forward and speaks to the rest. He starts timidly, but gains confidence as he speaks.

NEW GENESAN #1

We did it before. Now come on. Let's get these ships in the air and save our planet.

The New Genesans begin repairs. .

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Apokolips Attack Force emerges from the darkness of space, hovering right above New Genesis. The ships begin atmospheric bombardment. The shield is so weak that some bombs begin to break through, smashing into the city.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

Highfather and Lightray struggle to rewire Motherbox.

Suddenly, a bomb rocks the ZIGGURAT. The thick walls crack under the concussion.

HIGHFATHER

You and Dreamer must lead the people out of the city.

LIGHTRAY

What about you?

Highfather takes a deep breath.

HIGHFATHER

Someone must hold the shield together. Tell my son ... that I always did what I thought was best. Even when I was wrong.

Lightray gives Highfather a sharp look. Highfather turns and strides to the Motherbox core, his face grim.

LIGHTRAY

Highfather! No!

Highfather stands on the platform right at the edge of the ALPHA SWIRL, and steps into the core.

LIGHTRAY

No!

Highfather begins to sink down, past all the levels, toward the base of the Motherbox core. He holds his hands out, and blue Alpha energy arcs out from the swirl, through him. The ALPHA SWIRL, corrupted with red, slowly turns blue again.

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPS - CITADEL

The Omega Swirl, encased in glass, descends in the middle of the giant building, coming to a point at the floor. Catwalks and walkways crisscross in the shadows above. Great chunks of machinery loom along the walls, while ladders, cogs, stairs, elevators, sculptures, and conveyor belts are all dimly visible above. Hover-tanks crawl the walls like insects.

Two floating platforms hold squads of Furies. Other Furies swoop through the air in formation, riding air-bikes (badass versions of the New Genesan astrogliders.)

Suddenly, a tremor rocks the citadel. Scott, Orion and the other prisoners are thrown from a catwalk. Orion's cloak falls back revealing his face.

Stompa looks down from the floating platform and spots him.

She leaps off the platform.

THUD!

She lands on the catwalk, knocking everyone off their feet.

STOMPA

(to Orion)

Back for more? You must be hanging out with little Scott!

Scott throws back his hood.

SCOTT

He sure is!

Scott delivers an uppercut to Stompa's chin. Stompa reels about drunkenly for a second. Back on the platform, a Furie notices the commotion, and hits the alarm. Sirens SCREAM.

The HOVER-TANKS all spin and begin moving toward our heroes. Scott and Orion's helpers throw off their cloaks and leap onto the Furies and Parademons. They crawl all over the nearest hover-tanks.

Prisoner #1 fires his aging gun at a hover tank. It immediately rusts into broken parts.

INT. HOVERTANK

Two Parademons suddenly age into two elderly men. The tank falls apart around them.

EXT. HOVERTANK

The two elderly Parademons crawl out, shaking their fists.

ELDERLY PARADEMON #1

Damn kids.

ELDERLY PARADEMON #2

Ooo! My prostate!

Prisoner #2 fires his regression therapy gun at a pack of charging Steppenwolves, who turn happy and playful, while their riders start crying.

RIDER #1

Mommy! Whaaa!

RIDER #2

Cookies? Whaaa! Want cookies!

A squad of Furies leap dramatically into action, but a group of Prisoners manage to dislodge the machines hanging along the walls...

BAM!

The machines land on the Furies. Prisoner #3 stands calmly in the path of a roaring hover-tank, taking aim with his rivet gun. The approaching hover-tank swings its turret around, taking a bead on him. He aims. The hover-tank is five feet away. He FIRES and the rivet goes right down the bore of the hover-tank.

KA-BOOM!

The tank explodes, but Prisoner #3 is destroyed in the explosion. The wreckage of the lead hover-tank momentarily blocks all the other hover-tanks.

Scott pulls out the two white disks, and steps onto them. His feet immediately lock onto the disks, and he hovers a few inches off of the ground.

SCOTT

Going up!

He zips over to Orion and grabs him by the chest. Then he shoots upwards, but spinning in circles, missing beams and catwalks by inches. Orion SCREAMS!

SCOTT

Now you know why I hate these things!
They're a pain to steer!

Furies on air-bikes are coming down from above, but Scott's crazy maneuvering avoids them. They each go past in a blur.

The hover-tanks fire, but they miss Scott and instead hit some of the platforms and construction equipment. Chunks of metal begin to fall, and fire spreads.

Bernadeth tries to ram the two, but Scott veers at the last second, and she SLAMS into a catwalk.

Furies and tanks race behind the boys, gaining on them. The blasts from the tanks are getting closer and closer.

SCOTT

You're the one with the big muscles! Do something!

Orion looks around, then pulls the Fahrenknife from Scott's belt. He hurls it at the glass that encases the Lava Swirl. The knife embeds itself, then begins to burn the glass. A network of cracks races down the casing, to the floor. Then the entire, huge casing SHATTERS.

Thousands of shards of glass tumble down toward the pursuers, who try to take refuge under the catwalks. Scott and Orion are in the clear, until...

Stompa recovers, and hits a switch on her wrist control. Above Orion and Scott, a giant, horizontal portal begins to close, sealing off the upper levels. Scott grits his teeth. Leans into it. He's picking up speed. They shoot through the portal just as it closes.

Stompa SCREAMS in frustration. She hits the switch to begin opening the portal again. Furies pick up their fallen air-bikes and rev the engines.

INT. APOKOLIPS - CITADEL DUCTS

The boys are in a series of shafts and narrow tunnels. They zip up one shaft, and three furies on air bikes appear behind them. The one in the middle is Lashina.

LASHINA

Take the big one. Save Scott for me.

They ROAR off after Scott and Orion. Ahead, the shaft is blocked by a SPINNING FAN.

SCOTT

Hold on!

Scott races toward the fan and slips past the blades. But more fans are ahead, each spinning faster than the ones behind.

OUCH!

One of the furies gets caught in a fan.

The boys come up against a fan that is spinning too fast. They take a side tunnel, losing another Furie in the process.

INT. APOKOLIPS - CITADEL MAIN LEVELS

They come out in an open area. The cracked disc under Scott's foot finally gives way, and splits into two. The broken pieces fall away to either side. They spin out of control, and Orion catches onto a passing platform.

Scott pulls the last disk from his foot, and turns his high velocity into a graceful dive. He catches onto a beam, swings around, and lands near Orion.

The two boys jump up and run for a narrow, rickety staircase that leads upward. Lashina lands her bike and dashes after them.

INT. APOKOLIPS - CONTROL ROOM

Barda stands behind an operator who is seated at a control bank.

OPERATOR

Should I seal the doors?

BARDA

No. They're headed our way.

She straps on her helmet.

INT. APOKOLIPS - CITADEL STAIRCASE

Scott and Orion tumble up the stairs, Lashina just behind. In front of them, a large door leading into the Corruptor chamber. The light of the Corruptor seeps out. Standing before the door ...

BARDA.

In full combat gear. The boys stop. Lashina emerges from the stairs, and grins.

BARDA
You should have escaped to the water planet.

SCOTT
Not without you.

Lashina edges closer. So does Barda.

Scott leaps onto Barda!! The two go down in a heap. Lashina's stiletto heel connects with the back of Orion's head, sending him across the floor. He jumps up, to see Barda and Lashina trying to pin the slippery Scott. There's nothing between him and the door.

SCOTT
Go!

ORION
But-

SCOTT
Go!

Orion turns and runs through the door.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

Highfather stands in the core of Motherbox. The remaining red energy burns through his body. He is physically holding Motherbox together, sacrificing himself to keep the shield up even for a few minutes longer.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS CITY

Lightray hobbles into the square.

LIGHTRAY
We must leave the city.

Dreamer begins to usher the New Genesans onto the few ships they managed to fix.

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSEID'S CHAMBER

The Corruptor HUMS.

Darkseid stands at a control panel, directing his fleet. Desaad crouches off to the side, cackling. Orion enters.

DARKSEID
You've missed the boat on this one. The shield is down, your planet is mine. But I will give you an "A" for effort.

Orion lunges at Darkseid. Darkseid knocks Orion to the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSEID'S CITADEL - TOP OF STAIRS

Scott's FOOT connects with Lashina's shoulder, and she flies across the room. But Barda's hand locks around Scott's arm.

SCOTT
Barda, listen.

She hits him. Hard. He shakes his head.

SCOTT
You have to stop running away.

She hits him again.

BARDA
(indignant)
Me, running away?

SCOTT
Yes. Running away from the truth.

Across the room, Lashina sits up.

SCOTT
You know in your heart that Darkseid must be stopped.

Barda hits him again.

BARDA

Apologize to Lord Darkseid, and maybe
he'll-

SCOTT

Stop it. We have to face this. You have
to decide who you are.

BARDA

I know who I am.

She swings to hit Scott again, but it's like trying to hit
smoke. He slips out of her grip, dives between her legs and
grabs the back of her war-belt. He pulls her back onto his
feet to throw her in the air. Her hand sweeps back and
crashes into his head. They fall in a heap.

Lashina's whip curls around Scott's throat. Lashina drags
the choking Scott across the floor to her, and lifts him in
the air. Scott makes eye-contact with Barda.

LASHINA

I'm going to enjoy whipping you, little
boy.

BARDA SNAPS!! She throws herself at Lashina, and the two
roll on the floor, kicking and punching. Lashina sinks her
teeth into Barda's arm.

BARDA

(to Scott)
Get out of here.

Barda slams her fist into Lashina's gut. She leaps to her
feet.

BARDA

Well, Lashina, it's just you and me.

LASHINA

I always knew you were soft.

Lashina grins and pulls out her whip.

BARDA

Bring it on, Bitch.

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSEID'S CHAMBER

Scott runs into the chamber. Darkseid stands silhouetted before the swirl. Orion lies in pain at his feet. Darkseid steps toward Scott.

DARKSEID

Ah, my wayward scientist.

Behind Darkseid, Orion pulls himself to his feet, and staggers toward him.

Orion POUNDS Darkseid from behind, who retreats in momentary confusion.

DARKSEID

I thought you New Genesan's always played fair. Hitting from behind? Perhaps you could join my team.

ORION

Never!

Orion goes after him.

But Darkseid grins, his smile is sheer horror. He punches Orion hard enough to spin the boy around. Darkseid hits Orion again, and a bone somewhere in Orion goes SNAP!

He falls to the floor. Darkseid stops, seeing Orion struggle back to his feet.

DARKSEID

You've got spirit, and I think that's wonderful. But I've got a planet to plunder, so...

Darkseid's eyes glow red. Two beams emanate from his eyes and slam into Orion, pushing him back. Orion grits his teeth and takes a step forward. In pain, Orion fights the powerful beam and takes another step forward.

He punches Darkseid. And again, knocking Darkseid down a causeway, toward the Corruptor. They are on a narrow ledge above the stream of Lava that powers the Corruptor. Darkseid throws a punch. Orion dodges the punch.

ORION

Die.

Orion puts his hands on Darkseid's shoulders to push him over the edge.

DARKSEID

I don't think so.

Darkseid swings, throwing Orion toward the lava.

Scott pops up next to Orion.

SCOTT

You threw me in prison because I wouldn't
kill anyone. But in your case I'm
willing to make an exception.

Lightning fast, Scott round house kicks Darkseid.

Darkseid topples backward, but grabs Orion. Orion and Darkseid go over the edge. Scott barely manages to catch Orion's foot. Orion dangles over the lava while Darkseid plunges in.

SPLASH!

Scott can barely hold the bulky Orion.

Orion manages to crawl back up. Both boys crouch on the edge, PANTING.

Something dark and threatening swirls in the lava.

IT'S DARKSEID.

His flesh mostly boiled off, his body held together by pure will, he ERUPTS from the lava and catches onto the ledge, hoisting himself up. Scott stares in horror.

Orion crawls across the floor. He grabs one of the WHITE HOVERING DISCS. He hurls it like a DISCUS. The Hover Disc sails into Darkseid's forehead and knocks him back into the lava.

Darkseid is hip deep in the lava, SNARLING like a beast. His body begins to bleed into the lava around him.

The lava begins to take on shapes: images of destruction, hate, pain and death.

The images cling to Darkseid, and drag him down, into the lava. Everything goes still, but the lava still boils with Darkseid's essence. It begins to move down the stream, toward THE CORRUPTOR.

Darkseid's remains go through the corruptor, creating a surge in the virus. The hazy beam emerging from the barrel turns into a twisted beam of pure ENERGY.

SCOTT

I don't know if that's a good thing.

The ground begins to shake in another tremor - but this time it doesn't stop.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS - DARKSEID'S CITADEL

The writhing, thorny BEAM emerges from the eyes of the statue and shoots up into the atmosphere. It travels through the silence of space, toward New Genesis.

EXT. NEW GENESIS

The beam strikes the weakened shield, and destroys it.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW GENESIS - HIGHFATHER'S CHAMBER

The energy raging in the Motherbox core consumes Highfather's body. His stately clothes, his hair, his fingernails all begin to wither, and float around him.

Images appear in the swirl - snippets from his life: His wife, their infant son, building New Genesis, Orion as a young boy...

Highfather closes his eyes against the pain, and raises his head proudly. His feet touch the ground - he is at the base of the core.

MOTHERBOX

Goodbye Highfather.

Then Highfather is gone. Slowly, Motherbox's lights fade, and she is gone too.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

As even more energy is drawn from the core, Apokolips begins the final stage of implosion. Continents and oceans of lava fold in on each other.

FLASH!

The Corruptor beam falters, and disappears, but Apokolips continues to implode.

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSEID'S CHAMBER

The entire Citadel shakes, and through the windows we can see that the entire city is in shambles, sinking into the lava. Lava roars through the streets, and buildings crumble and are gone. Scott and Orion stand holding onto the walls, staring. They are shell shocked. Barda staggers into the room. Orion tenses up, ready for another fight.

BARDA
(shouting)
We have to get out of here.

BARDA
Follow me!

Our heroes run from the chamber.

INT. CITADEL - CORRIDOR

An air bike with a gunner's side car lies on the floor. Barda rights it, REVS the engine, and hops on.

SCOTT
What happened to Lashina?

BARDA
Let's just say I whipped her into shape.

Scott climbs on behind her, and Orion crouches awkwardly in the side car.

SCOTT
We have to get the others!

Barda rockets the bike down the hall, and ...

EXT. APOKOLIPS - BASE OF CITADEL

... into the plaza outside, the Prisoners and some of the Apokoliptan workers have also managed to grab air bikes. Others crowd into hover-transports. The rag-tag convoy follows Barda.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Apokoliptan Attack force parts as one behemoth of a BATTLE CRUISER comes to the fore.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS CITY

The New Genesan Defense ships are now filled with the entire population of the city. They begin to lift off. An old man gives up his place to make room for a young mother with her infant. New Genesan defense ships stream from the city, flying into the wilderness.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

KA-BOOOM!

The giant battle cruiser releases its entire arsenal onto New Genesis City.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS CITY

The last of the New Genesan ships clear the perimeter of the city and FLASH!! The entire city is gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. APOKOLIPS

Barda brings the bike to a highland plateau, as yet untouched by the chaos.

A small fleet of Apokoliptan fighters are arrayed in a field. Parademon pilots and crews swarm around the fighters, preparing them for another bombing run.

Barda lands the bike. Orion, Scott and Barda hop off. They run to the nearest ship, followed by the prisoners and workers.

A PARADEMON OFFICER confronts them.

BARDA

Take these ships up.

SCOTT

And all of us with you.

PARADEMON OFFICER

Hah! No workers are soiling my ships!

Barda's fist slams into his mouth, and he goes down. She turns to the next Officer, her fist cocked.

NEXT OFFICER

Workers in ships. Got it.

He strides off, barking orders. .

NEXT OFFICER

Alright, get these filthy vermin on the ships! Don't ask me why, just do it!

Scott, Barda and Orion head for the gang-plank of the nearest ship.

Suddenly, DESAAD appears from behind the ship. He runs toward the boys, his arms filled with an array of torture equipment and weapons. Orion crouches defensively.

DESAAD

Hooray!! We got rid of Darkseid!

Orion and Scott share look.

DESAAD

So guys, where we going?

ORION

Ask them.

A crowd of angry maimed workers stream past Orion toward Desaad. Desaad begins to slink back. Raises his hands to surrender.

DESAAD

Hey, come on... Now don't be rash... Please, don't put the victim on trial here.

A ONE-EYED WORKER grabs Desaad and lifts him in the air.

DESAAD

About your eye... I'm sorry.

A ONE-ARMED WORKER approaches.

DESAAD

And your arm... Give me a break, I left you with one...

(sobbing)

(MORE)

DESAAD (cont'd)

Please, I've got an addiction... I need help.

The one-eyed worker body slams him. Hundreds of workers pile on Desaad. Completely covering him, he's crushed under the weight.

DESAAD

(muffled)

That feels sooo goood ...

Then silence. Everyone rushes onto the ships.

The small Apokoliptan attack fleet lifts off just as the highland plateau sinks into the rising sea of lava.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

Apokolips has almost finished imploding. It is now much smaller than it was, and its lava boils off into space as its atmosphere disappears.

CUT TO:

INT. APOKOLIPTAN ATTACK SHIP

Scott, Orion, Barda and two Parademon pilots cluster on the bridge.

Barda's fleet comes up behind the Attack force that is preparing to land on New Genesis. One of the pilots grins into his scope.

PARADEMON PILOT

Our ships are going to give it to them good.

BARDA

Open fire on the attack force.

PARADEMON PILOT

But-

She smacks the back of his head.

PARADEMON PILOT

Ow! Okay, okay!

EXT. SPACE

Barda's fleet tears into the Attack force from behind, cutting it to ribbons.

INT. BATTLE CRUISER BRIDGE

BATTLE CAPTAIN
Divert all shields to the rear and put
about!

EXT. SPACE

The Attack force begins to turn about, but NEW GENESAN DEFENSE SHIPS come up from the planet, and the Attack force is caught in a withering cross fire. It's over in seconds.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW GENESIS - WILDERNESS

The wilderness is untouched by the violence, but in the distance, the environs of New Genesis City burn. SPACE SHIPS, both New Genesan and Apokoliptan, land. Doors open.

Apokoliptans, Barda in the lead, boil out of their ships. Scott and Orion follow.

Dreamer emerges from the foremost New Genesan ship. Behind her, New Genesans timidly leave their ships. The two groups stand opposite each other, like pieces on a chessboard. No one moves.

Orion turns to the assembled people.

ORION
This new land, this New World, will be a
place where people are free to feel a
full range of emotions...

SCOTT
Free to make their own decisions.

ORION
And their own mistakes.

SCOTT
We're free!

The two groups step forward and mingle, moving among each other, studying each other. Some reach out to touch others. Scott turns to Orion.

SCOTT
We make a good team.

ORION

Yeah. Are there any other planets that need to be destroyed?

Orion and Scott shake hands. Scott turns to Barda and they look at each other for a moment. Barda smiles. Scott takes her hand and they walk off to a nearby cliff to watch the sunrise. Orion watches the mingling crowds. Together, New Genesans and Apokoliptans turn and begin to applaud him. Dreamer and Lightray approach.

LIGHTRAY

Your father was a hero. And now, so are you. He wanted you to know he was proud.

ORION

I wanted to prove myself. I wanted to show that I could lead. But not like this.

DREAMER

But now you must.

Orion nods and turns to look up in the sky.

The imploded, dead Apokolips hangs there. The cratered surface of Apokolips looks very much like the moon.

SLOWLY PULL BACK to reveal one radiant planet of blue and green. New Genesis without the shield, and with its new moon, very much resembles...

EARTH.

FADE OUT.