

S O U T H L A N D T A L E S
(THE PREQUEL SAGA)

I

TWO ROADS DIVERGE

II

FINGERPRINTS

III

THE MECHANICALS

BY

RICHARD KELLY

A PURPLE METALLIC SHAPE of the STATE OF NEVADA fades up,
enshrouded in smoke.

TITLE CARD: LAKE MEAD

EXT. LAKE MEAD DESERT -- NIGHT

Boxer then injects some sort of drug into his neck. He reacts to the drug with an expression of ECSTASY.

TITLE CARD: SOUTHLAND TALES

EXT. LAKE MEAD DESERT -- NIGHT

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
To where it bent in the
undergrowth.

He begins to walk down the RIGHT ROAD... cresting over the hill where LIGHT SOURCES glow in the horizon.

MOMENTS LATER... we see two FLASHLIGHT BEAMS. It is TWO SOLDIERS (20's) dressed in full military gear.

SOLDIER #1
ANY SIGN OF HIM?

SOLDIER #2
NO! HE MUST HAVE WANDERED OUTSIDE
OF THE PERIMETER!

SOLDIER #1
THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA! IT'S
TOO DANGEROUS! COME ON!

The two Soldiers walk down the LEFT ROAD.

5 **TITLE CARD: CHAPTER ONE - TWO ROADS DIVERGE** 5

6 **EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - SUNRISE** 6

Boxer collapses from exhaustion near the edge of the desert highway. In the distance... we see A SILVER CADILLAC CONVERTIBLE driving west with its headlights on.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
*Several miles away... his chariot
of rescue awaited.*

7 **EXT. CADILLAC -- MOMENTS LATER** 7

The CAMERA drifts across the hood of the CADILLAC to reveal FORTUNIO BALDUCCI (30's) [WILL SASSO] behind the wheel.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
*Fortunio Balducci was a
professional gambler... on return
from a weekend of drunken revelry
on Lake Mead.*

We move in close toward Fortunio's face. He notices something in the REAR VIEW MIRROR... A BODY lying on the shoulder of the road.

Fortunio SLAMS ON THE BREAKS and puts the Cadillac into reverse. He steps out of the car and walks over to see Boxer laying there.

Fortunio immediately recognizes him.

FORTUNIO

Jesus Christ.

Fortunio leans down and shakes him.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)

Hey there. Are you alive?

Boxer's eyes slowly open. He looks too weak to walk... so Fortunio begins to drag him across the gravel shoulder toward the Cadillac.

8 **INT. CADILLAC -- MOMENTS LATER**

8

Fortunio now has Boxer propped up in the passenger seat of the car. He is pouring BOTTLED WATER into Boxer's mouth. Boxer begins to cough up the water.

FORTUNIO

Alright... take it easy. Don't drink it too fast.

Fortunio looks around at the empty desert... laughs to himself. He then starts the engine and drives westward.

9 **EXT. AM/PM GAS STATION -- LATER**

9

The Cadillac is now parked at an AM/PM GAS STATION. Fortunio emerges from the CONVENIENCE STORE and walks back toward the Cadillac with more FOOD and WATER.

He arrives at the car to find Boxer injecting himself in the neck with one of the strange SYRINGES from his backpack.

FORTUNIO

Hey there... easy with that!

Fortunio takes the syringe from Boxer... who appears disoriented.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)

What the hell is this?

Boxer just stares at him. Fortunio puts the syringe in his pocket and pulls out a SMALL VIDEO CAMERA. He begins to record video of Boxer.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)

So where am I taking you? Can you talk?

BOXER

Where am I?

FORTUNIO
You're in the Nevada desert... a
few miles west of Lake Mead.

BOXER
What year is this?

Fortunio laughs.

FORTUNIO
The date is June 30, 2008.
Planet... Earth.

Boxer looks around in a daze.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)
What were you doing out there?
Were you hiking? Did you get lost?

BOXER
I don't remember.

FORTUNIO
You don't remember. You don't
remember... anything?

Boxer thinks to himself.

BOXER
I remember... a maze. A gigantic
maze. The walls were made of sand.

10 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- NEXT** 10

A MILITARY HELICOPTER flies over the Nevada desert. There
are elaborate SAND FORMATIONS that resemble a LARGE AND
INTRICATE MAZE... running up to the edge of LAKE MEAD.

11 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- NEXT** 11

LESTER STUBBS (20's) [ROLE OPEN], a CLARKE COUNTY PARK
RANGER... is wandering through the sand formations.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
*Lester Stubbs was a Clarke County
park ranger. He was about to
stumble upon a closely guarded
secret.*

Lester walks around with a WALKIE-TALKIE to his ear.

LESTER

We've got gigantic sand formations out here. I've never seen anything like this.

PARK RANGER (RADIO)

Well... we just had a category five sandstorm. Meteorologists are saying it's the biggest thing to hit this area since they invented meteorology.

Lester walks up to the top of one of the sand drifts.

LESTER

Yeah... but these formations... they've got right angles. It looks like some kind of maze.

Lester raises a pair of BINOCULARS to his face.

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS: Lester pans across to the edge of the maze. Beyond it... there is a LARGE MILITARY BASE near the edge of LAKE MEAD.

LESTER (CONT'D)

It runs almost to the edge of the military base.

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS: Lester sees a series of LARGE TENTS surrounded by MILITARY VEHICLES and ARMED GUARDS. A BLACK LIMOUSINE... escorted by more MILITARY VEHICLES... enters the perimeter of the base.

LESTER (CONT'D)

I see a black limousine with a military escort.

PARK RANGER (RADIO)

That's the president.

LESTER

What?

PARK RANGER (RADIO)

That's George W. Bush. We just got news of his arrival.

LESTER

What the hell is he doing out here?

PARK RANGER (RADIO)

I do not have the answer to that question.

(MORE)

PARK RANGER (RADIO) (CONT'D)
*But there are strange events
transpiring here in Clarke
County... so keep your eyes peeled
for anything unusual.*

12 **EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY -- MORNING**

12

The CADILLAC drives west down the desert highway.

13 **INT. CADILLAC -- MOMENTS LATER**

13

Fortunio is behind the wheel. Boxer rides shotgun.

FORTUNIO
Man... when I saw that it was you
laying there on the edge of the
road... I just about had a heart
attack.

(beat)
I've seen all your movies, man.

Boxer looks confused.

BOXER
My movies?

FORTUNIO
Yeah.

BOXER
What do you mean by movies?

FORTUNIO
Do you remember anything... other
than the maze?

BOXER
No.

FORTUNIO
Do you remember your own name?

BOXER
No.

FORTUNIO
Check your pockets... do you have
a wallet on you?

Boxer checks his pockets.

BOXER
No identification whatsoever.

FORTUNIO
Your name is Boxer Santaros.

BOXER
Boxer Santaros?

FORTUNIO
You're one of the biggest movie
stars in the world.

BOXER
No shit?

FORTUNIO
No shit!

14 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- SAND MAZE -- LATE MORNING** 14

Lester wanders through the sand maze with a SMALL VIDEO
CAMERA. Ahead... he sees the DECOMPOSING REMAINS of a
DEAD MONKEY.

LESTER
Alright... I've just spotted a
dead monkey. What the fuck is a
dead monkey doing in the sand
maze?

Lester hears a ROARING ENGINE in the sky above. He then
looks up and sees a MILITARY HELICOPTER circling
overhead.

15 **INT. CADILLAC -- LATE MORNING** 15

Fortunio and Boxer drive west in traffic.

BOXER
So... before I started acting, I
played professional football?

FORTUNIO
Yeah, but getting injured was the
best thing that ever happened to
you.

BOXER
How so?

FORTUNIO
Because at the end of the day...
it's all about the quality of the
ass you get from your job.

BOXER

Who's ass are we talking about here?

FORTUNIO

Celebrity ass. There are three kinds of celebrity ass. And by ass... I mean pussy. Women who like to fuck celebrities like you.

(beat)

Athlete ass. Actor ass. Rock star ass. You moved up a notch when you became an actor.

BOXER

What's wrong with the athlete ass?

FORTUNIO

Athlete ass is the worst breed. You get these skanks who hang out in the lobby of some hotel in Phoenix... waiting for you and your roommates to check in.

(beat)

You end up fucking one of these chicks with a condom... and you pass out in your hotel room. She takes the condom, goes back to her room. She pulls out a turkey baster... and gives herself a spunk injection so she can have your kid and get a free ride.

BOXER

There are women who do that?

FORTUNIO

You betcha! For a guy who looks like you? A woman would do anything to get a piece of your DNA. Sometimes these dingbats bring their OBGYN with them to the hotel.

BOXER

What about the rock star ass?

FORTUNIO

Chicks who fuck rock stars don't discriminate so much when it comes to looks. You can be fat... bald... ugly... covered in back hair. Hell... you could have leprosy... put a guitar in your hand and there are hot women who will fuck you.

(MORE)

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)

(beat)
*Because they can see into your
 soul.*

Fortunio winks at Boxer.

16

EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- SAND MAZE -- MIDDAY

16

Lester maneuvers through the maze. He sees the front end of a SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE protruding from the sand wall. The vehicle appears to be charred black.

LESTER

Okay... I've found a sports
 utility vehicle.

Lester RECORDS VIDEO of the SUV.

LESTER (CONT'D)

It appears to be burned up. Looks
 like some sort of fire has taken
 place.

Lester analyzes the front of the vehicle. There is a logo embossed on the front bumper that reads: TREER.

LESTER (CONT'D)

Okay... I see a Treer products
 logo. This must be one of the
 prototype Treer SUVs. I've heard
 rumors about this car... but I
 didn't know it had been released
 yet.

Lester walks over to the passenger side and begins to wipe sand away from the windshield. Inside the SUV is a HORRIBLY BURNED CORPRSE.

Lester jumps back... *horrified*.

LESTER (CONT'D)

Okay... there is a dead body
 inside the vehicle! The body
 appears badly burned... in the
 passenger seat!

Lester then leans over and PUKES... as the HELICOPTER circles overhead.

17

INT. MILITARY HELICOPTER -- NEXT

17

BARON VON WESTPHALEN (60's) [WALLACE SHAWN] rides inside of the chopper with ARMED SOLDIERS. They are looking through BINOCULARS down at Lester inside the maze.

SOLDIER #1

Okay... that looks like the nose
of an SUV. There's a man down
there!

BARON

Who is it?

SOLDIER #2

It looks like a park ranger.
Definitely not US Army.

BARON

A park ranger? He's not authorized
to be in this area!

SOLDIER #1

Do you want us to arrest him?

BARON

No. Take him out.

SOLDIER #2

Sir... are you asking me to shoot
this man?

BARON

Did I stutter? I said take him
out!

The Soldier grits his teeth.

SOLDIER #2

Yes sir.

The Soldier then raises his GUN and looks through the
SCOPE - aiming the CROSS-HAIRS onto Lester.... *who has
begun to wave his hands at the helicopter.*

18 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- SAND MAZE -- MIDDAY**

18

As Lester waves his arms at the helicopter... a BULLET
RIPS THROUGH HIS CHEST... and he collapses to the
ground... dead.

19 **EXT. NEVADA HIGHWAY -- AFTERNOON**

19

The Cadillac remains stuck in GRIDLOCK TRAFFIC.

Boxer looks up at a LARGE DIGITAL BILLBOARD on the side of the road. It is an advertisement for a TREER SALT AIR SUV with the tagline that reads: ALWAYS REFUELED.

Something about the SUV catches his attention.

BOXER

Always refueled.

FORTUNIO

Yeah. Alternative fuel system... everyone in the world is trying the their hands on one of those SUVs. That is... if they work.

BOXER

What's with all of the traffic?

FORTUNIO

State line is up ahead. There's always a huge wait to get across the border.

BOXER

I don't understand.

FORTUNIO

Getting across the border is going to be an ordeal. I don't have an interstate travel visa and neither do you. Hell... you don't even have a driver's license. If you weren't so famous, you'd be fucked.

BOXER

Interstate travel visa? We need visas to cross the state line?

FORTUNIO

Oh yeah. They'll shoot you in the back if you cross the border without permission.

BOXER

When did it get like this?

FORTUNIO

After what happened in Texas.

BOXER

Texas?

FORTUNIO

Huge terrorist attack. Three years ago... someone set off two nukes in Texas. First one at the Mexican border in El Paso. Second one was in Abilene.

Boxer's eyes widen in horror.

21 **EXT. ABILENE, TEXAS -- JULY 4 2005**

21

The CAMERA flies over DOWNTOWN ABILENE, TEXAS.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

July 4th, 2005. In a single moment... the world had changed forever.

SLOW MOTION: A MASSIVE LIGHT IGNITES in downtown Abilene... as the NUCLEAR BLAST WAVE EXPANDS... obliterating every building in a TWO MILE RADIUS.

A MASSIVE MUSHROOM CLOUD GROWS in the purple sky.

22 **INT. CADILLAC -- NEXT**

22

Boxer stares at Fortunio in shock.

BOXER

How many people were killed?

FORTUNIO

Almost two-hundred thousand.

BOXER

Who did this to us?

FORTUNIO

They're still trying to figure that out. But in the meantime... we've decided to go after the usual suspects with everything we've got in the arsenal.

Boxer looks out into the traffic. TWO ARMY TANKS rumble past them... heading east on the freeway shoulder.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)

I hate to tell you this, pal. But you just woke up smack dab in the middle of World War III.

23 EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- SAND MAZE -- SUNSET 23

Two MILITARY HELICOPTERS hoist TWO TREER SALT AIR SUVs out of the SAND MAZE and fly them north... over the lake... toward the MILITARY CAMP.

24 INT. MILITARY HANGAR -- NIGHT 24

The SUVs are now parked inside of a hangar. One of them is BURNED... and the other remains in good condition. Baron Von Westphalen arrives with another TREER SCIENTIST named DR. SOBERIN EXX (40's) [CURTIS ARMSTRONG].

DR. EXX
Two sports utility vehicles. One
burned human carcass.

BARON
I don't understand what caused the
fire in the one vehicle.

DR. EXX
The sandstorm obscured our
satellite cameras. We don't know
what happened out there... but
we'll get to the bottom of it.

BARON
Retrieve the body and take it to
the Utopia 3 facility.

Just then... an attractive CHINESE WOMAN enters the hangar. Her name is SERPENTINE (30's) [BAI LING]. She goes to whisper into the Baron's ear.

SERPENTINE

The president is waiting to see you. He wants to know why none of the monkeys survived.

The Baron sighs angrily. He turns back to Exx.

BARON
Find Boxer Santaros. He's out
there... somewhere.

DR. EXX
Yes sir.

25 EXT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- NIGHT 25

BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO sits at the NEVADA/CALIFORNIA state line. There is a LARGE ROLLERCOASTER attached to the sprawling hotel.

26

EXT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- PARKING LOT -- NEXT

26

Boxer and Fortunio walk toward the casino entrance.

FORTUNIO

Listen... my friend Carl is the
manager here. He can get us some
travel visas by morning... but we
need to keep a low profile.

The ROLLERCOASTER races down the METAL TRACKS. Boxer
stares at it... then notices a MARQUEE under the sign
that reads: KRYSTA NOW - APPEARING TONIGHT.

27

INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- BAR -- NIGHT

27

The CASINO BAR is filled with patrons. There is a stage
with a SINGLE STRIPPER POLE.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen... from
Hollywood, California... please
welcome Miss Krysta Now!

KRYSTA NOW (29) [SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR] steps out onto
the stage... wearing a PINK FUR COAT and BLONDE WIG. The
crowd goes wild as she retrieves a stack of NOTE CARDS.

KRYSTA

Teen Horniness is not a crime.
Just ask those nerds who shot up
Columbine. Did they ever get laid?

The crowd remains silent.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)

No. They never got laid.
(beat)
Never got laid. NEVER... got laid.

There is an awkward COUGH from the bewildered audience.

DRUNKEN HECKLER

You can't prove that!

Krysta stares at the HECKLER defiantly.

KRYSTA

We are an erotic nation. All your
legislation... can't stop this
masturbation.

(beat)
Teen horniness is not a crime.
Keep an open heart and an open
mind.

Krysta then takes a dramatic bow to let the crowd know that her POEM is finished. There is a smattering of polite, confused applause.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

28

INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- DRESSING ROOM -- LATER

28

Krysta now sits in front of her DRESSING ROOM MIRROR. She has removed her BLONDE WIG... and combs out her long brown hair.

Someone knocks on the dressing room door.

KRYSTA

Come in!

CARL (40's) [ROLE OPEN], the bar manager, enters.

CARL

Hey there, Krysta.

KRYSTA

Hey Carl.

CARL

Listen, we've received some complaints from our customers. They don't come here to watch our dancers read poetry.

KRYSTA

You assumed I would be taking off my clothes.

CARL

Well... yeah. We put your name on the marquee... we can raise our drink prices. Your movies... they're real popular out here in the desert.

KRYSTA

Well... I'm transitioning into a new career.

CARL

Okay.

KRYSTA

You signed a contract with my manager.

(MORE)

KRYSTA (CONT'D)

In this contract it stated
implicitly that I would be able to
share my poetry with the audience.

CARL

Yeah... well I confess... I didn't
read it. I just signed the damn
thing.

KRYSTA

That's a shame. Do you know what
'implicit' means?

CARL

No darlin', I'm afraid I don't.

KRYSTA

It means... involved in the nature
or essence of something... though
not revealed, expressed or
developed.

CARL

Okay.

KRYSTA

You signed a contract. I get to
read my poetry.

CARL

Okay.

Carl smiles politely. Krysta goes back to combing her
hair.

29

INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- BAR -- MOMENTS LATER

29

Krysta now sits at the BAR... sipping on a MARTINI. She
looks across the casino and sees Fortunio and Boxer
walking toward the ELEVATORS. *Boxer is wearing his hood
so that no one can recognize him.*

Krysta takes one last sip of her martini and immediately
makes a B-LINE for them.

30

INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ELEVATORS -- NEXT

30

Krysta approaches them at the elevators.

KRYSTA

Boxer! Where have you been?

She goes over to hug him. He just looks confused.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)
I've been worried sick.

Fortunio just stares at her... wondering if he recognizes her from somewhere.

FORTUNIO
Wait a minute... I recognize you... you're...

KRYSTA
Krysta. Krysta Now.

FORTUNIO
Right. You guys know each other?

KRYSTA
I'd say that's an understatement. We were out here in the desert doing research together when he vanished.

FORTUNIO
Research? Bullshit.
(to Boxer)
She's just some whack-job. Let's go.

Fortunio pulls Boxer toward the elevators.

KRYSTA
I can prove it.

FORTUNIO
You can prove that you were doing research with Boxer Santaros?

KRYSTA
Come up with me to my room.

31 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 612 -- MOMENTS LATER** 31

Boxer, Krysta and Fortunio are now inside her hotel room. She retrieves a SCREENPLAY from the dresser and hands it to Boxer. Printed on the cover: THE POWER - BY BOXER SANTAROS AND KRYSTA NOW.

BOXER
The Power.

Boxer hands Fortunio the screenplay.

FORTUNIO
Written by Boxer Santaros and Krysta Now. What the fuck is this?

KRYSTA

We've been working on this script together for months. It's very top secret.

Fortunio just stares at her... incredulous.

FORTUNIO

You're his writing partner.

KRYSTA

Yes. Boxer is going to make his directorial debut with this project. And I'm going to co-star in the film with him.

Fortunio laughs out loud.

FORTUNIO

Keep dreaming, Princess.

KRYSTA

We were out here on a research trip. My friend has a house on Lake Mead. Boxer had some new drug with him. This metal syringe. I asked him what it was but he wouldn't tell me.

Fortunio retrieves the MECHANICAL SYRINGE from his pocket and shows it to Krysta.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)

That's the one.

Fortunio notices that there is a TREER logo on it.

FORTUNIO

Treer products. They're making drugs now?

KRYSTA

He injected himself in the neck... and then wandered off toward the lake. When I woke up... he was gone.

BOXER

I don't remember anything. I have amnesia.

KRYSTA

There was this huge sandstorm. They evacuated all of the lake front homes. So I left... and came here.

Fortunio sighs. He doesn't completely believe her story.

FORTUNIO

What are the odds?

KRYSTA

It was fate that brought you back to me, Jericho Cane.

FORTUNIO

Who the fuck is Jericho Cane?

KRYSTA

The lead character in THE POWER. Jericho Cane is no nonsense cop who plays by his own rules.

FORTUNIO

Where have I heard that name before?

Boxer begins to thumb through the script... *intrigued*.

BOXER

What character do you play?

KRYSTA

Dr. Muriel Fox.

Fortunio sighs out loud.

FORTUNIO

Okay... Dr. Muriel Fox... may I speak to you privately?

32 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- CORRIDOR -- MOMENTS LATER** 32

Fortunio and Krysta are now in the corridor.

FORTUNIO

Krysta, let's get one thing straight here. I've seen your movies. You're not an actress. You get paid to suck cock on camera.

KRYSTA

Not anymore. I'm moving into new business ventures.

FORTUNIO

Really? Like what?

KRYSTA

I write poetry. I'm developing my own pop album, reality television show, clothing line, jewelry line, perfume and energy drink.

FORTUNIO

Wow. Good for you. Do you realize that Boxer Santaros is a married man?

KRYSTA

Of course. I also know that he's unhappily married.

FORTUNIO

Do you know who he's unhappily married to?

KRYSTA

Don't patronize me. I watch the news. I know everything about him.

FORTUNIO

Well... he has amnesia. He doesn't remember a Goddamn thing. If word gets out that the two of you are shacking up...

KRYSTA

I am well aware of the repercussions.

FORTUNIO

You're clearly in this for the money. Is it blackmail? Or do you just want the publicity to help expand your whore empire?

KRYSTA

I want everything. And if you play your cards right, Fortunio - I'll give you a piece of the action.

Fortunio considers this.

FORTUNIO

We have to keep him away from the internet as long as possible. The second he Googles his name... he's going to figure out everything.

Fortunio paces around... trying to figure out what to do.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)

I have to go meet my friend Carl.

Krysta withdraws two INTERSTATE TRAVEL VOUCHERS.

KRYSTA

Are you looking for these? Two interstate travel vouchers. I just bought them from Carl. He doesn't have any more.

FORTUNIO

How much do you want for them?

KRYSTA

I don't want your money. I want to accompany you and Boxer across the border. We have more research to do... and the time is now.

Fortunio just stares at her... *wondering what she is all about.*

33 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 612 -- NEXT** 33

Boxer sits in bed with the SCREENPLAY in front of him. He begins to read it.

We ZOOM IN close on the first page of the screenplay... *as Boxer imagines himself in the lead role.*

[THE POWER] FADE IN:

34 **EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY -- DAY** 34

We descend from high above into the CITY OF PALMDALE. The DESERT SIZZLES under an amber sky. HEAR RISES from the vein of asphalt known as the 15 FREEWAY.

A POLICE CRUISER races toward the eastern horizon.

35 **INT. POLICE CRUISER -- NEXT** 35

Behind the wheel is JERICO CANE (30's) [DWAYNE JOHNSON]. One of LAPD's finest. Tall... dark... handsome.

DR. MURIEL FOX (V.O.)

He was the one I'd always been waiting for. His name was Cane. Jericho Cane.

Jericho has a SIX-PACK of BUD LIGHT sitting in the passenger seat.

DR. MURIEL FOX (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*He was the kind of man that God
forgot how to make... before The
New York Times declared him dead.*

*(beat)
God... that is.*

36 **EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY -- DAY**

36

Jericho pulls off onto an EXIT... and the cruiser winds its way down into the bowels of Palmdale.

DR. MURIEL FOX (V.O.)

*Jericho was the kind of cop who
didn't know how to obey the rules.*

37 **EXT. PALMDALE INTERSECTION -- DAY**

37

Jericho turns on his SIRENS... charging through a red light. A SOCCER MOM in a MINIVAN slams on the brakes before entering his path through the intersection.

SLOW MOTION: Jericho winks at the soccer mom.

DR. MURIEL FOX (V.O.)

Rules are for nerds.

SLOW MOTION: Soccer mom swoons.

38 **EXT. PALMDALE RESIDENTIAL STREET -- MOMENTS LATER**

38

Jericho pulls up in front of a SUBURBAN HOUSE on a residential street. His partner, OFFICER CHUCK MACPHERSON (50's) [ROLE OPEN], is waiting there for him.

Jericho steps out of the cruiser.

MACPHERSON

You're late, Jericho.

JERICHO

What the hell are we doing in
Palmdale, Chuck?

MACPHERSON

As you know... the department has
been investigating some paranormal
activities out here in Palmdale.

DR. MURIEL FOX (29) [SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR] emerges from her car. She wears dark glasses and a low cut blouse.

MACPHERSON (CONT'D)
I'd like you to meet Dr. Muriel
Fox. She's a psychic.

MURIEL
I'm also an astrophysicist.

MacPherson rolls his eyes politely.

MACPHERSON
She's been working with the force
for the last couple of months. Her
psychic tips are never wrong.

Jericho sizes her up.

JERICHO
I didn't realize Foxes were an
indigenous species in Palmdale.

MURIEL
Cut the shit, Cane. There is a
child in great danger... and we're
running out of time.

Jericho nods to the house.

JERICHO
Is this the right address?

Just then... a WOMAN SCREAMING can be heard from inside.

MACPHERSON
I told you... she's never wrong.

The screams grow even louder... as the woman is joined by
her HUSBAND in a serious domestic dispute. Macpherson and
Jericho move toward the front door. Muriel follows.

MACPHERSON (CONT'D)
Domestic dispute. 14000 Wanito
place.

MacPherson goes to open the front door, but it is locked.

JERICHO
Step aside, partner.

Jericho levels the door with a swift kick.

Jericho and MacPherson move into the FOYER. *Blood-
curdling screams can be heard from the kitchen.*

INSIDE THE KITCHEN... a married couple are having a huge fight. Their names are RICK MCBRIDE (30's) [ROLE OPEN] and TAWNA MCBRIDE (30's) [ROLE OPEN]. Rick shoves Tawna hard against the kitchen counter.

RICK
YOU'RE A FUCKING SLUT! THAT'S WHAT
YOU ARE! A FUCKING SLUT!

TAWNA
I FUCKED YOUR BROTHER LAST NIGHT
TOO! I'LL FUCK HIM IN FRONT OF
YOU!

RICK
YOU FUCKING BITCH! I'LL KILL YOU!

Rick turns around and notices the cops in the kitchen. He immediately reaches for a PISTOL on the counter and aims it at Jericho.

RICK (CONT'D)
CHECK THIS OUT, PIG!

Jericho has no choice. *He draws his gun and fires off a round into Rick's chest.*

Rick falls against the counter... sliding to the floor. He dies almost immediately.

Tawna looks down at her dead husband in shock. She is clearly high on drugs.

Suddenly... a BABY begins to cry from the next room.

TAWNA
CALEB!

Jericho follows her into the next room.

40

INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- NEXT

40

Tawna attends to her son CALEB inside the crib. She turns back to Jericho.

JERICHO
Step away from the crib, mam.

TAWNA
FUCK YOU!

Jericho raises his gun.

JERICHO
I said step away from the crib!

MACPHERSON

Don't touch the baby!

TAWNA

But he's sick!

41

INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- LATER ON

41

CORONERS are now removing Rick's body from the house. MacPherson is talking with some other COPS who have arrived on the crime scene.

Tawna is wrapped in a blanket, sitting on the couch across from Jericho and Muriel.

MURIEL

Tell me about your baby, Tawna.
What's wrong with Caleb?

Tawna wipes a teardrop from her cheek. She glances over at the crib... where the baby sleeps peacefully.

TAWNA

He ain't had no bowel movement yet.

JERICHO

Say that again? I don't understand.

TAWNA

I said... he ain't had no bowel movement yet, you fucking pig.

JERICHO

How long has it been since his last bowel movement?

TAWNA

He's never had one... not in the six days he's been alive.

JERICHO

So you're telling us that this child you gave birth to six days ago... has yet to produce a bowel movement?

TAWNA

That's right.

Tawna takes a drag from her cigarette. She blows smoke in Jericho's face.

MACPHERSON

Have you been feeding him?

TAWNA

Fuck yeah. The little fella eats like a horse... only he don't pee... and he don't poo. Not one drop of fecal matter... not one drop of urine since we took him home from the hospital.

MURIEL

Have you taken Caleb to see a doctor?

TAWNA

We ain't got no health care.

MURIEL

Do you or your husband have any medical conditions that could have led to Caleb's condition?

JERICHO

Anything in your genes you might have passed onto him?

TAWNA

Rick... he was involved in some medical experiments in the military. Could be something got messed up with his sperm and shit.

MURIEL

Did his sperm have an unusual taste?

TAWNA

Fuck if I know. I never swallowed it.

JERICHO

I think you're lying to us, Tawna. I think you like to swallow.

TAWNA

Fuck you, pig.

JERICHO

Would you be willing to take a lie detector test?

Tawna has begun to sweat. She takes a drag off her cigarette. Just then... a LOUD FART erupts from Caleb's crib... and the ENTIRE HOUSE BEGINS TO VIBRATE for several seconds as though there is an EARTHQUAKE.

Everyone stares at each other in shock.

We hear the sound of a RINGING PHONE...

42 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 612 -- NEXT** 42

Boxer is interrupted from reading the script by the RINGING TELEPHONE. After a moment... he answers it.

BOXER

Hello?

FEMALE VOICE (PHONE)

(German accent)

I am calling for Ms. Now.

BOXER

She's not here at the moment.

43 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- NIGHT** 43

An elderly woman named INGA VON WESTPHALEN (80's) [BETH GRANT] stands in an office that overlooks DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES. *She recognizes the voice on the other end of the line.*

INGA

Is this... Jericho Cane?

44 **INT. BUFFALO BILLS CASINO -- HOTEL ROOM -- NEXT** 44

Boxer hesitates for a moment.

BOXER

Yes.

INGA (PHONE)

Stay with the girl. She is your only chance for survival.

The old woman hangs up the phone.

45 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- NIGHT** 45

Inga is now dialing another number.

INGA

Baron Von Westphalen, please.

46 **INT. MILITARY HANGAR -- NIGHT**

46

Baron stares at the BURNED BODY that has now been loaded into a HIGH-TECH COFFIN that preserves it as a specimen. He raises his CELL PHONE to his ear.

BARON

Yes mother?

INGA (PHONE)

Boxer Santaros is with Ms. Now at the casino.

BARON

Excellent.

INGA (PHONE)

She is quite gifted. We will continue to monitor their progress.

BARON

The body obtained from the Treer Saltair is en route to Utopia 3.

Baron watches as the COFFIN is loaded into a MILITARY HELICOPTER.

47 **INT. TREER TOWER -- NIGHT**

47

Inga stands before a LARGE DIGITAL LIGHT BOARD DISPLAY in the office. One one side... there are excerpts from the BOOK OF REVELATION clipped and highlighted with comments in the margins.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

Revelation.

(beat)

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein: for the time is at hand.

On the other side... there are excerpts from THE POWER screenplay... *making connections between the two.*

48 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 811 -- MOMENTS LATER**

48

Fortunio sits on the bed of his hotel room, talking on the phone.

FORTUNIO

Yeah... it might be a couple of days before I'm back. I've stumbled into a little situation here. I'd tell you more... but I'd have to kill you.

He begins to laugh to himself.

49 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 612 -- MOMENTS LATER** 49

Boxer sits on the edge of the bed. Krysta is asleep next to him. He retrieves the TREER SYRINGE and injects it into his neck.

Krysta opens her eyes... and then slowly opens the drawer to the BEDSIDE TABLE. She retrieves the GIDEON BIBLE from inside and holds it close to her chest.

She then rolls over and stares at Boxer. They both look like they are lost in some sort of trance.

KRYSTA

Rollercoaster.

50 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- CORRIDOR -- NEXT** 50

Boxer staggers out into the corridor and wanders toward the bank of ELEVATORS with his hood on.

51 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- MOMENTS LATER** 51

Boxer wanders through the casino in a daze. He sees a sign hanging there that reads: DESPERADO ROLLERCOASTER.

52 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- DESPERADO -- MOMENTS LATER** 52

Boxer walks up to the entrance to the DESPERADO ROLLERCOASTER within the casino. There is a young HOTEL EMPLOYEE (20's) [ROLE OPEN] closing up for the night.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE

I'm sorry sir, the rollercoaster is closed for the night.

Boxer takes off his hood, revealing his face to the man. He immediately recognizes Boxer.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)

Holy shit. You're staying here?

BOXER

I'd really like to ride the
rollercoaster, if you don't mind.

The man looks around... then smiles politely at Boxer.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE

Let me talk to the manager.

53 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- DESPERADO -- MOMENTS LATER** 53

Boxer is now seated in the harness in the FRONT SEAT of the DESPERADO ROLLERCOASTER. Carl stands on the platform.

CARL

Enjoy your ride, Mr. Santaros.

He gives Boxer Santaros a salute... and then waves to the TECHNICIAN as the coaster begins to depart the platform and make the climb up to the peak of the first drop.

54 **EXT. DESPERADO ROLLERCOASTER -- MOMENTS LATER** 54

The COASTER arrives at the peak of the first drop. Boxer looks out at the DESERT LANDSCAPE as the first light of morning has begun to illuminate the sky around him.

The ROLLERCOASTER DROPS and we follow with Boxer down the 225 DROP at a speed of more than 80 MPH. The CASINO HOTEL and PARKING LOT whip in-and-out of view as he CAREENS AROUND THE RAILS.

We move in close on BOXER'S FACE as his he begins to HALLUCINATE. From BOXER'S POV - we begin to see the rollercoaster rails and surrounding hotel distort into a LIQUID TUNNEL.

When we emerge through the other side of the LIQUID TUNNEL... *still following the path of the coaster...* the HOTEL IS GONE and there is nothing but EMPTY DESERT to be seen.

As the coaster comes to a rest... Boxer sees that there are SEVERAL DOZEN CHUKEHANSI INDIANS on horseback... waiting there.

They stare back at him from the exact same desert landscape as it existed in the year 1902.

The CHUKEHANSI begin to CHANT and raise their SPEARS as they witness the mysterious man in the rollercoaster floating there - a RUPTURE IN THE FABRIC OF SPACE-TIME.

MOMENTS LATER... the rupture closes... and Boxer is now staring back at the rails of the coaster and the surrounding platform at Buffalo Bill's.

CARL

Did you enjoy the ride?

Boxer turns and looks at Carl in a daze.

BOXER

Very much.

55 **TITLE CARD: CHAPTER TWO - FINGERPRINTS** 55

56 **EXT. LAKE MEAD -- SUNRISE** 56

We descend upon LAKE MEAD. A LARGE LUXURY HOUSEBOAT floats out on the water. On the ROOF DECK... a man named RONALD TAVERNER (33) [SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT] is standing at the edge of the deck... staring out at the water.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

*They called him Ronald Taverner.
Son of Tab and Eve Taverner. He
was thirty-three years old. He
grew up in Hermosa Beach,
California.*

TAB TAVERNER (60's) [ROLE OPEN]... emerges onto the roof deck with his wife EVE TAVERNER (60's) [ROLE OPEN].

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*This was all he could remember
about himself... as he had been
stricken with amnesia.*

Tab and Eve approach their son.

TAB

Ronald.

Ronald turns around to face his father.

RONALD

Who are you?

TAB

I'm your father, Ronald. And this
is your mother. You... don't
remember us?

Eve offers her son a warm smile.

RONALD

No. I can't remember anything.

Tab just stares at his son. A younger MAN, shirtless, covered in TATTOOS with hair styled into a RAINBOW MOHAWK, emerges from below. His name is JIMMY HERMOSA (30's) [AARON DILLARD].

TAB

Now... Jimmy here is going to administer an injection to your neck. It will make you feel better.

Jimmy walks over and retrieves one of the metal TREER syringes. Ronald stares at it warily.

EVE

They call it Fluid Karma. The elixir of God.

RONALD

The elixir of God?

EVE

Yes. Don't be afraid.

Jimmy jabs the NEEDLE into Ronald's neck. He closes his eyes in pain... then reacts immediately to the calming effect of the drug.

TAB

Now follow us downstairs... there's something we want to show you.

57

INT. HOUSEBOAT -- LOWER LEVEL -- MOMENTS LATER

57

Ronald follows his parents into the lower level of the houseboat. There is a BACK BEDROOM closed off by a CURTAIN.

TAB

Are you ready?

Ronald just nods... unsure of how he feels.

Tab pulls the curtain back... revealing ROLAND TAVERNER (33) [SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT], asleep on a BED. His hands and feet have been tied with ROPE, and his mouth covered with TAPE.

He is Ronald's identical twin brother.

Ronald cringes at the sight of his twin.

RONALD

Who is he?

EVE

He's your twin brother. His name is Roland. Roland Taverner.

RONALD

What happened to him. Why is he tied up?

TAB

Because you kidnapped him. You were driving him out here to Lake Mead to meet us... but you got caught up in a massive sandstorm. It was only through a GPS tracking chip that we eventually found the two of you.

EVE

You must have fallen and hit your head in the storm. Hopefully your memory will return in a few days.

RONALD

Why would I kidnap my own brother?

Tab and Eve exchange glances.

EVE

Three years ago... your brother was drafted into the army and sent to Iraq. After the first year, your father was able to make special arrangements to discharge him from service and allow him to come back home.

TAB

He joined the UPU squad in Hermosa Beach.

RONALD

What's... UPU?

EVE

Urban Pacification Unit.

TAB

They are a private security force - like a domestic Blackwater - sanctioned and funded by the United States Government and a new think tank called US-IDENT.

EVE

They are a fascist organization. A dangerous organization.

TAB

The UPU units are committing horrible atrocities.

EVE

Innocent people are being killed. Homes are being invaded without search warrants. Private information is being sold. The system is self-destructing.

Ronald stares at his sleeping brother.

RONALD

Has my brother committed any of these atrocities?

TAB

No. Your brother has been compiling evidence of these atrocities - and reporting back to us. He's a mole. He works for us.

RONALD

And who do you work for?

EVE

We work with the Neo-Marxist underground.

Ronald notices that there are several WEAPONS strewn on the table.

58

EXT. HOUSEBOAT -- LATER THAT MORNING

58

The HOUSEBOAT has now been docked at the MARINA. Tab, Eve and Ronald are now back on top of the roof deck.

RONALD

The Neo-Marxist underground.

EVE

We are the last remaining vestiges of the Democratic party.

TAB

Last week, government operatives discovered that Roland was leaking information to the underground - so we had no choice but to orchestrate his kidnapping before they took him into custody.

EVE

Your brother has become mentally unstable. He must remain unconscious and hidden from sight. If the government finds him... US-IDENT will administer a powerful truth serum.

TAB

If they get inside Roland's head... the repercussions will be catastrophic.

EVE

They might torture it out of him. It will blow our entire operation.

RONALD

What do you want from me?

TAB

We need you to return to Los Angeles... and impersonate your brother.

Tab pulls up an IMAGE on his LAPTOP. It is a FILE PHOTO of ROLAND TAVERNER dressed in his UPU UNIFORM.

RONALD

You want me to impersonate my twin brother?

EVE

You're an actor, Ronald. You got lucky and avoided the draft. The military has a policy where they won't draft both twins.

(beat)

You owe this to him.

TAB

Your amnesia is a blessing. A truth serum won't work on you. If you assume his role as an UPU officer... you can carry out his mission without risk.

59 **EXT. LAKE MEAD DESERT -- MARINA PARKING LOT -- MORNING** 59

Tab and Eve escort Ronald down the MARINA DOCK toward the parking lot. Jimmy Hermosa pushes Roland's unconscious body on a ROLLING HOSPITAL GURNEY toward a CHEVY PICKUP TRUCK with an extended cab.

ZORA CHARMICHAELS (30's) [CHERI OTERI] emerges from the truck and opens the tailgate. They hoist the gurney up into the extended cab and roll it inside.

EVE

Your contact is Zora Charmichaels.
She's a Neo-Marxist from Venice
Beach.

RONALD

What exactly is a Neo-Marxist?

EVE

We are disciples of Marxist
principles. The voice of the
revolution.

TAB

You might say that our mission in
life is to destroy capitalism and
dethrone God.

Zora reaches out to shake Ronald's hand.

ZORA

Hello Ronald.

RONALD

Nice to meet you.

ZORA

Your brother is quite a hero.
Let's hope you measure up.

TAB

If Roland ever starts to wake up,
just give him another injection.

Tab hands Zora a SMALL METAL CASE with more TREER
SYRINGES. Eve gives Ronald a hug and a kiss.

TAB (CONT'D)

Go with God, Ronald.

Ronald pauses for a moment... and then looks back at Tab.

RONALD

I thought you wanted to dethrone
God.

Tab smiles.

TAB

Only time will tell, my son.

Ronald nods his head slowly as Zora starts the engine.

RONALD

Right.

As she pulls the truck away from the lot... Ronald watches his parents WAVING GOODBYE in the REAR VIEW MIRROR.

60 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- LATE MORNING**

60

The CHEVY TRUCK drives west on the highway.

61 **INT. CHEVY TRUCK -- NEXT**

61

Zora drives... Ronald sits shotgun. He takes a deep breath and sighs out loud.

ZORA

You're not feeling well?

RONALD

Just a little constipated.

ZORA

I see. How long has it been since your last bowel movement?

RONALD

(embarrassed)

A couple of days now. I haven't gone to the bathroom at all since I woke up on the houseboat.

ZORA

Hmmmm. That's interesting.

(cryptic beat)

You know there's this theory... that eventually humans will evolve to a state of existence where bowel movements are no longer necessary.

RONALD

Sounds neat. How would that work?

ZORA

A modified organic diet and transcendental meditation.

(MORE)

ZORA (CONT'D)

Your body would learn how to absorb all nutrients into the body, making defecation unnecessary.

RONALD

Hmmm. Somehow I doubt that will ever happen. Defecation is a part of life. It stinks... and we have to accept it.

ZORA

I disagree. I think defecation is the result of an inferior food supply and spiritual weakness.

RONALD

It's a physiological requirement of the body. Spirituality has nothing to do with it.

ZORA

You just wait and see.

They ride in silence for a moment.

RONALD

Where are we going, Zora?

ZORA

Los Angeles.

62 **EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- MIDDAY**

62

Fortunio pulls the Cadillac up in front of the residence at 1400 Wanito Place.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

Boxer and his new travelling companions had arrived in the city of Palmdale.

Fortunio turns off the engine.

FORTUNIO

What the hell are we doing in Palmdale, Krysta?

Boxer recognizes the house. He looks through the screenplay. *It is the exact same location he envisioned from reading the screenplay the night before.*

BOXER

1400 Wanito Place. Our
screenplay... it's just like I
imagined.

KRYSTA

All great screenplays are inspired
by truth.

She opens the back door and gets out of the car.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)

Come on... let's go knock and see
if there's anyone home.

FORTUNIO

Who the fuck lives here?

KRYSTA

My old friend Tawna McBride. She
went to my high school.

BOXER

The character in the script is
based on a real person?

KRYSTA

Yes. I grew up here in Palmdale.
We based several characters on
people from my hometown.

BOXER

Right.

KRYSTA

You have to become Jericho Cane.
Get into character.

BOXER

Right.

Krysta knocks on the door. TAWNA MCBRIDE (30's) answers
the door. *She looks exactly the same as Boxer imagined
her to be.*

TAWNA

Well, well, well... if it isn't
Krysta Kapowski. The one and only.

KRYSTA

Hi Tawna.

Tawna notices Boxer standing there.

TAWNA
Holy shit. Is that who I think it
is?

BOXER
You betcha.

TAWNA
Goddamn. I know you was lookin' to
go legit with your career and
shit... but Boxer Santaros?
(beat)
Fuck me!

63

INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- NEXT

63

Tawna sits down on the couch, cradling her NEWBORN
INFANT. Boxer eyes the baby nervously.

KRYSTA
Where is Rick?

TAWNA
Rick died six months ago.

KRYSTA
I'm so sorry. What happened?

TAWNA
He overdosed.

KRYSTA
Was it heroin?

TAWNA
No.

KRYSTA
Oxycontin?

TAWNA
No. I don't know what kind of drug
it was. I found him on the
bathroom floor... and there was
this weird syringe stuck in his
neck. It looked all futuristic and
shit.

Fortunio withdraws one of Boxer's syringes from his
backpack.

FORTUNIO
Did it look like this?

TAWNA

Yeah... where did you get that?

FORTUNIO

I don't know. Boxer... where did you get these syringes?

BOXER

I don't remember.

TAWNA

Did you volunteer for the program?

BOXER

I don't know. What's the program?

KRYSTA

You'll have to excuse him. He has amnesia.

TAWNA

Oh.

BOXER

What is the program?

TAWNA

Rick was in the army. He did three tours in Iraq... then he came home. Late last year... he got involved in some top secret program. Said he couldn't tell me anything about it or they'd kill him.

BOXER

Please tell us everything you know about this program.

TAWNA

I think the army was testing some kind of drug on him. They started paying him good money.

BOXER

Did he start the program before you got pregnant?

TAWNA

Yeah... he didn't tell me about the program until I was six months along. He was worried that the baby might come out all fucked up and shit... be he was fine.

BOXER

What's your baby's name?

TAWNA

Caleb.

Boxer and Krysta exchange glances. Boxer has begun to sweat profusely... tapping his fingers together.

TAWNA (CONT'D)

In the final weeks before he died,
Rick started to act all crazy.
He'd get up in the middle of the
night and wander out into the
desert.

BOXER

Why did he go out into the desert,
Tawna?

TAWNA

He said he was going to see the
Indian Chief.

Boxer looks over at Krysta again. He continues to tap his fingers together nervously.

BOXER

Can... can you excuse me for a
moment? I need to go to the
bathroom.

TAWNA

Down the hall.

64 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- HALLWAY -- NEXT**

64

Boxer walks down the corridor toward the bathroom door.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

*Boxer knew that a secret was
hidden behind the bathroom door.*

Boxer reaches out and turns the DOOR KNOB.

65 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- BATHROOM -- NEXT**

65

Boxer is now peeing in the toilet. He takes a deep breath... then flushes the toilet. As he goes to wash his hands in the sink... he looks into the MIRROR.

There is LIQUID DISTORTION... and the face that materializes in the mirror is not his own. It is the face of RICK MCBRIDE (30's)... staring back at him.

RICK
Hey there... future man.

Boxer remains frozen.

RICK (CONT'D)
Do you bleed?

BOXER
What?

RICK
I said... do you bleed?

BOXER
Everyone bleeds.

RICK
Not like we do... future man. I'm
talking about bleeding through
time. Like we are right now.

Rick holds up one of the Treer syringes and begins to
laugh maniacally.

BOXER
Who is the Indian?

RICK
He's a natural bleeder. Nevada
Chukehansi tribe. Took me a while
to find him.

BOXER
How did you first make contact?

RICK
Shot myself up with the exlixir of
God... went running out to the
desert and got my adrenaline
pumping. It's all about the level
of adrenaline in your system.

BOXER
What day is it over there?

RICK
January 20th, 2008. Why day is it
over there, future man?

BOXER
July 1st, 2008.

RICK
Six months in the future.

Rick thinks for a moment.

RICK (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing in my house, six months in the future?

BOXER

I'm here doing research.

RICK

Bullshit. You're fucking Tawna, aren't ya?

BOXER

I'm not fucking Tawna. She's not my type.

Rick stares at Boxer.

RICK

Wait a minute... I recognize you, future man. You're... you're that fucking actor. Santaros. Boxer Santaros.

BOXER

Yeah.

RICK

What the hell is Boxer Santaros doing in my house six months in the future?

BOXER

Doing research.

RICK

Well where the fuck am I? Still at work?

Boxer hesitates for a moment.

BOXER

You're dead, Rick.

RICK

What?!

BOXER

You died... right here in this bathroom... six months ago.

RICK

Fuck you.

Rick looks deranged... high on the drug. He raises the syringe up.

BOXER

Rick... whatever you do... don't stick that syringe in your neck!

RICK

Fuck you, Santaros. Nobody tells Rick McBride what to do.

BOXER

They found your body right here in this bathroom with a syringe in your neck!

RICK

You lie.

BOXER

Why would I lie to you?

RICK

Because you're fucking Tawna! I knew that fucking slut was cheating on me!

He puts the needle to his neck.

BOXER

Don't do it!

Rick injects the needle into his neck. Seconds later... he collapses to the ground... unconscious.

Boxer begins to tap his fingers together nervously... mumbling incoherently to himself.

Just then... there is a LOUD KNOCK at the door.

66

EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- CORRIDOR -- NEXT

66

Krysta is knocking on the door. Tawna and Fortunio stand behind her.

KRYSTA

Boxer! What's going on in there?

Boxer comes rushing out of the bathroom.

BOXER

I just saw how your husband died.
I was part of it.

TAWNA

What the fuck are you talking about?

BOXER

I... I can see through time.

TAWNA

You get the fuck out of my house!

BOXER

I'm so sorry... I tried to save him.

TAWNA

GET THE FUCK OUT!

Caleb begins to scream and cry. Boxer begins to jitter... and runs toward the exit.

67 **EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- MOMENTS LATER**

67

Boxer, Krysta and Fortunio come out of the house and move toward the Cadillac. Tawna appears in the doorway... still screaming.

TAWNA

Your movies suck anyway... pig!

Boxer turns to Krysta in a daze.

BOXER

What's happening to me?

He then collapses in the front lawn.

The CAMERA descends down into Boxer's face as his eyes remain wide open... CATATONIC. The CAMERA moves all the way into his RIGHT EYE... into a LIQUID VORTEX.

68 **INT. SAND MAZE -- DREAM SEQUENCE**

68

The CAMERA emerges from the LIQUID VORTEX of his RIGHT EYE to find Boxer laying on his back in the deep corridor of the MASSIVE SAND MAZE.

He slowly rises to his feet and sees that the walls of the maze are more than four stories tall. He begins to wander his way through.

BEHIND HIM... he hears a LOUD, REPTILIAN ANIMAL SOUND.

Boxer spins around and sees a MASSIVE SNAKE rounding the corner of the maze corridor. The snake is literally the size of EIGHT GREYHOUND BUSES strung together.

The SNAKE begins to CHARGE FORWARD after him.

Boxer begins to sprint through the maze as fast as he can... trying to outrun the snake.

He makes his way around several corners... leading to a LIGHT SOURCE down the end of another sand corridor. The snake is closing in... as the SHRIEKING REPTILE NOISES are deafeningly loud.

He eventually makes his way into a MASSIVE SAND CHAMBER. The chamber has a long set of PEDESTAL STAIRS that lead up to a PLATFORM against a massive SAND WALL.

Imbedded in the sand wall is a LARGE LIQUID BARRIER.

Imprinted on this liquid barrier is a GLOWING HANDPRINT.

Boxer sprints as fast as he can up the PEDESTAL STAIRS as the snake closes in.

Just as the snake is about to overtake him... widening its MASSIVE JAWS... Boxer makes a huge leap into the liquid barrier.

He PLUNGES THROUGH THE LIQUID BARRIER... *and the snake recoils away from it in fear.*

Boxer emerges from the other side of the liquid barrier into an IDENTICAL SAND PEDESTAL CHAMBER. The GLOWING LIQUID HANDPRINT behind him casts him in silhouette as he looks down into the chamber.

Standing there on the pedestal stairs are ROLAND and RONALD TAVERNER.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

The book of Revelation tells the tale of two witnesses who appear in Jerusalem to speak out against the sins of mankind.

The three men stare at each other in shock... *wondering how they arrived in this mysterious maze of sand.*

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They are eventually killed by those tormented by their prophecies.

The CAMERA moves in close toward RONALD'S FACE.

RONALD

Who are you?

BOXER

My name is Jericho Cane.

The CAMERA moves in close toward Ronald's LEFT EYE...
into a LIQUID VORTEX.

69

INT. CHEVY TRUCK -- EVENING

69

The CAMERA pulls out of the LIQUID VORTEX in Ronald's
LEFT EYE... *as he gasps awake from the same dream.*

He is sitting in the passenger seat of Zora's truck. They
are stuck in gridlock traffic.

RONALD

Where are we?

ZORA

Somewhere outside of Palmdale. How
are you feeling?

RONALD

Okay. How long was I asleep?

ZORA

Maybe ten minutes. If a head
injury caused your amnesia... you
may lose consciousness from time
to time.

Ronald looks into the back of the truck. Roland is still
sleeping.

RONALD

Shouldn't we take him to a
hospital?

ZORA

Not necessary. I'm more than
qualified to care for him.

RONALD

Are you a doctor?

ZORA

I'm a physical therapist.

RONALD

Like... a personal trainer?

ZORA
(defensive)
Yeah... so what?

RONALD
He needs to see a doctor.

ZORA
You need to shut the fuck up.

Ronald grits his teeth. He does not trust this woman.

RONALD
I'm hungry.

ZORA
Fine. We'll stop for food at the
next exit.

70 **EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES -- NIGHT**

70

HELICOPTER SHOT: We descend onto TREER PLAZA TOWERS in
DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
*Since the beginning of the third
world war... alternative energy
had become a lucrative commodity.
Treer Plaza in Los Angeles was
epicenter of the alternative fuel
movement.*

71 **DOOMSDAY SCENARIO INTERFACE [DSI]:**

71

Over the background of a WORLD MAP... TEXT, GRAPHICS and
VIDEO play out in various WINDOWS.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
*Baron von Westphalen was born in
the town of Trier, Germany.*

DSI: PHOTOS of YOUNG BARON in Trier, Germany.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*His mother Inga was the grand-
daughter of Jenny Von Westphalen,
wife of Karl Marx.*

DSI: A FAMILY TREE linking the Westphalens to Karl Marx.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*Inga had found wealth and fame
working as an architect for the
Treer corporation - a leading
German defense contractor.*

DSI: IMAGES of a younger INGA and her MILITARY DESIGNS
for the GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*After the nuclear attacks in
Texas, the US Government needed to
expand the capabilities of its war
machine.*

DSI: A 3-D MAP targets IRAN, SYRIA, and NORTH KOREA.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*Inga landed an exclusive contract
with the Pentagon to design and
construct twelve 900-foot Mega-
Zeppelins.*

DSI: Images of the TREER MEGA-ZEPPELIN being constructed.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*The airships would transport
troops and cargo into combat zones
in the middle east.*

DSI: Images of a MEGA-ZEPPLINS unloading TANKS, TRUCKS,
and HUNDREDS OF TROOPS into MILITARY BASES overseas.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*The Treer Mega-Zeppelin production
contract earned the corporation
112 billion dollars in 2006.*

DSI: MEGA-ZEPPELINS under construction in MASSIVE HANGARS
at EDWARDS AIRFORCE BASE in the CALIFORNIA DESERT.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*A single aeronautics venture had
made them the richest and most
powerful corporation in the world.*

DSI: The TREER TOWERS under TIME-LAPSE CONSTRUCTION in
DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*Seeing the potential for another
lucrative contract with the
Pentagon, Inga named her son Baron
head of a top secret alternative
fuel project.*

DSI: An INDUSTRIAL SHIP in the MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The Baron sent a remote excavation unit on a dig below the Mediterranean off the coast of Israel.

DSI: 3-D Animation shows a REMOTE EXCAVATION UNIT digging deep within the Earth's mantle.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The REU broke through a wall of rock on the outer rim of the Earth's mantle... and found itself submerged in fluid.

DSI: 3-D Animation shows the REU penetrating a DEEP RESERVOIR OF FLUID beneath the rock.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It was unlike anything they had ever seen before.

DSI: 3-D Animation shows the path of the DEEP FLUID TRENCH as it TWISTS AND TURNS FOR MILES UPON MILES.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The mysterious fluid went down for thousands of miles. A deep trench that wrapped itself around the core of the earth like a snake.

DSI: Animation shows the ENTIRE SERPENT TRENCH that spans MILLIONS OF MILES.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They called it the Serpent Trench. Before long, they had pumped millions of gallons of the mysterious fluid up into Utopia 1.

DSI: 3-D Animation shows a VAST CONTAINER of the fluid at the top of a the large UTOPIA 1 OCEAN RIG in the Mediterranean.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*They called it the elixir of God.
(beat)
An energy field began to form when the elixir was exposed to oxygen in the earth's atmosphere.*

DSI: The FLUID KARMA LOGO fills the screen.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Fluid Karma was born into the world.

DSI: The UTOPIA 1 TIDAL GENERATOR rises above the ocean... emitting a HUGE BEAM OF ENERGY into the sky.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Utopia 1 began to broadcast a hydro-electric energy field that could run a vast network of engines by remote.

72

INT. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE -- AUDITORIUM

72

Baron Von Westphalen stands before a huge crowd at an INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE.

BARON
 Imagine, if you will, a hydro-electric energy field that covers an area of several hundred miles. Vehicles driving within this energy field would never have to be re-fueled.

3-D Animation on the wall behind the Baron shows the ENERGY FIELD blanketing the atmosphere for HUNDREDS OF MILES surrounding the UTOPIA 1 TIDAL GENERATOR.

BARON (CONT'D)
 Through the power of the ocean tides... we have achieved wireless electricity!

The CROWD ROARS with applause as the Baron retrieves a SMALL METAL BALL about the size of a GRAPEFRUIT.

BARON (CONT'D)
 These spherical antennas will be placed at ground level to sustain the energy field in zones of high traffic concentration.

DSI: A MAP shows the SPHERICAL ANTENNAS placed along the edges of FREEWAYS throughout SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
The Baron's formula for Fluid Karma sent shockwaves across the world. The Pentagon gave him a four trillion dollar contract to construct two additional Utopia facilities...

(MORE)

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*the most prominent one to be
 placed off the coast of Santa
 Monica.*

DSI: A 3-D SATELLITE MAP of the CALIFORNIA COAST...
 isolates a LOCATION MARKER for UTOPIA 3 just off the
 coast of SANTA MONICA.

73

INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- LOADING DOCK -- NIGHT

73

The HIGH-TECH COFFIN with the BODY inside of it is
 unloaded from a HELICOPTER onto the HELIPAD of UTOPIA 3.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
*Treer had now begun to engage in
 new, top-secret experiments.*

US ARMY GENERAL TEENA MACARTHUR (40's) [JANEANE GAROFALO]
 stands at the entrance to an INDUSTRIAL LOADING DOCK on
 the upper level of the facility. She watches as SOLDIERS
 escort the coffin toward her.

She begins to speak into a SECURE TELEPHONE LAND LINE
 attached to a REMOTE DEVICE.

TEENA
 Unidentified male body... badly
 burned. Received at 9:04 PM. Will
 someone please tell me what the
 fuck is going on out there in the
 desert?

74

INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- DAY

74

Inga is meeting with Baron and Dr. Exx in the Treer
 offices.

INGA
 Mr. Santaros is just outside of
 Palmdale with Ms. Now and an
 unidentified male.

BARON
 Her name is Krysta Now?

DR. EXX
 Yes. She is a very talented
 performer. Nobody rocks the cock
 like Krysta Now.

BARON
 It is still unclear to me how Ms.
 Now entered the equation.
 (MORE)

BARON (CONT'D)
 Putting the specimen in the hands
 of a porn star seems like a
 foolish decision, Dr. Exx.

DR. EXX
 Ms. Now... or Ms. Kapowski...
 which is her Christian name... is
 not who she appears to be.

INGA
 She is a psychic.

75 **EXT. EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE -- SUNSET [FLASHBACK]** 75

We descend upon a MASSIVE HANGAR at EDWARDS AIR FORCE
 BASE in the CALIFORNIA DESERT. A 747 is parked outside of
 it... surrounded by EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

INGA (V.O.)
*Of all the passengers we studied
 at Edwards Air Force base... she
 was the only one to remember
 everything that occurred during
 the incident.*

76 **INT. EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE -- HANGAR -- NEXT** 76

The HANGAR is filled with COTS... with SEVERAL HUNDRED
 AIRPLANE PASSENGERS resting or being treated by MILITARY
 DOCTORS and NURSES.

KRYSTA lies asleep on one of the cots... surrounded by
 DR. EXX and INGA.

DR. EXX (V.O.)
*While under hypnosis... she
 produced a remarkable level of
 accuracy in predicting future
 events.*

77 **INT. TREER TOWER -- OFFICE -- NEXT** 77

Baron grabs a hard copy of THE POWER from the table and
 then begins to thumb through it.

BARON
 Yes. I am beginning to recall.
 Explain to me the significance of
 this ridiculous screenplay.

DR. EXX
 After administering a healthy dose
 of the fluid karma solution...
 (MORE)

DR. EXX (CONT'D)

I placed Ms. Now under hypnosis
and read to her the entire book of
Revelation.

(beat)

She chose to write her analysis in
screenplay form. We believe
that... while admittedly
ridiculous... this screenplay is
some sort of prophecy.

Baron looks at the LIGHT WALL with excerpts from THE
POWER and the BOOK OF REVELATION.

BARON

Some religious scholars have
proposed that the entire book of
Revelation was written while the
apostle John was under the
influence of magic mushrooms.

DR. EXX

A legitimate hypothesis.
Revelation has proven to be
impenetrable - even to the most
dedicated of religious scholars.

BARON

But you believe that the one
person who has finally been able
to crack the code to Revelation is
a psychic porn star from Palmdale?

DR. EXX

Yes.

78

INT. CADILLAC -- NIGHT

78

Krysta rides in the back of the Cadillac as Fortunio
maneuvers it down a DESERT BACK ROAD. Boxer sits in the
front seat... reading his copy of THE POWER.

FORTUNIO

Where the fuck are we going now,
Krysta?

KRYSTA

I'm not going to respond to your
questions until you learn how to
treat me with respect.

BOXER

Can you guys please be quiet? I'm
trying to read here.

We ZOOM IN on the THE POWER screenplay from where we last left off... **[THE POWER]:**

79 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- DAY** 79

Tawna has begun to sweat. She takes a drag off her cigarette. Just then... a LOUD FART erupts from Caleb's crib... and the ENTIRE HOUSE BEGINS TO VIBRATE for several seconds as though there is an EARTHQUAKE.

Everyone stares at each other in shock.

The vibrating subsides.

JERICHO

Earthquake.

A look of horror appears on Muriel's face.

MURIEL

Everyone hit the floor!

80 **EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- NEXT** 80

Two BLACK SUBURBANS pull up in front of the house.

Tinted windows roll down and MASKED MEN holding AUTOMATIC WEAPONS appear. *They begin to unload a torrent of gunfire into the front of the house.*

81 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- NEXT** 81

The TORRENT OF BULLETS rips through the family room... shattering lamps... shredding wallpaper... furniture...

Muriel, Jericho and the rest of the COPS run for cover... some reaching for their SIDEARMS as they bury their faces into the cheap shag carpet.

Tawna McBride remains frozen... unable to move. She takes a BULLET TO THE CHEST... falling back on the couch.

82 **EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- NEXT** 82

The MASKED GUNMEN retreat back into the SUBURBANS with their weapons and drive off.

83

INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- NEXT

83

Jericho rises to his feet and approaches the crib. Caleb stares back at him. The baby is unharmed. He even lets out a giggle.

JERICHO

He's okay.

Another LOUD FART erupts from the crib.

The house begins to SHAKE once again. Another EARTHQUAKE.

Jericho turns to Muriel... as books and dishes fall from shelves. MacPherson pulls himself up off the floor.

MACPHERSON

What the Goddamn shit in hell is going on here?

The earthquake subsides. Muriel rises to her feet.

MURIEL

There isn't much time. The men with guns will return soon. We must take baby Caleb away from this place.

JERICHO

Where?

MURIEL

Out into the desert. There is a black farmhouse... and a Chinese woman who we must speak with.

Jericho lifts baby Caleb out of the crib and turns to MacPherson.

JERICHO

Let's do this thing.

84

EXT. DESERT ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER

84

The POLICE CRUISER drives out into the desert. In the distance... we see a BLACK FARMHOUSE perched up on the crest of a hill.

85

EXT. BLACK HOUSE BARN -- MOMENTS LATER

85

Jericho and his posse stand at the entrance to a LARGE BARN adjacent to the black farmhouse. He cradles BABY CALEB in his arms.

Jericho knocks on the barn door... and a SMALL DOOR opens... EYES PEERING OUT.

MOHAWKED MAN
What's the password?

JERICHO
Jericho Cane.

The BARN DOOR opens up. TWO ARMED GUARDS let them inside.

86

INT. BLACK HOUSE BARN -- NEXT

86

The BARN is filled with LARGE SNAKES that slither around the EXPOSED WOODEN BEAMS. SERPENTINE stands in the middle of the barn among the snakes.

SERPENTINE
My name is Serpentine.

Jericho sizes her up.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
Don't look so scared Mista Cane.

Jericho cocks his head to the right to see a LARGE BOA CONSTRICTOR slithering down a beam... hissing at him.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
Do not fear da snake.

Jericho hands BABY CALEB over to Muriel.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
I see that you have brought da child with you.

MURIEL
What is wrong with this baby?

SERPENTINE
Has he produced bowel movement yet?

MURIEL
No.

SERPENTINE
Does he pass gas?

JERICHO
Yes.

SERPENTINE

Does da earth shake when he pass
gas?

MACPHERSON

You better fucking believe it.

SERPENTINE

Den he is da messiah. He has
returned.

MURIEL

How can you be sure that this
child is the messiah? What proof
can you give us?

SERPENTINE

Let me look into his eyes.

Muriel steps forward so that Serpentine can see the baby
up close.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)

May I hold him?

Muriel looks over at Jericho... who reluctantly nods his
head. She then hands baby Caleb over to Serpentine.

Serpentine looks into the baby's eyes and then begins to
chant something in Chinese. She then holds the baby up in
the air... and a HUGE BOA CONSTRICTOR slithers down from
one of the ceiling beams and DEVOURS THE BABY.

MURIEL

NOOOOO!!!!!!

Jericho and MacPherson watches as the BOA SWALLOWS BABY
CALEB DOWN INTO ITS REPTILIAN GULLET. A LARGE BLOB inches
its way down the snake's body.

Jericho and MacPherson pull their guns and aim them at
the snake.

MACPHERSON

SHOOT THE FUCKER!

Serpentine then throws her body in front of the snake.

SERPENTINE

No! Wait!

Just then... a MASSIVE FART erupts from inside of the
snake's gullet. The entire barn begins to shake with
another EARTHQUAKE.

The BOA CONSTRICTOR BEGINS TO CONVULSE ON THE GROUND. The BLOB begins to undulate as BABY CALEB BEGINS TO FIGHT HIS WAY OUT.

Seconds later... one of baby Caleb's arms PUNCHES THROUGH THE REPTILIAN SKIN... spraying blood all over Serpentine and MacPherson.

MACPHERSON
WHAT THE FUCK IS IT?!

Baby Caleb RIPS OPEN THE SNAKE'S GULLET FROM INSIDE and peers his head out... laughing maniacally. He now looks like he is almost TWO YEARS OLD - *covered in blood.*

The boa constrictor convulses on the floor one last time and then dies.

SERPENTINE
HE IS DA MESSIAH!

Baby Caleb rips one more FART and the earth begins to shake once again.

We hear the sound of a CAR HORN...

87 **INT. CADILLAC -- NIGHT**

87

Fortunio is honking the HORN on the Cadillac... *jolting Boxer out of the screenplay.*

FORTUNIO
Come on! What's up with all of
this traffic?

Boxer sees that they are stuck in GRIDLOCK TRAFFIC on the desert side road. There are hundreds of CARS up ahead... and what appears to be SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE assembled for some sort of OUTDOOR EVENT.

KRYSTA
Look up ahead. The black
farmhouse. That's where we're
going.

Boxer looks into the distance and sees a BLACK FARMHOUSE and adjacent BARN perched up on a hill. *It is the exact same house that he just envisioned from the screenplay.*

88 **EXT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- NIGHT**

88

Zora's CHEVY TRUCK is parked in the lot of a MACDONALD'S somewhere off the HIGHWAY.

89 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- NEXT**

89

Ronald and Zora are sitting at a table. Zora picks at a salad. Ronald is shoving his third BIG MAC down his throat.

ZORA
Are you trying to make yourself sick?

RONALD
No. I'm trying to make myself shit.

ZORA
Well... that'll do it.

90 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- BATHROOM -- LATER ON**

90

Ronald sits on the toilet inside the BATHROOM STALL... trying to defecate. It just isn't happening for him. There is a LOUD KNOCK on the bathroom door.

91 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- NEXT**

91

A FAT MAN (40's) and his fidgety YOUNG SON (8) are standing outside the bathroom. The man knocks angrily.

FAT MAN
Come on, man! My kid has to take a dump!

92 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- BATHROOM -- NEXT**

92

Ronald tries to concentrate.

RONALD
Just give me one more minute.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
*No matter how hard he tried...
Ronald Taverner could not produce
a bowel movement.*

93 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- NEXT**

93

Ronald comes out of the bathroom. The FAT MAN throws him an angry look.

FAT MAN
Asshole!

Ronald finds Zora waiting for him.

ZORA
Any luck?

RONALD
No dice.

ZORA
See? My theory of evolution is
coming true... right before your
eyes.

94

EXT. DESERT NEO-MARXIST RALLY -- NIGHT

94

Boxer, Fortunio and Krysta wander through the CROWD.
There are BOOTHS selling ART, HEMP CLOTHING and FOOD.

BOXER
Why are all of these people here?

FORTUNIO
It's a Neo-Marxist rally.

Boker sees a huge KARL MARX BALLOON floating above the
crowd. Krysta notices someone up on the MAIN STAGE.

KRYSTA
Look... it's Dion and Dream!

UP ON STAGE... a WHITE WOMAN - DREAM (30's) [AMY
POEHLER], and her BLACK HUSBAND - DION ELEMENT (30's)
[WOOD HARRIS]... are speaking before the crowd.

BOXER
Who are Dion and Dream?

FORTUNIO
They are the leaders of the Neo-
Marxist underground movement.

KRYSTA
I love her slam poetry. It's so
profound and political.

Dream is performing SLAM POETRY on stage.

DREAM
Spare me your corporate synergy!
Give me your tormented energy!

The CROWD ROARS.

DION
Word.

DREAM
Evolution is revolution!

The CROWD ROARS. Fortunio rolls his eyes.

FORTUNIO
What does that even mean?

DION
DESTROY CAPITALISM!

DREAM
DETHRONE GOD!

The CROWD ROARS. Krysta points toward the BLACK BARN adjacent to the BLACK FARMHOUSE.

KRYSTA
Come on... there's someone waiting to see us.

They move toward the barn.

95

EXT. BARN -- MOMENTS LATER

95

Boxer, Krysta and Fortunio stand at the entrance to the barn. Boxer looks over at Krysta... and then knocks on the door.

A SMALL WINDOW opens up and EYES PEER OUT.

MAN
What's the password?

BOXER
Jericho... Cane?

The door opens and JIMMY HERMOSA is there. Fortunio immediately recognizes him.

FORTUNIO
Well if it isn't Jimmy Hermosa!

HERMOSA
Fortunio Balducci.

They shake hands as Hermosa lets them inside.

KRYSTA
How do you know each other?

FORTUNIO
I live in Hermosa Beach, Krysta.

KRYSTA

Oh.

Inside the barn... SERPENTINE is pacing around... speaking CHINESE into her headset. Next to her is a MEDICAL TATTOO CHAIR and several LAB TECHNICIANS who are loading up ELABORATE HIGH-TECH TATTOO INK GUNS.

On the wall behind them are LIGHT BOARD DISPLAYS of various TATTOOS.

HERMOSA

Serpentine will be with you in a moment.

Fortunio's eyes widen upon seeing Serpentine.

FORTUNIO

Holy shit.

BOXER

Who is Serpentine?

FORTUNIO

She's a Chinese ambassador... and the husband of Baron Von Westphalen.

BOXER

Baron Von...

FORTUNIO

He's the richest man in the world. Invented Fluid Karma. Rumor has it that Serpentine is about to leverage another trillion dollar loan to the state of California once the new energy policy clears.

Krysta stares at Serpentine in awe.

KRYSTA

She also dabbles in ancient Chinese sorcery and mysticism.

(beat)

I love her.

Serpentine removes her HEADSET and turns to face Boxer. He immediately begins to fidget... tapping his fingers together anxiously. She lights a CIGARETTE and slinks over toward him.

SERPENTINE

Don't look so scared, Mr. Santaros. Da future... is just like you imagined.

BOXER

What do you want from me?

SERPENTINE

Are you prepared to wear da armor
of God?

BOXER

What is the armor of God?

SERPENTINE

Tattoos. Custom ink from Treer
products... Fluid Karma solution
mixed with da blood of da snake.

Serpentine walks over and grabs a LARGE CARVING KNIFE.
One of the TECHNICIANS holds a SNAKE down on a METAL
TABLE. *She slams the knife down and chops the snake in
half.*

The TECHNICIAN then squeezes a bunch of SNAKE BLOOD into
a METAL PAN. Serpentine then points to the LIGHT BOARDS
that show the various tattoo designs.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)

One tattoo for each major religion
of da earth inked upon your torso
and back.

Boxer examines the tattoo designs. Among them is a STAR
OF DAVID, the FACE OF JESUS CHRIST and various ISLAMIC,
HINDU and BUDDHIST designs. There is also a RED ANARCHY
SYMBOL with DEVIL HORNS.

Serpentine runs her hands across his body.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)

And anarchy... inked upon da nape
of your neck.

She touches the nape of Boxer's neck and he flinches.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)

Take off your shirt.

Boxer just stares at her. Jimmy Hermosa retrieves a GUN
from under his jacket and aims it at Boxer.

HERMOSA

You heard the lady. Take off your
fucking shirt. Right now.

Two additional ARMED GUARDS emerge from the shadows
carrying AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. Fortunio and Krysta back
away... holding their hands up.

Boxer begins to take off his shirt.

HERMOSA (CONT'D)
Lay down on the chair.

Boxer slowly walks over to the chair. The TECHNICIANS strap his arms down.

Serpentine turns to Fortunio and Krysta.

SERPENTINE
Dis going to take all night. Come
back at sunrise.

Krysta looks over at Boxer... frightened.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
Go! Enjoy da party!

Hermosa opens the barn door and escorts Fortunio and Krysta out as the TECHNICIANS begin to swab alcohol on Boxer's chest and charge up the INKING GUNS.

96

EXT. DESERT NEO-MARXIST RALLY -- NIGHT

96

Ronald and Zora are now wandering through the crowd. Zora notices Krysta and Fortunio walking by.

ZORA
Is that you... Krysta Now?

KRYSTA
Hey Zora.

Zora eyes her suspiciously.

ZORA
What brings you out to the desert?
I've heard rumors that you're
working as a psychic. Expanding
your little porno empire.

KRYSTA
There's no need to be
condescending, Zora. We had our
fling... and now it's over.

Ronald notices that everyone in the crowd is now carrying a LARGE FLUORESCENT LIGHT TUBE.

RONALD
What's with all the fluorescent
tubes?

ZORA

You'll see.

Zora nods toward the stage. Dream is speaking once again.

DREAM

Ladies and gentleman... courtesy
of the Baron... I give you
wireless electricity!

She retrieves one of the SPHERICAL TREER ANTENNAS and
flips a SWITCH on it. It begins to GLOW. She holds it up
and all of the FLUORESCENT BULBS THROUGHOUT THE CROWD
ILLUMINATE IN UNISON.

The CROWD ROARS... holding up the GLOWING TUBES... which
create a SURREAL DISPLAY OF LIGHT that illuminates the
desert sky.

DREAM (CONT'D)

FLUID KARMA FOR THE WORLD!

The CROWD ROARS once again. Ronald and Zora stare at all
of the glowing bulbs in awe.

The CAMERA PULLS UP AND AWAY from the DESERT RALLY...
looking down at the SEA OF BLUE FLUORESCENT LIGHTS from
high above.

97 **EXT. SKY ABOVE ARIZONA -- NIGHT**

97

A PRIVATE JET flies west somewhere over Arizona.

98 **INT. PRIVATE JET -- NEXT**

98

NANA MAE FROST (40's) [MIRANDA RICHARDSON] sits in the
jet in front of a LARGE COMPUTER SCREEN. Her husband,
SENATOR BOBBY FROST (50's) [HOLMES OSBORNE], is asleep in
the next chair.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

*Nana Mae Frost had recently been
appointed as deputy director of
the NSA. Recent expansion of the
patriot act had given her autonomy
to eliminate potential terrorists
on American soil.*

She stares at SATELLITE VIDEO IMAGES of LAKE MEAD and a
HOUSEBOAT floating in the lake.

NANA MAE

Are there children on the
houseboat?

US-IDENT OP (COMPUTER)
*No mam. Just the two Neo-Marxist
 operatives. They are transmitting
 intelligence as we speak.*

NANA MAE
 Is the drone within striking
 distance?

US-IDENT OP (COMPUTER)
Yes mam.

Nana Mae types in a series a LETTERS and NUMBERS on the
 LAUNCH CODE SCREEN.

NANA MAE
 Transmitting launch codes now.
 Strike when ready.

Nana Mae then places her RIGHT HAND on a US-IDENT
 FINGERPRINT AUTHORIZATION SCANNER.

99

EXT. LAKE MEAD -- HOUSEBOAT -- NIGHT

99

TAB & EVE TAVERNER sit on the upper deck of the boat in
 front of a NETWORK OF LAPTOPS running an operating system
 called US-IDEATH... each attached to some sort of
 SCRAMBLING DEVICE.

There is a clear TUPPERWARE CONTAINER filled with SEVERED
 THUMBS ON ICE. Eve retrieves one of the SEVERED THUMBS
 with a pair of METAL THONGS and places it down on a
 FINGERPRINT SCANNER.

TAB
 So who do you love more... Roland
 or Ronald?

Eve smiles at her husband.

EVE
 If I had to choose one?
 (beat)
 Ronald.

Tab nods his head slowly.

TAB
 Me too.

They both begin to laugh.

100 **EXT. SKY ABOVE LAKE MEAD -- NEXT** 100

An UN-MANNED DRONE PLANE glides west through the sky above the lake. When it arrives within striking distance of the HOUSEBOAT... a MISSILE LAUNCHES from its right wing... charging down toward the water.

We follow the MISSILE as it flies over the surface of the glassy lake... and then HITS THE HOUSEBOAT... OBLITERATING IT IN A BRIGHT ORANGE EXPLOSIVE FIREBALL.

101 **TITLE CARD: CHAPTER THREE - THE MECHANICALS** 101

102 **EXT. LAX -- EARLY MORNING** 102

The PRIVATE JET descends into LAX.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
*On the morning of July 2nd,
2008... the Senator and his wife
made their descent into Los
Angeles.*

103 **INT. PRIVATE JET -- NEXT** 103

Senator Frost and Nana Mae prepare to exit the plane. A MAKE-UP ARTIST touches up Nan Mae's face.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
*They were childhood sweethearts,
born and raised in Abilene, Texas.
They had one child. Her name was
Madeline.*

Senator Frost receives a TELEPHONE CALL.

FROST
Hello Madeline.

MADELINE (PHONE)
He's gone.

FROST
What?

104 **EXT. LAX -- TARMAC -- NEXT** 104

MADELINE FROST SANTAROS (28) [MANDY MOORE], Boxer's wife, stands on the TARMAC at LAX next to a LIMOUSINE. There are DOZENS of PRESS and CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS there... many carrying signs that read: ELIOT FROST '08.

MADELINE

Boxer. He's disappeared. I haven't heard from him in five days.

FROST (PHONE)

Well... shit.

Senator Frost and Nana Mae emerge from the JET and begin to wave to CHEERING SUPPORTERS. Madeline watches anxiously.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

The marriage of Boxer Santaros and Madeline Frost had advanced the careers of many in Hollywood and Washington. A holy matrimony of convenience and publicity.

DSI: WEDDING PHOTOS of Boxer and Madeline from 2006.

DSI: NEWS REPORT about the arrival of SENATOR BOBBY FROST.

NEWS ANCHOR (VIDEO)

Republican vice-presidential candidate Bobby Frost arrived in the Southland early this morning. Frost is scheduled to attend the downtown launch of the Treer Mega-Zeppelin as the special guest of Baron Von Westphalen.

105 **INT. LIMOUSINE -- MOMENTS LATER**

105

Madeline now rides in the LIMOUSINE with Senator Frost and Nana Mae.

NANA MAE

I told you... marrying that lunatic would backfire. Fucking actors. They're all nuts! Transient narcissists with paranoid delusional fantasies!

Frost holds his hand up to try and silence his wife.

FROST

Nana, please.

NANA MAE

Has he left you for another woman?

MADELINE

I don't know.

FROST

When did you last see him?

MADELINE

We were at Santa Monica Pier on the morning of the 27th.

106 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- TREER STAGE -- JUNE 27 2008** 106

There is a HUGE STAGE ERECTED south of SANTA MONICA PIER. THOUSANDS of people are in attendance. HUGE BANNERS advertizing TREER PRODUCTS and FLUID KARMA hang everywhere.

MADELINE (V.O.)

We were guests of the Baron... and Vaughn Smallhouse insisted that we attend.

BACKSTAGE... A REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN CONSULTANT named VAUGHN SMALLHOUSE (50's) [JOHN LARROQUETTE] stands with Madeline and Boxer. His aide, BRANDT HUNTINGTON (30's) [JOE CAMPANA] is lurking next to Madeline.

VAUGHN

Fluid Karma is the future of this country's energy policy. Learn it and love it - or your father will lose, Madeline.

BRANDT

Listen to him, Madeline. You have to learn how this stuff works.

Madeline is looking through a TREER PRODUCTS brochure.

MADELINE

Quantum teleportation? What the fuck does that mean?

Madeline looks over and sees that Boxer is injecting one of the Treer syringes into his neck. He is wearing a very polished and expensive suit.

MADELINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He was injecting this creepy syringe into his neck.

107 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- TREER STAGE -- MOMENTS LATER** 107

Vaughn is now on stage with a MICROPHONE. There is a TREER SALTAIR SUV parked on the stage behind him.

VAUGHN

Ladies and gentleman... please
welcome to the stage... the Wizard
himself... Baron Von Westphalen!

The CROWD ROARS. The Baron takes the stage dressed in his
flamboyant cape.

BARON

Thank you Soviet Monica... for the
use of your ocean! Thank you for
your beautiful pier! Thank you for
helping us bring Fluid Karma to
the Southland!

The CROWD ROARS.

BACKSTAGE... Boxer is thumbing through a TREER BROCHURE.
Vaughn walks over to join them.

BOXER

Apparently the Baron is a
descendent of Karl Marx.

MADELINE

Karl Marx?

BRANDT

He was a famous philosopher.

MADELINE

Duh! A socialist philosopher. A
communist. The last time I
checked... we're fucking
Republicans.

VAUGHN

My dear... we are a few points
away from winning California for
the first time since 1988 and you
father has to distance himself
from big oil if he wants to win...
and if that means associating with
a Neo-Marxist... *so be it.*

Boxer smirks at his wife.

BOXER

The war machine is running out of
gas, sweetheart.

Boxer heads toward the stage... Madeline follows.

108 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- TREER STAGE -- NEXT**

108

Boxer is now onstage with Madeline.

BOXER

Bio-diesel... ethanol... and the
hybrid engines are not going to
solve the energy crisis. Old
habits die hard. The future is
wireless energy.

Boxer and Madeline hold up the MECHANICAL SPHERE
ANTENNAS.

MADELINE (V.O.)

*We had to participate in this
scavenger hunt. They buried all of
these wireless energy antenna ball
thingamajigs up and down the beach
and we had to go digging for them.*

109 **EXT. EL PORTO BEACH -- MIDDAY**

109

We see Boxer and a bunch of KIDS digging through the sand
at the SCAVENGER HUNT ... retrieving the MECHANICAL
SPHERES.

MADELINE (V.O.)

*Boxer got really into it... and he
was sprinting down the beach. I
couldn't keep up. That was the
last time I saw him.*

We see Boxer SPRINTING down the beach in a piece of VIDEO
SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE.

A DARK FIGURE wearing SUGLASSES featuring a TINY GLOWING
CAMERA LIGHT sits inside of a TREER SALTAIR SUV parked
near PCH... *watching him.*

110 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- LOADING DOCK -- MORNING**

110

Teena MacArthur is on the phone with someone. On a
COMPUTER SCREEN... we see video surveillance footage of a
WAREHOUSE filled with a 100 TREER SALTAIR SUVs.

TEENA

Yes - you've got a warehouse full
of Treer Saltairs ready for
shipment. But there is one that
was released on the morning of the
27th without my authorization. The
GPS system was disabled... and we
don't know where the vehicle is.

DR. EXX (TELEPHONE)
*The SUV was released to
 Serpentine, by permission of Baron
 Von Westphalen.*

TEENA
 Thank you, Dr. Exx. And it would
 have been nice to have been
 notified of this last week... as
 I'm only trying to supervise the
 launch of your revolutionary
 alternative fuel system on a
 dangerously accelerated schedule.

DR. EXX (TELEPHONE)
*I sincerely apologize, Ms.
 MacArthur.*

TEENA
 And I'm holding a fucking dead
 body out here on my rig. Care to
 explain?

DR. EXX (TELEPHONE)
Ehh... I'll call you back.

He hangs up on her.

111 **EXT. BLACK FARMHOUSE BARN -- EARLY MORNING**

111

Krysta and Fortunio knock on the barn door at the BLACK FARMHOUSE. The SMALL WINDOW OPENS and Hermosa's EYES peer out at them.

HERMOSA
 We're almost done with the
 tattoos. Give us one more hour.

He closes the window. Krysta sighs... *worried.*

112 **EXT. WINNEBAGO CAMP -- NEXT**

112

The NEO-MARXIST EVENT is now being disassembled as WORKERS clean up trash and pack up to leave. There is a SMALL CLUSTER OF WINNEBAGOS in the VIP area.

Ronald checks on Roland in the back of the CHEVY TRUCK. He is still sleeping peacefully on the gurney with the IV. Zora replaces the SALINE BAG.

He notices ROLAND'S BACKPACK sitting there. There is a SEALED LETTER inside. Ronald retrieves the letter. A name is written on it: PRIVATE ROLAND TAVERNER.

Zora approaches... and Ronald quickly shoves the letter into his pocket.

RONALD

It's like he's hibernating. I've never seen someone sleep for this long.

(beat)

Do you think he's in a coma?

ZORA

Of course not. It's this new drug. It affects people in different ways.

RONALD

Can you be a little more specific?

ZORA

No.

Ronald sighs in frustration. Zora notices that Dion and Dream have just emerged from their WINNEBAGO.

ZORA (CONT'D)

I want you to meet Dion and Dream.

Ronald and Zora walk over to greet them. Dream immediately recognizes Ronald... *staring him down with intense curiosity.*

DREAM

Well hello, Ronald.

RONALD

Hello... Dream.

DREAM

I understand you have amnesia. You don't remember me?

RONALD

No. I'm sorry.

DREAM

We used to act together back in the day. Comedy stuff. Now that you're a freak of nature... maybe we can try out some new material.

RONALD

Uhhh... yeah. Okay.

Dion walks over to join them.

DREAM

This is my husband Dion Element.
You guys used to be roomies.

DION

Hey Roland.

Ronald shakes his hand.

RONALD

It's Ronald.

DION

Right. That's what I meant to say.

Zora notices that Fortunio and Krysta have arrived in the
VIP area. *She rolls her eyes at Krysta.*

Dion does a double take upon seeing Krysta.

DION (CONT'D)

Are you Krysta Now?

KRYSTA

Hi Dion. I'm a huge fan.

DION

Shit... nobody rocks the cock like
Krysta Now.

KRYSTA

Thank you.

DION

You tiny Jewish girls sure do know
how to fuck.

DREAM

Uhhh.... excuse me? I'm standing
right here.

Ronald looks at the table and sees up a copy of DION &
DREAM'S latest SPOKEN WORD POETRY/RAP ALBUM. The title
is: MILKING THE DOG.

RONALD

So... you guys are spoken word
poets now?

DION

Among other things. We're
branching out.

DREAM

We've released four folk albums.
We're publishing a memoir of free-
associative thought... and we're
in final negotiations to bring our
tantric dance revue to Broadway.

FORTUNIO

Tantric dance?

Dream throws him a condescending look.

DREAM

It's like dancing and fucking at
the same time. You should try it
sometime after you lose a few
pounds.

113 **EXT. TREER PLAZA -- DAY**

113

We soar above the THREE TOWERS of TREER PLAZA in DOWNTOWN
LOS ANGELES... just north of STAPLES CENTER. We see the
MASSIVE MEGA-ZEPPELIN HANGAR positioned just south of the
towers.

114 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 3 LOUNGE -- NEXT**

114

Senator Frost, Nana Mae, Vaughn, Brandt and Madeline are
all assembled in the LOUNGE on one of the top floors of
the TOWER 3.

VAUGHN

I'm hosting a party in the Baron's
honor tomorrow night up at the
house... and it is imperative that
you show up.

NANA MAE

I don't trust him, Vaughn. He's a
Neo-Marxist. He's playing us like
a fiddle.

VAUGHN

We don't have any choice.

FROST

Bullshit.

VAUGHN

Bobby... we can't win this
election without an endorsement
from Baron Von Westphalen. We've
got a real shot.

(MORE)

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

I am told his meeting with Hillary Clinton did not go well. Especially after she insulted his mother.

NANA MAE

Hah! I love it.

VAUGHN

And Serpentine is the key to securing more money out of China.

NANA MAE

That crazy Chinese bitch?! You've got to be kidding me.

VAUGHN

That crazy Chinese bitch has more money than whatever Chinese God she worships.

NANA MAE

They are setting a trap, Vaughn. The Baron cannot be trusted. He wants to destroy us.

Nana points out the window down at the Mega-Zeppelin hangar.

NANA MAE (CONT'D)

That blimp is a death trap and you know it.

VAUGHN

It's a Mega-Zeppelin, Nana Mae. Don't call it a blimp.

Frost looks at his watch.

FROST

The interview is supposed to start in half an hour.

MADELINE

What are we supposed to say when they ask about Boxer?

VAUGHN

I'll think of something.

Baron, Inga and Serpentine are in the TREER EXECUTIVE OFFICE. They have the TOWER 3 LOUNGE WIRE-TAPPED... and are listening to the Senator's conversation.

FROST (RECORDING)
Where the hell is he, Vaughn?

VAUGHN (RECORDING)
Still no word. But not to worry. A man that famous can't stay hidden for long.

NANA MAE (RECORDING)
Something terrible has happened.

Baron smiles... then looks at his mother.

INGA
 Serpentine just called. She says that the Armor of God tattoos are completed.

BARON
 Excellent.

116 **EXT. BLACK HOUSE -- BARN -- DAY**

116

The barn door opens and the TECHNICIANS roll Boxer out in a WHEELCHAIR. He is wearing his green hoodie... the tattoos concealed underneath. Krysta and Fortunio run over to see how he is doing.

FORTUNIO
 How long until he recovers?

Serpentine emerges from the barn.

SERPENTINE
 When he wakes up, he will be stronger than ever.

KRYSTA
 Why did you do this to him?

SERPENTINE
 Because he is da chosen one.
 Chosen to wear da armor of God.
 (beat)
 When da true Messiah returns... da tattoo for da winning religion will bleed da blood of da serpent.

Fortunio rolls his eyes.

FORTUNIO
 The winning religion? Is this some sort of religious competition?

SERPENTINE
Of course it is... you fool!

She points to Fortunio's CADILLAC.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
Now go! Follow da path!

FORTUNIO
Okay. What path do you suggest we follow?

SERPENTINE
Da path to end all suffering.

Serpentine then slams the barn door closed. Krysta shrugs... and Fortunio begins to push the WHEELCHAIR toward the car.

117 **EXT. WINNEBAGO CAMP -- MOMENTS LATER**

117

Dion and Dream watch as Fortunio drives over in the Cadillac. Boxer is unconscious in the passenger seat. Zora is finishing a PHONE CALL.

ZORA
Motherfucker! I'll call you back.

Zora hangs up her CELL PHONE and turns to Ronald.

ZORA (CONT'D)
We just received intel from the underground. Last night... your father's houseboat was hit with a missile from a drone US-IDENT aircraft flying over Lake Mead.
(beat)
Both of your parents were killed, Ronald.

Ronald looks overwhelmed with confused emotions. Zora goes to comfort him.

ZORA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, Ronald. I really am.

Dream paces around in a fit of rage.

DREAM
It's Nana Mae Frost. She's murdering domestic freedom fighters with complete immunity through US-IDENT. We have got to take that bitch down.

DION
By any means necessary.

DREAM
Yeah... because you know who's
next on her death list?

DION
Us.

DREAM
Yep.

DION
We're gonna have to go deep
underground now. No more
performing in public.

Dream nods her head in agreement.

DREAM
We have to sabotage their entire
campaign! We have to humiliate
her!

DION
Yeah... but how?

Fortunio - *listening to their every word* - steps forward.

FORTUNIO
I have an idea. It's crazy... but
it just might work.

Fortunio withdraws THE POWER screenplay and hands it over
to Dream.

DREAM
What's your idea?

FORTUNIO
Well... if you're looking to
create a political scandal...
you've got all the elements in
place.

Dream thumbs through the screenplay.

DREAM
I'm listening... tell me more
about THE POWER.

Krysta looks confused and nervous.

118

INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 3 STUDIO -- DAY

118

Senator Frost and Nana Mae are seated in a STUDIO for a LIVE TELEVISION INTERVIEW. A FEMALE JOURNALIST (30's) [ROLE OPEN] is interviewing them.

JOURNALIST

Troops from all over America are now imbedded in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Iran and North Korea.

(beat)

The draft lottery is growing, and there appears to be no end to this conflict.

Frost and Nana Mae nod their heads.

JOURNALIST (CONT'D)

How do you feel about inheriting this war from the current administration? How do you plan on resolving this conflict without using nuclear weapons?

Frost sighs.

BOBBY

Well... I think resolve can be found in prayer.

The Journalist furrows her brow.

JOURNALIST

Well... isn't it prayer that got us into this holy war to begin with? How can prayer bring our troops home?

Nana Mae interrupts.

NANA MAE

The lord works in mysterious ways. As Christians, we have God on our side, and eventually our enemies will see the light and they will be forced to accept Christ into their hearts.

(beat)

Or else.

Nana Mae offers a huge smile.

JOURNALIST

Or else.

NANA MAE

Or else they will be destroyed. We can no longer risk diplomacy. We thought it couldn't get any worse than 9/11... but we were wrong. It got worse. We can't afford to be wrong any more.

FROST

We will never forget Abilene and El Paso... and the evil men responsible for it must be destroyed.

JOURNALIST

Do you believe that this third world war, which has claimed more than a million casualties... will somehow accelerate the return of your lord and savior, Jesus Christ?

FROST

Yes we do. And it is unfortunate that you asked that question with such a condescending tone of voice.

JOURNALIST

I'm sorry if I came across that way.

Nana Mae pats her on the leg.... trying to make peace.

NANA MAE

Praise Jesus. For when he returns this war will finally be over.

119 **EXT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- DAY**

119

HELICOPTER SHOT: The CAMERA soars over UTOPIA 3 as the FLUID KARMA ENERGY BEAM spews up into the sky.

120 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- NEXT**

120

Teena MacArthur is pacing around the UTOPIA 3 COMMAND CENTER. The LARGE HANGAR is filled with COMPUTER EQUIPMENT monitoring the REACTOR and the ENERGY FIELD broadcast from deep within the ocean below.

A LARGE DIGITAL MAP INTERFACE SCREEN - the DOOMSDAY SCENARIO INTERFACE - looms on the wall behind them.

The HIGH-TECH COFFIN - with the CORPSE inside of it - sits off to the side.

Teena is joined by SIMON THEORY (60's) [KEVIN SMITH], a LEGLESS, WHEELCHAIR-BOUND 5-STAR ARMY GENERAL with a long SILVER BEARD.

Simon appears to be playing a game of DUNGEONS & DRAGONS.

TEENA

Hey... Dungeon Master... do I have your full attention?

SIMON

Yes, Teena. What would you like to know?

TEENA

What the hell is going on out at Lake Mead? I've got reports that the president was just there.

SIMON

He was indeed just there. But now he's down in Orange county.

Teena zooms the DSI MAP into LAKE MEAD and the surrounding desert areas.

TEENA

As you know... we are currently broadcasting a wireless energy field that reaches across the surface of Lake Mead. The largest reservoir of water in the United States.

Teena pulls up a 3-D MAP of LAKE MEAD.

TEENA (CONT'D)

There are 28,500,000 gallons of water in that reservoir. Lake Mead has been experiencing massive temperature fluctuations. One day it's freezing cold... the next day it's like a jacuzzi.

SIMON

I'm intrigued. Please continue.

Teena then pulls up INFRARED MAPS of the ATMOSPHERE above Lake Mead.

TEENA

Now if you will look at these atmospheric diagnostics from the past three months when the Utopia 3 reactor began broadcasting... you'll see a dense concentration of carbon dioxide, methane... and some other gas that goes unrecognized by our instrumentation.

Teena shows the ANOMALOUS GAS floating above and around the lake.

TEENA (CONT'D)

And now... we have this mysterious sandstorm... which seems to have produced a maze. A maze which looks like it has some sort of intelligent design.

Teena pulls up a SATELLITE VIEW of the SAND MAZE. Simon rolls one of his DUNGEONS & DRAGONS dice pieces.

TEENA (CONT'D)

Simon Theory, keeper of all military secrets... please let the cat out of the proverbial bag before I roll that wheelchair off the edge of this rig and send you to your watery grave.

SIMON

You're so sexy when you're mad.

Simon withdraws a file from his bag and tosses it on the table. Printed on the cover of the thick file are the words: SERPENTINE DREAM THEORY - TOP SECRET.

TEENA

Serpentine Dream Theory.

Teena begins to read through the file.

121 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- DAY** 121

Serpentine enters the TREER EXECUTIVE OFFICE. Baron, Inga and Dr. Exx are all working there.

BARON

Serpentine!

She throws her arms around the Baron and kisses him.

BARON (CONT'D)
Where is Mr. Santaros now?

SERPENTINE
He is being hidden at da house of
Fortunio Balducci in Hermosa
Beach.

BARON
Excellent.

122 **EXT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- DAY** 122

We see surveillance footage of FORTUNIO'S BEACH HOUSE in
HERMOSA BEACH.

123 **INT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- FAMILY ROOM -- DAY** 123

Boxer sits on the couch in FORTUNIO'S BEACH HOUSE. He is
reading THE POWER.

We ZOOM IN on the script page where we last left off...
[THE POWER]:

124 **INT. BLACK HOUSE -- BARN -- AFTERNOON** 124

The boa constrictor convulses on the floor one last time
and then dies.

SERPENTINE
HE IS DA MESSIAH!

Baby Caleb rips one more FART and the earth begins to
shake once again.

125 **EXT. BLACK HOUSE -- BARN -- SUNSET** 125

Jericho and MacPherson are sitting outside of the barn.
They are drinking BUD LIGHT and staring off at the
setting sun.

MACPHERSON
We've been working on the force
now for five years, Jericho. You
know me well enough to know that
I'm not a religious man. Hell,
I've done my share of sinning in
this life. I've done things I'm
not proud of, and I've got four ex
wives who will vouch for that.
(beat)
(MORE)

MACPHERSON (CONT'D)

But I believe we have witnessed a miracle. Baby Caleb has been touched by the hand of God. And that hand ripped its way through the skin of a boa constrictor.

(beat)

You cannot deny this responsibility to be his guardian and protector.

Jericho chugs another BUD LIGHT. He looks over at the barn entrance and sees Muriel emerge with BABY CALEB in her arms.

CALEB

Da-da.

Baby Caleb smiles at Jericho.

MURIEL

The fate of the world depends on you, Jericho.

Jericho takes another long chug of BUD LIGHT.

KRYSTA (V.O.)

Boxer!

126

EXT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- FAMILY ROOM -- DAY

126

Boxer is interrupted from reading the script by KRYSTA'S VOICE. He turns around and sees her standing there in the FAMILY ROOM.

KRYSTA

There's something I need to confess to you.

BOXER

I know that you do porn. I found one of our videos downstairs.

KRYSTA

Oh.

BOXER

You're very talented. I can see why we found each other.

Krysta smiles anxiously.

KRYSTA

That wasn't what I needed to confess. It's about THE POWER. The inspiration behind it.

Boxer's eyes widen in anticipation.

BOXER

Tell me.

KRYSTA

It all started with a flight I
took from Dallas to Los Angeles
three months ago.

127 **INT. UNITED FLIGHT 23 -- MARCH 30 2008 [FLASHBACK]**

127

Krysta sits in an AISLE SEAT on UNITED FLIGHT 23.

KRYSTA (V.O.)

*Everything was fine... until we
reached the sky over Lake Mead.
All of a sudden... there was
turbulence.*

The plane begins to shake.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*And then... everything became
calm. There was this blinding
white light streaming through the
windows.*

WHITE LIGHT blasts through the windows... casting the
entire plane cabin in an ETHEREAL GLOW.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*I looked around... and I saw a
stewardess collapse to the floor.
The whole plane became silent.*

A STEWARDESS collapses. Krysta gets out of her seat to go
help her.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*And then I noticed that everyone
else on the plane had fallen
unconscious. I was the only one
awake.*

Krysta rushes around the cabin in a panic. Everyone is
asleep except for her. She then moves toward the COCKPIT.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*I tried to reach the cockpit. But
the door was locked.*

Just then... the WHITE GLOW dissipates and the TURBULENCE
returns. People begin to wake up.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*And then everything returned to
 normal. People started to wake up.*

Krysta runs back into the cabin. It is CHAOS. People begin to SCREAM and YELL in confusion. Other people are PUKING into BARF BAGS.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*They were screaming and puking. It
 was horrible.*

128 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- DAY** 128

Teena is reading through the SERPENTINE DREAM THEORY file as Simon explains the same story about UNITED FLIGHT 23.

SIMON
 Air traffic control received the
 following distress signal from
 United flight 23... en route from
 Dallas to Los Angeles.

Simon hits a button on his laptop and an AUDIO RECORDING of the DISTRESS SIGNAL begins to play.

PILOT (RECORDING)
*Mayday... mayday! I... I don't
 know how to land this plane. My co-
 pilot and I are unsure of our
 location... we don't know where we
 are or how we even got here on
 this plane!*

There is YELLING and SCREAMING in the background.

PILOT (RECORDING) (CONT'D)
*SOMEONE PLEASE HELP US LAND THIS
 GODDAMN PLANE!*

129 **EXT. EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE -- LATE AFTERNOON** 129

TWO MILITARY JETS escort the 747 on its descent into EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE.

SIMON (V.O.)
*Miraculously... a military escort
 was able to assist the pilots in
 landing the plane safely at
 Edwards Air Force base.*

PASSENGERS come down the SLIDE onto the TARMAC as EMERGENCY VEHICLES surround the plane.

SIMON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*The plane was successfully
 evacuated... and there were no
 casualties.*

Krysta appears in the doorway above the slide... wind blowing through her hair.

130 **INT. EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE -- HANGAR -- NIGHT**

130

DOCTORS are interviewing all of the PASSENGERS. They are all laid out on a bunch of COTS inside the HANGAR.

SIMON (V.O.)
*As doctors began to evaluate the
 passengers and crew... one thing
 became certain. No one could
 remember a goddamn thing.*

Simon, Inga and Dr. Exx are all interviewing Krysta among the COTS filled with PASSENGERS inside the HANGAR.

SIMON (CONT'D)
*Everyone on flight 23 had been
 stricken with amnesia. Except for
 the one girl.*

131 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- NEXT**

131

Teena looks at the DOSSIER of INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS with KRYSTA LYNN KAPOWSKI.

TEENA
 Krysta Lynn Kapowski.

SIMON
 AKA... Krysta Now. And nobody
 rocks the cock like Krysta Now.

Teena rolls her eyes... then turns to her ASSISTANT.

TEENA
 Can you please bring me a Full
 Throttle energy drink?

SIMON
 For years the government has
 assigned a task force to try and
 penetrate the meaning of the Book
 of Revelation. Billions have been
 spent... and now... they've got a
 solid theory in place.

Teena's Assistant arrives with a FULL THROTTLE ENERGY DRINK. She cracks it open and takes a long swig.

TEENA

You have to be joking.

SIMON

I am 100 percent serious. Most of it is post 9/11 spending. And after the Texas attacks... the budget hit ten figures.

TEENA

A billion dollars in government spending to penetrate the meaning of Book of Revelation?

SIMON

Speaking of penetration, when was the last time you got laid, Teena?

TEENA

Uhh... we're fighting World War III... and trying to make sense of a fast encroaching environmental cataclysm that could extinguish all life on this planet. Who the fuck has time to get laid anymore?

SIMON

Hey... I ain't got no legs... I'm 64 years old... and I still find time to get laid.

TEENA

Well good for you. You know my theory on the apocalypse?

SIMON

Please tell.

TEENA

Everyone just stops breeding. Because really... what's the fucking point anymore?

132

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE -- AFTERNOON

132

SIDEWALK CAFE in VENICE BEACH is crowded with customers. Ronald, Dion, Dream and Zora are among them.

DREAM

You haven't touched your breakfast, Ronald.

RONALD

I've given up.

DION

On eating?

RONALD

No matter how much I eat. It won't come out. I don't know where it all goes. I don't understand what's happening to me... and I want you to take me to a hospital.

ZORA

That wasn't part of the deal.

RONALD

But I don't remember making this deal. And now my parents are dead. I think that you need to take me and my brother to a hospital. There is something seriously wrong with us.

ZORA

It's too much of a risk, Ronald. You have to complete your mission.

RONALD

Okay. What exactly is my mission? Have you figured that out yet?

Zora exchanges glances with Dion and Dream.

DION

Boxer Santaros has amnesia... just like you.

DREAM

Amnesia is a mysterious condition.

DION

Krysta has Boxer convinced that he's going to direct this film...
THE POWER.

DREAM

Directing and starring in it.

ZORA

He's playing an insane cop. His name is Jericho Cane.

Ronald's eyes widen.

RONALD

That name. I recognize that name.

133 **INT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- AFTERNOON**

133

Fortunio comes into the family room. Boxer is obsessively reading through the script for THE POWER.

FORTUNIO

You know... have you considered going on a ride along?

BOXER

What do you mean?

FORTUNIO

With a real police officer. Go ride along with him in his squad car. Videotape his behavior so you can bring authenticity to Jericho Cane. You don't want him to be some cartoon.

BOXER

Of course not. It has to be real.

FORTUNIO

I can arrange a ride along for you. My friend Ronald is an UPU officer in Hermosa Beach. We can set it up for tomorrow morning.

BOXER

I'm in.

Fortunio smiles.

134 **EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE -- AFTERNOON**

134

Ronald continues his conversation with Dion, Dream and Zora. He looks very unhappy.

RONALD

So you want me to impersonate my brother. Drive this crazy movie star around while he interviews me about my job.

DION

That's right. And we want you to drop the N word.

RONALD

The N word?

DION

You do remember what the N word
is... don't you?

RONALD

Nigger?

DION

Damn straight.

RONALD

But... I don't want to say the N
word. I would never say that
word... is my brother some kind of
racist?

ZORA

No Ronald. Of course not.

RONALD

Would he approve of this?

DREAM

Yes.

ZORA

Sweetheart... you have to play the
role of a racist cop. Those racist
UPU motherfuckers have been
killing innocent people - and a
lot of them are black. Your
brother witnessed these fascist
atrocities.

DREAM

You made a deal. If you don't live
up to your end of the deal...
there are going to be
repercussions.

RONALD

Are you threatening me?

DREAM

If you don't follow through with
this plan, you'll never see your
brother again.

ZORA

Do you love your brother, Ronald?

RONALD

Of course.

ZORA

Then say the N word.

Ronald sighs angrily.

RONALD

Fine. What else?

DREAM

Dion and I are going to stage a domestic dispute at my mother's house on Nowita. Zora will call it in as a noise complaint.

(beat)

Boxer follows you in with his video camera... and you have to pretend to shoot us.

DION

It will be all blanks and squibs... just like in the movies. Dream and I are going to stage our own deaths and then disappear underground.

ZORA

A brutal double murder.

DREAM

The assassination of two Venice Beach cultural icons. The death of Dion and Dream.

DION

Committed by a racist cop.

ZORA

Caught on tape by a movie star with political ties.

DREAM

Ties to the great Senator from Texas and the fascist queen of US-IDENT... Nana Mae Frost.

RONALD

This is insane.

ZORA

We live in an insane world, Ronald.

DREAM

Sometimes the only way to confront insanity is to give it a dose of its own medicine.

RONALD

But that doesn't make any sense.

DION

You gotta trust us on this one,
Ronald.

DREAM

Revolutions are the locomotives of
history... and this locomotive is
about to leave the station.

ZORA

Pack your bags... because tomorrow
morning... it's on, you little
bitch.

Ronald sinks down into his chair.

135 **EXT. NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND -- SUNSET** 135

We see the NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND on the Venice Beach
STRIP. There are PEOPLE lurking on the balconies... and
the building is covered in NEO-MARXIST POSTERS.

136 **INT. NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND -- BEDROOM -- NEXT** 136

Ronald stares at Roland... who is asleep in a bed in one
of the back BEDROOMS. Zora comes in to replace his IV
FEEDING TUBE.

ZORA

You need to stay clear of your
brother. He needs his rest.

137 **INT. NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND -- HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER** 137

Zora and Ronald exit the bedroom and Zora closes and
LOCKS the door behind her.

ZORA

Come on... let's go take a walk.
You need some fresh air.

138 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- NIGHT** 138

Ronald stares at the ENVELOPE with PRIVATE ROLAND
TAVERNER written on it. He opens it and retrieves a HAND-
WRITTEN LETTER. He then begins to read it out loud.

RONALD

Dear Roland... I know you are
frightened but it is worth the
risk. Trust me on this. You will
endure, as you always have.
(MORE)

RONALD (CONT'D)

(beat)
See you on the other side. Your
friend... Pilot Abilene.

Zora walks over with ICE CREAM as Ronald puts the letter
away.

RONALD (CONT'D)

Zora, who is Pilot Abilene?

ZORA

He's a famous soldier. A movie
star who got drafted. The
government has turned him into a
war hero after his injury.

Zora points to a HUGE BILLBOARD over the SANTA MONICA
PIER with a PHOTOGRAPH of PILOT ABILENE (27) [JUSTIN
TIMBERLAKE]. It is an ARMY RECRUITMENT AD. *Pilot has a
deep scar running down one side of his face.*

The BILLBOARD SLOGAN reads: NEVER SURRENDER.

ZORA (CONT'D)

Your brother was close friends
with him... until...

RONALD

Until what?

Zora smiles awkwardly.

ZORA

Nothing sweetie.

Ronald stares Pilot's face on the billboard - *transfixed.*

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

*My name is Pilot Abilene. Your
humble narrator.*

139 DOOMSDAY SCENARIO INTERFACE [DSI]:

139

DSI: Animation shows the SUBURBS OF ABILENE, TEXAS.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

*I was born in the town of Abilene,
Texas. Son of an Air Force fighter
pilot.*

DSI: PHOTOGRAPHS of YOUNG PILOT (6) with his FATHER (30)
in front of a FIGHTER JET at DYESS AFB... 7 miles
southwest of Abilene.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*I moved to Los Angeles when I was
twenty-one years old.*

DSI: A GREYHOUND BUS crests a hill on the 10 FREEWAY...
revealing LOS ANGELES in the distance. Pilot looks out
the window of the bus.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*I had always wanted to act... and
luck was kind to me.*

DSI: PILOT (21) sits in line with a bunch of YOUNG ACTORS
at an audition somewhere in Hollywood.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*I landed a television role on my
very first audition.*

DSI: A CAMERA ASSISTANT holds a SLATE in front of Pilot's
face and he prepares to shoot a scene from a TELEVISION
SHOW.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*The show wasn't very good. But it
didn't matter. It was a huge hit
and ran for five seasons.*

DSI: Pilot appears in the credit sequence for a cheesy
show called MALIBU INCORPORATED.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I became a star, almost overnight.

DSI: Pilot walking down a RED CARPET in front of DOZENS
OF CAMERAS and FLASHBULBS.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*And then... fate punched me in the
face. Someone nuked my hometown...
killed my family. And then I got
drafted.*

DSI: Pilot sits on his bed... staring at a DRAFT NOTICE.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*Elvis had it easy. They sent me to
Baghdad.*

DSI: Pilot stands in a MILITARY LINE-UP as an OFFICER
SCREAMS obscenities in his face.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*Everyone in my unit assumed I was
afraid. They called me pretty boy.*

DSI: Pilot walks alone through a MILITARY CAMP in BAGHDAD. Other SOLDIERS stare at him.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But then I started killing people.

DSI: Pilot fires an AUTOMATIC WEAPON in the middle of an URBAN BATTLE ZONE... killing an IRAQI INSURGENT.

140 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- TENT -- DAY**

140

Pilot lays on his BED in LARGE MILITARY TENT. He is reading the novel FLOW MY TEARS, THE POLICEMAN SAID by PHILIP K. DICK.

ROLAND TAVERNER arrives at the bed next to him and throws his bag down. The two men make eye contact.

ROLAND
 Hey there. Roland Taverner.

Roland reaches out his hand and Pilot shakes it.

PILOT
 Pilot Abilene.

ROLAND
 Yeah, I know who you are.

Pilot goes back to his book.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
 So... are you a big fan of Dick?

Pilot lowers the book and furrows his brow.

PILOT
 I beg your pardon?

Roland looks embarrassed.

ROLAND
 Philip K. Dick. Have you ever read Man In The High Castle? It's amazing.

PILOT
 Not yet. What's it about?

ROLAND
 It takes place in an alternate history where Hitler and the Axis powers won World War II.

Roland retrieves a copy from his bag.

PILOT

When you're done with that one...
you can borrow my copy.

Pilot smiles.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

*From that moment on... we were
inseparable.*

141 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- MESS HALL -- DAY** 141

Pilot and Roland are eating with a group of SOLDIERS in the MESS HALL. Everyone is laughing out loud.

142 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- SHOWERS -- MORNING** 142

Pilot and Roland pass each other in the SHOWERS. They smile awkwardly at each other.

143 **EXT. IRAQI DESERT -- BIRD'S NEST -- DAY** 143

Roland and Pilot sit in a BIRD'S NEST TOWER somewhere in the IRAQI DESERT outside of Baghdad. Roland is looking through a pair of HIGH-TECH BINOCULARS.

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS: He sees a US ARMY MEGA-ZEPPELIN approaching in the sky.

ROLAND

Look... Mega-Zeppelin.

PILOT

No shit? Let me see...

Pilot takes the binoculars and looks through them.

144 **EXT. IRAQI DESERT -- BIRD'S NEST -- NIGHT** 144

Pilot stands guard in the BIRD'S NEST while Roland sleeps. Pilot yawns... then glances over at Roland and laughs to himself at something.

145 **EXT. IRAQI DESERT -- BIRD'S NEST -- DAY** 145

Roland and Pilot are both hunched over with their PRECISION SNIPER RIFLES positioned on the edge of the BIRD'S NEST.

COMMANDER (RADIO)

Alright. Private Taverner... your target is in sight. Permission to shoot, over.

THROUGH ROLAND'S SCOPE: He sees an IRAQI INSURGENT emerge from a VAN and walk toward a BUILDING. He follows the Iraqi with his CROSS-HAIRS aimed square on his chest.

Roland inches his FINGER AGAINST THE TRIGGER... but hesitates.

COMMANDER (RADIO) (CONT'D)

Permission to shoot, over.

THROUGH ROLAND'S SCOPE: He follows the Iraqi as he approaches the building, but still doesn't shoot.

PILOT

What are you waiting for? You're gonna lose him any second now.

Pilot sees that Roland's HAND HAS BEGUN to tremble.

Pilot quickly goes back to his PRECISION RIFLE and aims.

THROUGH PILOT'S SCOPE: He aims the CROSS-HAIRS on the Iraqi's chest... and just before he reaches the building... FIRES HIS ROUND. The bullet HITS THE IRAQI in the chest and he falls over... dead.

PILOT (CONT'D)

Target eliminated, over.

Roland falls back on the floor... hyperventilating.

PILOT (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ. You kill anyone out here yet?

ROLAND

No. How about you?

PILOT

That was my fifth kill.

ROLAND

Does the American press know about that yet? They'd have a field day.

PILOT

Naw... my publicist. She's real good.

ROLAND

Wow. I wish I was important enough
to have a publicist.

PILOT

You will be one day.

146

INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- NIGHT

146

Pilot and Roland both lay on their BEDS in the base tent.
Pilot is thumbing through his Bible.

PILOT

You ever read the Book of
Revelation?

ROLAND

I know we're supposed to. And I
tried... but I just can't get
through it.

PILOT

Yeah... it's a tough one to crack.
They way they lay it out... it
just takes too goddamn long. A
thousand years of this... a
thousand years of that.

ROLAND

Serpents... lambs... archangels...
beasts and whores. I can't keep
track of them all. It's so
complicated and insane.

PILOT

Oh lord, just end this mess of a
planet already.

ROLAND

Quick and painless.

They both break out into hysterical laughter.

147

INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- MESS HALL -- DAY

147

Roland arrives at the table to find Pilot eating alone.

ROLAND

I just got off the phone with my
father.

PILOT

Yeah? Was he in the military too?

ROLAND

Yeah. My dad served in the Army back in Vietnam. Then in the early 90's he became the mayor of Hermosa Beach... where I'm from.

PILOT

Is he retired now?

ROLAND

Not exactly. Now he's gotten caught up in the Neo-Marxist underground.

PILOT

That's a whole new war for him to fight.

ROLAND

He says there's someone he wants us to meet out here.

148 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- PHONE CENTER -- EARLIER** 148

Roland is on the phone with TAB in the PHONE CENTER.

TAB (PHONE)

His name is Simon Theory. He's an old friend. I've made special arrangements for you to go see him tomorrow night.

149 **EXT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- NIGHT** 149

We see the entire MILITARY BASE. MILITARY TRUCKS drive by and HELICOPTERS circle overhead... as a LARGE MEGA-ZEPPELIN is parked on the AIRSTRIP.

Roland and Pilot approach a SMALL TENT positioned near the edge of the base.

150 **INT. SIMON'S TENT -- MOMENTS LATER** 150

Roland and Pilot step into SIMON THEORY'S TENT.

Simon sits in his WHEELCHAIR behind a CUSTOM DESIGNED BLACKJACK TABLE. There are several LAPTOPS running on tables behind him... along with DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GAME PARAPHERNALIA.

ROLAND

Are you Simon Theory?

SIMON

I am. You must be Roland Taverner
and Pilot Abilene.

ROLAND

My father sent us here.

SIMON

I know that. Do you guys like
blackjack?

151 **INT. SIMON'S TENT -- MOMENTS LATER**

151

Simon is dealing BLACKJACK cards. Pilot and Roland are
sharing a JOINT that he has rolled for them.

SIMON

So have you guys heard about the
drug experiments?

ROLAND

No.

SIMON

Baron Von Westphalen has signed an
extensive contract with the United
States Army. He has been given
permission to conduct top secret
drug experiments on soldiers. The
Baron has given me the authority
to select a small group of
soldiers who I deem fit to be
experimented upon.

PILOT

What's the risk?

SIMON

There are side effects... but they
appear to be extremely positive
ones. And regardless of your
response to the drug... you'll get
to go home... very soon.

Pilot and Roland exchange smiles.

PILOT

I'm in.

ROLAND

I'm definitely in.

Simon withdraws a SMALL METAL CASE and removes one of the
TREER SYRINGES.

SIMON

Gentleman... it is a privledge to
introduce you to the elixir of
God. Who wants to go first?

152 **EXT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- LATER**

152

Roland and Pilot emerge from the TENT with COTTON SWABS
taped to their necks. *They both look like they are in a
state of bliss from the drug.*

They both look up at the GLOWING ARMY MEGA-ZEPPELIN in
awe as it begins to rise up into the sky.

153 **EXT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- DAWN**

153

Roland and Pilot stand next to each other as their
COMMANDING OFFICER barks orders at their ENTIRE UNIT.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

*The next morning... we were called
into a mission to Fallujah.*

Roland turns to Pilot.

ROLAND

How do you feel?

PILOT

I feel amazing.

Pilot smiles at Roland as they charge forward with their
unit towards WAITING HELICOPTERS.

154 **EXT. FALLUJAH -- SUNRISE**

154

A FLEET OF ARMY HELICOPTERS flies over the city of
FALLUJAH en route to battle.

155 **INT. MILITARY HELICOPTER -- NEXT**

155

Roland and Pilot are piled inside of the HELICOPTER with
the rest of their unit. Roland looks like he's going to
be sick. *Pilot begins to yell over the roar of the
chopper.*

PILOT

ROLAND.

ROLAND

WHAT?

PILOT
DON'T BE AFRAID. IT WILL ALL WORK
OUT IN THE END.

Roland smiles at his friend.

ROLAND
OKAY.

PILOT
HERE... TAKE MY I-POD. THE MUSIC
HELPS CALM MY NERVES BEFORE I DROP
INTO BATTLE.

Pilot hands over his I-POD to Roland... who puts the
EARPIECES into his ears. He turns up the volume...
listening to the song "ALL THESE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE"
by THE KILLERS.

Pilot smiles and winks at Roland as the HELICOPTER lands
in the middle of the FALLUJAH BATTLEGROUND.

The SOLDIERS exit the HELICOPTER in formation... charging
down a FALLUJAH STREET as GUNFIRE rattles in the
distance. The KILLERS SONG echoes in Roland's head.

156 **EXT. FALLUJAH SCHOOL -- MOMENTS LATER**

156

The UNIT approaches the entrance to an ABANDONED
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL that is now the headquarters of an
IRAQI INSURGENCY GROUP.

They come to a rest behind a LARGE TRUCK parked near the
entrance of the school. Their COMMANDING OFFICER pulls
out a MAP of the ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

COMMANDER
The target of this raid is Abu
Omar al-Baghdadi. He has taken
over this abandoned elementary
school.

He points to the map... and everyone looks on.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)
When we enter the school... we
will break off into two teams.

157 **INT. FALLUJAH SCHOOL -- MOMENTS LATER**

157

Roland and his TEAM maneuver their way down the NORTH
CORRIDOR of the dilapidated school building... and Pilot
and his TEAM maneuver SOUTH.

158 **INT. FALLUJAH SCHOOL -- CLASSROOM -- MOMENTS LATER** 158

Roland comes into an abandoned CLASSROOM... and his VISION BEGINS TO CLOUD WITH LIQUID DISTORTION.

Suddenly... the CLASSROOM IS FILLED WITH YOUNG CHILDREN SITTING AT THEIR DESKS SOMETIME IN THE PAST. A LITTLE GIRL LOOKS OVER AND MAKES EYE CONTACT WITH HIM.

Roland jolts back against the wall and the LIQUID DISTORTION fades away.

Seconds later... GUNFIRE rips through the wall next to him and he sprints for cover in the adjacent HALLWAY.

Several IRAQI SOLDIERS move past... firing at other members of his unit.

159 **INT. FALLUJAH SCHOOL -- CLASSROOM -- MOMENTS LATER** 159

Roland comes into another classroom as EXPLOSIONS rock the foundation of the building - quickly filling up with SMOKE... clouding his vision.

LIQUID DISTORTION returns as Roland BLEEDS through time... seeing more CHILDREN laughing through the smoke.

ACROSS THE ROOM... someone begins to FIRE HIS WEAPON through a BROKEN WINDOW. Roland hears the SCREAMS OF THE IRAQIS behind him.

Roland cannot see who it is through the window... and he begins to PANIC... disoriented by the drug.

Roland reaches for a GRENADE attached to his belt. He REMOVES THE PIN... and then tosses the GRENADE through the WINDOW.

It lands right next to the SOLDIER... and when the smoke clears... we reveal that it is PILOT who had fired the weapon.

He looks down at the GRENADE in horror.

PILOT

Shit.

Pilot backs away from the grenade as fast as he can... and it EXPLODES seconds later.

SLOW MOTION: We see SHRAPNEL FROM THE GRENADE HIT PILOT IN THE FACE... as he falls back to the ground.

AS THE SMOKE CLEARS... Roland comes through the rubble to discover Pilot laying there... his face covered in BLOOD.

ROLAND

PILOT!

Roland looks down at his friend in horror.

ROLAND (CONT'D)

OH NO! NO! JESUS CHRIST... PILOT!

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU!

Roland begins to CALL FOR A MEDIC as the sound of GUNFIRE and EXPLOSIONS continues.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

Friendly Fire.

(beat)

He was my best friend. And that was the last time we saw each other.

Pilot stares up at his best friend in agony.

160 **EXT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- NIGHT**

160

An ARMY HELICOPTER flies toward UTOPIA 3 from the SANTA MONICA COAST... the GLOWING ENERGY BEAM illuminates the night sky.

We reveal Pilot Abilene in the PASSENGER SEAT of the Helicopter.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

Being a disfigured war hero has its perks. Not only does your face appear on propaganda billboards... you get your own private helicopter service.

The HELICOPTER lands on the UTOPIA 3 HELIPAD.

161 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- MOMENTS LATER** 61

Pilot walks into the COMMAND CENTER with a BACKPACK. Teena and Simon are there working.

SIMON

Well if it isn't Pilot Abilene.

PILOT ABILENE

I brought you some fresh weed.

Pilot withdraws a LARGE BAG OF WEED and hands it to Simon. He gives it a good sniff.

TEENA
Still bleeding?

Pilot examines a TREER SYRINGE. This is a BRAND NEW... even more advanced model with FIVE COLORED LIGHTS on it. GREEN... BLUE... YELLOW... ORANGE... RED.

Pilot sets the syringe on BLUE.

PILOT
Depends on the color channel.

SIMON
Neurotransmission between test subjects... dimensional shifts in time... I told you the side effects were fun.

Pilot points to his disfigured face.

PILOT
This hasn't been fun.

SIMON
At least you've got your legs, soldier.

TEENA
You're more beautiful now, Pilot. And you still haven't completely healed yet. The scarring will dissipate.

PILOT
God bless the elixir of God.

Pilot injects himself in the neck.

TEENA
Have you heard from Roland?

PILOT
No. Roland is on a mission of his own.

Pilot glances at Simon with a smile.

PILOT (CONT'D)
But I sent him a letter.

162 **INT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- EVENING -- LATE AFTERNOON** 162

Boxer comes into the FAMILY ROOM. Krysta is there watching the 1955 film noir KISS ME DEADLY starring RALPH MEEKER on the flat-screen.

BOXER
What are you watching?

KRYSTA
Kiss Me Deadly.

Boxer stares at the screen... where Ralph Meeker comes stumbling through the MALIBU BEACH HOUSE as WHITE LIGHT EXPLODES from the NUCLEAR BOX.

BOXER
Never seen it.

KRYSTA
I think it's based on the Lita Ford song.

BOXER
I'm going to go take a walk on the beach... clear my head. I've got a big day tomorrow.

KRYSTA
Okay. I'm going out to meet the girls. Don't wander off too far.

Boxer smiles and then walks down the stairs.

163 **EXT. MAIN STREET SANTA MONICA -- NIGHT**

163

Krysta walks down MAIN STREET SANTA MONICA toward O'BRIEN'S PUB. Her CELL PHONE begins to ring.

KRYSTA
Hello?

BARON (PHONE)
Is this Krysta Now?

KRYSTA
Yes.

BARON (PHONE)
This is Baron Von Westphalen.

Krysta stops in her tracks... looking around anxiously.

164 **INT. O'BRIENS PUB -- BACK ROOM -- NIGHT**

164

Zora is performing a VULGAR STAND UP COMEDY routine in the back room of the pub. She is clearly ripping off Sam Kinison... screaming out loud. The ROWDY NEO-MARXIST CROWD is eating it up.

165 **INT. O'BRIENS PUB -- MAIN ROOM -- LATER ON**

165

Krysta arrives at the table where her PORN STAR FRIENDS are seated. They are SHOSHANA COX (30) [JILL RITCHIE], SHEENA GEE (27) [ABBEY MCBRIDE] and DEENA STORM (26) [GIANNA LUCHINI].

SHOSHANA

I love hip hop culture. Those hip hop stars are so brave... overcoming all of that adversity in the inner cities and learning how to rap.

DEENA

I love fucking rappers.

SHEENA

Me too. They have such big dicks!

The girls all laugh out loud and TOAST CHAMPAGNE as Krysta arrives at the table.

KRYSTA

Girls... I think I just landed us an A-list dancing gig.

SHOSHANA

Oh my God, really?

KRYSTA

July 4th. It's gonna be epic.

166 **EXT. MANHATTAN BEACH -- NIGHT**

166

Boxer walks north on the sand of MANHATTAN BEACH... approaching EL PORTO. He is alone... his HOOD RAISED.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)

*Boxer was drawn to the ocean...
which had a calming effect.*

167 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- NIGHT**

167

Teena reaches the end of the SERPENTINE DREAM THEORY file. She tosses it back on the table.

TEENA

So the analysis of all the data concludes that there is a PRIMER. A primer that will serve as a catalyst for the messiah's return.

Simon exhales a plume of marijuana smoke. He hands the joint to Pilot.

SIMON

That is correct.

TEENA

And what form does this primer take? A burning bush? A mystical unicorn of some sort?

Simon begins to type on his laptop.

SIMON

We have arrived at a series of letters.

Simon pulls up a SERIES OF LETTERS on the DSI screen.

They are: **E A T R M A U R V E I N F K**

SIMON (CONT'D)

We have no idea what the letters mean... but we did run an anagram formula to see what they could spell out for us.

Simon hits another key... and the LETTERS begin to list out in the ANAGRAM FORMATIONS.

SIMON (CONT'D)

The only ones that are even remotely discernible are FREAK MAN VIRTUE... and MARTIN KEFAUVER.

Simon highlights the PHRASES in the long list of LETTERS:

FREAK MAN VIRTUE

MARTIN KEFAUVER

Pilot furrows his brow... thinking to himself.

PILOT

Wait a minute. Martin Kefauver. I recognize that name.

SIMON

Really? We couldn't find anyone of significance with that name.

PILOT

Dr. Kefauver is my plastic surgeon. His son's name is Martin. They live in Beverly Hills.

SIMON

Well I'll be. What are the odds?

168 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- NIGHT** 168

Dr. Exx enters the EXECUTIVE OFFICE to find Inga working studying the LIGHT WALL featuring the BOOK OF REVELATION ANALYSIS.

DR. EXX

Katarina Kuntzler has just arrived
in Los Angeles.

Inga smiles.

INGA

My dearest Katarina... just in
time.

169 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 APARTMENT -- NEXT** 169

Baron Von Westphalen lays in his MASSIVE ROUND BED in silk pajamas. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES is visible in the atrium windows of their penthouse. Serpentine lays next to him... feeding him GRAPES.

BARON

You would never betray me, would
you Serpentine?

SERPENTINE

Never.

Serpentine stares off into space.

170 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 3 APARTMENT -- NEXT** 170

Nana Mae paces around the LUXURY PENTHOUSE in the adjacent TREER TOWER. Senator Frost and Madeline are both drinking SCOTCH from the MINIBAR.

The TELEVISION plays a NEWSCAST.

NEWS ANCHOR (TELEPHONE)

*The Clinton-Lieberman campaign has
a mere two point lead in the
latest California poll, where
Eliot-Frost stands to capture the
55 electoral votes that could
decide the entire election this
fall.*

(beat)

In other news...

(MORE)

NEWS ANCHOR (TELEPHONE) (CONT'D)

*Boxer Santaros was mysteriously
absent from his wife's side during
today's fund-raiser for Veteran's
disability...*

NANA MAE

Fucking actors. Never trust an
actor! They are the most
unreliable people on the planet!

She glares at Madeline.

NANA MAE (CONT'D)

You should have never let that
paranoid schizophrenic maniac
into this family. This will ruin
us!

Frost steps forward to defend his daughter.

FROST

Don't you blame her! You knew that
the marriage contract would raise
our profile!

MADELINE

I said three years... you said
five!

Nana Mae gasps at her daughter in outrage.

NANA MAE

Well if you're gonna enter into a
sham of a marriage you might as
well make it count.

FROST

Hell... who knows if you would
have gotten the NSA appointment
without all the publicity he
brought to the table. Americans
love him.

MADELINE

We owe him everything.

FROST

Boxer Santaros is a good man. And
if he's gotten himself into
trouble... I bet it's not his
fault. Don't jump to conclusions.

Vaughn and Brandt enter. Vaughn goes to comfort Nana Mae.

VAUGHN

Tomorrow morning, you will have every surveillance resource in this city at your disposal. Boxer Santaros cannot elude the watchful eye of US-IDENT.

171 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- NIGHT** 171

Teena is packing up her bags. Her ASSISTANT follows her around like a lap dog.

SIMON

What are you doing?

TEENA

I'm headed to the remote command center at the base of Santa Monica pier. If there's a meltdown out here... I can't risk going down with this rig. I'm too Goddamn important.

PILOT

Hey, Teena. We should celebrate... before it's too late.

Teena stops and turns at the entrance to the hangar.

TEENA

If the baby fart-pocalypse does occur before we meet again... let me say this now. It has been a joy knowing you two.

172 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- BEACH -- NIGHT** 172

Boxer has walked all the way to the SANTA MONICA PIER. Boxer stares off at the CRASHING OCEAN WAVES as the FERRIS WHEEL and ROLLERCOASTER of SANTA MONICA PIER loom behind him.

173 **EXT. MAIN STREET SANTA MONICA -- NIGHT** 173

Krysta comes down the ALLEY behind MAIN STREET alone. She has her phone to her ear.

KRYSTA

I'm in the alley. Where are you?

Someone emerges from the shadows and slams her up against the wall. It is Fortunio.

FORTUNIO

Hello Krysta.

KRYSTA

Fortunio.

He puts the GUN to her head.

FORTUNIO

Boxer has disappeared. He's not at the beach house. What did I tell you about letting him wander off?

KRYSTA

He said he went for a walk on the beach. He'll come back to me. Don't worry about it.

FORTUNIO

Really? You can predict the future?

(beat)

I'm on to you. I know all about your special powers.

She struggles against him... trying to free herself.

KRYSTA

Let me go.

FORTUNIO

Not before you prove it to me. Read my mind. Tell me something about my future.

Krysta stares into his eyes.

KRYSTA

You kill people for money. You moonlight as a hired assassin for the Neo-Marxist underground. And you will kill again... very soon.

Fortunio smiles and laughs nervously to himself.

FORTUNIO

Let me make something clear. I don't give a rat's ass about politics. I don't care who wins the election.

KRYSTA

If you don't care... then why do you have a gun to my head?

FORTUNIO

Because there are millions of dollars at stake here. I stumbled across the opportunity of a lifetime out there in the desert and I will not let you fuck it up!

(beat)

You will play ball... or I will put a bullet in your head.

He lowers the gun... then looks both ways... and walks off down the alley.

KRYSTA

You don't know who you're dealing with.

FORTUNIO

You better pray that he comes back to us.

Krysta looks like she is about to cry. Shoshana, Deena and Sheena appear at the end of the alley... drunk, carrying a bottle of CHAMPAGNE.

SHEENA

Krysta! Come back to the party!

Krysta pulls herself together and walks back.

174

EXT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- VIEWING PLATFORM -- NIGHT

174

Simon and Pilot are now on the VIEWING PLATFORM at the top of the UTOPIA 3 structure. The MASSIVE GLOWING BEAM OF ENERGY illuminates the sky above them... making for a spectacular view.

SIMON

You know... the entire concept of a primer has very specific implications about the messiah.

Simon hands pilot the JOINT, and he takes a drag.

PILOT

And what are those implications?

SIMON

That there is a very specific and limited window of space and time in which the messiah can return. And it is our responsibility as a species to make sure that we don't screw up our one chance at eternal salvation.

PILOT

I don't know about you... but I
want out. I don't want the
whimper. I want the bang. I don't
want to have to watch this mangled
face of mine grow old in the
mirror.

SIMON

You and me both. But the battle is
about to get ugly.

The two disfigured veterans stare at the energy beam and
smoke the remains of the joint.

175 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- BEACH -- NIGHT** 175

Boxer injects himself in the neck with a TREER SYRINGE...
and then collapses to his knees.

He then keels over... falling unconscious in the sand.

176 **EXT. VENICE BEACH BOARDWALK -- NIGHT** 176

Ronald walks alone down the Venice boardwalk toward the
Neo-Marxist compound. In the distance... he sees a lone
ICE CREAM TRUCK parked near the SIDEWALK CAFE.

177 **INT. NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND -- NIGHT** 177

IN HIS BED... Roland begins to WHISPER SOFTLY in his
sleep. He is whispering the lyrics from "ALL THESE THINGS
THAT I'VE DONE" by THE KILLERS.

ROLAND

I've got soul but I'm not a
soldier. I've got soul but I'm not
a soldier...

The CAMERA moves in close to his CLOSED EYES as he
continues to sing.

ROLAND (CONT'D)

I've got soul but I'm not a
soldier...

CUT TO BLACK: