

RED WORLD

an original screenplay

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. NEW BEIJING - DAY

Monday morning in Red World: Millions of COMMUTERS ride BICYCLES to work on the packed 10FWY.

Sleek HOVERCRAFT sweep over the city, transporting the PARTY ELITE to their offices.

A BLIMP floats lazily through the clear blue sky, displaying a digital portrait of CHAIRMAN MAO.

Over credits, insert:

LOS ANGELES, THE FUTURE

CLOSER ON THE 10 FWY

Like an ocean's current, the bicycles surge forward in waves.

We move closer: millions become thousands, thousands become hundreds, hundreds become dozens, until we focus on a single rider: 1402 (pronounced fourteen-o-two).

1402 has intelligent eyes set into a handsome, distinctive face; and like all those around him, regardless of ethnicity, he looks culturally Chinese: short hair, simple grey clothes, expressionless.

1402 (V.O.)

Aristotle defined the beginning as the point at which there is nothing. I am thirty-three, but for all intents and purposes, was born today. I live in an age when eight billion Party members inhabit the world. There are no wars, no pollution, no social issues. There is but one division: Names and Numbers. You are born a Number, but if you excel at work, contribute significantly to the collective, you can earn a position in the Elite. Only the Elite have Names.

1402 merges up the transition ramp to the 405FWY North. He stands and pumps his legs, keeping pace with the crowd.

1402 (V.O.) (cont'd)

I am 1402. This is the story of how I earned my Name, and how that journey marked the beginning, and possibly the end, of Red World.

Near the ramp's apex, 1402 looks East to downtown. Tall MONOLITHIC BUILDINGS, with long RED FLAGS draped from the rooftops, dwarf the buildings of old Los Angeles.

1402 accelerates through the throng of more timid bicyclers, traveling North toward the colossal TIME RESEARCH FACILITY.

INT. PARKING STRUCTURE - DAY

1402 races past dismounting BICYCLISTS in a garage lined with THOUSANDS of hanging bikes.

EXT. TIME RESEARCH FACILITY - DAY

1402 calmly takes his place in a long line of NUMBERS.

AT THE ENTRANCE

1402 places his hand beneath a scanner.

A LASER scans an IMPLANTED CHIP in his palm, buzzing its approval. The entry door pops open.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

1402 emerges from a locker room wearing a WHITE ROBE.

DIRECTOR PO (66), head of the Time Research Facility, strides down the hall wearing a flowing RED ROBE. In look and manner, he is a cross between Einstein, Confucius, and Mao.

As Director Po draws near, WHITE-ROBED NUMBERS step aside and bow their heads in respect. 1402 bows as well.

Director Po gestures for 1402 to walk with him.

*(Note: for the next six pages, everyone speaks Chinese. Use English subtitles.)*

DIRECTOR PO

Are you prepared, 1402?

1402

My Team is ready, Director Po.

DIRECTOR PO

Excellent. I've invited all Division leaders.

1402

*(taken aback)*

Director, this is only a preliminary test.

DIRECTOR PO

When a Number boasts he will bend time,  
the Elite must attend.

1402

I did not boast, sir. It's only a  
theory.

DIRECTOR PO

Mao had only a theory and it achieved  
universal bliss. May we all be so blessed.

INT. OBSERVATION LAB - DAY

RED-ROBED ELITE sit in an OBSERVATION BALCONY. In the lab  
below, 1402 and co-worker 13033, a "Nervous Nelly," prepare  
for the experiment.

13033

I've counted thirty Elite, including  
every Division leader. Director Po is  
out to embarrass us.

1402

Don't assume failure. Did you acquire an  
artifact?

13033 removes a white cloth, revealing a priceless GANSU BOWL  
with a DRAGON depicted at its center.

13033

Gansu Porcelain, 12th Century. The  
Antiquities Prefect took some convincing.

1402 opens a STEEL BOX and removes the TIME-DELAY DEVICE  
(T.D.D.): a black, sleek, pager-sized apparatus.

DIRECTOR PO

You may begin.

The Elite settle into their seats.

1402

Thank you, Director. As you know, my  
Team has been working on the T.D.D.  
Project, the development of a small Time-  
Delay Device that operates on the same  
principles that govern the Knox Gateway.

*(murmurs from the crowd)*

The T.D.D. creates a psionic shield that  
allows the subject to out-distance the  
normal rhythms of Time, like a fish  
swimming faster than a river's current.

## SKEPTICAL SCIENTIST

Impossible. Such a small device could never generate the power needed to penetrate the Time Barrier.

1402

The device does not penetrate Time. It simply stretches Time, turning seconds into minutes.

## SKEPTICAL SCIENTIST

Your team expects us to believe -

DIRECTOR PO

Let 1402 proceed. Truth speaks for itself.

1402 nods to 13033, who picks up the Gansu Bowl like it's a newborn child.

1402

(to 13033)

Throw the bowl.

13033 hurls the artifact. The Elite in the balcony GASP.

1402 activates the T.D.D. --

1402'S POV

TIME SLOWS, so that the Gansu Bowl travels languidly through the air, inching toward the wall. In the b.g., Director Po and the other Elite seem frozen in time. But --

1402 walks at a normal, calm pace, toward the bowl.

DIRECTOR PO'S POV

1402 zips across the room so fast that he blurs. A second before impact, he plucks the bowl from the air.

1402 resumes NORMAL TIME, the bowl safely in his arms. The observation deck is speechless. A stunned Director Po claps.

DIRECTOR PO

Astonishing.

The other Elite join in the applause.

In the sea of red robes, the only person not clapping is a BLACK ROBED man. This is --

SYN (33), SECURITY CHIEF of the WARRIOR CASTE. He's muscled and deadly. If eyes were weapons, Syn's are stilettos.

CUT TO:

INT. DIRECTOR PO'S OFFICE - DAY

A sleek office with the trappings of Party success: a fruit bowl, a portrait of Mao, and a picture of a wife and child.

1402 and his four-person Project Team stand at attention.

DIRECTOR PO

Your invention deserves the highest praise. You'll each find a new bicycle in your stall. Dismissed.

A wave of excitement fills the room as the Team files out. Director Po lays a hand on 1402's shoulder.

DIRECTOR PO (cont'd)

You stay.

Director Po closes the door.

DIRECTOR PO (cont'd)

I've watched you patiently for years, 1402. This device has cemented your position as the most promising Time Researcher since Edwin Knox.

1402

It was a team effort, Director.

DIRECTOR PO

Save your modesty for the Numbers. Do you realize the implications of your invention? They are staggering. Imagine a battle where your opponent is frozen. It would make fighting obsolete.

1402

Fighting is obsolete?

DIRECTOR PO

Tell that to the Warrior Caste.

1402

Warrior Caste protect The Party from internal corruption. Physical confrontation is rarely necessary.

DIRECTOR PO  
 Of course, 1402.  
*(picking up his wife's picture)*  
 What are your individual goals?

1402  
 Ambition is forbidden.

DIRECTOR PO  
 As a Number, yes. But a new door has  
 opened to you.  
*(lays picture down)*  
 You are to become Elite.

1402 is stunned.

1402  
 ... I am humbled.

Director Po bows to 1402. No one has ever bowed to him  
 before. 1402 returns the gesture, proud.

DIRECTOR PO  
 I'm also promoting you to the Gateway  
 Project. Report to Security Chief Syn in  
 the morning. He must upgrade your  
 security rating.

1402  
 Yes, Director.

DIRECTOR PO  
 Until then, assume your normal schedule,  
 and consider a proper Name.

1402  
 A Name....

DIRECTOR PO  
 Yes, a Name.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW BEIJING STREETS - DAY

A hovercraft buzzes overhead. Below, head-to-toe, top-to-  
 bottom - NUMBERS - everywhere.

1402 rides his NEW BIKE through the crowd, maneuvering past a  
 football field full of NUMBERS doing Tai Chi.

ON A DIFFERENT STREET

1402 pulls up to a STREET VENDOR who sells DEAD DUCKS, FLOWERS, and other goods.

VENDOR

I could set my watch by your arrival.

1402

Any word? It's been months.

VENDOR

*(secretive)*

I've heard the crops failed, again. No oranges this year.

The Vendor packs two ducks and a single lily into a bag. He runs a SCANNER over 1402's hand. The sale beeps "approved."

VENDOR (cont'd)

*(off new bike)*

Promotion?

1402

The Gateway Project.

The Vendor smiles a few teeth short of a grin. He adds fortune cookies to the bag.

VENDOR

On the party. Good fortune.

1402 hugs the groceries and precariously rides into the current of bicycles.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFFECTION HOUSE - DAY

1402 parks his bike outside a dilapidated building.

IN THE PARLOR

1402 is greeted by MADAM 69569, an aging Number in a grey dress which barely contains her sagging, albeit generous, cleavage. Madam sets her watch.

MADAM 69569

Right on time.

1402 gives her the groceries, keeping only the lily.

MADAM 69569 (cont'd)  
 My only barter customer, very peculiar  
 you are. There's no shame in being here.  
 Pleasure is Party approved.

1402  
 I rely on your discretion.

MADAM 69569  
 I can keep a secret, but you intrigue my  
 girls. The Number who barter to bring  
 his own Number to our affection house.

Several beautiful half-naked NUMBERS surround 1402.

MADAM 69569 (cont'd)  
 Have your choice, on the house.

1402  
 No thank you. Is she here?

MADAM 69569  
 (*disappointed*)  
 She arrived just before you.

IN A ROOM

DELICATE HANDS meticulously arrange WOODEN SQUARES in a room  
 lit only by candlelight.

IN A HALLWAY

1402 walks down a hall echoing with the SOUNDS of sex.

IN THE ROOM

1402 enters to find 34521, a sexy, beguiling female Number.  
 He quietly gives her the lily.

She smiles, leads him to a table where an ancient SCRABBLE  
 BOARD is set up. They sit down. Then, in ENGLISH:

1402  
 You look wonderful.

34521  
 Thank you.

It's a STARTLING MOMENT -- reckless and subversive. The  
 single utterance of an English word is a capital offense.

They pick up their Scrabble tiles and *speak entirely in  
 improperly learned English.*

34521 (CONT'D)

It is said you'll be promoted to the Gateway Project.

1402

Yes.

34521

Your work is finally recognized. Others are seeing what I've long seen.

1402 looks away, almost smiles. She starts the game.

34521 (cont'd)

Exult. Thirty points.

DISSOLVE TO:

1402 spells out A-Q-U-A-M-A-N.

34521 (CONT'D)

What is an Aquaman?

1402

A mythical hero who breathes water. I acquired an illustrated legend from an urchin in Ji'Nan Sector.

34521

You take such risks. You act like English is not a capital offense.

1402

It is only fatal if caught.  
(off her frown)  
I will be more careful. How is work?

34521

Everyone is nervous about tomorrow's shipment. They grow larger every day. We can barely contain the energy as is.  
(laying her tiles)  
Languid, twenty points.

1402

For what purpose are the shipments?

34521

Only the Elite know such things.

1402 is quiet for a moment. 34521 notices, and can tell he's holding something back.

34521 (cont'd)  
What's wrong?

1402 lays down his tiles, spelling P-A-R-A-M-E-T-E-R-S.

1402  
... I am to become Elite.

34521  
Elite?  
(sad)  
Then soon you will have a Name... and you  
will choose a wife.

1402  
(looks into her eyes)  
I will choose the wife right for me.

34521  
... A wife must be Elite.

1402 pauses, letting the truth of her statement sink in.  
34521 takes her turn.

1402  
If I picked your Name it would be Helen,  
after Edwin Knox's wife.

34521  
I like Lily. You always bring me a lily?

1402  
Yes, Lily.

34521 (LILY)  
Perhaps you should choose Edwin as your  
Name?

1402  
Edwin is too bold. I'd be ridiculed.  
(beat)  
But if I had one wish, one time trip, I  
would visit him.

34521 (LILY)  
Not Einstein?

1402  
Einstein performed great card tricks.  
Edwin Knox was the true Magician.  
(beat)  
Lily, what's the Gateway like?

34521 (LILY)  
You always ask.

1402  
And you always tell me.

34521 (Lily) smiles.

34521 (LILY)  
... It's beautiful.

They lock eyes for a moment. Then 1402 studies his letters, looking at the board carefully. He adds on to the P in "parameters," spelling P-A-R-A-D-O-X.

1402  
(out of tiles)  
Scrabble.

34521 (LILY)  
Just because you're Elite now doesn't mean you can invent words.

1402  
Paradox: a statement that seems to contradict common sense, but is nevertheless true.

1402 and 34521 (Lily) lock eyes. They slowly lean in to one another until their lips are only inches apart, but then -- she pulls away.

34521 (LILY)  
(in Chinese)  
We should return to our hutches before curfew. We flirt with death just by owning this game. As Elite, you should no longer take such risks.

CUT TO:

INT. THE VERTICALS - NIGHT

An immense warehouse. THOUSANDS of male NUMBERS are housed in identical hutches set into the walls like CATACOMBS. The hutches are lit only by CANDLES and the glow of MONITORS.

1402 climbs a ladder to his hutch seven stories high.

Two stories below, a SPEEDER (a floating craft best described as a TITANIUM TEAR DROP with laser armaments) shines its LIGHT into hutches, searching for contraband.

## 1402'S HUTCH

Sparse and practical: a bed, open shelves, and a monitor set into the wall that continually plays STATE PROGRAMMING.

## ON THE MONITOR

STATE PROGRAMMING (V.O.)

A healthy Number knows his routine:  
sleep, exercise, commute, work, leisure,  
and happiness.

We see a MONTAGE of happy NUMBERS: asleep in hutches, practicing the Martial Art "Wu Shu," riding bicycles to work, and performing jobs from Lab Techs to Garbage Collectors.

## ANGLE ON 1402

1402 places his shirt over the monitor, masking its neon glow. He lights a CANDLE, then clandestinely removes a board from the wall -- a HIDING PLACE.

1402 owns three illegal ENGLISH TEXTS: Edwin Knox's "Space-Time Displacement," Einstein's "Relativity," and "AQUAMAN #213."

He slips Knox's book inside a copy of THE DAILY PARTY, then lies back and reads passionately.

EDWIN KNOX (V.O.)

(as text scrolls)

I've found the key to unlock Time. Man is no longer trapped by the limit of his lifetime, but can explore the bounds of his imagination.

Suddenly, a BLINDING LIGHT illuminates the hutch.

## ANGLE ON SPEEDER GUARD

SPEEDER GUARD

Your last night in the Verticals, and as always, you're up late reading.

1402

We all have our vices.

The Speeder Guard grins and floats off.

CUT TO:

INT. THE VERTICALS - DAY

Six a.m.: the CENTRAL ALARM sounds. 1402 and the other Numbers wake and climb down the ladders.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

As the sun rises, HUNDREDS OF NUMBERS practice Wu Shu.

1402 spars with MASTER 55789, a timeless white-bearded trainer. Other NUMBERS surround the mat, waiting their turn.

1402 and the Master exchange a series of lightning quick punches, kicks, and blocks. 1402 is good, but completely defensive. He blocks strike after strike until the Master penetrates with a round-house, knocking him down.

MASTER 55789

Do you know how I kicked you?

*(Note: from this point onward we switch from sub-titles to English a la "The Hunt for Red October." We understand they speak Chinese, but we hear English.)*

1402

With your foot?

Master smiles.

MASTER 55789

You only react to my attack, never countering. The law of averages says I'll eventually defeat you.

1402

Wu Shu is only physical exercise.

MASTER 55789

And a baby bird thinks its wings are merely fans to beat the air.

ABOVE THE FIELD - a sleek, BLACK OBELISK, descends into the stadium.

MASTER 55789 (cont'd)

An Elite transport, landing here?

1402

Not a transport. A Ming Class Attack Hovercraft.

The ship bee-lines for 1402. NUMBERS rush out of the way as it lands in a flurry of WIND and NOISE.

The craft's main door opens. Syn, wearing his dark black robe, emerges and immediately knocks 1402 on his back. The Master moves between them.

MASTER 55789

(to Syn)

Always quick to attack, 27077.

SYN

My name is Syn now, Master. I'm here for 1402.

1402

What have I done?

SYN

You were ordered to report to me in the morning.

1402

I followed normal Party guidelines: exercise, commute, work. Work begins after Wu Shu.

SYN

A Number's routine. You are now Elite.

1402 bows, a bit fearful.

1402

My apologies.

MASTER 55789

(to Syn)

It's a pity you don't train here anymore. 1402's defensive style would compliment your aggression. A worthy match.

SYN

I am Chief Security Officer of the Warrior Caste, reigning Wu Shu Champion of New Beijing. I do not spar with Time Researchers.

MASTER 55789

Yes, defeat might embarrass you.

Syn pushes the Master aside and removes his utility belt.

SYN

Then I will conduct my interview here.

Syn squares off. 1402 takes a defensive stance, nervous and afraid. NUMBERS rush to watch.

SYN (CONT'D)  
Are you pleased that Director Po wishes  
to promote you to the Gateway Project?

1402  
I do not -

Syn strikes 1402 in the chest. 1402 tries to speak, but is robbed of breath.

SYN  
You refuse to answer?

1402 cartwheels backward. Syn pursues him. 1402 comes up in a tiger stance.

1402  
(struggling to breathe)  
I do not seek advancement. I live only  
to serve the Party.

SYN  
Like your mother?

Syn throws a kick. 1402 blocks it.

1402  
I did not know my mother.

SYN  
Did you know she was condemned for  
speaking English?

1402 goes on the offensive: kick, punch, foot sweep.

1402  
(angry)  
I said I did not know her.

MASTER 55789  
Good, 1402. Be aggressive.

Syn evades 1402's attacks, but with greater effort than he'd care to admit.

SYN  
You are the son of a subversive. A seed  
doesn't fall far from the tree.

1402  
I am loyal to the Party.

SYN  
I believe otherwise.

Syn fakes a kick, moving in close and scoring a hit to 1402's abdomen. While 1402 recoils, Syn flips him, keeping 1402's left arm extended backwards, locked from the wrist down.

Syn twists his arm further, on the verge of snapping it.

SYN (cont'd)  
I cannot prevent your ascension, but from this day forward I will analyze your existence down to the molecular level.

Syn lets 1402 fall to the ground.

SYN (cont'd)  
Welcome to the Elite.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP UPGRADE STATION - DAY

CLOSE ON A X-RAY OF 1402'S HAND.

A SURGICAL PROBE enters the frame, finds the OLD CHIP, and extracts it.

TECH 44512 (O.S.)  
Your Elite-Gateway chip is a rare implant. It was delivered by Guards of the Warrior Caste.

The automated arm grabs the NEW CHIP and implants it.

TECH 44512 (cont'd)  
You must be important.

1402  
No more so than you, Comrade.

CUT TO:

INT. TRANSPORT HOVERCRAFT - DAY

1402 rides in a HOVERCRAFT with other ELITE. The craft glides above the multitude of bicycles on the freeway.

INT. TIME RESEARCH FACILITY - ELITE LOCKER ROOM - DAY

1402 slips into RED ROBES. He stares at himself in the mirror and smiles, proud. Then he quickly hides it.

IN THE HALLWAYS

1402 strides down a corridor. NUMBERS clear a path for him, bowing in respect. 1402 walks by them, amazed.

AT AN AIR LOCK - a scanner reads 1402's hand. "Approved," the oval door slides open. 1402 enters another hallway.

DIRECTOR PO (O.S.)  
Your timing is perfect.

1402 turns to find Director Po.

DIRECTOR PO (cont'd)  
We're preparing for another shipment.

Director Po leads 1402 down the long hallway. It is lined on both sides with WARRIOR CASTE GUARDS in black robes.

The guards stand at full attention, heavily armed. Their presence is unsettling, but 1402 follows Director Po's cue and ignores them.

1402  
Director, what are the shipments for?

DIRECTOR PO  
For a new tomorrow.

1402  
I do not understand.

DIRECTOR PO  
You will, soon enough. Have you chosen a Name?

1402  
No.

DIRECTOR PO  
Then for now, you remain 1402.

INT. GATEWAY PROJECT LAB - DAY

The lab is a huge staging area the size of a football field.

TRACK FROM THE FRONT AS:

1402 moves into the lab. EYES focused straight ahead, in a trance. He stares at the room's center, MESMERIZED.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

A twenty foot tall, twenty foot wide, SILVER RING that dominates the center of the lab.

MASSIVE COOLANT TUBES run in, out, and around it, like arteries surrounding a heart. Steam flows from its base.

At the center of the ring is a luminous, swirling mass of anti-matter.

This is THE KNOX GATEWAY.

Director Po breaks 1402's stupor.

DIRECTOR PO

It is History's greatest achievement.

1402

(awed)

A portal through Time, conceived by Dr. Edwin Knox in the Twenty-first Century. All my life I've waited to see it. It's... beautiful.

DIRECTOR PO

But there is one flaw to its nature. Do you know what it is, 1402?

1402

When an object passes through the Gateway, a massive amount of energy is released, creating an unpredictable, even catastrophic, danger. For decades, this problem has severely limited the Gateway's usefulness.

DIRECTOR PO

Yes. Time is as delicate as a butterfly's wings. You'll do well here.

1402 spies 34521 (Lily) across the lab.

1402

Director, may I examine the coolant system?

DIRECTOR PO

Of course.

1402 bows and walks off. Syn appears from the shadows.

SYN

May I have leave to speak, Director?

DIRECTOR PO

Freely.

SYN

1402 is dangerous. His actions demonstrate initiative and risk - traits the Party frowns upon.

DIRECTOR PO

He has become vital to our work, Syn. Over time, he will earn your trust.

ACROSS THE LAB

1402 nears 34521 (Lily), who's adjusting the pressure valves on the COOLANT DUCTS, a series of translucent pipes that re-direct STEAM from the Gateway.

1402

*(off steam)*

Water is the perfect chameleon.

34521 (LILY)

*(as if he's a stranger)*

Why is that?

1402

It can transform from liquid into steam, or be frozen as a solid. Yet in any form, it remains water. It doesn't truly change. It is forever itself.

34521 (LILY)

Within this structure, it is only steam. It cannot be anything different.

In the b.g., Director Po and Syn approach. Lily sees them.

34521 (LILY)(cont'd)

You should rejoin the Director.

They hold a stare for a moment before she moves away.

SYN

1402.

1402  
 (turns and bows)  
 Chief Syn.

Nearby, dozens of TECHS move CRATES onto a CONVEYER BELT in front of the Gateway. Among them is a TECHNICIAN carrying the T.D.D.'s distinctive steel box.

1402 (cont'd)  
 (off steel box, defensive)  
 The T.D.D.? Why is it here?

DIRECTOR PO  
 (admonishing)  
 That is not your concern.

1402  
 (biting his tongue)  
 Yes, Director.

PROJECT WORKER (INTERCOM)  
 Prepare for temporal displacement.

The Gateway flares brighter; a swirling, swooshing, rhythmic SOUND increases in intensity. Then, a BLINDING FLASH. The lab SHAKES violently as the Gateway is activated.

DIRECTOR PO  
 It's like a blooming flower.  
 (to 1402)  
 Be prepared for the most exciting minute  
 of your life.

The Gateway glows a BRIGHT SILVER. As each second passes, its luminosity increases ten fold.

1402 stares, enraptured. Director Po has to yell over the roar.

DIRECTOR PO (cont'd)  
 What if I told you we're close to  
 completing a second Gateway, *in the past?*

1402  
 (stunned)  
 But that's not possible? The amount of  
 equipment and technology needed is too  
 massive to send back.

DIRECTOR PO  
 We didn't have to send it back. A  
 Gateway is already there.

1402 looks confused.

The conveyer belt engages, rolling the CRATES into the PULSATING LIGHT where they disappear.

DIRECTOR PO (cont'd)

Theoretically, if two Gateways are aligned, a stable corridor through Time could be created, removing the danger of energy bursts, allowing for larger shipments.

1402

But Director, an attempt to align two Gateways is suicidal. Even if the alignment were made, a disruption of the connection would annihilate Red World.

DIRECTOR PO

Your first day here and you presume to know more than the Elite?

1402

No, of course not. But theoretically, Director, catastrophic failure is certain.

DIRECTOR PO

(stern)

Do not question the Elite's judgement.

1402 bows, scolded.

1402

Forgive me.

PROJECT WORKER (INTERCOM)

Fifty seconds.

Suddenly, a COOLANT DUCT fractures, rocking the lab. STEAM pours into the facility.

DIRECTOR PO

Contain those leaks!

34521 (Lily) and other TECHS frantically shut off valves, but more leaks explode. A SUPPORT BEAM falls and SMASHES the platform's motor. The conveyer belt stops.

PROJECT WORKER (INTERCOM)

Forty seconds.

DIRECTOR PO  
Get the supplies through!

WORKERS swarm the platform and push the heavy crates into the swirling, rotating light. A Worker slips, and is sucked into the Gateway. He disappears with a resounding scream.

The T.D.D. box lies half-concealed by debris.

ANGLE ON THE COOLANT DUCTS - more leaks explode.

DIRECTOR PO (cont'd)  
(to 1402)  
Assist with the coolant ducts.

1402 runs for the ducts.

PROJECT WORKER (INTERCOM)  
Thirty seconds.

34521 (Lily) frantically works a frozen shut-off valve. 1402 is almost to her station.

She gets the valve closed -- but a tremendous EXPLOSION slams her to the ground.

1402  
(yells in ENGLISH)  
Lily!

1402 runs to her side. She's hurt badly, dying. Lily looks up, blood runs down her mouth, HORROR in her expression.

1402 (cont'd)  
Lily....  
(off her expression)  
What is it?

LILY  
(pained whisper)  
You spoke English.

1402's face goes ashen. He slowly looks up:

WORKERS stare at him, an eerie silence amidst the chaos.

Syn stares too, vengeance in his eyes.

Director Po, angry and disappointed, motions to Syn.

DIRECTOR PO  
... Arrest 1402.

Syn moves fast.

ANGLE ON 1402 - who cradles Lily in his arms.

PROJECT WORKER (INTERCOM)  
Sixteen, fifteen....

1402  
I'm sorry, Lily.

34521 (LILY)  
*(indicating the Gateway)*  
You must go. They'll kill you.

Syn is coming hard.

PROJECT WORKER (INTERCOM)  
Ten, nine....

34521 (LILY)  
*(harsh whisper)*  
You have no choice. Go!

Lily's body goes limp. She DIES. 1402 kisses her forehead and turns. He quickly spies the T.D.D. box, races to it and frantically rips it open.

ANGLE ON SYN - who launches into a flying jump kick just as -- 1402 activates the T.D.D..

1402'S POV - The world SLOWS. Syn's foot is only inches from his head, but he now moves like lava. 1402 steps away, turns and faces --

THE GLOWING KNOX GATEWAY.

He moves for it, then pauses to look back at THE ONLY WORLD HE'S EVER KNOWN. He steps into the Gateway and --

FLASH... He's gone.

SMASH CUT TO:

CHAOS

1402 rockets through the Space-Time Continuum. REALITY BENDS as matter deconstructs and folds in upon itself. COLORS flash, chaos engulfs reason, a million VOICES scream out.

1402 watches his arm burn white hot and turn to dust. His body decomposes around his screaming skull as he instantly --

CUT TO:

INT. OUTPOST CONTROL - DAY

-- SLAMS onto a cement floor. Broken crates from Red World lie scattered around him.

1402 is disoriented, his vision blurred, his red robe torn and smoldering.

MASTER LEE (O.S.)

I am Master Lee. Welcome to Outpost Control.

1402 feels for the voice. MASTER LEE (60), grey beard, round glasses, RED ROBE. He takes 1402's hand and helps him up.

1402

My eyes, they're burning.

MASTER LEE

Your vision will return. For all of us, the journey was the same, like a camel being pulled through the eye of a needle.

1402 scans the gigantic receiving area. An exact replica of the Red World Gateway lab with one pivotal exception -- where the Gateway should be, there is an EMPTY SPACE.

MASTER LEE (cont'd)

You're Dr. Zhin, yes?

1402 instinctively hides the T.D.D. under his robe.

1402

*(playing along)*

Yes, I am Zhin.

Master Lee gently leads 1402 into an air lock.

MASTER LEE

We weren't expecting you until the next shipment. You'll be pleased to know that we're ahead of schedule.

CUT TO:

INT. MED LAB - MINUTES LATER

DR. SHENZEN (50), grey hair, extracts a VIAL from a cabinet and drips a solution into 1402's eyes.

DR. SHENZEN

This will clear your vision.

Dr. Shenzen hands 1402 SCRUBS to replace his tattered robe.

DR. SHENZEN (cont'd)  
These will do for now.

Master Lee's WRIST COMMUNICATOR beeps.

MASTER LEE  
Fhang is ready, Doctor.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

FHANG (35), a methodical, cold-blooded Elitist, and Master Lee's second-in-command, bows when they enter.

FHANG  
Welcome Doctor Zhin. I am Fhang. I apologize for the secrecy of our mission. But you could not be briefed in Red World.

Fhang presses a button. Two computer-projected 3-D HOLOGRAMS OF EARTH materialize at the center of the room.

FHANG (cont'd)  
The first Earth is our origin: Red World. We've successfully penetrated the Time Barrier, which brought us here. But we have a problem. That is why you're here.

Strings of light flash around the two worlds as a bridge merges between them. Then the lights die out.

FHANG (cont'd)  
Shipments are severely limited due to the problem with mass. The larger the shipment, the greater the danger. This problem will be solved when the second Gateway goes online. It will eliminate the dangers of energy bursts by --

1402  
(finishing the thought)  
- creating a sustainable bridge between the past and the future.

PULSATING LIGHTS branch out from each 3-D world and form a BRIDGE OF INTERTWINING LIGHT between the two earths.

The two models of earth meld together and become a rotating Yin-Yang symbol, then the planet turns solid blood Red.

MASTER LEE  
We will bring balance to the Non-Essentials.

1402  
Non-Essentials?

FHANG  
The inhabitants of this era.

1402  
The second Gateway. Where is it?

MASTER LEE  
The Great One hasn't finished it yet.

1402  
(realization)  
... Edwin Knox?

MASTER LEE  
As history has told, Dr. Knox's prototype is near completion. When it's ready, we will seize it, and align the Gateways.

FHANG  
Our mission will be complete.

MASTER LEE  
The hazards are great, but the current conditions on Red World justify the risk.

1402  
What conditions?

Fhang looks to Master Lee. Master Lee nods.

FHANG  
Red World is rotting at the core, Doctor.  
It is -

An ALARM SOUNDS, interrupting the moment. Fhang checks his computer console.

FHANG (cont'd)  
Another shipment.

MASTER LEE  
Impossible. Nothing is scheduled.  
(to 1402)  
Doctor, we'll return shortly.

Master Lee and Fhang exit.

1402 looks at the rotating 3-D projection of Red World, and his own reflection within the hologram.

He makes a decision.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTPOST CONTROL - CONTINUOUS

STEAM engulfs the staging area. Out of the vapor emerges --

Syn and the HOUNDS, a tracking & recovery team. The Hounds are meaner than dirt and known as:

XIANG -- a sinewy weapons and Tech expert;

SHANG -- master fighter and expert in 21st Century culture;

and HAO -- a behemoth the size of a SUMO WRESTLER.

They wear deep brown leather, thin goggles, and are armed to the hilt. Syn steps forward, removing his goggles.

SYN

Master Lee?

MASTER LEE

Yes.

SYN

The man who came before us -

MASTER LEE

Dr. Zhin? He arrived safely.

SYN

He is not Zhin. He is a fugitive.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE THE WAR ROOM

Syn and the Hounds slide into position. Master Lee waits further down the hall.

Syn draws his BLUE, a PARTICLE BEAM WEAPON that looks like a Colt .45 on steroids. The weapon creates a BLUE DOT wherever it's pointed, hence its name.

Syn nods. Hao RIPS the door off of its hinges. The Hounds rush inside, BLUE DOTS everywhere. But --

the room is EMPTY. Master Lee enters.

MASTER LEE

(fearful)

Find him. He must not leave this facility alive.

INT. HALLWAYS - SAME

1402, wearing the scrubs, runs his hand beneath a scanner. The entry door opens.

EXT. OUTPOST CONTROL - DAY

1402 can't believe his eyes:

A 747 flies overhead, giant CRANES unload FREIGHTERS, and DOCK WORKERS load CARGO onto waiting SEMI TRUCKS.

IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD. IT'S LOS ANGELES, 2001.

1402 looks back at Outpost Control, which is disguised to resemble the other WAREHOUSES around Long Beach Harbor.

A DOCK WORKER approaches him. 1402 spots an EAR PIECE, pegging him as a guard.

GUARD

(off 1402's scrubs)

Medical personnel aren't authorized outside the facility. How did -

The Guard holds his ear piece -- his EYES GO WIDE. He draws his blue, but 1402 knocks it away.

The Guard throws a punch. 1402 ducks it, but the Guard scores with the second. 1402 blocks the third punch, drops to his knees, leg-sweeps the Guard.

The Guard hits the concrete head-first, stunned. Behind 1402, the entry door whirs to life. He turns to see --

Syn and the Hounds exiting.

1402 beelines for an idling TRUCK. The Guard sluggishly gives chase.

1402 jumps in the truck's cab. The Guard leaps in after him.

AT THE ENTRY DOOR

Syn rushes forward, his blue aimed at the truck.

## IN THE TRUCK

1402 and the Guard struggle. A BLUE LASER BEAM explodes through the door and into the Guard, who screams and falls out of the cab.

1402 looks at the unfamiliar controls. He floors the gas and the engine revs, but the truck doesn't move.

Hao rips open the door just as 1402 shifts into DRIVE. The truck tears away, leaving the Hounds behind.

1402 drives like a man who never has -- out of control. GUARDS scatter as he smashes through the FRONT GATE and barrels toward a BUILDING across the street.

He tries to turn, but he's moving too fast. The truck CRASHES INTO THE BUILDING.

The dust settles.

1402, covered in dust, emerges from the rubble like an apparition. He sprints down the street.

1402 rounds a corner and spots a MOUNTAIN BIKE in front of a CONVENIENCE STORE. He grabs it, and rides off.

## BACK AT THE TRUCK

Syn leaps onto the wrecked truck's hood, then up to its roof. His eyes scan the city: a scattered URBAN LANDSCAPE that tapers off into the wide expanse of the PACIFIC OCEAN.

Shang and Xiang join him.

SHANG

It's too dangerous to follow him into this world unprepared.

SYN

Suggestions?

XIANG

No resources, no allies. His ability to blend into this environment will be limited.

SHANG

This is an era of selfishness and fear; no one will help him. We should prepare and take him quietly when he surfaces.

Syn spins his blue into its holster.

SYN

Agreed.

CUT TO:

EXT. LONG BEACH BLVD. - DAY

The street is empty. 1402's bike gains speed and momentum as he heads downhill. He bee-lines for the 405 FREEWAY ON-RAMP.

CUT TO:

INT. SATURN - CONTINUOUS

HELEN (28), a radiant beauty with a perpetual smile, drives down the 405FWY, weaving through traffic.

In the passenger seat is her father RUSS (58), an ex-Air Force widower.

RUSS

Slow down. The speed limit's fifty-five.

HELEN

It's sixty-five, Dad. It has been for five years.

Sam (8), Helen's Tomboy daughter, sits in the backseat playing war. She makes violent NOISES as her GI JOE stabs her BARBIE with a mini-plastic knife.

SAM

(voice of Barbie)

Ahh! No! This is not over, Yankee scum.

(GI JOE voice)

Your death ends your evil Commie reign!

HELEN

Sam! Knock it off. What did I tell you about your dolls killing each other?

Sam quiets.

SAM

Somebody's gotta fight the Reds.

HELEN

Dad, have you been filling her head with that Communism crap again?

RUSS

The child's gotta know History.

Helen shakes her head, annoyed.

HELEN  
It's Ancient History.

RUSS  
That's what *they* want you to think.

BACK TO:

EXT. 405 FWY ON RAMP -- CONTINUOUS

1402 reaches the ramp's apex and makes a horrible discovery:  
CARS -- cars that travel at 65mph!

HELEN'S POV

Suddenly, 1402 darts from the on-ramp into her lane.

HELEN  
Jesus!!

Helen slams on her brakes. Her car fish-tails as it skids toward 1402. The back end clips his bike, sending him cart-wheeling through the air.

A SEMI TRUCK behind Helen slams on its brakes, creating a chain-reaction of NEAR COLLISIONS.

THE ENTIRE FREEWAY grinds to a halt.

SAM  
Holy shit!

HELEN  
Sam! Watch your mouth. Stay in the car.

ON THE FREEWAY

Helen and Russ rush to a battered 1402.

HELEN  
Are you okay?

1402 looks around, stunned and disoriented.

1402  
Where are the bicycles?

RUSS  
I think he hit his head.

Cars horns blare.

HELEN  
Can you walk?

1402  
Yes.

1402 finds his feet, but then collapses.

RUSS  
We should wait for an ambulance.

HELEN  
Dad, he could be hurt, bad. Long Beach  
Memorial's only two exits down.

INT. SATURN - MOMENTS LATER

Helen races down the freeway. 1402 leans against the window  
and closes his eyes.

HELEN  
Hey! Talk to me so you don't go into a  
coma or something.

No response.

HELEN (cont'd)  
You want some water? There's a bottle in  
back. Sam?

Sam hands 1402 the bottle.

1402 drinks the whole bottle in one gulp. He then stares at  
Helen as if he's just noticing her.

1402  
Your skin, it's translucent. Beautiful.

Russ gives 1402 a cautionary "that's my daughter" look.

HELEN  
Don't get weird on me.

1402  
Define weird?

RUSS  
Asking someone to define weird is weird.

SAM  
(already bored)  
When do we get to Catalina?

HELEN

Catalina isn't going anywhere. We have to take care of... what's your name?

1402

1402.

They all look at him strangely.

SAM

That's not a name. That's a number.

1402

Your child is very perceptive. What is this city called?

Russ gives Helen the old "he's frigging nuts" look.

HELEN

Los Angeles.

1402 starts to cough. In the distance, FOREST FIRES rage in the San Gabriel Mountains.

1402

Why is Los Angeles on fire?

SAM

It's cool, huh?

HELEN

They've been burning for a week. Dad says it's the Apocalypse.

RUSS

No, I said it was a sign of the Apocalypse.

1402

What is the Apocalypse?

HELEN

The end of the world.

A beat as 1402 stares glassy-eyed out of the window.

1402

*(whisper)*

The end of the world....

1402 slips into unconsciousness.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A CAT SCAN OF 1402'S BRAIN

DOCTOR (O.S.)

It's a fairly severe concussion, but  
he'll be alright.

ANGLE ON HELEN - who stands next to a TRAUMA DOCTOR (40).  
Both view the image of 1402's brain.

HELEN (O.S.)

God, I feel so bad.

The machine finishes its cycle and mechanically slides 1402  
out of its long, cylindrical belly.

HELEN (cont'd)

Why is he still unconscious?

DOCTOR

He's a fighter. We had to take the wind  
out of his sails.

The Doctor and NURSE move 1402 onto a stretcher; then wheel  
him --

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

-- down a hall. Helen follows.

DOCTOR

You'll need to keep a close eye on him  
for the next forty-eight hours.

HELEN

Keep an eye on him? I don't even know  
him. Besides, I can't. I have L-SATs  
Monday.

DOCTOR

Want to be a lawyer, huh? You hanging  
around because you're afraid he'll sue?

HELEN

It wasn't my fault. He illegally drove a  
non-motorized vehicle onto an Interstate  
Highway.

DOCTOR

(chuckles)  
You'll make a great attorney.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - LATER

Helen exits the elevator and finds Russ and Sam on a bench.

RUSS

So?

HELEN

He has a concussion.

RUSS

Well, I'm glad it's nothing serious.  
Let's go. Sam and I can still make the  
last boat across.

Helen hesitates.

RUSS (cont'd)

What?

HELEN

Take Sam home. I'm staying until he  
comes to.

SAM

Then Grandpa and I won't get to Catalina  
until tomorrow?

HELEN

I'm sorry honey.

RUSS

You should be studying! That's the whole  
point of Sam and I going to Catalina.

HELEN

I ran the guy over, Dad. I just want to  
make sure he's okay. Once he wakes up,  
I'll take a cab home.

*(kisses Sam goodbye)*

I won't be long.

Russ grabs Sam's little hand.

RUSS

*(to Helen)*

As stubborn as your mother was.

CUT TO:

DARKNESS. We HEAR the sound of LABORED BREATHING. Then --  
blurry, hazy IMAGES as 1402 regains consciousness.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

1402's vision clears. On the bed next to him is a PATIENT on a RESPIRATOR.

Then the door OPENS slowly. A SHADOWY FIGURE approaches, obscured by the curtain draped around his bed.

1402 tries to sit up, but can't. Sweat beads on his forehead as the figure moves closer. Suddenly the curtain is pulled back to reveal -- the NURSE.

1402 breathes a sigh of relief.

1402

Where am I?

NURSE

You're in the hospital. You were in an accident.

1402

Why can't I move?

NURSE

Anesthesia. It'll wear off.

1402 checks his wrist. The T.D.D. is gone.

1402

(alarmed)

Where is my -

NURSE

In the drawer.

The Nurse opens it, revealing the T.D.D.. 1402 relaxes.

NURSE (cont'd)

(off device)

You work in Technology?

1402

Yes.

NURSE

Where?

1402

The Time Research Facility.

NURSE

Good benefits?

1402  
Define benefits.

NURSE  
Health care, dental, stock options.

1402  
There were few stock options, except  
vending dead ducks from street vendors.

NURSE  
(he's confused)  
Right... you should rest a while longer.

The Nurse changes 1402's IV bag. Curious, she picks up the  
T.D.D..

1402  
(tense)  
Please put that down! It is not -  
Too late. She accidentally activates it. TIME SLOWS.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTPOST CONTROL - SAME

ALARMS blare in a control room reminiscent of NASA's Houston  
Control. TECHNICIANS monitor ROW after ROW of SOPHISTICATED  
EQUIPMENT in front of a large VIEWING SCREEN.

FHANG  
We have isolated an anomalous Time  
ripple.

Syn and Master Lee step closer.

SYN  
Origin?

ON A VIEWING SCREEN

Targeting systems display a detailed SCHEMATA of Los Angeles.  
It zeroes in on Long Beach, then on a BLUE PRINT of the  
hospital, locating 1402's room.

FHANG  
A medical facility three miles North,  
Northwest.

Syn turns toward us.

SYN

1402.

BACK TO:

THE HOSPITAL - 1402'S ROOM

NORMAL TIME RESUMES. The Nurse drops the T.D.D., turns to 1402, confused and shaky.

NURSE

What just happened?

Helen enters, breaking the moment. She sees the pallor of the Nurse's skin and her confused face.

HELEN

(to Nurse)

Are you alright?

NURSE

(still shaky)

Yes, ahh... he is. I'll leave you two alone.

The Nurse makes a hasty exit, drawing the CURTAIN. 1402 and Helen size each other up.

1402

What are you called?

HELEN

Helen.

1402

(surprised)

You have a Name?

HELEN

Of course.

1402

Helen, you must take me to Edwin Knox. I must destroy his Gateway.

HELEN

I can't take you anywhere, okay? The Doctor said you have a concussion, and you sound a little confused.

1402

I need your help to find Knox... before they find me.

HELEN

Who?

1402

Syn and the Hounds. They will find me...  
and they will kill me.

HELEN

Listen, no one is going to kill you. You  
need to rest. I just came to say that  
I'm sorry, and goodbye.

Helen heads for the door. His voice makes her turn.

1402

He will come soon.

The eeriness of his statement sweeps over her. She leaves.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Helen exits an elevator and walks down a hallway.

IN A DIFFERENT HALLWAY

Helen turns a corner, realizes she's lost. She stops a  
NURSE.

HELEN

Which way is the exit?

NURSE

*(points to the floor)*

Follow the red line.

Helen looks at the COLORED LINES on the floor.

NURSE (cont'd)

Red leads to the exit.

HELEN

Thank you.

CUT TO:

HELEN'S POV

We follow the RED LINE, twisting down a hallway. It leads  
Helen around a corner where she bumps right into --

Syn.

Dressed in deep brown leather, and with a hunter's gaze, he looks eerily out of place. Helen stares at Syn's cold, determined eyes.

HELEN

Excuse me.

He says nothing and moves on. In SLOW MOTION, Helen watches him go.

OUTSIDE 1402'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Syn slides up to the door and edges it open.

Syn sees the respirator patient and the curtain draped around 1402's bed. He approaches, draws his blue. Then yanks the curtain back to find --

NOTHING. The bed is empty.

SYN

*(into his wrist communicator)*  
He's on the move.

BACK IN THE HALLWAY

Helen exits the stairwell near 1402's room.

1402 (O.S.)

Helen?

1402 leans against the wall of an intersecting hallway.

1402 (cont'd)

Syn is here, isn't he?

Before she answers, Syn exits the room twenty feet in front of her. She freezes, instinct telling her to be afraid.

HELEN

*(under her breath)*  
... In front of me.

1402 (O.S.)

Turn and look in both directions, then step to me.

SYN'S POV - Helen looks right, then left, feigning that she is lost. Then she steps out of sight.

On instinct, Syn starts after her.

INT. SUPPLY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

1402 and Helen slip into a huge, dark room filled with endless rows of STOCKED SHELVES. 1402 moves sluggishly.

HELEN

We need to call the Police.

1402

No one can help us.

They scurry through the maze of shelves into the depths of the room. Behind them, they hear the door OPEN.

AT THE DOOR

Syn flips on the lights. FLORESCENT'S ignite, casting an eerie glow. He enters the maze of shelves.

SYN

I know you are here, 1402.

His footsteps echo on the tile floor.

SYN (cont'd)

The facility is sealed. There is no escape from me.

Syn methodically moves through the aisles; stops, listens.

1402 (O.S.)

This isn't Red World. You are not in control here.

Syn rounds a corner, spots a FIGURE, fires. A life-size SKELETON falls to the floor, its bones scattering.

1402 (O.S.) (cont'd)

I have done nothing wrong.

SYN

You stole the T.D.D., entered the Gateway, and fled Outpost Control.

1402 (O.S.)

The Elite are tampering with forces they do not comprehend. They will destroy Red World.

SYN

Lies.

There is a SOUND behind Syn. He pivots to see --

a BOOKSHELF toppling over. It crashes down on top of him.

1402 and Helen run toward the entrance as --

Syn wrestles free from the crumbled shelves.

AT THE ENTRANCE

1402 uses all of his strength to heave over another shelf, which crashes into the next, and the next, like dominoes; leaving Syn trapped in the bowels of the room.

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

1402 and Helen run toward an EXIT SIGN by the stairwell.

HELEN

Who is he?

1402

The best there is at what he does.

1402 opens the stairwell door, revealing --

Shang. He draws his blue, but 1402 knocks it away.

1402 reaches for his T.D.D., but Shang kicks him in the shin, strikes his shoulder, and then flips him across the hall.

Shang draws a stun stick, a futuristic Taser / Cattle Prod, from his belt. Its tip CRACKLES with ELECTRICITY.

SHANG

(into wrist communicator)

I have him.

HELEN

Hey!

Shang turns and is greeted by Helen's fist. Shang's head jerks back, but he instantly recovers.

Shang HITS HER with great force, knocking her to the floor. Blood drips from her lip.

OFFICER (O.S.)

Drop the weapon!

Shang turns. Ten feet away is a LAPD OFFICER, gun drawn.

OFFICER (cont'd)

(into shoulder mic)

Adam Nine, four-eleven in progress.

We hear a DISPATCHER (O.S.) call for back up.

OFFICER (cont'd)  
DROP IT NOW!

Shang drops the stun stick. With his other hand, he quick-draws his blue and blasts a hole through the Officer.

While Shang's distracted, 1402 kicks him, hard. Shang falls, gasping for breath.

Syn exits the supply room.

1402 yanks Helen into the stairwell. Syn fires and blows off part of the closing door.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

1402 drags Helen up the winding stairs.

HELEN  
They killed him!? They killed that Cop!?

1402  
Hurry!

Helen and 1402 fall into a rhythm as they spin up each flight, using the banister to pull themselves even faster.

Suddenly, a LASER explodes into the railing, almost taking Helen's arm off.

HELEN  
Shit!

1402 pulls her against the far wall as LASERS impact the ceiling above them. DEBRIS and SPARKS shower down. Helen screams.

1402 spots a FIRE EXTINGUISHER. He rips it off the wall.

1402  
Go.

Helen sprints ahead.

1402 looks over the railing. Syn and Shang round the stairs three flights below. He hurls the fire extinguisher.

SYN'S POV - a RED METAL OBJECT plunges directly at him. He steps backward, FIRING. His LASER ruptures the extinguisher, which EXPLODES with a resounding BOOM.

WHITE POWDER ENGULFS the stairwell. RED LIGHTS flash, as the FIRE ALARM SOUNDS.

Syn wipes powder from his eyes and continues up.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOF - NIGHT

1402 and Helen exit onto the roof. 1402 finds a STEEL BAR and runs it between the door's handle and a water pipe.

They hurry to the roof's edge. No fire escape. No way down.

Suddenly, a POUNDING at the door. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

1402 steps up on the edge.

HELEN

What are you doing?

1402 gently takes her hand.

1402

Do you trust me?

HELEN

(beat)

No.

The door bursts open. Syn and Shang storm onto the roof.

1402 and Helen stand at the roof's edge. Behind them, scattered FIRES glow in the distant mountains like campfires outside a besieged fortress.

SYN

1402. Surrender yourself and the T.D.D., and I'll let the woman go.

Helen looks down... a long way down.

HELEN

(to 1402)

That sounds reasonable to me.

1402

Close your eyes.

Syn aims his blue at 1402.

SYN

You give me no option.

Syn fires just as 1402 leaps off the building, dragging Helen with him.

ANGLE ON 1402 AND HELEN - they separate as they somersault through the air. Helen flails wildly, SCREAMING.

TWELVE stories...

TEN...

EIGHT... They plummet toward certain death.

1402'S POV - a white MINI VAN drives beneath him. He hurls towards it like a bomb to its target.

SIX...

FOUR... The cement rushes up to meet them -- just before impact, 1402 activates his T.D.D..

TIME SLOWS, as if the hand of God stopped their descent. 1402's feet touch the pavement. He looks up to Helen, who falls languidly through the air, like the GANSU BOWL.

1402  
(under his breath)  
Thirty, twenty-nine....

Helen is suspended mid-scream, frozen in a contorted position, ten feet above the pavement -- too high to reach.

1402 (cont'd)  
Fifteen....

1402 jumps onto the minivan's hood, then its roof, allowing him to grab hold of Helen.

1402 (cont'd)  
Ten, nine....

1402 carries the frozen Helen to the side of the car. He pulls out the DRIVER, then places her in his seat.

IN THE MINIVAN

1402 gets in the passenger seat just as NORMAL TIME RESUMES.

HELEN  
(bloodcurdling scream)  
Ahhhhh!

She flings her arms wildly as if she's still falling. She slowly realizes that --

Ahhh! HELEN (cont'd)

They are --

Ahh! HELEN (cont'd)

-- inside a car. She stops screaming.

HELEN (cont'd)  
(hyperventilating)  
A... What? How? I don't -

1402  
Please ambulate. We are still in danger.

HELEN  
What?

1402  
Go!

Helen puts the car in gear and tears away.

BACK ON THE ROOF

Syn and Shang look down to the parking lot: no bodies, nothing. In the distance, POLICE CRUISERS and FIRE ENGINES approach.

SYN  
He is smart... very smart.

SHANG  
Master Lee will not be pleased.

SYN  
Master Lee is not my concern.

Suddenly, a flurry of wind surrounds Syn and Shang. Above, a MING CLASS HOVERCRAFT de-cloaks. Its main door opens.

SHANG  
What now?

SYN  
We find the woman, and we will find 1402.

The two enter the hovercraft and it DISAPPEARS INTO THIN AIR.

CUT TO:

INT. MINI VAN - NIGHT

Helen drives erratically, fear in her eyes.

HELEN  
I think my heart exploded.

1402  
The danger is past.

HELEN  
When we jumped. How did we -

1402  
(off T.D.D.)  
It slowed time and allowed us to subvert  
the acceleration of gravity.

HELEN  
But that's not possible.

1402  
It is in my era.

HELEN  
Your era?

1402  
... The future.

CUT TO:

FULL SCREEN - NEWSCAST

HAL FISHMAN, respected LA anchorman, reports.

HAL FISHMAN  
Amidst an LA wracked by forest fires,  
tragedy strikes again. One of LA's  
finest was murdered. Let's go live to  
Trina Loria.

We move to TRINA LORIA (28), blonde hair, serious grin.

TRINA LORIA  
Thank you, Hal. I'm here with Detective  
Swann at Long Beach Memorial Hospital.  
What happened, Detective?

DETECTIVE SWANN (40) is a lanky, clean cut, LAPD spokesman.

DETECTIVE SWANN

It is premature to speculate, but we've issued an APB on a John Doe using the alias -

We pull back from the TV and are INSIDE --

EDWIN KNOX'S LAB

The newscast continues in the b.g..

DETECTIVE SWANN (cont'd)

- 1402.

A FOCUSED MAN sits hunched over at a bench soldering tiny metal components into a computer's mother-board.

TRINA LORIA (in b.g. - on TV)

Is it true that the suspect used some type of laser gun?

This catches the man's attention. He turns to look at the television and we land a more favoring view of --

EDWIN KNOX (45), tan, handsome, bright eyes. He wears a white lab coat over a blue shirt.

EDWIN

Laser gun?

Edwin returns to his work, entertaining himself.

EDWIN (cont'd)

(*smartass*)

Yes, that's right, Trina. He used a laser gun and a light saber. Citizens are also asked to be on the lookout for a large gold robot -

TOM (O.S.)

Why're you always talking to yourself?

DR. THOMAS SOUNART (50), beard, glasses, a professional Astronomer, stands at the lab's massive door.

EDWIN

I'm the only person that amuses me.

TOM

I'm hurt.

EDWIN

You don't amuse me, Tom. You inspire me.

Tom doesn't respond. He looks sullen.

EDWIN (cont'd)  
No pithy comeback. What's wrong?

TOM  
... They pulled the plug.

For a moment, Edwin's eyes show defeat.

TOM (cont'd)  
There was nothing I could do.

EDWIN  
They can't, not again. I'm close, a few weeks, tops.

Tom says nothing. There's nothing to say.

EDWIN (cont'd)  
Then I'll find another backer, sell my house. I'll do the song and dance, it's worked before.

TOM  
It's a fait au compli. They want to recoup their losses, sell off the components. And the Observatory Board has been hounding me for weeks. I can't stall them indefinitely. Even with the funding, you'd have to relocate.

Edwin is silent for a moment.

EDWIN  
It's real, Tom. I'm close, I know it.

Tom walks closer to his friend.

TOM  
I believe you Edwin. But it's your dream, not theirs.

We pull back from Edwin and Tom to REVEAL ---

a PRIMITIVE version of a KNOX GATEWAY. It's gigantic, magnificent, and nearly complete.

CUT TO:

INT. HELEN'S DUPLEX - NIGHT

1402, Helen, Russ and Sam sit on the COUCH watching TV coverage of 1402's supposed rampage. Helen has an ice pack on her swollen lip.

1402  
This box speaks lies.

RUSS  
I'm calling the cops.

HELEN  
Dad!

SAM  
Gramps, you can't rat 1402 to the Man.

HELEN  
Sam, go to your room.

Sam doesn't move.

1402  
We must leave this hutch. They will link us from the hospital.

Helen locks eyes with her father, who is conflicted.

HELEN  
Dad. It's the truth.

RUSS  
You believe him!? He's crazy, Helen!  
Nuts, alright!?

1402 steps closer to Russ. They lock eyes.

1402  
If we stay here, they will come, and they will kill us.

Russ holds 1402's gaze. He looks to Helen, then nods.

RUSS  
Alright.

HELEN  
(to Sam)  
Pack a bag.

SAM  
Kick ass!

Sam runs off to her room.

RUSS  
(to 1402)  
You should leave.

HELEN  
He needs our help.

RUSS  
Think of Sam. We're aiding and abetting  
a wanted criminal.

1402 looks to Helen.

1402  
Your father is correct. I have no right  
to disrupt your lives. I will find Knox  
myself.

EXT. HELEN'S DUPLEX - NIGHT

Russ, Helen, and Sam sit in the Saturn. 1402 stands outside,  
now dressed in some of Russ' clothes: an old black leather  
jacket, jeans, and black work boots.

1402  
Thank you for your kindness. Good  
fortune.

Helen tries to hide her sadness. The Saturn drives off.

1402 watches it go. He stands for a moment, looks around at  
the strange world he's now alone in. Then --

The Saturn stops, backs up.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PIER - MARINA DEL REY - EARLY MORNING

The docks where the shuttle-boats leave for Catalina. Helen  
kisses her father's cheek, then hugs Sam goodbye.

SAM  
Will you be back tonight?

HELEN  
I'll try, honey.

RUSS

(to Helen)

Are you sure you know what you're doing?  
I should go with you.

HELEN

No. I want Sam as far away as possible.  
Don't worry, I'll be fine.

A whistle blows.

HELEN (cont'd)

(to Russ)

You'd better hurry.

Russ gives 1402 a hard stare. Then he and Sam board the ship. Helen watches them go, then turns to 1402.

HELEN (cont'd)

Who are you?

1402

I am 1402.

HELEN

No. Your name. I want to know your real name.

1402

... I do not have a Name.

(beat)

We must hurry.

EXT. BOARDWALK - A FEW MINUTES LATER

1402 and Helen hustle back to the car. Helen notices the cover of the LA TIMES in a vending machine.

HELEN

Oh shit.

ON THE HEADLINE

The headline reads "SUSPECT SOUGHT IN OFFICER'S SLAYING."  
Below the headline is a picture of 1402 taken by a hospital security camera. Off the picture we --

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

1402 sits in a SALON CHAIR where a purpled-haired FEMALE PUNK STYLIST (26), finishes his now BLEACHED BLONDE HAIR.

OUTSIDE

1402 exits wearing dark sunglasses. Helen looks at his bleached hair. He looks intimidating.

HELEN

Perfect.

CUT TO:

INT. HELEN'S SATURN - DAY

Helen hangs up her cell phone as she weaves through traffic.

HELEN

He teaches Physics at Pasadena City College. Not exactly JPL.

CUT TO:

INT. PASADENA CITY COLLEGE - DAY

Edwin Knox stands at an equation-filled chalk board.

EDWIN

So, according to Newton, force equals mass multiplied by acceleration. Any questions?

The CLASS is blank. A SLOVENLY STUDENT (19), chimes in.

SLOVENLY STUDENT

What's this have to do with real life?

EDWIN

Ask the residents of Nagasaki.

SLOVENLY STUDENT

Huh?

EDWIN

Here's a hint. KA-BOOM.

*(gesturing with his arms)*

Oppenheimer, Bohr: their equations inadvertently perfected weapons of mass destruction. Is that real enough?

BEVERLY, the ancient faculty secretary, interrupts.

BEVERLY

Dr. Knox, the winds have changed direction. The Forest Service has called for an evacuation near your home.

EDWIN

(to class)

Another lesson: don't buy a cabin on the edge of the San Gabriel Mountains. Class dismissed.

IN THE HALLWAY

Edwin smashes a GLASS CASE and grabs an EMERGENCY FIRE AXE.

CUT TO:

A man's HAND picking up a piece of the SHATTERED GLASS.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

1402 and Helen standing outside Knox's empty classroom. Beverly approaches.

BEVERLY

Can I help you?

1402

Dr. Edwin Knox, does he teach here?

BEVERLY

That's under constant debate.

HELEN

Is that a yes?

BEVERLY

He's gone home to save his butterflies.  
He --

INT. HELEN'S SATURN - CONTINUOUS

Helen drives up a dirt road at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. She parks.

BEVERLY (cont'd, V.O.)

-- lives at the top of baseline in Altadena.

EXT. EDWIN'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

FIRES burn in the hills as Helen and 1402 schlep up the dirt road to Edwin's cabin.

HELEN

Are you sure he can help?

1402

He is the greatest mind in History. His text is an instruction manual for deciphering the secrets of Physics. He is a prophet, a genius -

Suddenly, Edwin runs into view. He's bare-chested, wears a GAS MASK, wields the red fire axe, and has his shirt wrapped around his head. He looks stark raving mad.

HELEN

Tell me that's not him.

For a moment, 1402 is unsure.

1402

... Dr. Knox?

Edwin turns, then lifts his gas mask.

EDWIN

Take those hoes and clear the underbrush. I'm creating a fire wall.

HELEN

I don't think you understand -

EDWIN

You're either helping or leaving, that much I understand.

Edwin swings his axe into a small tree. 1402 grabs a hoe.

HELEN

You gotta be kidding?

LATER

A twenty yard radius around the cabin is devoid of all brush. Helen lies on her back, exhausted.

1402

That wasn't so bad.

HELEN

Shut up.

INT. EDWIN'S LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Low ceilings, wood furniture, creepy lighting. 1402 and Helen examine the walls, which are covered with MOUNTED BUTTERFLIES.

HELEN  
*(whispers to 1402)*  
 The guy collects dead butterflies. I'm  
 not feeling any safer.

Edwin returns from the kitchen with beer. Hands them out.

EDWIN  
 Cheers. To a better tomorrow.

They clink bottles. 1402 looks at Edwin like Plato must have  
 looked at Socrates. He takes a sip of his beer and  
 immediately SPITS IT OUT.

1402  
 This beverage is polluted.

EDWIN  
 You lost me, sport.

1402  
 It is not good.

EDWIN  
 Keep drinking. It gets good.

Edwin sees Helen eyeing the butterflies.

EDWIN (cont'd)  
 My collection. It would be a crime if  
 the fires destroyed them.

HELEN  
 They're already dead.

EDWIN  
 Yet their beauty remains. Most of these  
 species are extinct. My Great-  
 Grandfather collected them from all over  
 the world.

HELEN  
 Contributing to their extinction.

EDWIN  
 If you were educated -

HELEN  
 I am.

EDWIN  
 Where?

HELEN  
*(doesn't miss a beat)*  
 Cal State Northridge.

EDWIN  
 Right, like I said, if you were educated,  
 you'd know that butterflies were the  
 first victims of the Modern Age.  
 Industrialization brought toxins that  
 decimated most indigenous populations.

HELEN  
 You sound like a Naturalist, not a famous  
 Physicist.

EDWIN  
 Famous? I teach at a JC, not exactly the  
 cover of SCIENCE DIGEST.

1402  
 Dr. Edwin Knox, graduate of Columbia,  
 then MIT, lecturer at St. John's College,  
 Oxford, and then began your research at  
 JPL. Correct?

EDWIN  
 How do you know -

1402  
 From your book.

EDWIN  
 My book?

1402  
 The Theory of Space-Time Displacement.

Edwin chokes on his beer.

EDWIN  
 How do you know about my work? It's  
 never been published.

1402  
 But your Gateway?

EDWIN  
*(suddenly paranoid)*  
 ... Who are you?

1402  
 A humble student.

HELEN  
*(frustrated)*  
 Bottom line. He's from the future -

EDWIN  
*(scoffs)*  
 The future? Really? What's it like? Do you have your own flying saucer?

1402  
*(misses the sarcasm)*  
 I had a very nice bicycle.

EDWIN  
 A bike? You had a bike? Wow wee, sounds great. Did you have a paper route too?

HELEN  
 It's not a joke. They killed a cop.

The hairs on Edwin's neck stand up.

EDWIN  
 Who?

1402  
 The Hounds... the ones sent to kill me.

Edwin drops his beer. It crashes to the floor, shattering.

EDWIN  
 Goddamnit. Hold on.

Edwin exits into the kitchen.

IN THE KITCHEN

Edwin picks up the phone. Dials 911.

BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Edwin returns to find Helen alone, looking out the window.

EDWIN  
 Where's future boy?

HELEN  
 Outside. You don't believe him, do you?

EDWIN  
 I don't believe my own bullshit half the time. And I think you're as crazy as he is.

HELEN

I guess if I were you, I'd think I was crazy too.

(exhales)

But I did a swan dive off a twelve story building last night, and lived. It's real... he's real.

1402 returns through the front door.

1402

The wind shifted. You've won a reprieve.

EDWIN

Great. Then you two can be on your way.

1402

Doctor, if I prove to you that I'm from the future, will you help me?

EDWIN

Look, what I'll help you do is find a good psychiatrist, 'cause you're -

1402 reaches to his wrist, activates his T.D.D..

EDWIN'S POV

1402 races around the room at an incredible speed. Edwin is enraptured.

1402 RESUMES NORMAL TIME:

Edwin walks closer to 1402 and touches his arm, as if to confirm he's not an illusion.

EDWIN (cont'd)

... My God.

Edwin looks closer at the T.D.D..

EDWIN (cont'd)

What is it?

1402

A device that utilizes your theories to out-distance the normal rhythms of Time.

EDWIN

... Like a fish swimming faster than a river's current.

1402

Yes, exactly.

*(beat)*

Doctor, the Elite of Red World - my time - have sent researchers and military personnel to this time period. They plan to link your Gateway with one in the future, creating a sustainable bridge between my era and yours.

EDWIN

*(mind racing)*

Impossible. No man-made device can sustain the Time-Continuum's energies. Ultimately the connection will sever and whatever future you came from will be erased.

1402

That's why I must destroy it.

EDWIN

Destroy what?

1402

... Your Gateway.

Edwin is dumbfounded. Then --

a HELICOPTER buzzes overhead, breaking the moment. Helen checks the window and sees POLICEMEN approaching.

HELEN

Cops.

1402 and Helen glare at Edwin.

EDWIN

I'm sorry. You came off as lunatics.

A KNOCK at the door.

VOICE (O.S.)

LAPD! Open the door!

Edwin rushes to the basement door and opens it.

EDWIN

You can squeeze out the basement window.

1402

Come with us! It's only a matter of time before the Hounds come for you too.

EDWIN  
 Someone's gotta stall the cops. Follow  
 the tree line around the fires. I'll  
 meet you at Griffith Park in the morning.

The knock becomes a pounding.

EDWIN (cont'd)  
 Go!

1402 and Helen race down the stairs.

AT THE DOOR - Edwin waits a long beat, then cracks it.

EDWIN (cont'd)  
 Yes?

The COPS kick the door open. Edwin flies backward as they  
 rush inside and surround him.

The last rays of SUNLIGHT pierce through the open door. Out  
 of the drifting SMOKE enters --

Syn, dressed as a DETECTIVE. The cops in LAPD BLUES are, in  
 fact, the Hounds.

Edwin lies on the floor looking up at them.

SYN  
 Where is he?

EDWIN  
 Gone.

Xiang scans the cabin with a hand-held LIFE-DETECTING device.

XIANG  
*(in Chinese)*  
 No other life forms present.

SHANG  
*(in Chinese)*  
 Shall we take Knox with us?

SYN  
*(in Chinese)*  
 No. We must not interfere with his work.

In the foothills below, several POLICE CARS race up the road.

SHANG  
*(in Chinese)*  
 Local authorities.

They uncuff Edwin.

SYN

Our apologies, Dr. Knox.

The Hounds exit the room. Syn stops at the door and gives Edwin a long, hard stare. Then leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

Helen and 1402 sit at the edge of the fires covered in soot. It's a magical setting: below are the lights of Los Angeles, and around them, small fires cast an eerie orange glow.

HELEN

I hope Dad and Sam are okay.

1402

She is a splendid child.

HELEN

Thank you.

*(looks up)*

The stars, they're beautiful.

1402'S POV - thousands of STARS, like diamonds thrown across the heavens.

1402

When I was young, I would sneak out after curfew to the roof of the Verticals and gaze up at the stars.

*(then)*

It has been years since I've seen them.

HELEN

... Me too.

They share a quiet moment.

1402

Why were you approved for a child, but not a husband?

HELEN

That's one way to put it. High school boyfriend. We were young and in love, so we ran off to Vegas and got married. But as soon as my stomach got big, and he had to work two jobs, he decided playing house wasn't much fun. So he left.

(MORE)

HELEN (cont'd)  
Thankfully, Dad stepped in so I could  
finish school. Do you have kids?

1402  
No. I was never approved for marriage.

HELEN  
It must have been sad to be all alone.

1402  
There was someone.

HELEN  
What was her name?

1402  
Lily.  
(beat)  
She was killed in an accident.

HELEN  
I'm sorry.

1402  
So am I. But I also had Dr. Knox.

HELEN  
What do you mean?

1402  
My mother left me his text. All my life,  
I communed with his words. When I had  
nothing, when I was alone, I had his  
theories. His dreams became my dreams.  
His work gave purpose to my life.

Helen rolls toward 1402. Their bodies are close.

HELEN  
That's not like having someone. You  
can't exactly spoon with a book.

1402  
Define spoon?

HELEN  
Spooning is where, it's, you're --

Helen turns away from 1402 so that they are lying side by  
side, facing the same direction. She lifts his arm and  
wiggles backward, moving close, pressed against his body.

HELEN (cont'd)  
You see, like two spoons.

There's an awkward silence. Then Helen stands back up.

HELEN (cont'd)  
We should keep moving.

1402  
Yes, of course.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDWIN'S CABIN - DAY

Sunrise. Edwin slides into his '65 convertible DODGE DART. Above him, he hears a faint ruffling, rumbling sound. He looks up, but nothing is there.

INT. HOVERCRAFT - SAME

The cloaked hovercraft floats high above Edwin's car. The Hounds look down at him.

SYN  
Knox will lead us to him.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK OBSERVATORY - DAY

1402 and Helen stand on the back observation deck, which overlooks all of LA.

HELEN  
On a clear day, you can see all the way to Catalina.

1402  
In my era, everyday is clear.  
(re: Observatory)  
This sector is a salt water processing plant. Down below hovercraft fly about, and a million bicycles fill the expressways.  
(re: downtown)  
Che-Ching sector is filled with giant monoliths and down there -

HELEN (OVER)  
Westwood?

1402  
- is the immense Time Research Facility.

HELEN

How did Red World happen?

1402

It is not known for certain. Rumors say that the old Marxist regime tricked the world. They pretended to embrace democracy, so when a One World Government evolved, they were admitted. Over generations, perhaps hundreds of years, they became the majority population within the electorate.

HELEN

History's most subtle invasion.

1402

In a sense. It was much later that the division of Names and Numbers came.

HELEN

And you were a Number? A second class citizen?

1402 thinks about this for a moment, realizes it's true.

1402

Yes, I was.

HELEN

It must be a horrible place.

1402

No. It is not all bad. Red World is more efficient and ordered than the chaotic nature of yours. Everyone has a place, a purpose, and the dream of someday earning a Name.

HELEN

But no one is free.

1402

Define free?

HELEN

It's when you can do what you want. When you have a choice.

1402

That is true. I did not have a choice.

HELEN

How could you live like that?

1402 looks up to the lusterless grey sky.

1402

How can you live with a polluted sky?

CUT TO:

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK GROUNDS - SAME

Edwin drives up the winding road.

IN THE HOVERCRAFT

Syn and the Hounds watch Edwin park.

SYN

Xiang, ready the speeders. Hao, monitor from the craft.

Syn's eyes prowl the landscape below.

SYN (cont'd)

He's here. I can feel him.

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK OBSERVATORY - CONTINUOUS

Edwin comes up the stairs to join 1402 and Helen on the roof.

1402

Doctor, you made it.

EDWIN

I'm not sure if that's good or bad.

1402

It is good.

HELEN

(impatient)

Where's your lab?

EDWIN

We're standing on it. Fifty feet below. A bomb shelter, built in the fifties.

1402

Then we must go.

EDWIN

Look, we're not destroying my work.  
Period.

1402

There is no other way.

EDWIN

We're human beings. There's always  
another way.

HELEN

What happened with the cops?

EDWIN

They weren't cops, unless there's a  
Chinese-speaking unit -

1402

Syn. They're here.

Helen's face falls flat.

HELEN

Oh great! Goddamned great! Mr. Dead  
Butterflies led them right to us.

EDWIN

No one followed me. I was careful.

1402

Doctor, they're here. We must -

Above them -- a twinkling FLUTTER (O.S.), like helicopter  
blades under water.

ANGLE ON THREE SPEEDERS - emerging out of THIN AIR (the  
cloaked hovercraft). Syn and Xiang's speeders resemble the  
earlier models, but Shang's is larger, with a sidecar and a  
LASER CANNON.

EDWIN

(mesmerized)

Holy shit.

The speeders tear through the sky, the FLUTTER intensifying  
as they near.

ANGLE ON 1402, EDWIN, AND HELEN - they barrel down the curved  
stairs toward the Observatory entrance.

A LASER explodes into the facade above them, showering down  
CONCRETE and DEBRIS.

INT. OBSERVATORY - CONTINUOUS

1402, Edwin, and Helen fall into the lobby, covered in mortar and mess. TOURISTS stand motionless --

1402

Run! You're in danger!

-- until a LASER rips through the glass door and EXPLODES into the lobby. The tourists flee.

OUTSIDE

The Hound's speeders come to a halt. Syn dismounts.

SYN

Xiang with me. Shang, cover the rear.

Shang speeds off. Syn and Xiang rush to the entrance, but are pushed back by the panicked tourists.

A SECURITY GUARD emerges from the crowd. He sees Xiang's blue and draws his gun.

SECURITY GUARD

Hold it! Don't move a goddamn muscle.

Fast as light, Xiang BLASTS the Security Guard.

INSIDE

Syn and Xiang step through the smashed door. They move slowly and deliberately through the lobby. A NOISE --

Syn turns, ready to fire. A MOTHER and CHILD huddle in the corner, shaking.

SYN

Take your child and leave.

IN THE PLANETARIUM

Dim light emanates from the OVAL SCREEN covering the ceiling. Vivid images of stars, planets, and galaxies add a surreal eeriness to the EMPTY AUDITORIUM.

The doors BLAST open. Syn and Xiang jump through, landing knees bent, weapons drawn. They wear thin INFRARED GOGGLES.

SYN'S POV - the room is brightly lit in a SEPIA GLOW. He surveys the theater; signals Xiang forward.

BEHIND A CONTROL BOOTH - 1402, Edwin, and Helen crouch, speaking in whispers.

1402  
By protocol, the third Hound will shield  
the back entrance.

EDWIN  
That's our exit.

HELEN  
(re: Syn)  
What about them?

1402  
I have an idea.

ANGLE ON SYN - he adjusts his head gear to HEAT IMAGING. He SEES three HEAT SIGNATURES behind the control booth.

SYN  
1402! Surrender yourself and the T.D.D.!

Suddenly, the LIGHTS COME ON, BLINDING Syn and Xiang. They rip off their goggles, screaming in pain.

EXT. OBSERVATORY'S BACK DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Shang hears the screaming. He dismounts his larger speeder and edges closer to the metal door. But --

the door bursts open, SLAMMING him back.

1402 leaps forward, landing a brutal kick squarely to Shang's jaw. Shang goes down. Then --

a VOLLEY OF LASERS impact around them. It's the HOVERCRAFT. Nowhere to run, 1402 mounts Shang's speeder.

1402  
Get on!

Edwin jumps in the side car with the laser cannon. Helen slides behind 1402.

Helen watches, astonished, as LIQUID STREAMS OF PLASMA morph out of the craft and wrap around their waists, locking them in place.

1402 grabs the steering arm. He pushes an accelerator clip. The speeder races off at an incredible speed.

## BACK AT THE OBSERVATORY

Syn and Xiang exit. Syn lifts his wrist to his mouth.

SYN  
Where are they?

HAO (O.S.)  
I've lost visual contact.

SYN  
Initiate tracking protocols.

## AIRBORNE OVER LA

1402, Edwin, and Helen race through the sky. 1402 wrestles with the craft, losing control.

HELEN  
I thought you could fly this thing!?

1402  
This is my first time!

EDWIN  
You should've thought of that before you told us to get on!

1402 moves the steering arm; the speeder turns right.

He plays with the craft, weaving up and down, back and forth, slowly mastering its controls.

1402  
(excited)  
I'm getting it.

The speeder descends into a canyon below the Hollywood Hills.

## ON A CANYON TRAIL

Two DEAD HEADS smoke a joint. The speeder zooms overhead, kicking dust and leaves everywhere. They watch the craft trail off. The first Dead Head turns to the second.

DEADHEAD  
(re: joint)  
Humboldt. The bomb.

BACK TO:

SYN AND XIANG - as they tear through the sky, a sense of urgency on their faces. They speak by headset.

HAO (O.S.)

I'm tracking an anomalous reading in the gravitational field.

SYN

Lock a trajectory.

BACK TO:

1402'S SPEEDER - which effortlessly surfs the air currents. MILLION DOLLAR HOMES fly by like trees on a road side.

1402

We must find a region to veil ourselves.

EDWIN

We're miles away by now. They're not -

As if to answer, a laser EXPLODES into a passing MANSION.

1402 tries to turn, but Syn races from the left ridge --

Xiang from a similar trajectory on the right --

and the HOVERCRAFT de-cloaks directly in front of them, its forward LASER CANNONS extending to fire.

HELEN

Oh-my-God.

EDWIN

Down!!

1402 plunges straight for the ground, avoiding a crisscross of LASER BLASTS. Helen grabs 1402 tight, and Edwin white-knuckles the side-car's railing.

Right before they impact the ground, 1402 veers up and left, weaving between the STILTS supporting CANYON-SIDE HOUSES.

1402'S POV - lasers impact the STILTS of an approaching HOUSE. He accelerates beneath it --

HELEN & EDWIN

H-O-L-Y S-H-I-T!

-- emerging from the other side just as it tumbles into the canyon.

1402 weaves between TREES, emerging on Mulholland Drive. He maneuvers the road's twisting, hair-raising curves.

Syn shadows his prey. He falls in behind them, firing. His lasers barely miss them, OBLITERATING TREES and PARKED CARS.

OVER LOS FELIZ

1402's speeder soars out of the mountains and zips OVER THE 5FWY, sweeping over --

THE LA RIVER

1402's speeder zooms over the shallow water, vapors ROOSTER-TAIL behind them. He zigzags between the SUPPORTS of old BRIDGES, narrowly avoiding the Hound's lasers.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - CONTINUOUS

VENDORS and BUYERS jockey for position in the busy free-for-all of the diverse DOWNTOWN CENTRAL MARKET.

At a VEGETABLE STAND, two LATINO MEN haggle.

LATINO

Me tas robando!

VENDOR

Te dego la verdad, si no Dios puede a matarme -

Suddenly, the stand EXPLODES. 1402's speeder zips overhead.

VENDOR (cont'd)

Glory a Dios!

1402's speeder clears the market and heads out onto Alameda, flying above the TRAFFIC. Syn and Xiang close fast.

1402

(yells to Edwin)

Use the cannon, Doctor! We need to put space between us!

Edwin grabs the LASER CANNON, instinctively feeling his way around it. Behind them, Syn and Xiang move in for the kill.

Edwin fires.

Syn deploys COUNTER MEASURES: white hot BALLS OF FIRE that seek out the oncoming lasers and explodes them.

Edwin fires again, but 1402 turns, misdirecting his aim. The lasers impact the ARCO building, sending GLASS and CONCRETE DEBRIS spiraling toward PEDESTRIANS.

EDWIN

Oh God.

At the last moment, the pedestrians scatter, avoiding the falling glass. Edwin exhales, relieved. Then --

he SPOTS Syn and Xiang lining up to fire.

EDWIN

Turn! Quickly!

1402 makes a sharp right onto 7th Street. Syn's LASERS slam into the abandoned ALAMEDA THEATER, obliterating its facade.

EDWIN

Stop! We can ambush them rounding the corner.

1402 flips the speeder around, idling backward, FLOATING IN PLACE. Edwin readies the cannon, Helen breathes deep, 1402's eyes search the landscape.

Waiting -- waiting -- waiting: Then --

ON 1402'S FACE - it REGISTERS. Intuitively, he looks up. Helen and Edwin follow his gaze.

PAN UP TO:

Syn and Xiang cresting the top of the HILTON TOWER as if on a roller coaster. They zoom straight down at the speed of heat, firing their lasers.

EDWIN

We're definitely going to die.

1402 hits a button on the speeder's dash. COUNTER MEASURES DEPLOY and DETONATE Syn and Xiang's oncoming lasers.

Edwin blasts a LASER volley at the Hounds. They break from their attack pattern and scurry for safety.

1402 rockets away. For a moment, they've lost them.

1402

We can't defeat them in an open battle.

EDWIN

Where can we go?

HELEN

You're the rocket scientist.

EDWIN  
I'm a Physicist, not a....

Edwin notices a METROLINK TRAIN below, as does 1402. Helen looks at them both.

HELEN  
... You gotta be kidding.

CUT TO:

INT. GRAND CENTRAL STATION - DAY

SUNLIGHT streams through a giant Art-Deco STAIN GLASS WINDOW. COMMUTERS hustle across the beautiful marble floor.

A REPORTER and CAMERAMAN tape near the window.

REPORTER  
Not only is the renovated Grand Central Station beautiful, but it's one of the safest public places in LA -

The window SHATTERS into a million pieces.

REPORTER (cont'd)  
(thrown to the ground)  
Sweet bastard!

1402's speeder zips into the station, narrowly avoiding an ESPRESSO CART. The reporter wobbles up just as --

Syn and Xiang fly through the window, BLOWING HIM DOWN AGAIN.

BACK TO:

1402'S SPEEDER - which soars above the COMMUTERS, maneuvering through the station. He heads for a narrow stairwell.

HELEN  
We won't fit.

An EXPLOSION rocks the wall behind them. 1402 barrels down the stairwell anyway, bashing against the walls on his way down. Sparks flash everywhere, but 1402 maintains control.

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS

1402's speeder comes to a SUDDEN HALT.

COMMUTERS exit an arriving METROLINK TRAIN, blocking their path. 1402 idles the speeder, a sitting duck.

The commuters stare at the speeder with unbelieving eyes.

EDWIN

If we're in sight when they start down  
these stairs, we're dead.

1402

I can't just run through them.

Edwin swings the cannon up and blasts a round into the  
ceiling. Debris CRASHES down.

EDWIN

Everybody, eat concrete! Now!

The commuters eat concrete.

HELEN

Well, that was subtle.

Then the train's doors close as it pulls out of the station.

1402 hears the Hounds' speeders approaching down the  
stairwell (O.S.) and then looks at the departing train.

1402 accelerates to full throttle.

1402 rockets next to the departing train, trying to get in  
front of it before it disappears into the tunnel. If he  
doesn't make it, they'll slam into the station wall.

Sixty feet -- fifty. The station wall rushes toward them.

EDWIN

We're not going to make it!

Thirty feet -- twenty. The speeder's engine roars. The wall  
fills their perspective.

Helen SCREAMS and Edwin grimaces just as the speeder --

squeezes into the tunnel, slipping between the wall and the  
front of the train.

BACK AT THE PLATFORM

Syn and Xiang reach the bottom of the stairs and see 1402's  
speeder disappear in front of the train.

## IN THE TUNNELS

1402's speeder zigzags through a series of switchbacks, hugging the tunnel walls. The TUNNEL LIGHTS whip by at an incredible speed. One miscalculated move and they're dead.

Up ahead the tunnel splits into two different directions.

HELEN

Which way?

EDWIN

The one the train chooses.

HELEN

We're in front of the train, you jackass.

EDWIN

Hence, our problem.

1402 guides the speeder LEFT. The Train veers off RIGHT.

HELEN

Shit.

SYN AND XIANG fall in behind them.

Edwin blasts at the tunnel walls.

Syn maneuvers to avoid the falling CEMENT.

Xiang crashes into a chunk of CONCRETE, TOPPLING OFF his speeder, which smashes and EXPLODES into the wall.

Syn fires. His laser grazes the rear of 1402's speeder.

EDWIN

We're hit!

Edwin returns fire, causing Syn to fall back. 1402's speeder turns down another tunnel, leaving Syn behind.

The speeder jerks and smokes. 1402 uses all his strength to keep the craft airborne.

Up ahead 1402 SEES a DRAINAGE CHANNEL. He veers to the right. Twenty feet in, he stops.

HELEN

Why are you stopping!?

1402 rotates the speeder in the direction they came from.

1402

Go into the channel. Hurry!

They dismount. Helen and Edwin disappear into the tunnel.

1402 leans in and grabs the speeder's accelerator clip. He pushes it forward. But --

the T.D.D. snags on the handle-bar. It RIPS FROM HIS WRIST, and falls into the speeder's sidecar. 1402 grabs for it, but the speeder races off in the direction of --

Syn, who turns the corner to find a speeder RACING AT HIM.

Syn dives off just as the two speeders COLLIDE.

An EXPLOSION lights up the tunnel. METAL FRAGMENTS shower everywhere as the tunnel collapses in a CAVE-IN.

THE SMOKE CLEARS

Syn lies on the ground, motionless. Speeder DEBRIS scattered around him. A pause... maybe three heartbeats.

1402 (O.S.)

Syn, are you alive?

Syn slowly comes to and sees 1402 through the exposed STEEL WIRE INFRASTRUCTURE that SEPARATES THEM.

In the nearby wreckage Syn sees the T.D.D..

SYN

(off T.D.D.)

It seems as if you've lost your advantage.

1402

Do you know what the Elite are doing?

SYN

I do not care. My mission is you.

Syn reaches for his blue, but it's lost.

1402

They will colonize this era - then disconnect, and Red World will cease to exist. Eight billion Numbers, blown out like a candle.

SYN

The lies of a traitor.

1402

If it is a lie, why are we in the past?  
What are the shipments of equipment for?

SYN

... I am a loyal to the Party.

1402

But the Elite are not. Open your mind,  
Syn. You are Warrior Caste, sworn to  
protect the Party. I speak the truth.

Syn spots his blue in the rubble. He moves closer to it.

SYN

Run, 1402. Run while you can, because I  
will kill you.

Syn dives for his blue, rolls up, and fires at -- nothing.  
1402 has disappeared.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DRAINAGE TUNNEL - DAY

1402, Helen, and Edwin work their way through a giant  
drainage tunnel, covered in SLUDGE.

Edwin stops at a fork in the tunnel. He holds a LIGHTER up  
to a metal SEWER MAP attached to the tunnel wall.

HELEN

How much further?

EDWIN

*(examining the map)*

Another mile or so.

Helen huffs and starts up the right channel. 1402 and Edwin  
follow, just out of her earshot.

EDWIN (cont'd)

*(re: Helen)*

What's the deal? Have you thrown her?

1402

Thrown her where?

EDWIN

Into bed. Have you slept with her?

1402 is embarrassed, afraid Helen will hear.

1402  
*(whispers)*  
 We should not talk of "throwing" Helen.

EDWIN  
 What do men talk about in Red World?

1402  
 Work, the Party, universal happiness.

EDWIN  
 No sex? Aren't there riots?

1402  
 There are affection houses where Numbers  
 can receive stimulation.

A beat.

EDWIN  
 You've never had sex, have you?

1402  
 I go to the affection house.

EDWIN  
 Bullshit, you're a virgin. How can you  
 save humanity if you don't even know what  
 you're fighting for? For the sake of  
 freedom, you gotta throw Helen.

1402  
 I find your language offensive.  
*(thinks)*  
 We did spoon last night.

EDWIN  
 Spoon?! You should've thrown her then!  
 Look, women don't just spoon. Helen has  
 a thing for you. Don't mess it up.

1402 keeps walking, changing the subject.

1402  
 Doctor, have you thought more about why  
 the Elite wish to colonize this era?

EDWIN  
 There's only one thing the past could  
 offer the future.

1402  
 What?

EDWIN

... A new beginning.

1402

But Red World is in harmony.

EDWIN

Unlikely. You come from the future, but you rode a bicycle. The blend of high and low tech must be out of necessity, not choice. They've probably exhausted all natural resources. Red World -

1402

(realization)

- is rotting at the core. Of course. It is dying.

(beat)

How can they be stopped?

EDWIN

They can't be stopped once they mass produce your invention. It can transform an Army of hundreds into one with the killing power of hundreds of thousands. You can't defeat an enemy you can't see.

1402

Yes.

EDWIN

You were right.

(chuckles at the irony)

We'll have to destroy my Gateway.

1402

Yes, Doctor. I am sorry.

1402 walks ahead of Edwin, toward Helen, who slips around the next curve in the tunnel. Edwin calls after him.

EDWIN

Hey.

1402 turns to look at his Mentor.

EDWIN (cont'd)

Destroying my Gateway won't be enough. You'll have to travel back and destroy the Gateway in your time... in Red World.

1402  
 ... I know, Doctor.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTPOST CONTROL - TECH LAB - DAY

Syn, Fhang and the Hounds stand before Master Lee. In the b.g., TECHNICIANS examine the recovered T.D.D..

FHANG

(to Master Lee)

Syn overstepped his authority and should be reprimanded. He took unnecessary risks that could have jeopardized our larger mission.

SYN

I took appropriate action.

FHANG

A public battle that risked the life of Dr. Knox and could have revealed our presence is not what the Party deems "appropriate."

SYN

(to Fhang)

Do you presume to speak for the Party?

Fhang aggressively steps toward Syn. Syn steps even closer.

MASTER LEE

Enough!

Syn and Fhang stand down.

MASTER LEE (cont'd)

What matters is that we've recovered the T.D.D. and are on schedule to complete the Gateway.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

A quiet block just off Los Feliz Boulevard. A MAN HOLE is thrown to the side and --

Edwin pops his head out. Across the boulevard is a TIKI MOTEL surrounded by bamboo and a small garden.

## INT. DRAINAGE TUNNEL

Edwin climbs down the metal ladder to rejoin 1402 and Helen.

EDWIN

There's a motel across the street.

HELEN

*(starts up the latter)*

Just get me to a goddamn shower, fast.

1402

We have no time for bathing.

*(to Edwin)*

We must reach your Gateway.

EDWIN

The Observatory will be crawling with cops. We have to hold up somewhere till dark.

CUT ON:

## FULL SCREEN - NEWS BROADCAST

HAL FISHMAN

What have you uncovered about "1402?"

DETECTIVE SWANN

We now believe he is a terrorist obsessed with heralding the Apocalypse.

PULL BACK:

## INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

1402 turns the TV off.

On the side table is a BOWL OF ORANGES and a vase holding a single lily. 1402 stares at the lily, lost in the past.

Helen exits the bathroom, breaking the moment.

HELEN

Where's Edwin?

1402

He went for food. He will return shortly.

HELEN

Good. I'm starving.

An awkward beat. Helen towels her hair dry. 1402 grabs an orange and begins to peel it.

1402  
Would you like an orange?

Helen moves to the bed and sits down beside him.

HELEN  
Sure.

1402 peels away the orange's skin in a well-practiced ritual.

1402  
Fruit is a prized possession in Red World, normally reserved for the Elite. I haven't had an orange in two years.

HELEN  
You're kidding?

1402  
No.

1402 finishes peeling. He takes the orange and pulls it in half. He hands a half to Helen.

She takes a bite. He pulls a sliver off for himself, and puts it in his mouth. He chews slowly, his face reflecting his pleasure.

HELEN  
How is it?

1402  
... Perfect.

Helen looks to 1402. He looks back. The passion between them is palpable. A beat, then --

Helen leans into him. Their lips meet. They kiss passionately.

CUT TO:

EXT. CATALINA ISLAND ZOO - DAY

Russ and Sam at a pay phone. He dials Helen's pager.

RUSS  
(to phone)  
We're fine. You know where you can reach me. Love you.

Russ hangs up. Sam's face is covered in ice cream.

RUSS (cont'd)  
Let's go look at the tigers.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTPOST CONTROL - DAY

Outpost Control is a buzz with activity. Off to the side, Syn and Xiang sit at a computer monitor.

XIANG  
I have voice recognition.

ON THE VIEWING SCREEN - a series of computer codes.

INTERCOM (V.O.)  
(Helen's voice)  
You've reached my pager. So page me.  
(Russ's voice)  
We're fine. You know where you can reach me. Love you.

SYN  
Location?

ON THE VIEWING SCREEN - Targeting systems zero in on the coast, tracking out to an ISLAND.

XIANG (O.S.)  
An island twenty two miles off the coast:  
Catalina.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Edwin opens the door holding a bounty of FAST FOOD.

EDWIN  
I hope you like Big Macs.

Edwin catches 1402 pulling on his T-shirt. Helen snaps the top button of her blouse, her hair a mess.

HELEN  
(to Edwin)  
Don't say a goddamn thing.

Helen scurries into the bathroom. Edwin grins at 1402.

EDWIN  
Welcome to humanity.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Helen, Edwin, and 1402 crouch in the foliage that surrounds the Observatory. They SEE the smashed lobby doors, chunks of missing concrete, and other reminders of the Hounds' fury.

POLICEMEN keep REPORTERS and ON-LOOKERS away.

1402  
How do we gain access?

Edwin points to a small CONCRETE STRUCTURE off to the side.

EDWIN  
A tunnel connects that junction shed to the main building.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

LOW WATT BULBS light the dingy concrete passageway.

EDWIN  
Just how are we going to destroy the Gateway? It weighs two tons.

1402  
With our hands if we must.

They climb down a flight of stairs, then near a large METAL DOOR. Edwin grabs hold of the handle.

EDWIN  
Well... here's my life's work.

Edwin swings the door open to find --

IN THE LAB

-- a completely EMPTY ROOM.

EDWIN  
(stunned)  
It was here....

They move into the immense room. Edwin examines the floor more closely. It is swept bare to a molecular level.

1402  
 (defeated)  
 We are too late.

Helen walks to the far side of the lab and opens an EXIT DOOR. A LIFELESS BODY falls to the ground, face down.

HELEN  
 Ahhh!

1402 rushes to her side.

Edwin rolls the body over. It's Dr. Thomas Sounart.

EDWIN  
 No...!

HELEN  
 Who is he?

EDWIN  
 ... My friend.

Edwin breaks down, overcome with emotion.

1402  
 (to Helen)  
 I cannot put you in further jeopardy. I will take you to your father and daughter. Edwin and I will find a way to stop them.

HELEN  
 These people moved two tons of equipment under the noses of a hundred cops. And you think you and Edwin are going to take them on?

1402  
 We have no choice.

1402 lays a hand on Edwin's shoulder.

1402 (cont'd)  
 Doctor, I am sorry for your loss, but they have your Gateway now. Time is short.

Edwin looks up -- something in him has changed. He wipes away the tears and stands to his full height.

EDWIN

Then let's kill the motherfuckers.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTPOST CONTROL - WEAPONS ROOM - NIGHT

Rows and rows of HIGH TECH ARMAMENTS.

Syn and the Hounds strap on BODY ARMOR, double-holster blues, KNIVES, and AMMUNITION -- they're not fucking around.

Master Lee enters through the room's main door.

SYN

Master Lee, we have the location of the woman's father. Bait to trap 1402.

MASTER LEE

Now that we have the Gateway, no one leaves Outpost Control.

SYN

My orders are to capture 1402.

MASTER LEE

Your orders have been changed.

SYN

He is still a fugitive and a threat to this facility.

MASTER LEE

The Outpost is invulnerable. Our priority is evacuating the Elite from Red World. That is our mission now.

SYN

... Evacuate the Elite?

MASTER LEE

(beat)

Red World is dying, Syn. This era offers the Elite new hope.

Syn unconsciously moves his hand closer to his weapon.

SYN

What of the Numbers?

MASTER LEE

Non-essential. The Party's survival is more important.

SYN

The Party's or the Elite's?

Master Lee gives Syn a harsh glare, but he lets it go, hoping Syn will as well.

MASTER LEE

In less than twenty-four hours, we will embark upon the creation of a new Red World - here.

SYN

I was never briefed on any such mission.

MASTER LEE

You are a soldier of the Warrior Caste. You are told only what you need to know.

SYN

The Elite have no authority to take such action.

MASTER LEE

The Elite are the authority.

The tension is unbearable. Syn inches his hand even closer to his weapon. The Hounds step back, unsure how to react.

SYN

No. The Party is the authority.

A long beat.

MASTER LEE

Stand down, Syn.

Syn stands firm.

MASTER LEE (cont'd)

Hounds, arrest Syn for failure to obey a direct order.

The Hounds hesitate --

MASTER LEE (cont'd)

NOW!

-- then move in on Syn.

SYN

You will regret this.

Shang grabs Syn. Syn flips him, then kicks Xiang's weapon aside and executes a back-flip onto a COMPUTER CONSOLE.

Hao rushes him, but Syn lands a painful kick to his face.

Syn scales a pipe, kicks through a vent near the ceiling, and quickly slips through, making a hasty retreat.

MASTER LEE  
Seal the facility.

IN AN EMPTY HALLWAY

ALARMS sound and LIGHTS flash. Syn drops into frame. He looks to a door, moves for it.

IN A LAB

Syn barges into a large lab where TECHNICIANS surround a PLASTIC EXAMINATION CASE containing the T.D.D..

SYN  
Leave or die.

A TECH grabs for the T.D.D.. Syn blasts him. The others rush out of the room. Syn grabs the T.D.D..

IN THE HOVERCRAFT BAY

Syn moves through a BAY filled with HOVERCRAFT.

He climbs a ladder to the AUXILIARY CONTROL CENTER, a small booth at the apex of the bay.

TWO GUARDS rush him. He levels one with a back-hand, the other he sends flying to the bay below.

Syn works fast, typing commands into a console.

Syn runs his hand beneath a SCANNER. The BAY DOORS open, sliding across on each side.

As Syn moves for a nearby speeder, BLUE DOTS suddenly appear on his chest. He looks to the ground below where --

FHANG, flanked by a dozen GUARDS, aim LASER RIFLES at him.

Fhang and Syn lock eyes. Fhang grins.

FHANG  
Kill him.

Syn reaches for the T.D.D.. He activates it at the same instant the Guards FIRE.

SYN'S POV

A dozen BLUE LASERS streak toward him as TIME SLOWS TO A CRAWL.

Syn looks down. The laser beams all intersect just inches from his chest. Syn breathes a sigh of relief -- he's won the first round.

EXT. OUTPOST CONTROL - CONTINUOUS

Syn's speeder flies into the NIGHT SKY.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CATALINA - DAY

Morning. The Catalina Express docks at Avalon Bay. 1402, Helen, and Edwin exit onto Main Street.

PALM TREES rim the street, which wraps around the crescent-mooned shaped harbor lined with rows of YACHTS.

EDWIN

(to Helen)

Where would your Dad be?

HELEN

The zoo.

EXT. CATALINA ZOO - DAY

1402, Helen, and Edwin round a corner and wade through a sea of TOURISTS.

Russ and Sam wait on a bench. They look TENSE.

Sam jumps up, excited at the sight of her Mom. Russ pulls her back down. Helen reaches them.

HELEN

(hugging Sam)

What's wrong?

A VOICE (O.S.)

Hello, 1402.

1402, Edwin, and Helen turn to find -- Syn.

EDWIN

(steps towards Syn)  
You killed my friend.

SYN

I was not a part of the Gateway recovery.  
I did not kill him, Doctor.

1402

(to Syn)  
I will go with you, just leave the others  
be.

SYN

A wrinkle has arisen, 1402. The nature  
of my mission has changed.

SUDDENLY:

A laser EXPLODES into the ground. The tourists scatter in  
terror.

IN THE AIR - Xiang and Shang zip onto the scene on speeders.

Syn fires his blue, hitting Shang's speeder. Shang leaps,  
tucks, and rolls safely to the ground. His speeder crashes  
in a FIREBALL.

HELEN

Dad, get Sam outta here!

Russ and Sam run for the safety of some nearby trees.

Syn reaches for the T.D.D., but Shang executes a powerful  
kick to his arm, sending the T.D.D. flying off his wrist.

1402 and Hao exchange a series of blows.

Xiang runs to help Shang, but Edwin body-checks him. Xiang  
recovers, draws his blue, but Edwin knocks it into the  
bushes.

Helen dives after it.

Hao bats 1402 around like a rag doll, but 1402 strikes back  
with a flying jump kick to Hao's face.

Shang flips Syn. Syn recovers and jump kicks Shang through  
the WINDOW of a GIFT SHOP.

Helen is deep in the bushes. The blue only inches from her  
finger tips.

1402 throws kicks and punches with blinding quickness. Despite his bulk, Hao is losing.

Xiang strikes Edwin. Edwin goes down, gasping. Xiang is about to crush his throat when --

A LASER rips through Xiang's shoulder. He's blown backward.

ANGLE ON HELEN

A smoking blue in her hand. Edwin looks to her.

EDWIN

Thanks.

Helen nods, shocked by her action.

ANGLE ON 1402 - who has Hao in a choke hold. Hao can't shake him off. He falls to his knees, turning blue.

ANGLE ON SYN - he scores a definitive blow to Shang's solar plexus. Shang goes down.

ANGLE ON HAO - who falls, unconscious. 1402 releases him.

1402 and Syn lock eyes. 1402 dives for a blue; Syn for the T.D.D..

They spring up simultaneously, facing one another. Syn has the T.D.D. tight in his fist; 1402 aims a blue at him.

A long face-off. Then 1402 speaks.

1402

So, we are both hunted.

Syn stares for a moment, his cold eyes swallowing the truth.

SYN

It seems our intentions are now in alignment.

Syn throws 1402 the T.D.D.. 1402 catches it with one hand.

SYN (cont'd)

Your assessment of the Elite was accurate. They have betrayed the Party.

(beat)

We must destroy the Gateway.

CUT TO:

EXT. EMERALD BAY - DAY

The hovercraft lands in a secluded cove on northern Catalina.

INSIDE THE HOVERCRAFT

1402, Syn, Edwin, and Helen sit around the deck. A 3-D HOLOGRAM of Outpost Control floats in front of them.

SYN

The facility is built on the former Long Beach Naval Base.

1402

Defenses?

SYN

Invincible. Sophisticated warning systems can detect and destroy any approaching craft. They are also equipped to repel a full assault from any present-day military threat, including neutralization of a standing army.

1402

(re: hologram)

Is this the main entrance?

SYN

Yes. Inside, a series of corridors lead to the Gateway.

1402 points to a giant room the size of a football field.

1402

What is this large area?

SYN

Hovercraft bay, heavily guarded. I suspect it will be the invasion's staging area. The docking bay doors are reinforced titanium - impenetrable.

1402

Is that where the Hounds would land?

Syn grins.

CUT TO:

EXT. EMERALD BAY - SUNSET

Syn and Edwin stand on the rear deck of the craft, WEAPONS littered everywhere.

SYN

Blues and stun sticks are our primary weapons. Anyone hit with a stick is immediately immobilized.

Syn hands Edwin a blue.

SYN (cont'd)

(re: blue)

You locate your target, sight it up. Then gently fire. It's a hair trigger.

Edwin follows Syn's instructions, mirroring his movements. Syn hands him a small DAGGER in a leather sheath.

SYN (cont'd)

Hide this in your waist line.

IN THE HOVERCRAFT

1402 puts on Shang's leather ASSAULT UNIFORM, blues on each hip -- he looks like a badass. Helen stands next to him.

HELEN

Are you sure you can trust Syn?

1402

We are both pariah to the Elite now. The enemy of your enemy is your friend.

WITH SYN AND EDWIN

Syn shaves his head with a razor, his eyes cold and distant.

EDWIN

What are you doing?

SYN

Preparing for the day of my death.

Edwin and Syn share a quiet understanding before --

1402 and Helen approach. 1402 stares at Syn's bald head. He makes no comment; neither does Helen.

1402

Is the hovercraft ready?

SYN

Yes.

HELEN

When do we leave?

1402

We don't. You stay.

HELEN

I'm coming with you.

1402

No... We will not be coming back.

Helen looks to Syn, his cold eyes confirm this.

HELEN

*(stronger)*

I'm coming with you. Besides, do the math. You need me.

1402 starts to contradict her but --

SYN

She is correct, 1402.

*(looks to Helen)*

Our chances of success greatly increase with her presence.

A beat. 1402 struggles with the decision, but he knows Syn is right.

1402

Alright.

Helen exhales, realizing what she's committed to. She looks through the open hatch door at Sam and Russ, who are busy building a sand castle.

EDWIN

*(to Helen)*

Are you sure about this?

HELEN

... No.

CUT TO:

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - NIGHT

The hovercraft sweeps over the dark waters of the Pacific.

INT. HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

1402 and Syn pilot the craft. 1402 wears a black HELMET to cover his peroxide hair. He looks exactly like Shang.

Behind them are Xiang (his shoulder wound bandaged) and Hao. They are both drugged, their arms tied down.

Helen and Edwin pose as prisoners in the rear. Helen is nervous and tries to hide her shaking left hand.

EDWIN

*(off her hand)*

Are you okay?

HELEN

I'm fine.

EDWIN

I'd say I'm sorry, but I know it wouldn't help.

HELEN

Sorry for what?

EDWIN

My work set all of this in motion.

HELEN

It's not your fault.

*(beat)*

How'd you know time travel was possible?

EDWIN

I didn't.

HELEN

Then why devote your life to it?

EDWIN

Ronnie Pearson.

HELEN

What?

EDWIN

In the third grade, there was this kid, Ronnie Pearson. A real shit. That winter, they drained our school's pool. I don't know why, but I bet Ronnie ten bucks I could jump my bike over it.

HELEN

And you won?

EDWIN

No. I broke both my legs; was in traction for months. I had nothing to do, so I read Science mags, Dad bought me a Chemistry set... I got hooked.

HELEN

I don't understand?

EDWIN

I'm still trying to jump that pool, Helen. Still trying to prove Ronnie Pearson wrong.

Helen stares at him for a moment.

HELEN

... You know Edwin, you're alright.

Edwin smiles.

1402 (O.S.)

We're almost there. Prepare yourselves.

Syn joins Helen and Edwin, posing as a prisoner.

HELEN

(to Syn)

As a former bad guy, would you fall for this?

SYN

No.

ANGLE ON XIANG

His eyes open. He flexes his hand. A small metal strip with a BLINKING LIGHT shoots from his bound wrist.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTPOST CONTROL - SAME

Outpost Control is alive with activity.

FHANG

Master Lee, the Hounds have returned.

MASTER LEE

On the viewing screen.

A VIDEO PROJECTION shows 1402 disguised as Shang.

1402 AS SHANG  
Mission achieved.

MASTER LEE  
Syn?

1402 AS SHANG  
Yes. And 1402.

In the b.g., Master Lee sees Helen and Edwin.

MASTER LEE  
Who are those civilians?

1402 AS SHANG  
We encountered Edwin Knox. Director Po instructed us to capture him if he became directly involved.

MASTER LEE  
The woman?

1402 AS SHANG  
(*thinking fast*)  
Edwin's wife....

Then -- the TRUTH of his impromptu lie sinks in.

1402  
(*to himself*)  
... Helen.

MASTER LEE  
Excellent.

THE VIEWING SCREEN goes blank. Master Lee turns to Fhang.

MASTER LEE (cont'd)  
Send two squads.

EXT. OUTPOST CONTROL - CONTINUOUS

1402 rotates the hovercraft around as the landing bay doors open to receive the floating obelisk.

Two SPEEDERS escort the hovercraft into the bay.

IN THE HOVERCRAFT

Syn helps Helen and Edwin into BODY ARMOR. His eyes are cold.

SYN  
Remember: fight to kill, shoot to kill,  
kill to live.

POV FROM HOVERCRAFT

Helen and Edwin cannot believe what they see beneath them: an IMMENSE docking bay with rows of HOVERCRAFT, SPEEDERS, and a squad of ELITE GUARDS positioned to meet their ship.

EDWIN  
My God.

HELEN  
It's... amazing.

Suddenly, the hovercraft JOLTS VIOLENTLY.

HELEN (cont'd)  
What was that?

OUTSIDE

Two GIANT STEEL rods have risen from the floor. They grip the hovercraft tightly by its hull.

SYN  
Trouble.

1402 rushes to look below. The hovercraft is suspended fifteen feet above the docking bay.

AT THE ENTRANCE - another SQUAD enters the bay.

The Elite Guards form a triangle around the suspended ship, aiming their laser rifles at the ship's underbelly.

MASTER LEE (VIA INTERCOM)  
1402! Syn! Surrender or face immediate execution.

EDWIN  
Oh shit!

1402 turns to Syn.

1402  
How!? How did -

Then they hear chuckling. They turn to Xiang, who smiles menacingly.

SYN

Fool.

Syn PUNCHES Xiang in the face, knocking him out.

HELEN

How're we supposed to get through them?

1402 turns and throws his T.D.D. to Syn.

1402

This will help.

1402 grabs a LASER RIFLE from the wall of the hovercraft. He hits a switch, OPENING the hovercraft's main door.

Syn grabs two stun sticks. He powers them up; they crackle with electricity.

1402 (cont'd)

Ready?

Syn nods, then jumps through the open hovercraft door. While he falls, he activates the T.D.D., instantly blurring into --

## THE HANGER

The Elite Guards are stunned as Syn drops/blurs to the docking bay floor. He moves through the bay at an incredible speed. One by one, Guards fall to the ground like rag dolls.

The remaining Guards storm the hovercraft. That's when 1402, Helen, and Edwin jump down.

They hit the ground, rolling up to a crouched position, blues firing.

The Guards scatter, taking cover.

1402, Edwin, and Helen move as they fire, hiding behind CRATES as a barrage of lasers impact around them.

ANGLE ON SYN - who blurs through the bay. Guards continue to fall, victims of his stun stick.

ANGLE ON 1402 - who shoots two Guards. Edwin shoots an attacking SPEEDER, which crashes in a FIERY EXPLOSION.

Then, as quickly as it started, the fight stops.

Syn phases into NORMAL TIME. Dozens of Elite Guards litter the floor behind him.

HELEN  
(re: Syn)  
Jesus Christ.

Syn throws 1402 the T.D.D..

1402  
We must hurry before they regroup.

IN THE HALLWAYS

1402 and Syn lead the group through a maze of HALLWAYS. RED LIGHTS FLASH and SIRENS BLARE. They pause.

SYN  
Come here, Dr. Knox.

Edwin moves to the front of the group. Syn steps behind him.

SYN (cont'd)  
You're our protection. You must lead the way.

EDWIN  
What the hell are you talking about?

1402  
A paradox, Doctor. The Elite can't jeopardize your life, or the technology to invent Time Travel will never exist. Your survival is guaranteed.

LATER

Edwin tentatively leads them around a corner. Ahead is the air lock that leads to the Gateway.

SYN  
No guards. Odd.

BEHIND THEM - A METAL BLAST DOOR closes off the narrow hallway they just came down.

HYDRAULIC ENGINES (O.S.) come to life. The hallway expands. The walls stretch and the ceiling rises. They're trapped.

EDWIN  
This plan is starting to suck ass.

1402  
They're creating a fire zone.

SYN  
Smart. Give your enemies no where to  
hide, then eliminate them.

SLATES open up all around the now LARGE ROOM. BLUE DOTS  
appear all over the group. A beat.

FHANG (O.S.)  
Identity confirmed.

MASTER LEE (O.S.)  
Hold your fire. There is too high a  
probability of hitting the Great One.

The blues disappear and the slates close.

HELEN  
The Great One?

EDWIN  
You heard him.

IN FRONT OF THEM - they HEAR movement behind the air lock.

1402, Syn, Edwin, and Helen aim their blues at the door.  
There is a pause, then the air lock opens. They fire as RED  
FIGURES blur into the room.

1402  
They've acquired T.D.Ds!

1402 hits his T.D.D..

1402'S POV

Edwin, Helen and Syn slow to a crawl, their LASER BLASTS  
suspended in the air.

ANGLE ON FHANG AND FIVE ELITE GUARDS - who easily move around  
the suspended laser blasts, closing fast.

ANGLE ON 1402 - the closest Guard's SWORD is just inches from  
his face.

1402 drops to avoid the sword, then spins, knocking the feet  
from beneath his assailant. He grabs the attacker's SWORD.

Fhang and the Elite Guards close ranks and surround him.

FHANG  
Your rebellion ends here.

Six to one odds makes 1402 pause -- but then he ATTACKS.

He leaps at two Guards to his right, striking the first in the shoulder. The second swings -- 1402 ducks. The sword impacts the first Guard. Now it's five to one.

1402

You've grown too reliant on blues.

Fhang attacks. 1402 blocks a kick, a thrust, and then he flips backwards twice, coming up in the tiger position.

BACK IN NORMAL TIME:

Helen, Edwin, and Syn watch the fight. 1402 is a blur. SPARKS FLY from the clashing swords.

A dead Guard stabilizes to NORMAL TIME. Syn grabs the Guard's T.D.D. and sword.

BACK IN T.D.D. TIME:

1402 blocks Fhang's sword, then turns and stabs another Guard, but is forced back by the others.

1402 slices a Guard, but Fhang strikes 1402's shoulder. He staggers back, bleeding, fighting a losing battle.

SYN (O.S.)

Greetings Comrades.

The Guards turn. Syn greets the first with a sword through the heart. Now it's four to two.

FHANG

Mao frowns on you, 27077.

SYN

My Name is Syn.

FHANG

You gave up your Name the second you betrayed the Party.

SYN

It's the Elite who have betrayed us all.  
Join us to rejuvenate the Party.

FHANG

Treason!

Fhang charges Syn. They exchange an intense series of thrusts and strikes, SWORDS sparking -- two masters dueling with equal amounts of hate, passion, and vengeance.

ANGLE ON 1402

The three remaining Guards charge him. He steps aside, slicing a Guard in the stomach.

Another Guard catches 1402 off-balance and thrusts cleanly into his side. As the SWORD pierces his flesh, the Guard drops back INTO NORMAL TIME, freezing in place.

1402 holds still, carefully drawing himself off the sword.

UNFORTUNATELY, 1402 DROPS BACK INTO NORMAL TIME TOO.

1402 falls to his knees. The Guard, also in NORMAL TIME, thrusts again.

HELEN

No!

Helen steps between the Guard and 1402. The sword PIERCES HER SHOULDER.

EDWIN

Helen!?

Helen falls, bleeding. Edwin blasts the Guard with his blue.

EDWIN (cont'd)

*(gently lifting her)*

Jesus. Are you okay? Helen?

Syn and Fhang drop back to NORMAL TIME.

Syn is on the ground with Fhang above him, ready to deal Syn a death blow. That's when we realize Syn's sword is already in Fhang's abdomen. Fhang falls over, dead.

Syn looks over at the group: 1402 bleeds freely, Helen's right side is crimson red, and Edwin is stained by her blood.

SYN

Excellent. I assumed we'd all be dead by now.

BEHIND THEM:

The blast door OPENS. A squad of GUARDS advance.

Syn grabs a blue in each hand and fires, forcing them back.

Lasers explode around them. Syn is hit in the shoulder, but continues to fire from the floor. 1402 moves to help him.

SYN  
Leave me!

1402 pauses.

SYN (cont'd)  
Go!

The laser fire intensifies. 1402, Edwin and Helen enter the air lock. As the door closes, 1402 locks eyes with Syn.

SYN  
Make my death stand for something.

1402  
Mao smiles on you, my friend.

The door seals shut, leaving Syn to his fate.

INT. AIR LOCK - CONTINUOUS

1402 runs his HAND beneath the SCANNER.

HELEN  
Are we going to die?

Edwin looks to 1402. They lock eyes for a moment.

1402  
(to Helen)  
I don't know.

IN THE LAB

The outer door opens to reveal --

EDWIN'S GATEWAY. Though not as high-tech as the one in Red World, it's still majestic. Its vibrant BLINDING LIGHT and rhythmic, pulsating SOUND dominate the room.

Edwin slowly moves toward it, marveling at his creation.

HELEN  
(astonished)  
It's... amazing.

MASTER LEE (O.S.)  
Indeed it is.

The battle-weary trio turn to see Master Lee, Dr. Shenzen, and a dozen ELITE GUARDS.

MASTER LEE (cont'd)

But the Great One deserved to see the  
flower of his imagination under different  
circumstances.

(to Edwin)

What do you think, Doctor?

EDWIN

I think we need a Medic.

1402 aims his blue at Master Lee, who motions to Dr. Shenzen.

MASTER LEE

Dr. Shenzen, tend to her wounds.

Dr. Shenzen checks Helen's wound. He takes a SURGICAL LASER  
and closes the puncture.

DR. SHENZEN

She is stable, but needs further  
treatment.

MASTER LEE

1402, put down your weapon, we will heal  
your wounds too. It is over.

1402 walks over to a line of CYLINDRICAL OBJECTS.

1402

Neutron bombs? Do you plan to colonize  
this world, or destroy it?

MASTER LEE

We seek harmony for this world. They are  
defensive weapons.

Edwin walks closer to the Gateway, spellbound.

MASTER LEE (cont'd)

Your Gateway is a miracle, Doctor Knox.

EDWIN

A prism to the strings of Time, splitting  
its threads and creating a doorway. When  
those bastards at MIT see it -

MASTER LEE

If 1402 destroys your creation, no one  
will ever see it.

Edwin steps further away from 1402.

EDWIN

No. We can't destroy it.

HELEN

Edwin?

EDWIN

This is my life's work, realized.

1402

Doctor, it is the only way.

EDWIN

No. I won't let you. This has all happened for a reason. History must take its course.

Edwin raises his blue at 1402.

HELEN

Edwin!

1402 raises his blue at Edwin.

1402

Doctor, don't make me kill you.

EDWIN

You won't. You said it yourself, I survive today.

Tense pause until... 1402 lowers his blue. The Elite Guards surround him.

Edwin hands his blue to Master Lee.

MASTER LEE

You see, 1402, they call him the Great One for a reason.

SUDDENLY:

Edwin spins and pulls the DAGGER from his waistband. He places the blade against Master Lee's throat.

EDWIN

(to Guards)

Anybody move and he's dead.

The Guards step back, lowering their blues.

1402 steps forward, a blue in each hand. Half bloody and all guts, he looks like he could take on the world.

1402  
 (to the Guards)  
 Relinquish your weapons.

MASTER LEE  
 No. The Elite must survive. Surrender  
 is not an option.

Master Lee elbows Edwin and flips him with a Wu Shu throw.

MASTER LEE (cont'd)  
 Kill them!

The Guards open fire. Helen grabs two blues from dead guards and joins 1402, who fires his double-fisted blues.

Dr. Shenzen shoots 1402 in the leg. 1402 goes down, but keeps firing, killing the Doctor.

Master Lee turns to shoot 1402. But Edwin grabs a fallen Guard's blue and shoots Master Lee, who's blown backwards, dead.

BLUE STREAKS explode back and forth for a few more seconds, followed by an eerie silence.

Everyone is DEAD... except 1402, Helen, and Edwin.

HELEN  
 (looking at all the bodies)  
 What have we done?

1402  
 Hopefully, we have saved billions.

1402 limps over to Edwin, helps him up.

1402 (cont'd)  
 Are you hurt?

EDWIN  
 No problems a fifth of scotch won't cure.

1402  
 Once I'm through, blow the facility.

EDWIN  
 Consider it gone.

1402  
 (hushed tones)  
 You will take care of Helen.

EDWIN

She's not exactly fond of me.

1402 leans in closer.

1402

Doctor... she is your future wife.

EDWIN

*(confused moment)*

No shit?

1402

Yes shit. I am sorry for throwing her.  
I didn't know.

EDWIN

That's okay. You're forgiven.

HELEN (O.S.)

What're you two talking about?

They turn quickly, caught.

1402 & EDWIN

Nothing.

1402 moves over to Helen. She pulls him close, kisses him.  
He looks up to Edwin, apologetic. Edwin nods, "whadaya do?"

HELEN

You don't have to go back. We can  
destroy the Gateway here. You can stay.

1402 says nothing, his eyes say it all.

HELEN (cont'd)

Just send the bomb through.

1402

I cannot leave its detonation to  
chance... I must go.

She hugs him, long and hard. Then lets go.

1402 extracts a pair of GOGGLES from a nearby box. Then  
straps a NEUTRON BOMB onto his back.

He walks to the Gateway. Just before he steps into the  
light, he looks back to Helen and Edwin.

1402 (cont'd)

Good fortune.

He steps into the portal and FLASH. He's gone.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TIME RESEARCH FACILITY - GATEWAY PROJECT LAB - DAY

1402 slams to the ground in RED WORLD. He removes his GOGGLES.

Director Po, red-robed Elite, and a small ARMY of ELITE GUARDS prepare to enter the Gateway.

Director Po is shocked to see 1402.

DIRECTOR PO

1402, you are more resilient than even I imagined.

MILITARY PERSONNEL aim their weapons at 1402, who tightens his grip around a DETONATOR BUTTON.

DIRECTOR PO (cont'd)

Stand down. He has a bomb.

They lower their blues.

DIRECTOR PO (cont'd)

What are you doing, 1402? Are you not aware of what's happening?

1402

Yes, Director. I am here to stop it.

DIRECTOR PO

You can't stop a world from dying. We must move the Elite to the past, we must -

1402

Commit genocide! In the past and in Red World? Have the Elite gone insane!?

Director Po walks closer. He speaks in a calm, fatherly tone.

DIRECTOR PO

We've tried to find solutions. We've searched in vain - for decades. There is no other way.

1402

We are human beings. There's always a way. The Elite, I suspect, did not look hard enough.

DIRECTOR PO  
Blowing up New Beijing is not the answer.

1402  
A city to save a world, Director Po.

DIRECTOR PO  
It will save nothing.

1402  
You're wrong. All the Elite are gathered here to cross into the past. If they are eliminated, only the Numbers will survive. They will start over, find solutions... and be free.

DIRECTOR PO  
*(afraid now, pleading eyes)*  
It does not have to end this way. You are Elite. Return to the past with us and create a new Red World.

1402 thinks for a moment.

1402  
As Elite, I never selected a Name.

DIRECTOR PO  
*(relieved)*  
And what Name do you choose?

A beat.

1402  
Apocalypse.

1402 DETONATES the bomb.

EXT. NEW BEIJING - CONTINUOUS

A MUSHROOM CLOUD explodes over the Time Research Facility.

The BLAST WAVE spreads outward, vaporizing HOVERCRAFT and disintegrating the MONOLITHS of Downtown.

As New Beijing is obliterated we --

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END