

Widow's Eye
by
Christopher Shawbell

Christopher Shawbell
1225 N. 36th St. #1111
Phoenix, AZ 85008
415-902-217

EXT. SPACE

A gray, lifeless planet approaches on an elliptical orbit of its binary star.

A gigantic starship docking station holds a geosynchronous orbit with the planet.

Company titles adorn the hull of the station: "TANA CORPORATION INNER SYSTEMS STATION 808."

The planet's surface is marred by an enormous black crater.

Transparent transit tubes connect the mining outposts and botanical stations that dot the barren landscape.

A bullet train races through a tube that disappears over the horizon.

A flat silhouette enlarges in the distance as the train speeds towards it.

Soon the structure consumes the entire skyline.

It is an enclosure of tinted transparent alloy 2 kilometers high and 200 kilometers wide.

Hundreds of transit tubes penetrate the perimeter.

The bullet train glides into the wall of the bio-containment facility.

INT. TANA CITY - DAY

The architecture has an efficiency-plagued aesthetic within the grid of perpendicular transit lanes and plain buildings.

Lifts (vertical capability flight vehicles) cruise in sparse aerial traffic (lift-lanes).

Ground vehicles, monorail trains and pedestrians travel below.

Every 2 kilometers, a support tower spans up to meet the ceiling.

The largest (SecCom Tower) stands at the center of Tana City. The entire length of its octagonal structure contains Security Command (SecCom) offices.

Within the lowest level of the ceiling, executive offices fan out a half kilometer from the top of SecCom Tower.

Light beams down through the transparent floor of the largest of these suites.

INT. USAGI'S OFFICE - DAY

KAZUYA, an athletic Japanese man in a perfectly tailored suit, stands motionless. He appears perhaps 40 yet his eyes seem ancient.

Behind Kazuya, USAGI (Japanese, 40s), with an air of both aristocrat and arch-criminal, sits at his desk.

Usagi stares at a sheathed katana (samurai sword) in Kazuya's left hand.

Kazuya's thumb rests on the pommel guard. The thumb extends, sliding the blade an inch out of the scabbard.

Usagi stiffens.

Kazuya's eyes narrow. His ear moves. He listens to a faint, rapid thumping that amplifies into the deafening beat of Usagi's heart.

Silence.

Kazuya's ear subtly flexes again.

He hears a solitary bead of sweat as it slides down Usagi's temple. It sloshes over every contour of his face to his chin.

A second bead glides down the same glistening trail. It joins the first. The drop hangs there precariously, then falls. It splashes on the arm of his chair.

Kazuya blinks. All sounds snap back to normal perception. He turns with inhuman grace.

KAZUYA

Usagi, I have found a discrepancy in your office's distribution records.

USAGI

Indeed? I shall, of course, investigate this immediately, Kazuya.

KAZUYA

I will inform Lord Tana of your response.

USAGI

Surely our Lord would not take an interest in, what is in all likelihood, but a simple mathematical error.

KAZUYA
You are mistaken.

His thumb retracts the sword with a click.

Kazuya turns. He strides to the door. Stops.

KAZUYA
I have served the Great House of Tana
with your father and his father before
him. I hope nothing ill comes of this.

The doors close silently behind him.

INT. HALLWAY

Kazuya attaches a tiny vocal com-link to his suit lapel, then places a receiver inside his ear.

INT. TRANSPORT

Kazuya enters. The door slides closed.

KAZUYA
Security Command.

The transport hums to life. Descends.

EXT. TANA CITY - EXECUTIVE OFFICE

A hatch opens from the ceiling of the city. Kazuya's transport lowers then locks onto its guide tracks. It zips towards SecCom Tower.

INT. TRANSPORT

Kazuya looks through the transparent floor at the vast metropolis two kilometers below.

Traffic pulses like electrical currents through a motherboard.

Kazuya sighs. Raises his head. His eyes meet their reflection. They do not remain there for long.

INT. LABOR-CLASS STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

WINSTON REED (30s) stares out the window of his fourth floor dwelling. His reflection stares back at him with tense features and wary eyes.

His entire district consists of six-story cubicle buildings.

Winston sighs.

CYNDI (O.S.)
Can't sleep again?

Winston turns.

CYNDI LOVE (20's) sits up in bed. She has a wild street-wise beauty, yet her eyes still sparkle with child-like innocence. She throws the sheet back and reveals her nakedness.

CYNDI
You just need more exercise, my love.

WINSTON
You just might be right.

He goes to her. They embrace and kiss passionately. She tries to pull him down. He resists.

WINSTON
Don't tease me now, Cyndi, I've gotta go.

She pulls the sheet over herself.

CYNDI
You're kidding? You just got back, what, four hours ago? You're running yourself ragged.

WINSTON
But you like me ragged, huh?

CYNDI
I'm serious, Winston. I'm worried.

WINSTON
Me too, sweetheart, but I've got to keep up the pace. Time's running against us.

He rubs her belly.

CYNDI
I know. Sato's noticed. He asked if I was getting chubby on him.

WINSTON
Really? Do you think he suspects?

CYNDI
I don't know what he thinks, but every time someone looks at my tummy I cringe.

WINSTON

Hang in there, baby. We have enough to get off-planet but not enough to survive long once we escape. One more run, maybe two. We're that close.

CYNDI

How about Derrick? How much does he have?

WINSTON

What, are you kidding? Same as always: nothing.

CYNDI

Then why, Winston ... why are we risking so much for him?

WINSTON

What are you saying, that we leave Derrick behind?

CYNDI

No. But sometimes ...

WINSTON

Sometimes what?

CYNDI

Sometimes I wish you'd say it.

WINSTON

I can't believe I'm hearing this.

CYNDI

Every day that passes it gets worse. Shaking on the train to work. Wondering if today is the day the Company gives a random scan at the club.

WINSTON

I told you I'll know if they plan one.

CYNDI

But what if you're wrong, Winston? What if you're wrong? Oh God, I'm so fucking scared.

She clutches her belly and cries.

WINSTON

Cyndi, don't.

CYNDI

I'm sorry.

WINSTON

No, it's alright, but listen to me. I want you to listen to me, okay?

Cyndi looks at him. Nods.

WINSTON

We're going to get off Widow's Eye, we'll make it to Earth, and we'll have a beautiful baby. I promise. Okay?

CYNDI

Okay. I needed to freak out, I guess. I'm sorry I said that about Derrick.

WINSTON

I know.

He checks his watch.

WINSTON

Are you going to be alright?

She nods.

WINSTON

I'm sorry, but I have to go. I love you.

He kisses her. Exits.

Cyndi watches him leave then holds her belly and cries.

EXT. LABOR-CLASS BUILDING - DAY

The twin suns of morning cast an amber glow through the tinted alloy of the city enclosure.

Winston steps out. He joins the flow of jumpsuit-clad laborers off to work.

Winston catches a bus. He exits in front of the district's massive six-story parking garage.

INT. PARKING STRUCTURE

Winston takes the elevator to the fifth floor where he boards a lift-car. He pilots the vehicle into aerial traffic.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - LIFT-LIMOUSINE - DAY

Usagi sits in the back. He drums his fingers. A screen displays a single word: "PARKER." His fingers stop.

USAGI
Delete file.

The word "PARKER" dissolves.

Usagi sighs.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - SURVEILLANCE LIFT-VEHICLE (SLV)

The ship hovers high above normal lift-lanes.

The on-board SURVEILLANCE OFFICER watches a screen that shows Usagi's limo dropping into an alley.

EXT. TRANSMISSION CENTER - ALLEY

Usagi and two BODYGUARDS step out of the lift-limo. The Bodyguards hold sheathed katanas.

Usagi goes to a door. He hits a buzzer. The door opens. All three enter.

INT. TRANSMISSION CENTER

BAGTAI (60s) greets Usagi with a deep bow.

BAGTAI
It has been some time, Mr. U.

USAGI
Indeed it has, Bagtai.

He hands Bagtai a small micro-disc case.

EXT. TRANSMISSION CENTER - ALLEY

A Tana Security armored transport-lift (ATL) descends behind Usagi's limo.

INT. TRANSMISSION CENTER

Usagi stands behind Bagtai who sits at his console. The old technician lets out a raspy chuckle.

BAGTAI
This transmission coding is marvelous.
Simply exquisite work. Yours?

Usagi shakes his head.

The monitor types: "TRANSMISSION LOADED ... UP-LINK SECURED."

BAGTAI
 (to computer)
 Proceed.

The monitor displays: "RELAY SUCCESSFUL."

BAGTAI
 She's off and away, Mr. U.

USAGI
 I am eternally grateful.

He pulls a tanto knife. Slices Bagtai's throat. He shoves the corpse out of the seat. Sits. Dons a headset.

INT. BOTANICAL STATION 57 - LUXURY HOTEL SUITE - BEDROOM

WIDOWMAKER (30s), a woman with a powerful yet feminine build, violently rides a NAKED MAN of equally impressive physique. Her beauty belies her feral nature.

Widowmaker climaxes with a primal howl. Sweat drips off her face onto Naked Man's chest. She looks down.

Naked Man's face appears oddly vacant.

WIDOWMAKER
 You're so perfect.

Naked Man blinks mechanically.

WIDOWMAKER
 And that's the problem with these things.

She reaches behind her ear.

Naked Man disintegrates into millions of tiny digits as a compact sense-simulator appears on Widowmaker's head.

A beeping sounds from another room. Widowmaker grins.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Widowmaker opens a metal briefcase containing electronic equipment. She inserts a wire from it under her left arm.

WIDOWMAKER'S POV - INTERCUT

Her eyes close. The darkness is broken by the blinking cursor of her cybernetic HUD (heads-up display).

"COUNTER-TRACE CODE SEQUENCE ACTIVATED ... CODE IDENTIFICATION CONFIRMED ... ORIGIN: WIDOW'S EYE."

Widowmaker smiles.

WIDOWMAKER

Greetings, Usagi. So the time has come I take it?

USAGI (V.O.)

It has. Sending the data.

Hundreds of photos and hours of surveillance footage flash across Widowmaker's HUD in four seconds. It ends with: "FILE 83746587 - PARKER."

USAGI (V.O.)

Your primary target is male, age unknown. I have failed to acquire a dossier or description. His alias is Parker. You will have to locate and identify him yourself. The details of his base of operations are included.

Widowmaker's HUD changes to a surveillance video of KALIBER (40s), a powerfully built flat-top mercenary with crisscross scars on his face. He wears long sleeves and gloves.

Kaliber is joined by SHANK (30s) and UMBRA (30s), both large muscular men of identical height and build. They could almost be taken for twins if Shank were not white or Umbra black.

The surveillance zooms in on KALIBER.

USAGI (V.O.)

Secondary target is ...

WIDOWMAKER

Kaliber, the infamous mercenary. How exciting. I've been hoping for a challenge.

USAGI (V.O.)

Yes. He will be difficult to destroy. As will Shank and Umbra, the other Gen-Ones. According to my surveillance, none of Parker's operatives, except those I've targeted, would know his identity, nor do they know of Parker's connection to me. However, if you discover otherwise, you are to eliminate them. You will be compensated for your extra efforts, of course.

WIDOWMAKER

How kind of you. This is not a simple matter of convenience, is it?

USAGI (V.O.)

No. I am under investigation. Kazuya and his samurai may interfere with your attempt to get on-planet.

WIDOWMAKER

Interesting. Anything else?

USAGI (V.O.)

No. Good hunting, Widowmaker.

Her HUD goes black.

A predatory smile spreads across her face.

INT. TRANSMISSION CENTER

Usagi inserts another disc. The hard drive "melts down."

EXT. TRANSMISSION CENTER - ALLEY - DAY

Usagi and the Bodyguards exit.

Six SECURITY TROOPERS aim their rifles at Usagi and the Bodyguards. Behind the Troopers stands Daijiro, Kazuya's identical clone except Daijiro appears fifteen years younger.

USAGI

Daijiro.

DAIJIRO

Surrender.

USAGI

I cannot.

In a blur of motion, the Bodyguards attack the Troopers.

Usagi pulls a pistol. He flees.

Behind Usagi, half the Troopers have already fallen. Three rifles roar in vain.

The Bodyguards hack the last Trooper. They turn on Daijiro.

Daijiro slowly draws his katana.

DAIJIRO

You are outmatched.

The Bodyguards leap.

Usagi hears swords clash. He looks back.

Daijiro impales the last Bodyguard.

Usagi turns. Stops in his tracks.

Kazuya stands ten paces away, his sheathed katana in hand.

Kazuya and Usagi lock eyes.

Usagi drops his pistol.

INT. BOTANICAL STATION 57 - LUXURY HOTEL SUITE - BEDROOM

Widowmaker pulls a large equipment case from her closet. A label identifies it as a "AQUATECH MARK-3 HUMIDIFIER." With the push of a button, the case unfolds.

Widowmaker efficiently disassembles the humidifier which produces a pistol, ammo, knives and many other instruments of destruction.

She pulls a skin-tight light-absorbing combat suit over her body. She looks like a shadow. She stashes the equipment in her suit. Over that she dons civilian clothes and a trench coat.

Widowmaker pockets a lift-taxi pilot's license with her picture and a passport with an unknown woman's photo. The name on the passport is: DR. MARINA DELRAY

She opens a case on her desk.

A life-like mask stares at Widowmaker with empty sockets.

INT. BOTANICAL STATION 57 - HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Transparent walls overlook kilometers of neatly lined orchards and a vast expanse of agricultural farms.

Widowmaker descends in a glass elevator. She wears the mask and now looks like Dr. Marina Delray from the passport photo.

The BELLBOY hurries over to her as the elevator opens.

BELLBOY

Is there anything you want for your trip?
It's 10 hours to the city, you know.

WIDOWMAKER

No. I have everything I need.

BELLBOY

Well have a nice day, Dr. Delray.

WIDOWMAKER

I certainly will.

INT. BOTANICAL STATION 57 - HOTEL ENTRANCE

Widowmaker steps into a cab.

The lift-taxi exits the biosphere of Botanical Station Fifty Seven, via transit tube, then speeds toward the horizon.

INT. CAFE - DAY (RAINING)

DERRICK (early 30s), a rough-around-the edges bad boy with a talent for making trouble, sits at a window booth. He eats breakfast.

A cigarette burns on the edge of Derrick's plate. He takes drags between bites. Flicks his ashes on the table.

WAITRESS

Hey! We got ashtrays, ya know.

DERRICK

Hey! I could give a fuck, ya know.

The Waitress looks dumbstruck.

Derrick gives her a "shit-eating grin" as Winston's lift lands outside in the b.g.

A BURLY MAN (40s) in the booth in front of Derrick turns.

BURLY MAN

You ain't got no right to talk to her like that.

DERRICK

Sure I do.

Burly Man stands up. Faces Derrick.

DERRICK

Sit down, old man.

Burly Man reaches for Derrick.

Derrick spins Burly Man and pins his arm between his shoulder blades. Burly Man winces.

DERRICK

What was that? You say this hurts?

He wrenches the arm further. Burly Man grunts in agony.

WINSTON (O.S.)
Let him go, D.

Derrick turns.

Winston stands in the doorway.

DERRICK
Ahright.
(to Burly Man)
Lucky, lucky.

He throws Burly Man to the floor. Winston rolls his eyes.

DERRICK
C'mon, I wasn't gonna hurt nobody ...
much.

WINSTON
Sure.

EXT. TANA CITY - CAFE - STREET

Winston and Derrick run through the rain to the lift.

INSIDE

Derrick dries his face with his shirt tail.

DERRICK
Shit. I forgot they'd scheduled rain for
my district today. I would've brought my
umbrella.

WINSTON
Why bother when you could just beat up
some old man for one.

DERRICK
I feel there's some hidden meaning in
your sarcasm, my brother.

WINSTON
Whatever could've given you that idea?

DERRICK
I don't know, your shit mood maybe.

WINSTON
Well you aren't helping it any. I mean,
what the hell was that all about?

DERRICK
The guy stole the toast off my plate.
What was I s'pose to do?

Winston gives Derrick a sidelong glance. Derrick grins.

DERRICK
It's true.

WINSTON
You're a pain in the ass.

DERRICK
Ain't nothin' new.

WINSTON
That's right. It's getting real old.

DERRICK
Ah, you'll get over it. Besides, it's
payday, right? The miracle cure for
shitty moods.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT - BASE TWO - DAY

Winston idles down outside. The hanger door opens.

HANGAR

The lift pulls in.

KATE (30s), a crew-cut professional tom-boy with
grease-stained hands, nods to Winston as the lift-car lands.

BROCK (40s), a leather-faced hard-ass, chews on his cigar as
he stencils "777-SS" onto the side of a cargo-lift (CLV). He
glances at Winston and Derrick. Shakes his head.

A pair of legs protrude from under CLV 777-SS. They belong
to RATCHET (19), a genial pint-sized tech. He wrenches away
at the bottom of the lift.

PABLO (20s), a skinny mohawk-sporting underachiever, and BO
(30s), a heavy-set prison-tat thug, unload shiny cylindrical
canisters from a cargo van.

CORY (30s), a handsome "wannabe leader of the pack", scans
the canister labels with a hand-held device. He smirks at
Winston and Derrick.

CORY
Took your time, huh?

DERRICK
That your business or somethin', Cory?

Winston looks up to the mirrored window of the office above.

WINSTON
Kaliber here?

BO
Yup. He's pissed you're late.

PABLO
Fuckin'-A he is!

Ratchet slides out from under CLV 777-SS.

RATCHET
Pain is a four-letter word, tardy boys.

DERRICK
Yeah? Well how many letters are in "put my boot in your ass," Ratchet?

RATCHET
Umm, eighteen.

CORY
It ain't Ratchet who's gonna get a boot in the ass today, Derrick.

DERRICK
Who then? Me? You gonna do it, Cory?

Kate passes Derrick. Slaps his butt.

KATE
Cool down, tough guy. You're in enough trouble already. Bo said he saw Kaliber whittling a paddle with that big fucking knife of his.

Bo and the others laugh. Brock grunts his amusement.

Kaliber steps out of the office onto the landing.

All heads turn. The laughter dies.

Brock grumbles something inaudible.

KALIBER
Winston, Derrick, you're late. Don't be again.

WINSTON

Yes, sir.

Derrick seems oblivious. Lights a cigarette. Kaliber's eyes focus on him as Derrick absently blows a smoke ring.

KALIBER

Parker didn't hired any mutes, Derrick.

DERRICK

Nah, just a few mutants.

Bo, Kate, Pablo and Cory stare at Derrick, dumbstruck. Winston frowns. Brock shakes his head again. Ratchet retreats back under the lift.

KALIBER

It's taken you over a year to muster up the courage to mouth off to me, Derrick. Good for you. Next time it won't be. Understood?

DERRICK

Sure.

Kaliber's eyes narrow.

KATE

(whispers)

Are you fucking crazy?

DERRICK

Sorry. I mean; yes, sir.

Kaliber looks at Winston.

KALIBER

Winston, get up here. Parker's given me some details to brief you on.

Winston heads for the stairs. He throws Derrick a reproachful glance as he passes.

KALIBER

As for the rest of you giggling fucks, get back to work.

Winston enters the office. Kaliber closes the door.

Everyone breathes a sigh of relief. Ratchet peaks out from under the lift.

CORY

That was stupid.

KATE

He'd kill you, Derrick.

Derrick laughs.

DERRICK

What difference is one more motherfucker that might kill me s'pose to make? What should I do, Kate, pick and choose my worry-of-the-week and mark my calender? Well, there ain't enough days in the year for all the shit that might kill me in this business. So it's all or nothin'. That's why I ain't afraid of that motherfucker ... 'cause I ain't afraid of nothin'.

He spits on the floor.

DERRICK

You people are a fuckin' joke. Brock, you're excluded.

Brock nods as he smooths down the last "S" on the CLV.

INT. BASE TWO - OFFICE

Winston and Kaliber sit at a table. Shank and Umbra monitor surveillance screens. They nod to Winston.

KALIBER

Here's your perimeter pass and cargo registration.

He slides a folder across the table.

WINSTON

Delivery confirmation?

KALIBER

Negative.

WINSTON

The pick-up is four hours out of the city. If the supplier doesn't confirm within three hours, I'm aborting. Anything else?

KALIBER

Derrick's been getting into a lot of trouble outside our business. He's too wild. If he's arrested, they will interrogate him.

KALIBER (CONT'D)

You know no one can hold out in those rooms. He could compromise everything.

WINSTON

It won't come to that, Kaliber.

KALIBER

You need to keep him in line. I mean it.

Winston goes to the door.

WINSTON

I'll say something to him. Call when you get the cargo confirmation.

KALIBER

Affirmative.

INT. BASE TWO - HANGAR - CLV 777-SS

Winston and Derrick buckle their safety harnesses. The instruments light up as the power plant hums.

The hangar doors open. The lift backs out.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - CLV 777-SS

Winston ascends into the lift-lanes.

DERRICK

You looked kind of grim coming out of the office. Kaliber chewed you out pretty good, huh?

WINSTON

Could've been worse.

DERRICK

Yeah okay, tough guy.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND - HOLDING CELL

Usagi waits kneeled on a tatami mat. The door opens.

USAGI

Ah, our honorable Chief of Samurai.

Kazuya steps inside, followed by a GUARD who carries a tray with a folded parchment, brush-pen and ink upon it. The Guard sets the tray before Usagi. He retreats from the room.

USAGI

Let me guess. Our Lord has been gracious enough to offer me the honor of suicide if I confess.

KAZUYA

That is his offer.

USAGI

And what of my family?

KAZUYA

Cooperate and your House survives. Refuse and it will be wiped out.

USAGI

It seems a simple enough decision.

He unfolds the parchment. Takes the brush-pen in hand.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND - MEETING CHAMBERS - DAY

Twelve SAMURAI kneel with their katanas next to them. Their suits and com-links match Kazuya's. They bow in unison.

Kazuya enters. Daijiro follows.

KAZUYA

We, the Samurai Elite, are the guardians of the Great House of Tana. Our honor is in our duty, and we have had no greater duty than that which is upon us now.

On the wall behind Kazuya, a strand of data-codes races across a large screen.

KAZUYA

This is the deep-space transmission sent off-planet by Usagi. He has confessed to supplying a smuggler known to him only as Parker, and he has now hired an assassin to eliminate all traces of his treason. This assassin is The Widowmaker.

The Samurai stiffen.

KAZUYA

Usagi has surrendered all his files, but none contain data on this Parker individual. Usagi claims Parker would meet only in a virtual reality interface. These are Widowmaker's other targets.

The screen now shows a classified digital dossier of Kaliber dressed in a military uniform then in various types of mechanized combat armor.

Text scrolls across the screen: "GEN-ONE SOLDIER PROTOTYPE
SERIAL NUMBER: K-5717 ... CALL SIGN - KALIBER ... ASSIGNED:
DREADNAUGHT 0-G ARMORED COMBAT DIVISION ... A.C.D. LEVEL ONE
PROMOTION: PLANETARY ASSAULT TROOPERS STATUS: KIA."

The final page has a stunning display of medals and ribbons.

Shank and Umbra have "Gen-One" dossiers, yet less impressive.

KAZUYA

The Gen-One Soldiers were designed for battle-armor warfare and engineered for optimum physical constitution. Healing augmentation seemed to be the focus of the program so they could survive the ravages of deep space armored combat. Kaliber will be a formidable obstacle. Be that as it may, we must find Parker before the Widowmaker does, then use him to draw the assassin in.

The screen changes to a Inner Systems Bureau of Investigations interface. A digital anatomical scan of Widowmaker appears. The skin and muscle tissues peel away. The image zooms on several skeletal joints.

KAZUYA

Widowmaker's strength and speed are enhanced by cybernetic micro-draulics in her legs, left arm, and her spinal system. Her skeleton is structurally reinforced. She has a cybernetic eye and enhanced audio perception. Usagi claims she is already inbound for Widow's Eye. All orbital docking stations and on-planet landing sites must be secured. We must arrest or destroy her. These smugglers must also be brought to justice. Failure of either duty would be a great loss of face for Lord Tana. Daijiro will give the details of your assignments. That is all.

The Samurai bow.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - CLV 777-SS -DAY

Winston's phone beeps. The display reads: "SUPPLIER HAS CONFIRMED - KAL."

WINSTON

Excellent. We have a green light.

Winston and Derrick cruise through rain to the perimeter wall.

Winston glides into the docking bay. Magnetic mooring lines secure the cargo-lift. Winston's pass clears.

The mooring lines detach. The gate opens.

EXT. TANA CITY - TUBE TRANSIT LINE - CLV 777-SS

Winston accelerates to full throttle.

DERRICK

That fuckin' Kaliber. He's prob'ly rat-fuckin' me to Parker right now. You think Parker's pissed at me?

WINSTON

How should I know?

DERRICK

Maybe somebody mentioned it. I wanna meet Parker myself. Give him the facts by Derrick. Set it straight, you know?

WINSTON

Maybe you will sometime.

DERRICK

Yeah right, like any of us pee-ons are gonna meet The Man. Think you will?

WINSTON

Who knows.

DERRICK

You ain't much of a conversationalist today, man.

WINSTON

There's just a lot on my mind.

DERRICK

Well I'm listening.

WINSTON

I'm stressed about the baby. If they find out Cyndi's pregnant, they'll take my kid. If the baby ended up a Company ward like us, I couldn't live with myself.

DERRICK

I told you this would happen. You should've left her at the club and kept payin' for her pussy.

WINSTON

You're fucking unbelievable.

DERRICK

I don't mean to rub salt in your wounds man, but it's true. You had no business riskin' bringing her into our business. There's a crowd. Simple as that.

WINSTON

That's not what I was talking about, and we're not having that argument again. All three of us are getting off this rock together. You got it?

Derrick shrugs and looks away.

WINSTON

Thank you, you're a model of cooperation.

INT. TUBE TRANSIT LINE - CLV 777-SS - LATER

Winston cruises along the Widow's Eye crater.

Deep within, mammoth mining machines gouge into the planet's crust. A gigantic dust cloud chokes the sky. Derrick sleeps.

WINSTON

Wake up.

He nudges Derrick.

DERRICK

What? Oh, we're here, huh?

Winston lands the lift in the mining facility air-lock. The hangar pressurizes. The interior gate opens.

INT. MINING FACILITY

Winston stops outside a storage hangar. The door opens.

STORAGE HANGAR

Stacks of crates. LABORERS in jumpsuits wait. Winston lands within. He climbs out of the CLV.

Kazuya enters from a door at the back. His suit matches Usagi's Bodyguards. He bows before Winston.

KAZUYA
Your cargo is ready.

WINSTON
Who are you?

Kazuya listens to Winston's steady heartbeat.

KAZUYA
I am Dai.

WINSTON
I don't know you, Dai-san. Got a password for me?

KAZUYA
Kagemusha.

WINSTON
Well, I guess you're okay then. Welcome to the team.

KAZUYA
Thank you.

Kazuya bows again. With an "ink pen," he shoots a tiny micro-transmitter onto Winston's clothing.

Kazuya exits. Winston directs the Laborer on loading.

INT. MINING FACILITY - STORAGE HANGAR - OFFICE

Daijiro watches Winston and Derrick on a surveillance screen. Kazuya joins him.

KAZUYA
They know nothing. The pilot's heartbeat did not fluctuate above normal.

DAIJIRO
Their images match two in Usagi's file. Shall I arrest them?

KAZUYA
No. Their absence would alert Parker. The transmitter is in place. They will lead us to him.

INT. STORAGE HANGAR

The Men finish loading. Winston takes off.

INT. TUBE TRANSIT LINE - CLV 777-SS

The outpost disappears in the distance.

WINSTON
Sweep the cargo for tracking bugs.

DERRICK
Why? That went by the numbers, man.

WINSTON
Just do it.

Derrick disappears into the cargo hold. The door shuts behind him. Winston grabs his phone.

INT. BASE TWO - OFFICE - INTERCUT

Kaliber sits at a workstation. His phone rings. He answers.

KALIBER
Yeah.

WINSTON
We have a Code Red. Kazuya was there.
He was at the pick up.

KALIBER
They must have bagged our supplier.

WINSTON
Or worse. Initiate Contingency Plan One.

KALIBER
Affirmative, initiate Con Plan One. I'll
have Umbra and Team Two set up the
cycles. We will rendezvous at Base One.

Winston disconnects. Derrick returns.

DERRICK
You were right. Three of the crates were
bugged. You better call somebody, man.

WINSTON
It's done. We're to make the drop then
get to Base One asap.

The CLV races through the tube.

EXT. TANA CITY - TUBE TRANSIT LINE - CLV 777-SS - DAY

Winston and Derrick pass through perimeter gate without incident.

EXT. TANA CITY - TUBE TRANSIT LINE - LIFT-TAXI

The cabby wears a checkered cabby's hat. Widowmaker rides in back, still disguised. They pass through the perimeter gate.

CABBY

So I says to him, you can't pay for this ride with off-system credits. So he says ...

Classical music drowns the Cabby's voice. He keeps babbling, oblivious to the music of Widowmaker's internal cyber-audio. She waves her fingers like an orchestra conductor.

The cab passes through the gate.

Widowmaker smiles.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND - HOLDING CELL

Kazuya enters. The Guard returns with another tray with a knife upon it. The blade is wrapped in rice paper.

Usagi's eyes are fixed on the blade as the Guard places the tray in the same manner as before then exits.

USAGI

I take it you have found my confession acceptable.

KAZUYA

I have. Yet I do not understand why you, a Chief Executive, would betray our Lord.

USAGI

Chief Executive? Why not a Council Lord? For three generations my family has served the Great House of Tana. Never has a Council Seat been offered. Never!

KAZUYA

There is no justification for treason.

USAGI

It must be a baffling concept for you: deception. You are not like us, free in mind and will. You were conceived in a laboratory. Your DNA contains - what is it - three genetic strands? Trained and mentally conditioned to serve, to be predictable. No doubt such intensive programming does not allow for even a single thought of self.

KAZUYA
I do not consider such things.

USAGI
How could you?

Kazuya cannot answer. Usagi enjoys Kazuya's dilemma.

USAGI
A final wish, if you will. Tell me, how did you discover my perfect plan.

KAZUYA
There are no perfect plans.

USAGI
Where then was the flaw in mine?

KAZUYA
I found none. I merely suspected.

USAGI
But the discrepancy in my records? You said Lord Tana himself had taken an interest in the matter.

KAZUYA
There was no discrepancy, and I did not speak with our Lord about my intentions. It was a bluff, Usagi.

Usagi's eyes widen with shock.

KAZUYA
You see, I am not so predictable after all.

Usagi sees satisfaction in Kazuya's eyes.

USAGI
Yes, yes I do see. And it will be your downfall, Kazuya.

Kazuya slowly draws his katana. Poises to strike down.

KAZUYA
Prepare yourself, Usagi.

Usagi takes the knife. He parts the lapel of his kimono and puts the point to his abdomen.

USAGI
I have always been prepared.

He commits seppuku (samurai suicide by disembowelment).

Kazuya's katana slices down.

INT. KAZUYA'S GARDEN - DAY

The suns shine brilliantly through the transparent ceiling.

Kazuya methodically rakes precise waving lines through tiny white pebbles. He reflects on his conversation with Usagi.

USAGI (V.O.)

You are not like us. Trained and mentally conditioned to serve, to be predictable. It will be your downfall, Kazuya.

Kazuya raises his head. Daijiro enters and bows.

DAIJIRO

SecCom has matched CIDs to the men of cargo-lift Triple-Seven S-S.

KAZUYA

Continue tracking them. You have control of SecCom until I return.

DAIJIRO

You seem troubled, Kazuya-sama.

Kazuya sighs.

KAZUYA

I intended to retire, Daijiro, but now we have these problems. When they are resolved, you will take my place.

DAIJIRO

I do not understand. How can you retire? It is the Chief Samurai's duty to serve the Great House, always. It is a matter of honor, of ...

KAZUYA

Do you believe you know as much of honor and duty as I?

DAIJIRO

No. I would not presume.

Kazuya points.

Daijiro follows his finger to find a bee hovering above an orchid, its pollen sacks heavy.

KAZUYA (O.S.)

It is amazing. From conception it knows its precise, singular purpose. It will perform that duty ceaselessly and without hesitation. This will inevitably fray its wings, reducing efficiency. It knows when this occurs, and it will then leave the hive forever. It is its final duty.

He finds Daijiro's eyes confused.

KAZUYA

I am weary, Daijiro. You are the only samurai created from my DNA, and therefore worthy of the title, Chief of Samurai. You are the reason Lord Tana has finally given his consent to my retirement. Now return to your duties.

Daijiro hesitates then bows and exits.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND - LATER

Hundreds of SECCOM TECHS monitor the city. Twenty one display screens cover the forward wall. The center screen shows a topographical map of the city. A moving red dot blinks. Text follows the dot: "CLV 777-SS."

Daijiro studies Winston's CONTRACT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT:

CID - 112234

REED, WINSTON 112234 CLASS - LABOR
 FATHER: REED, WILLIAM 100732 CLASS - LABOR [DECEASED]
 MOTHER: N/A, JADE 102045 CLASS - LEISURE [DECEASED]
 EDUCATION: CORPORATE WARD STANDARD APTITUDE - EXCEPTIONAL
 CONTRACT STATUS: WARD STANDARD - 30 YEARS
 EMPLOYMENT: CLV PILOT, FIRST CLASS LICENSE # HF563-001
 RESIDENCE: UNIT 329 - BLDG. 91 - DISTRICT 12
 CRIMINAL RECORD: N/A
 PENDING INVESTIGATIONS: N/A
 CONTRACT AMENDMENTS: RESIDENTIAL 113374 TO 112234 [PENDING]
 KNOWN ASSOCIATES: WARD, DERRICK 112235 CLASS - LABOR
 -----LOVE, CYNDI 113374 CLASS - LEISURE

Kazuya enters. He takes his place at the command station.

DAIJIRO

Surveillance has been attached to Cyndi Love and her place of employment. CLV Triple-Seven S-S remains airborne. Assault teams are standing by. ComTech is still tracing Usagi's transmission.

KAZUYA

What have you found in these CIDs?

DAIJIRO

Both Winston and Derrick entered the Corporate Ward System at birth on the same day. They were boarded and educated together. Winston showed an exceptional intellect and excelled to the maximum labor-class level as a pilot. Both men have standard ward contracts of thirty years. Their credit accounts show a regular fluctuation of deposits and withdrawals in accordance with their station.

KAZUYA

Indeed, Parker has hidden their activities well.

DAIJIRO

But how could he without entering the Security Command database? No one has ever broken the SecCom codes.

KAZUYA

Parker must have. It is the only explanation. What is more, is that to escape he will need to do so again. He shall find us waiting, Daijiro. I want you to shadow Winston's tracker. He may lead us to Parker.

Daijiro bows and exits

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - CARGO-LIFT - DAY

Winston steers toward a district parking structure. He lands on the vehicle elevator. The elevator descends.

INT. PARKING STRUCTURE - SUBLEVEL

Ratchet sits on the hood of Winston's lift-car. A MAN WEARING SHADES and two MEN sit in another lift-car.

Winston parks. Ratchet waves to Winston and Derrick.

RATCHET

Howdy, boys.

LATER

Derrick and Ratchet watch from within Winston's lift-car as Winston and the Man Wearing Shades have a heated debate. The other Men sit in CLV 777-SS.

Ratchet opens his door.

DERRICK

Stay put.

RATCHET

I'm about to spring a leak, man.

DERRICK

Pinch it.

Winston shrugs apologetically to the Man Wearing Shades. They shake hands. Winston strides to his lift. Boards.

INT. PARKING STRUCTURE - SUBLEVEL - WINSTON'S LIFT-CAR

RATCHET

Payday is a six letter word, you guys. And it's time to do some spendin'. Hey, you guys should come with me to my friend Hearse's party tonight.

DERRICK

That ain't on our agenda, Ratch.

RATCHET

Too bad. Hearse throws a mean party.

DERRICK

What was that all about?

WINSTON

I told him about the crates.

DERRICK

What the hell for? The transmitters would of thrown the Company off our ass and onto theirs.

RATCHET

Transmitters? What, in the cargo?

WINSTON

I can't fuck someone over like that.

DERRICK

Well you are, man. You're fucking me over - me, Ratchet, and the whole damn crew. Those guys would've been a perfect diversion, given us some time to move.

WINSTON

I did what I thought was right.

DERRICK

Right? What does right have to do with it? We're smugglers on the run, man. You can't go making calls like that on your own. I got a say in all this too.

RATCHET

Yeah, so do I.

DERRICK

Shut up, Ratchet. I'm talking here.

(to Winston)

You gotta check in with me before you fuck around like that again. Alright?

WINSTON

What can I say? I'll do what I can.

DERRICK

That ain't good enough.

WINSTON

It's gonna have to be.

They lift off the launch platform.

RATCHET (O.S.)

Am I gonna get to piss or what?

INT. SECCOM

Kazuya watches Winston's lift-car on the main screen.

KAZUYA (INTO COMLINK)

Daijiro, report.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - PURSUIT LIFT-VEHICLE (PLV)

Daijiro, the PILOT and two TROOPERS ride within. A HUD screen shows Winston's lift-car.

DAIJIRO (INTO COMLINK)

Location, Grid Forty One, District Twenty Two. Locking in scan now.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - WINSTON'S LIFT-CAR

An alarm goes off in the cockpit.

DERRICK
We're being scanned.

WINSTON
See if you can trace it.

Derrick checks a rear-view screen. The display pans up and a red circle surrounds a distant dot. The image zooms. It shows an unmarked lift-sedan following them.

DERRICK
Got it.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - PLV

An alarm sounds.

DAIJIRO (INTO COMLINK)
Kazuya, we've been detected.

INT. SECCOM

Kazuya frowns.

KAZUYA (INTO COMLINK)
It is doubtful they will lead us to Parker now. Bring them in, Daijiro.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - WINSTON'S LIFT-CAR

Derrick shakes his head.

DERRICK
No other ships are scanning us. It could be the only Company bird, I don't know.

Winston pulls out his phone.

INT. BASE ONE - HANGAR - INTERCUT

Kaliber's phone rings.

KALIBER
Yeah?

WINSTON
Kaliber, I'm being tailed by a PLV.

KALIBER
What's your position?

WINSTON
 District Twenty Two. About eight
 kilometers out.

KALIBER
 Leave your phone on. I'll track it to
 you. Out.

Winston puts the phone on the dash.

DERRICK
 What did he say?

WINSTON
 Cavalry's on the way.

RATCHET
 Well, it better hurry.

The rear-view screen shows the PLV a few blocks behind them.

The radio transmitter crackles.

DAIJIRO (V.O.)
 You are ordered to take your ship down.
 If you do not comply you will be fired
 upon. Respond.

Derrick and Ratchet look to Winston who shrugs.

WINSTON REED (INTO HEADSET)
 Roger, Security, we will comply.

DAIJIRO (V.O.)
 You have ten seconds.

WINSTON (INTO HEADSET)
 Roger, that's one-zero to comply.

RATCHET
 Fucked is a six letter word, you guys.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT 22 - STREET

Winston lands. Shuts the engines down. The SLV lands fifty
 feet behind them.

DAIJIRO (THRU LOUDSPEAKER)
 Step out with your hands visible.

Winston and company obey.

DAIJIRO (THRU LOUDSPEAKER)
Walk to the rear of your vehicle and lay
face down.

The trio prostrates themselves accordingly.

PURSUIT LIFT-VEHICLE

PLV Trooper One points and braces himself

PLV TROOPER 1
Look out!

Headlights beam into Daijiro's side of the PLV and rush
toward them.

An armored cargo-lift rams the PLV at full speed.

The pursuit-lift tumbles into a building then rebounds into
the street. It grinds to a spinning halt on its roof.

Derrick and Ratchet look bewildered. Winston stands.

Kaliber and Shank exit the CLV with assault rifles in hand.
They take aim at the PLV.

WINSTON
Kaliber, hold your fire.

Shank looks to Kaliber. Kaliber nods. They lower their
weapons.

Winston looks at the four bloody men trapped in the mangled
PLV. Daijiro alone remains conscious, his face bloody. He
glares at Winston. The lift begins to burn.

KALIBER
Time to go.

WINSTON
No. Grab extinguishers.

Shank and Kaliber hesitate.

WINSTON
Do it! Hurry!

INT. SECURITY COMMAND

Kazuya watches an aerial view as Winston, Kaliber and Shank
put the fire out.

KAZUYA

All units stand by. Send a medical team when the area is clear.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT 22 - STREET

Winston and company squeeze into his lift. Take off.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - WINSTON'S LIFT-CAR

Winston hammers his fist on the dash.

WINSTON

Dammit! Are we prepped?

KALIBER

Affirmative. Umbra and Cory's team are in route to Base one.

WINSTON

I always hoped we wouldn't have to do this.

KALIBER

I always knew we would.

RATCHET

We're in big trouble, aren't we?

DERRICK

We're all dead or doing life in the mines if they catch us for this shit. We gotta hide out 'til this blows over.

KALIBER

This isn't going to blow over and there's no place we can hide now.

RATCHET

What are we gonna do?

WINSTON

We have to get off-planet. That's the only way.

DERRICK

How the fuck are we gonna do that?

KALIBER

It's in the works. Parker's taking care of it.

He and Winston share a quick glance.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT 24 - STREET - LIFT-TAXI

Widowmaker sits in the pilot's seat, her disguise and civilian clothes removed. She looks down the street.

WIDOWMAKER'S POV

Her cyber-eye zooms-in on a warehouse. Winston's lift-car lands in front. Widowmaker pans up and zooms-in on several security-lifts high above, then observes a large ATL (armored transport-lift) descend behind a building.

WIDOWMAKER

Time to go to work.

She exits the taxi and fades into the shadows.

INT. BASE ONE - HANGAR

Winston parks. Everyone heads for the lounge. Derrick stops Winston.

DERRICK

We need to talk.

WINSTON

Not now.

He breaks away. Follows the others.

DERRICK

(to himself)

What the fuck is going on?

INT. SECURITY COMMAND

Kazuya studies a scanner that penetrates the roof of Base One and reveals the thermal images of Winston and company entering the lounge where five other people wait. The micro-transmitter on Winston blips red.

KAZUYA

Team Two, concentrate on audio scanning.
Teams Three and Four, coordinate with the
SLVs on exterior watch.

INT. BASE ONE - LOUNGE

A smoky den, amusement hall and meeting room all in one.

Cory shoots pool. Bo cleans his nails with a knife and waits for his shot. Brock sleeps in a hammock, a stub of cigar in his mouth. Pablo paces and chain-smokes. Umbra and Kate relax on the couch.

Winston and crew enter from the Hangar.

KALIBER
 (to Umbra)
 All set?

UMBRA
 Roger that.

WINSTON
 Where's Brock.

Brock raises his arm, mumbles something indistinguishable.

PABLO
 Kaliber, what's going on? Umbra won't
 tell us anything.

KATE
 It's the Company isn't it?

DERRICK
 Did ya have help figuring that one out?

Kate gives him the finger.

DERRICK
 I know what you use that finger for,
 Kate. You don't hafta show me.

BO
 So what's our move, Kaliber?

KALIBER
 We stay put, Bo. Parker's on his way.
 You'll be briefed then.

He takes the stairs to the office. Shank and Umbra follow.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND

The monitors display several more angles of Base One.

KAZUYA
 That's it. All teams stand by for
 Parker's arrival.

He reviews a recording of Daijiro's ramming incident.

Daijiro enters. He limps. A head wound has been stitched
 up. Kazuya keeps his back to him.

KAZUYA

You made a grievous error in your threat assessment. You should have had an escort vehicle.

He rewinds the recording.

KAZUYA

It was good fortune that your crew survived. I hear talk of revenge. Make it clear throughout all levels of personnel that Winston is to be taken alive. Is that clear, Daijiro?

DAIJIRO

Yes, Kazuya-sama.

KAZUYA

I misjudged this Winston at our first encounter. I assumed his calm was due to ignorance. It was not. Observe.

He replays the footage. Points at the screen.

KAZUYA

There. That is no mere request to hold fire.

A COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN (COMTECH) appears on one of Kazuya's command station screens.

COMTECH

Sir, we have traced Usagi's signal. She's here! The Widowmaker's here!

KAZUYA

Explain.

COMTECH

Usagi's transmission was relayed through several satellites then rerouted back to a mobile link in a hotel at Botanical Station Fifty Seven. She's here. She's on Widow's Eye!

KAZUYA

We have been fooled, Daijiro. I will recall the other samurai. You take Kentaro and oversee the surveillance of Parker's base. Watch for the Widowmaker. She will be coming.

Daijiro bows and exits. Kazuya watches the footage again.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT 24

Widowmaker peeks around a building.

WIDOWMAKER'S POV

Thermographic imaging reveals FIVE TEAMS OF TROOPERS in the surrounding warehouses.

WIDOWMAKER

This looks like fun.

She creeps silently between the buildings. A PLV descends into an alley several blocks away.

INT. WAREHOUSE - STAKEOUT

Daijiro and Kentaro (20s) enter. TROOPERS and their CAPTAIN joins them. SURVEILLANCE TEAM ONE stands at attention.

DAIJIRO

Anything new to report?

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

Negative.

DAIJIRO

Captain, get your teams into position.

CAPTAIN

Yes, sir.

The Troopers march out.

EXT. BASE ONE - ROOFTOP

Widowmaker finds a reinforced vent cover. With a tiny metal tube she shoots acid onto the hinges. She removes the cover then contorts her body to slip down into the narrow shaft.

INT. BASE ONE - LOUNGE

Kaliber opens a panel hidden behind a knife throwing target. Flips a lever.

INT. WAREHOUSE - STAKEOUT

The interior scans of Base One become STATIC.

SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

Sir, a scan-disruption field has been activated and we've lost the tracker.

INT. BASE ONE - LOUNGE

Everyone but Kaliber, Shank and Umbra sheds their clothes and pulls on Tana Corporation jumpsuits and tool belts. Brock lights a fresh cigar. The ribbons of smoke drift up.

VENTILATION DUCT

The vent circulation sucks the smoke in. It passes over the grinning face of Widowmaker.

LOUNGE

Kaliber throws another lever. Part of the wall slides open and reveals a freight alcove. The crew looks shocked.

BO
What the fuck?

Kaliber makes a "cut it" gesture across his throat.

FREIGHT ALCOVE

They all enter. The door closes behind them.

Winston opens a hidden hatch in the floor. He grabs the flashlight from his tool belt then disappears into the hole.

Derrick looks down the ladder as Winston descends.

DERRICK
You going to explain this?

FREIGHT TUNNEL

Dark. Old. Abandoned. Condensation drips from the high ceiling and runs down the curved concrete walls.

Winston climbs down to a sub-level road. His flashlight finds two electric passenger carts. Winston signals for the crew to descend.

INT. BASE ONE - LOUNGE

A thin metal tube (spy cam) sticks out of the vent cover.

SPY CAM POV

Widowmaker's HUD reveals the empty lounge. It turns left then right.

LOUNGE

The spy cam retracts. The vent cover falls to the floor. Widowmaker slides down to her waist, bends backwards at an impossible angle, grabs the lip of the duct, then slithers out and drops to her feet.

Her joints instantly reshape. She looks about. Smiles.

WIDOWMAKER

Now let's see. If I were a secret door?

INT. FREIGHT TUNNEL

Winston and Kaliber drive the carts. The crew rides. All intersecting passages are sealed.

RATCHET

Did Parker build this?

WINSTON

No. The Company built a whole grid of these sub-levels to transfer cargo. After the phase-three expansion of the city, they weren't needed so the Company sealed them up.

CORY

I've never heard of these.

WINSTON

They're not common knowledge.

DERRICK

So where we taking it?

Winston points ahead.

WINSTON

That way. About five kilometers.

INT. FREIGHT TUNNEL - LATER

Winston stops at the end. Umbra ascends a ladder. Puts his palm to the hatch at the top. It beeps then opens. The crew ascends the ladder.

Kaliber turns and stares into the darkness down the tunnel behind them. He clicks his rifle's safety off. Aims down the tunnel. After a long pause, he climbs up.

INT. SECRET BASE - FREIGHT ALCOVE

Larger than the alcove of Base One. Kaliber seals the hatch.

DERRICK
Where the hell are we?

KALIBER
Parker's secret base.

The wall in front of him separates. The two massive doors slide open.

INT. SECRET BASE - HANGAR

A sleek lift-car and two massive cargo-lifts (insignias identify them as Megaload 2000 CLVs) rest on their landing gear. Containers of all sorts are stacked about the perimeter.

KALIBER
Umbra, get them prepped.

UMBRA
Yes, sir. Follow me, people.

He leads the crew to the large CLVs. Winston stays with Kaliber who inputs data into a control panel.

The display types: "IBIRIUM RODS ENGAGED ... PLASMA WELD IN TEN SECONDS ... NINE ... EIGHT ... " The countdown continues: "... TWO, ONE ... PLASMA WELD ACTIVATED."

A deep reverberating hum builds from within the doors. The doors vibrate for a moment, then silence. Winston holds his hand an inch from the metal.

WINSTON
It has a strange finality to it.

KALIBER
Everything does now.

INT. SECRET BASE - HEADQUARTERS

Electronic equipment lines the walls. Winston, Kaliber and Shank enter. Shank sits at a monitoring station.

KALIBER
Did you know it was Daijiro in that PLV.

WINSTON
Yes.

KALIBER
You should've let him burn.

WINSTON

I don't agree. Are the flight passes in order?

KALIBER

Yes, but you should consider your other options.

WINSTON

Leaving them behind to get slaughtered is not an option.

KALIBER

I respect your loyalty, but you're taking a huge risk.

WINSTON

I refuse. How are we looking, Shank?

Shank checks Base One's exterior security cameras.

SHANK

All clear.

WINSTON

So far so good. I've got to warn Cyndi.

INT. MONORAIL TRAIL - DUSK

Cyndi stands out in her "civilian" attire among the jumpsuit-clad PASSENGERS. Her phone rings.

CYNDI

Hey, love.

INT. SECRET BASE - HEADQUARTERS - INTERCUT

Winston watches a timer.

WINSTON

Cyn, I only have thirty seconds. We're in trouble. You are probably under surveillance.

CYNDI

What do I do?

WINSTON

Go to work. Act normal.

CYNDI

I don't know if I can.

WINSTON

You have to. Do you remember the case?

CYNDI

Yes.

WINSTON

Time to use it. Remember the plan?

CYNDI

Yes.

WINSTON

Good. There's equipment in the case to screen for surveillance. I'll call when it's time to rendezvous at the parking garage or if there are any changes.

The timer ticks down to two seconds.

WINSTON

I got to go. I love you.

He disconnects.

CYNDI

I love you too.

INT. SECRET BASE - FREIGHT ALCOVE

The hatch hangs open with four holes burned through it. Widowmaker faces the hangar door.

WIDOWMAKER

Ibrium plasma weld, huh? Smart boys.

She studies the surrounding walls and ceiling. Smiles.

INT. SECRET BASE - HEADQUARTERS

A large screen displays a Tana Corporation interface. The heading reads: "DIVISION OF DISTRIBUTION."

Winston's hands move with graceful rhythm over the keyboard. A series of codes appear on-screen then multiply.

Kaliber and Shank watch anxiously.

SHANK

It looks different.

KALIBER

They changed the codes today. It appears the countermeasures were also enhanced.

The code numbers lock in place. The screen changes to a Tana City interface: "DISTRIBUTION - STOREHOUSE 10 ... CARGO AND TRANSIT CONFIRMED."

KALIBER

That's it. You did it.

He and Shank exchange wide grins.

WINSTON

Not yet. I have to check SecCom's data log. See if they caught the order. It all hinges on this.

The smiles vanish.

INT. SECRET BASE - HANGAR

Ratchet looks at his reflection in the polished metal of one of the Megaload CLVs. He runs his hand through his new buzz-cut hair.

RATCHET

Square is a six letter word, you guys.

The entire crew has suffered the same fate. Bitching from all of them. Umbra stashes his clippers.

UMBRA

Quit whining. You should be happy. You're all official Tana personnel now.

KATE

Oh joy.

INT. SECRET BASE - HEADQUARTERS

Winston, Kaliber and Shank frown at the screen.

SecCom's data on the Widowmaker covers the display.

SHANK

Seems Usagi had his own contingency plan, and a mean one at that. She's as lethal as they come.

Winston looks hard at Kaliber.

WINSTON

I need a no-shit answer. Can you take her, Kaliber?

KALIBER

Maybe, but not likely.

WINSTON

Good to know.

INT. SECRET BASE - BRIEFING ROOM - LATER

Winston and Kaliber stand at the front. The crew sits.

KALIBER

Alright, listen up. The details of this mission are Winston's realm of expertise. So he has command of this operation.

No one hides their astonishment. Kaliber steps aside.

WINSTON

I know you all have questions but ...

PABLO

Where's Parker? You said he'd be here.

Murmurs of agreement.

WINSTON

Everything's set up. Don't worry.

DERRICK

Are you kidding me? Security's way up our ass, our faceless leader hasn't shown his head, and you don't want us to worry?

KALIBER

Derrick, pipe down.

DERRICK

No. Fuck that! Where's Parker? I'm sick of this mystery-man crap! But mostly I'm sick of your bullshit!

In a blink, Kaliber lunges across the room. He drives his fist into Derrick's gut. Derrick drops in a heap.

WINSTON

Kaliber!

KALIBER

(to Derrick)
You will follow orders or I'll snap your fucking spine.

DERRICK

Fuck you.

Kaliber kicks him.

WINSTON
Kaliber, back off!

He pushes Kaliber. Kaliber grabs Winston. Spins and lifts him up against the wall.

Derrick makes for his pistol. Umbra draws his faster. He levels the large barrel at Derrick's head.

UMBRA
Don't.

Kaliber's back faces the others.

KALIBER
One break in discipline and this whole thing crumbles.

WINSTON
I have to tell them.

KALIBER
(whispers)
If you compromise Parker now ...

WINSTON
They need to know. They need Parker.

He releases Winston.

KALIBER
Alright. Do it then.

Winston faces the crew. Looks at Derrick.

WINSTON
I am Parker.

Seven jaws drop. Brock mumbles something, smiles and nods.

CORY
Kaliber, is this ...?

KALIBER
Yes, it's true.

PABLO
But how?

WINSTON

Many years of preparation. I created Parker to be a buffer, a target, so if the heat came down, the Company would go for him and give me a warning. So far so good.

BO

So you've been calling all the shots?

WINSTON

That's right.

RATCHET

Whoa.

WINSTON

Look, the clock's running, so let's get back to business. I have a plan for us all to escape off-planet, but it isn't free. As smugglers we know the score, the hotter the item, the greater the cost of shipment. Eleven outlaws are pricey cargo. So we're going to steal a few necessities from the Company storehouses to trade for the ride.

KATE

Are you serious?

RATCHET

Please say no.

CORY

They garrison the hell out of those storehouse complexes.

PABLO

And they got a landing pad full of assault-lifts; armed and agile, man, we'd never fly out of there.

BO

They're right. I was a loader at Storehouse Nineteen. I know what security's like. It's insane. No one's ever tried to rob them.

WINSTON

And who would dare, right? I'll tell you who. The same crew that's spent years running contraband through this city undetected. Years! How's that for impossible?

WINSTON (CONT'D)

If we can pull off all those jobs - thousands of jobs - is there really any doubt about this one? Is it any different than all the others? You better believe it is. The difference is that this run is for our lives. The difference is that this run will get us off-planet and out of the Company's reach. I have spent years preparing for this need, and believe me, this is an absolute masterpiece - a perfect plan.

CORY

Our options?

KALIBER

Being dead.

A moment of silence passes.

CORY

I'm in.

KATE

Me too.

RATCHET

Yeah, fuck it. Let's do it!

He leads the hoots, hollers and cheers.

Derrick glares angrily.

INT. SECRET BASE - HANGAR

A small hole melts through the wall. The fly cam pokes out. It opens like a tiny metallic daisy.

WIDOWMAKER'S HUD - FLY CAM'S POV

The fly cam relays visual and audio to Widowmaker. The view of the hangar is clear. The fly cam pans around.

FREIGHT ALCOVE

Widowmaker smiles.

WIDOWMAKER

See you boys in a bit.

She jumps down into the freight tunnel.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND

Kazuya looks agitated.

KAZUYA
Daijiro, report.

DAIJIRO (V.O. THRU COMLINK)
Scan shield still up. No one has entered
or left the building.

KAZUYA
Stand by.
(to technician)
Bring up construction schematics for
district thirty one.

The center screen shows 3-D construction blueprints. Base
One is highlighted.

KAZUYA
We've missed something.
(to technician)
Give me the sub-levels.

The image drops level-by-level. Sub-level Four shows an
interconnecting grid of the freight tunnels.

KAZUYA
Daijiro, they must have acquired access
to the abandoned freight tunnels and are
buying time with the scan shield.
Infiltrate immediately.

INT. SECRET BASE - BRIEFING ROOM

A screen shows a large grid of the city. Winston points.

WINSTON
Our rally point is an empty district.
The residents are on shifts in the
outposts and won't bother us. All our
flight passes are in order, so we'll get
through the city's perimeter gate without
hassle. We only have a five minute
window in the satellite orbits, ending at
exactly oh-six hundred. Any launch after
that will be detected by those same
security satellites and it's good night.
Synchronize timers on my mark - three,
two, one, mark.

Seven timers beep and display: "07:59:59" and counting.

WINSTON

It's a long tube ride to the launch station, so we have less than a one-hour margin for error. If we run into trouble, go to your team's escape route then rendezvous at the rally point. Everybody clear?

The crew respond in the affirmative. Shank enters.

SHANK

Security's moving in on Base One.

WINSTON

That's our cue. Let's load up.

INT. SECRET BASE - HANGAR

Cory, Bo, Pablo and Kate jog to Megaload Two. Winston and the others head for Megaload One.

INT. FREIGHT TUNNEL

Widowmaker stops sprinting.

FLY CAM'S POV - INTERCUT

Widowmaker focuses on Kaliber. In the peripheral of her view, Derrick grabs Winston and pulls him aside. Winston waves off Kaliber.

DERRICK

Why didn't you tell me?

WINSTON

It would've risked everything. I'm sorry, Derrick.

DERRICK

How long have you been Parker?

Widowmaker's fly cam turns to Winston.

WIDOWMAKER (V.O.)

What's this?

WINSTON

From the beginning.

WIDOWMAKER (V.O.)

You're mine now, pretty boy.

DERRICK

I can't believe you didn't trust me.

WINSTON

It wasn't about trust. It was what was safe for everybody. Look, I'll tell you everything when we're on that ship out of here, but we don't have time now.

DERRICK

Let's go then.

WINSTON

Wait. You're not going on this one, D.

DERRICK

What?

WINSTON

I need you to get Cyndi at Midnight Decadence.

DERRICK

Are you kidding me? I'm pissed, but I'm still watching your back.

WINSTON

I can't get her, but you can. She knows you, she'll come with you.

He points to the lift-car.

WINSTON

That's my fastest ship, and you're my best pilot. Get her to the rally point. You are the only one I trust with her life, Derrick.

DERRICK

Okay. Since ya put it like that.

Winston digs four credit cards out of his pocket.

WINSTON

Here. These are off-system accounts. If anything should happen to me, get her and Ratchet to the launch station.

DERRICK

Ratchet?

WINSTON

Yeah. Take him with you. I don't want him on this heist. It's too dangerous. The kid's never even hurt someone's feelings before, you know?

DERRICK

If that's all the baggage, then I better split before you start crying on me. See you at the rally point.

WINSTON

Yep.

DERRICK

Ratchet! Front and center!
(to Winston)
See you, man.

WIDOWMAKER (V.O.)

Thank you, boys. It's been educational.

Widowmaker sprints full speed towards Base One.

INT. SECRET BASE - HANGAR

Derrick and Ratchet climb in the lift-car.

WINSTON

(to himself)
Be careful, brother. Be careful.

Winston jumps into the pilot's seat of Megaload One. He fits his headset. Fires up the engines.

WINSTON (INTO HEADSET)

Test one, two, three. Flight Two, do you copy?

MEGALOAD TWO - INTERCUT

Cory dials his headset in.

CORY (INTO HEADSET)

Flight One, we copy, five-by-five.

WINSTON (INTO HEADSET)

Roger, Flight Two. Let's lift off.

He engages the vertical-drive throttle. Both lifts ascend.

Winston gives Kaliber a "thumbs up." Kaliber hits a switch. All the lights dim. The roof slowly retracts.

EXT. SECRET BASE - AERIAL TRAFFIC - NIGHT

The Megaloads and lift-car exit. The hangar closes.

WINSTON (OVER INTERCOM)
Alright, everyone try to relax. We've
got a long flight across town.

LIFT-CAR

DERRICK (INTO HEADSET)
We'll be seeing you crazy motherfuckers
at Rally One. You give 'em hell, my
brother. Give 'em hell! Waaaaahooooo!

MEGALOAD ONE

Derrick and Ratchet cackle through the transmitter.

Kaliber holds an electronic detonator.

KALIBER
Detonating charges in five seconds -
four, three, two ...

WINSTON
Wait. Just blow the tunnel.

KALIBER
What's good for the conscience isn't good
for survival anymore. Those are SecCom
Troopers in Base One.

WINSTON
Just blow the goddamn tunnel, Kaliber.

Kaliber turns a switch on the detonator. Presses a button.

INT. FREIGHT TUNNEL

Widowmaker stops. Turns.

Hot wind blows back her hair. Explosions echo from nearly
five kilometers down the tunnel.

Bursts of orange approach.

WIDOWMAKER
Uh-oh.

She turns. Sprints at top speed.

The explosions gain ground.

Widowmaker sees the open hatch ahead of her. She leaps.

INT. BASE ONE - FREIGHT ALCOVE

Widowmaker blasts through the hole. Flames burst out behind her.

She slams against the ceiling. Falls.

INT. BASE ONE - HANGAR

Daijiro, Kentaro and the Assault Team look at the floor.

CAPTAIN

What the hell was that?

INT. BASE ONE - LOUNGE

Sparks shoot from around the hangar door. It falls inward.

Thin red laser-beams crisscross through the smoke. Troopers cautiously step over the threshold in two-by-two cover formation. Daijiro and Kentaro follow.

Lasers find the alcove opening. Something shoots out.

DAIJIRO

Get down!

He and Kentaro dive for cover as - BOOM! - the grenade explodes.

Troopers go down. Screams from everywhere.

Daijiro looks up.

Widowmaker darts out. Smoke swirls behind her. Two Troopers fall. Their throats spray blood.

The sound of steel through bone and flesh. Screams. More blood.

CAPTAIN

There! Fire! Fire!

Targeting lasers go in all directions. Troopers open fire.

Widowmaker leaps. Comes up blasting with a rifle.

CAPTAIN

Fall back! Suppressive ...

Two bullets pulverize the Captain's face.

Widowmaker disappears up the ventilation shaft. Bullets ricochet around the opening. Something drops down.

Daijiro and Kentaro dive through the door just as - KABOOM! - another grenade explodes. It rips through the Troopers.

DAIJIRO

She's coming up the ventilation shaft!

EXT. BASE ONE - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

TROOPERS rappel down from two ATLS that hover above.

Laser targeting sights zero-in on the shaft opening.

Grenades fly out of the open vent. The Troopers dive for cover.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! The explosions blow Troopers off the roof.

Widowmaker jumps out. Lasers swoop on her. She dives off the roof as Troopers fire.

Daijiro and Kentaro charge outside. They see Widowmaker land.

She winks at them, then runs as bullets rip into the wall.

Daijiro and Kentaro give chase, pistols and katanas in hand.

DAIJIRO

I need aerial scanning.

An SLV swings into position above the alley.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - SURVEILLANCE LIFT-VEHICLE

The screen shows only Daijiro and Kentaro running.

COPILOT

She's invisible to the scanners! I can't get a fix on her!

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

Widowmaker dives out of an alley over a team of five TROOPERS.

She lands firing. They all go down.

She runs across the street. Leaps to a second floor fire escape. Looks back.

Daijiro and Kentaro see her.

Widowmaker waves then disappears inside a window.

Daijiro signals Kentaro to take the ground level then jumps to the second floor. He stumbles on his injured right leg.

INT. STORAGE BUILDING

Crates and boxes create a tight labyrinth.

Daijiro creeps silently. Checks his corners. He hears Kentaro coming up the stairs. The stairwell door swings open.

Kentaro crouches, gun and katana ready. He sees Daijiro.

Daijiro gives Kentaro hand signals.

Kentaro nods then moves behind a stack of crates.

Daijiro inches along towards the exterior wall. He and Kentaro meet on the other side.

More signals. They move again.

Daijiro stops.

EXT. STORAGE BUILDING - INTERCUT

Widowmaker stands on a narrow ledge. Slides to the window.

Daijiro's ear twitches.

He spins and fires through the window behind him.

The pane shatters. Widowmaker screams as she falls back.

Kentaro runs to the window.

DAIJIRO
Kentaro, wait!

Kentaro leans out the window. Aims his gun down.

He finds an empty street below.

Widowmaker hangs upside down above him, her legs hooked over the roof ledge. She smiles down at him.

WIDOWMAKER
Sucker.

Kentaro looks up. A wire noose drops over his head.

Kentaro slips his pistol and sword between the noose and his throat.

Widowmaker yanks the line with her cyber-arm and tears Kentaro from the room. The window sash explodes outward.

The sword edge slices the wire.

Kentaro loses his gun.

He falls.

Widowmaker's eyes meet the helpless samurai's.

She fires her pistol.

Three explosive-tipped rounds blast meaty holes into Kentaro's chest. He thuds on the pavement below.

Kentaro's sword clatters a few feet away.

DAIJIRO

Kentaro!

He thrusts his pistol arm up and out the window. Fires.

Widowmaker sits up beyond the plane of the wall.

Bullets zip harmlessly past. She kicks over her head and back-flips.

Widowmaker passes the window mid-flip and gun ready.

Daijiro sees Widowmaker and the dark muzzle of her weapon an instant before it flashes - BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

Daijiro dodges two shots. A third grazes his shoulder. The explosive impact sends him down.

Daijiro's head hits the floor. His comlink earpiece falls out.

Widowmaker lands gracefully, straddling Kentaro's corpse.

Daijiro stands. Checks his wound.

DAIJIRO (INTO COMLINK)

Command, Kentaro is down - condition unknown. Assassin is fleeing. I am in pursuit.

He dives out the window. Lays down cover fire the whole way.

KAZUYA (V.O. THRU EARPIECE)

No, Daijiro. Wait for support.

EXT. STORAGE BUILDING - STREET - NIGHT

Daijiro lands. His wounded leg buckles.

Widowmaker's nowhere in sight.

Daijiro moves to Kentaro. Checks his pulse. He clenches his jaw. His eyes search the ground.

Kentaro's sword is missing.

Daijiro gets to his feet and pursues Widowmaker.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT - ALLEY

Daijiro slowly advances towards an intersection. Gun and blade in hand.

Widowmaker waits around the corner, back to the wall, pistol and Kentaro's sword ready.

Daijiro steps into the intersection.

Widowmaker flips over him. Strikes with the sword as she's inverted above him.

Daijiro drops his stance and blocks. Pivots. Fires.

Widowmaker dodges. Returns fire. Daijiro rolls left. Empties his clip.

Widowmaker leaps again. She slashes down.

Daijiro parries. Counters. Misses as she rolls backward.

They take their stances, blades touching. They holster their empty pistols.

Daijiro's face is dead serious.

Widowmaker grins fiendishly.

Sirens approach.

WIDOWMAKER

We can't go on like this forever, my
love.

She looks at Daijiro's right leg. Blood seeps through the fabric from his previous wound.

Widowmaker attacks with a backhand sword-strike. Daijiro blocks. They lock swords.

Widowmaker pushes against Daijiro's blade with her cyber-arm.

Daijiro's right leg gives out. He stumbles back.

Widowmaker drives Daijiro's guard down then - CRACK! - punches his face with her cyber-arm.

Daijiro flies back and slams against the wall behind him. He slumps down.

Daijiro's jaw hangs open, his face shattered. Blood runs down his cheeks and chin. He struggles to stand. Faces Widowmaker.

WIDOWMAKER

I expected more from one of Tana's boys.
Too bad.

She decapitates him with a swift backhand stroke.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND

A screen shows a grid of the city. A red blip appears.

SECCOM TECH

Sir, I have the Lieutenant Commander's signal.

KAZUYA

Send every available ...

SECURITY OFFICER (V.O. THRU TRANSMITTER)

Command, we've got a body three clicks due north of Parker's base. Identity unknown.

Kazuya takes a step forward.

KAZUYA

Patch it in.

An aerial view of the alley comes up. Daijiro lies belly down. Two swords protrude from his back. His head lies nearby.

Everyone stares at the screen in utter disbelief.

Kazuya leaves.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT - NIGHT

Widowmaker emerges from the shadows. Boards her lift-taxi. She finds Midnight Decadence in the on-board directory.

WIDOWMAKER

Let's pay the sweet little whore a visit.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - NIGHT

Cyndi strolls up to the club entrance.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - MAIN ROOM

A huge executive-class gentlemen's club. A DANCER strips on the center stage.

SATO, the manager, sees Cyndi come in.

SATO

There's my favorite girl.

CYNDI

Hi, Sato.

SATO

How's Winston?

CYNDI

Working, as usual.

SATO

Good for him.

CYNDI

I'm gonna get ready.

SATO

Hurry down. I have a high-level executive who wants to meet you.

Cyndi nods. Hurries to the backstage door. She takes an elevator to the second floor.

HALLWAY

Cyndi enters the last door.

CYNDI'S ROOM

Comfortably sized and femininely decorated.

Cyndi closes the door. Puts an ear to it. Satisfied, she hurries to her closet. She pulls out a black case. Places her thumb on the latch. The case beeps, clicks, then opens.

Cyndi sifts through the case. She activates a small surveillance detector.

The scan reads negative.

Cyndi locates the phone. She puts the tiny wireless micro-receiver in her ear. Slides the case under her bed.

There's a knock at her door.

She pulls off her shirt.

CYNDI
Who is it?

SATO
Sato. Everything all right?

CYNDI
Yeah. Come in.

Sato looks around, suspicious. Cyndi stands topless.

SATO
What's taking so long?

CYNDI
I was deciding what to wear. You said you had someone special downstairs. I wanted to look great.

SATO
I want you to dance for him first.
Entice him. You know the routine.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT - STREET

A lift-sedan lands next to an emergency medical lift (EML). Kazuya and the samurai RYU (30s) exit and meet an EMT.

KAZUYA
Do you have his body?

EMT
Yes, Commander.

Kazuya and Ryu walk to the alley.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT - ALLEY

Kazuya observes the scene of the battle. His eyes shift from one detail to another.

Footprints.

Scuff marks on the pavement.

Expended cartridges.

Bullet holes.

Blood on the ground and wall.

Soon he sees two silhouettes moving like shadows. They form into the ghostly images of Daijiro and Widowmaker fighting. He knows every move the warriors made.

KAZUYA

He underestimated her. We all did.

He leaves the alley.

STREET

Daijiro's body lies in Kazuya's lift. Kazuya stares at the bag containing the corpse of his prodigy.

KAZUYA

Leave us.

The EMTs climb into their ambulance. Ryu remains.

KAZUYA

Ryu.

RYU

Of course, Kazuya-sama.

He walks away.

Kazuya unzips the bag. He gently rights Daijiro's head. Covers the crushed side with the bag.

KAZUYA

I am sorry, Daijiro. I should have killed Usagi the moment I suspected him. But I did not want another execution to be my final act as Chief Samurai. Forgive me.

He zips the bag. Slides it into the lift. Closes the hatch.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - MAIN ROOM

Cyndi dances on center stage. She wears a tight replica of a miner's enviro-suit. Piece by piece the suit comes off. Her routine is phenomenal. The crowd goes wild.

The receiver in her ear beeps.

Cyndi keeps her cool. Her eyes scan the audience.

Sato watches Cyndi intently from the bar.

A PATRON next to Sato applauds enthusiastically.

PATRON
She really is something.

SATO
Yes she is.

Cyndi gives a final bow. More applause. She hurries off stage left.

She throws on a robe and makes for the elevator.

SATO (O.S.)
Cyndi.

Cyndi turns to see Sato with MR. OSHIRO, a Tana executive.

SATO
Cyndi, this is Mr. Oshiro. He would like your company this evening.

Cyndi smiles. Takes Mr. Oshiro's arm.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Derrick checks his watch. Ratchet looks about nervously.

DERRICK
Where the hell is she?

He pulls out his phone. Dials.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - MAIN ROOM

Cyndi sits at a booth with Mr. Oshiro, several EXECUTIVES, and two DECADENCE GIRLS. Cyndi's receiver beeps again. She knocks a drink on herself.

CYNDI
Oh God! How clumsy. My deepest apologies, Mr. Oshiro. Let me get cleaned up. I'll be right back.

Mr. Oshiro nods. Cyndi rushes off.

Sato sees her go backstage.

INT. CYNDI'S ROOM

Cyndi opens the case. Checks the phone.

The message screen reads: "WE'RE HERE...10:17." A second message reads: "WHERE ARE YOU?...10:39."

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Derrick checks his watch: "10:40."

DERRICK
Okay, that's it.

RATCHET
What do we do?

DERRICK
That's my brother's girl. What do you think we're gonna do?

INT. CYNDI'S ROOM

Cyndi pulls out a black jumpsuit from the case.

INT. HALLWAY

Sato strides briskly. Knocks on Cyndi's door.

CYNDI (O.S.)
(sounds upset)
Come in.

CYNDI'S ROOM

Sato finds Cyndi on her bed in her underwear. She cries.

SATO
Cyndi, what's going on?

CYNDI
I'm sorry. I really fucked up in there, didn't I?

SATO
It's not that big of a deal. Mr. Oshiro didn't seem too upset about it.

CYNDI
Really?

SATO
Yeah, it's okay. Come back when you get yourself together. I'll cover for you.

CYNDI
Okay. Thanks, Sato.

SATO

Sure.

He exits. Cyndi sighs in relief.

CYNDI

Okay, you can do this, Cyndi.

EXT. STREET - LIFT-CAR

Derrick parks near the back of Midnight Decadence. He hands Ratchet a pistol. Ratchet stares like he's never seen one.

DERRICK

Just point and shoot, man.

RATCHET

Okay, but I don't ...

DERRICK

It's only a precaution. Don't worry.

They creep behind the club.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - BACK ALLEY

A BUSBOY comes out of the club with a can of garbage. Derrick emerges from behind a dumpster.

DERRICK

Get Sato.

The Busboy retreats inside.

INT. CYNDI'S ROOM

Cyndi pulls on the black jumpsuit.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - BACK ALLEY

Sato exits the back door.

SATO

Derrick, what are you doing back here?

DERRICK

I need to see Cyndi. It's important.

SATO

Alright. Come in.

He leads them into the back door. It closes behind them.

A second floor window opens.

Cyndi steps onto the fire escape. She climbs down the ladder. Hangs. Drops. Lands hard.

She sees the front of Derrick's lift to the left. Looks apprehensive. Goes right instead.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE

Sato leads Derrick and Ratchet.

PRIVATE LOUNGE

Plush. Empty.

DERRICK
Where's Cyndi?

SATO
Upstairs. I'll bring her down.

DERRICK
Thanks.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - SIDE ALLEY

Cyndi looks out into the street.

A lift-taxi passes by.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - STREET - LIFT-TAXI

Widowmaker parks. Checks the front of the club.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - PRIVATE LOUNGE

Derrick goes to the window. He watches the lift-taxi lights shut off. Checks the window frame.

RATCHET
What gives, man?

DERRICK
I don't know. I gotta bad feeling.

He digs out Winston's credit cards. Hands them to Ratchet.

DERRICK
Put these someplace safe, buddy. This is our way home.

Ratchet stashes them in his breast pocket.

DERRICK
If anything goes down ...

He thumbs out the window. Ratchet nods.

Derrick stands behind a chair facing the door. He drums his fingers on the backrest. Adjusts his pistol in his belt.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - SIDE ALLEY

Cyndi peeks around the corner.

A line of PATRONS wait as the Doormen checks memberships. Cyndi sees Widowmaker's taxi.

CYNDI
How's that for lucky, kiddo?

She makes her move for the taxi.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - PRIVATE LOUNGE

The door opens. Sato returns. He's followed by the samurai, SHUZO, and two TROOPERS.

DERRICK
(to Sato)
You fucker.

SATO
Nothing I could do.

SHUZO
You are under arrest.

DERRICK
Fuck off!

He lunges with the chair knocking the Troopers into Shuzo.

Derrick spins and hurls the chair at the window.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - STREET

Cyndi moves quickly. A chair crashes out the window at the far end of the club. She stops dead in her tracks.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - PRIVATE LOUNGE

Derrick pulls his pistol.

Shuzo shoves Sato and Trooper One out of his way.

DERRICK
Run, Ratchet!

Ratchet dives out the window. Trooper Two moves to stop him. Derrick fires. He hits Trooper Two in the head.

Shuzo thrusts with his sword. He impales the wrist of Derrick's pistol hand against the wall. Derrick growls. Shuzo casually takes Derrick's pistol away.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - STREET

A security ground-car screeches around the corner.

Cyndi retreats back down the side alley.

Ratchet runs the other way. The Security car pursues him.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - LIFT-TAXI

Widowmaker sees the Security car. Aims her pistol. Something cylindrical is attached under the firing chamber.

WIDOWMAKER

This is going to hurt.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - STREET

Ratchet risks a glance back. Sees the pursuit. He yanks his gun out and points it behind him. Fires blindly.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - LIFT-TAXI

Widowmaker fires.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - STREET

The small incendiary missile penetrates the rear window of the Security car and ignites with a burst of flame.

The car swerves into a parked van and explodes.

RATCHET

Holy shit!

He give the pistol a queer look. Sprints around a corner.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - BACK ALLEY

Cyndi tries to jump to the ladder but can't reach. She pushes the dumpster under it. Climbs up.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - CYNDI'S ROOM

She pulls off the jumpsuit.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - HALLWAY

Cyndi adjusts her dress as she jogs to the elevator. The doors open. Sato stands within. He looks a little shaken and surprised to see her.

CYNDI

I heard noises. Everything okay?

SATO

Yes, everything's fine.

She joins him. The doors close.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ratchet slinks in the shadows. He breaks into a lift-sedan and "hot-wires" the ignition in seconds. Drives away.

Widowmaker's lift-taxi follows him at a discreet distance.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Kazuya stands with Hisoka, Tana's Chief Interrogator.

Derrick hangs upside down by thin metal wires in the center of a circular frame. He glares hatefully.

KAZUYA

You will have to work quickly, Hisoka.
There is little time.

HISOKA

This will not take long. Those that show the strongest initial resolve break down the quickest. Would you like to question him first?

KAZUYA

Yes.

HISOKA

One-one-two-two-three-five, this is Lord Tana's Chief of Samurai. He has some questions for you. Truthful answers will reduce discomfort. Anything to the contrary will, of course, result in suffering.

He nods to Kazuya.

KAZUYA

I am aware of your personal and professional relationship with Winston.

KAZUYA (CONT'D)
I need to know how he intends to make his
escape. Do you understand?

Hisoka removes a long needle from Derrick's throat.

Derrick tries to speak. The words come out as a raspy cough.

HISOKA
(to Kazuya)
It will be a moment.

Derrick swallows. Licks his lips.

DERRICK
Eat my shit, you mutant puke!

Kazuya frowns. Hisoka reinserts the needle. Derrick winces.

HISOKA
As I said, he is very resistant, but it
will not take long to break him. Half an
hour at the most.

KAZUYA
Report the moment you have succeeded.

He leaves. Hisoka bows. Turns to Derrick. He takes several
needles off a tray.

HISOKA
Well, young man, time to pay for your
insolence. This will be pain unlike any
you have ever imagined.

He begins his work.

Derrick cannot cry out. Only his eyes convey his agony.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND

Kazuya returns. Shuzo and Ryu follow. A SECCOM TECHNICIAN
approaches.

SECCOM TECH
Sir, we have been monitoring SecCom's
database as you ordered, and we have
found something.

He hands Kazuya some documents.

KAZUYA
As I suspected.
(to the samurai)
Now we lay the trap.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - MEGALOAD ONE

Winston eases back the throttle.

WINSTON (INTO HEADSET)
 Alright, here we go. That's Storehouse
 Ten up ahead. Let's keep it cool.

The complex is huge and well guarded. Six ALVs (assault lift-vehicles) rest on the landing pad. Flashing lights mark the entrance. Five armed GUARDS wait at the gate.

The Megaloads descend.

WINSTON (INTO TRANSMITTER)
 Storehouse Ten, this is flight group
 five-niner inbound for pick-up.

CONTROLLER (V.O. THRU TRANSMITTER)
 Roger, five-niner. Your path is clear.

The lifts land single file at the security gate. Winston's timer reads: "07:12:22."

The SERGEANT exits the gate house. Winston hands over his documents. The Sergeant looks them over.

SERGEANT
 You're clear to proceed.

The gate opens. Megaload One idles through. Kaliber slaps Winston across the shoulder.

KALIBER
 A perfect plan.

Winston looks uncertain. Kaliber sees it.

KALIBER
 What's the matter?

WINSTON
 I don't know. I expected some kind of
 flack for the short-notice cargo order.
 (into headset)
 Flight Two, stand by.

EXT. STOREHOUSE - MEGALOAD TWO

The Sergeant steps to Cory's window.

SERGEANT
 You're all clear.

CORY
My flight leader's called a stand by.

Cory's right hand slips down the side of his seat. It finds a pistol in a hidden holster.

EXT. STOREHOUSE COMPLEX - MEGALOAD ONE

Winston sees that the ALVs on the landing pad have heat coming from their exhaust ports and that the Guards have their rifle safeties off.

WINSTON (INTO TRANSMITTER)
Control this is five-niner. I've got a vertical-drive malfunction here. I can't carry my payload. Returning for another ship, over.

CONTROLLER (V.O. THRU TRANSMITTER)
Uh, negative, five-niner. You are not clear. Stand by.

Winston and Kaliber share a glance.

WINSTON (INTO HEADSET)
Cory, abort mission. Say again, abort.

KALIBER
Let's get armed, people.

Umbra, Shank and Brock open their cases and take out the rifles. They lock and load.

EXT. STOREHOUSE COMPLEX - MEGALOAD TWO

The Sergeant puts his finger to his ear-piece. His expression drops. He goes for his sidearm.

Cory puts the barrel of his pistol to the Sergeant's forehead and -BLAM!- the Sergeant's head blows apart.

CORY
We're fucked! I'm out of here!

He hits the vertical accelerator.

EXT. STOREHOUSE COMPLEX - MEGALOAD ONE

Winston sees the action in his rear-view screen.

WINSTON
Goddammit!

KALIBER
Hit it, Winston!

Winston slams the throttle. Umbra passes Kaliber a rifle.

The Guards blast away. TROOPERS pour out of the warehouses.
Bullets ricochet.

Kaliber returns fire.

The ALVs lift off.

Winston looks back.

WINSTON
Here come the ALVs! We got nine
kilometers to our secondary routes.
Let's make it!

EXT. LIFT-LANES - MEGALOAD TWO

Cory sees the ALVs in his rear screen.

CORY
They're right on me!

The smaller, faster assault-lifts make up the distance.

ALV One swoops on Megaload Two.

EXT. LIFT-LANES - ASSAULT-LIFT ONE

The GUNNER brings Megaload Two into his HUD gun sights.

The cannon roars. Fire bursts from the spinning barrels.

Tracers zip through the night sky. Sparking ricochets light
up Megaload Two.

ALV GUNNER
The armor's too thick! Get under it.

The ALV drops altitude.

EXT. LIFT-LANES - MEGALOAD ONE

Winston sees the maneuver.

WINSTON
Cory, drop down! They're going for your
drivers! Look out!

It's too late.

EXT. LIFT-LANES - ASSAULT-LIFT ONE

The Gunner brings his turret up and fires.

The bottom of Megaload Two ignites. Smoke billows out from beneath the lift.

EXT. LIFT-LANES - MEGALOAD TWO

Bullets penetrate the hull. Bo catches one in the throat. Blood sprays.

Fire breaks out in the cockpit.

CORY
We got a fire!

KATE
Son of a bitch!

She and Pablo unbuckle and grab fire extinguishers.

EXT. LIFT-LANES - MEGALOAD ONE

Kaliber looks back. Sees it all.

KALIBER
They're shredding him back there.

WINSTON (INTO HEADSET)
Take them down into the city, Cory! Make them chase you single file!

Winston banks down into the lower lift-lanes.

UMBRA
Look out!

Winston swerves past a lift-car.

EXT. LIFT-LANES - MEGALOAD TWO

Cory falls behind. The ALVs stay in tight formation behind him and fire again.

Bullets breach the weakened hull. One strikes the inside of the windshield.

CORY
Fuck!

The Megaload pitches wildly and grazes a lift-car. The tiny craft spirals into another.

Cory loses control. Plows into a smaller CLV, destroying it.

The collision rips the copilot's side of Megaload Two wide open. Pablo is crushed and torn from his seat.

Bo's body is thrown forward into the front windshield. His legs flop onto Cory's lap.

CORY

Shit!

Kate screams.

Cory looks up to see the base of a support tower he's about to ram.

CORY

Fuck!

He throws the controls hard-right.

Kate gets tossed like a rag doll. Her head bashes into the hull.

Megaload Two grazes the tower. Debris drop onto ground traffic.

The ALV flight group splits.

EXT. LIFT-LANES - MEGALOAD ONE

Winston swerves dangerously through lower traffic. Dives towards the busy street.

SHANK

What the fuck are you doing?

Megaload One races barely ten feet above the ground-cars below. PEDESTRIANS scream and dive for cover.

The assault-lifts drop down behind Megaload One.

The lead ship's cannon roars.

Megaload One yanks left then banks right. Winston shakes the lead ALV's targeting system. The bullets rip open buildings.

EXT. LIFT-LANES - MEGALOAD TWO

The ship takes fire again. Cory swerves and hits a building.

CORY

Fuuuuuuuck!

Megaload Two plummets.

It crushes a car.

Slams into a bus.

Skids down the street gathering vehicles and debris like a snowplow until it grinds to a smoldering halt.

EXT. LIFT-LANES - MEGALOAD ONE

They fly into rain. Drops pound the windshield.

The lead ALV swoops into range. Fires.

Umbra is grazed in the cheek.

UMBRA
Motherfuckers!

Winston pulls an unbelievable "hard 90" turn.

The Megaload skips off a building.

The lead ALV overshoots.

The lift behind it banks too late. It smashes into the same spot Winston hit. The ALV spins out of control.

The next ship broadsides the spinning ALV. Both go down in flames.

Kaliber flips "the finger" out his window.

KALIBER
Take that, fuckers!

WINSTON
Oh no!

Kaliber looks up.

Two ALVs race right for them.

Winston throws the Megaload into an insane dive. He avoids the ALV cannons but can't pull up.

The Megaload skips off the pavement and buries itself into a building.

Winston raises his head. He looks surprised to be alive.

Kaliber, Umbra, Shank and Brock do the same. Everyone bleeds from numerous scrapes and cuts.

KALIBER
We've got to get out of here!

WINSTON
Everyone, grab your gear!

They hastily sling their equipment bags and ready rifles.
Kaliber's door is jammed. Debris blocks Winston's.

KALIBER
Out the back!

Winston throws a switch.

WINSTON
The controls are wasted!

KALIBER
We've got to open manually. Come on!

They combine their strength. The door groans open.

TROOPERS ambush them.

Bullets tear through Umbra's body.

Blood splatters the cargo hold.

Kaliber and Shank get grazed. Winston and Brock dive back.

Umbra drops in a heap. The door slams down on him.

SHANK
Umbra!

He tries to pull Umbra in to no avail.

KALIBER
We've got to fight our way out or we're
dead! Ready?

SHANK
You bet I'm fucking ready!

The others nod.

Kaliber fires his rifle under the door. The others shoulder
it open. They race out.

EXT. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS DISTRICT - STREET

Bullets zip past all around them. Kaliber and Shank blaze
away. They dash around the building.

WINSTON

I know where we are. Find a manhole!

They all run down the sidewalk.

Kaliber provides covering fire. He picks off Troopers one by one.

Winston, Brock and Shank dive around a corner. Bullets rip up the pavement. Shank returns fire.

Brock looks at Winston. Smiles.

BROCK

For the record; I knew it all along, kid.

He winks then aims around the corner and fires.

Winston stares at Brock a moment then scans his surroundings.

WINSTON

There! A manhole!

Winston runs for it. The others are on his heels.

Winston tries to lift the cover. It doesn't budge.

Shank runs over and yanks it up. Uses it as shield while he fires.

SHANK

(to Winston)

Get in there!

Winston hesitates. He watches Brock and Kaliber's desperate retreat. He tries to cover for them.

Bullets tear up the street all around Brock. He turns tail. Bloody holes erupt in his chest. He falls on his face.

WINSTON

Brock! No!

He races to him. Dodges the intense fire.

SHANK

Get the fuck back here!

Winston grabs Brock under the arms. He tries to drag him.

Kaliber snatches Winston up as he runs past.

KALIBER

He's dead!

Winston runs. Jumps into the manhole. Kaliber follows.

INT. SERVICE TUNNEL

Winston looks up.

Bullets hit Shank's body.

Blood splatters Winston's face.

He climbs up and drags Shank back down. Winston and Kaliber half-carry Shank down the tunnel.

After several turns and long straight-aways, they reach an access ladder shaft. They slide thirty feet to splash down at the lowest level. Shank falls the last ten.

INT. SEWAGE TUNNEL

Water runs six inches deep. Rats scamper away.

Winston sees the lights of the Troopers far above them.

KALIBER

Do you know where we are?

WINSTON

Yeah. Our rides are up ahead.

INT. SEWAGE TUNNEL - JUNCTION ONE

Five lift-cycles wait. Shank collapses with a bloody splash.

SHANK

That's all the running I'm going to do.

WINSTON

C'mon, I'll give you a lift on my bike.

SHANK

Nah, I think I'll stick around.

WINSTON

Look, we can ...

KALIBER

Leave him be.

He gives Shank an extra clip and grenades. Shakes his hand.

SHANK

Been a helluva ride, sir.

Kaliber nods.

Winston and Kaliber tear the power supply from three cycles. Strap their bags on the remaining two. Hop on and light-up the engines.

Kaliber's cycle speeds down the tunnel directly ahead.

Winston's engine stalls.

WINSTON

Shit!

The cycle finally starts. Winston roars off. He desperately tries to catch up with Kaliber. The walls race past a few feet away.

Winston sees Kaliber's tail lights ahead. They turn left. Winston struggles with the high-speed bank. Nearly crashes.

Winston makes another turn. He finds himself at a large intersection. Kaliber pulls up.

KALIBER

The next junction is sealed.

WINSTON

Shit! I was afraid of that. The plan was to get down here undetected.

Gunfire and explosions echo from Junction One. It ends suddenly. Kaliber and Winston stare down the tunnel.

KALIBER

Do you know of another way out of here?

Winston idles ahead. Kaliber follows.

Winston sees a small drainage pipe. He stops. Stands on the seat of his cycle. His fingers just curl over the edge.

WINSTON

I guess this will do.

He hoists himself up. Crawls in.

Kaliber dismounts. Hits the throttle.

The bike "ghost-rides" into the darkness.

Kaliber does the same with Winston's. He jumps. Grabs the lip of the pipe. Climbs inside.

INT. DRAIN PIPE

A very snug fit.

KALIBER

This had better go somewhere.

WINSTON

I don't care where it goes so long as it
doesn't get any smaller.

INT. SECURITY COMMAND

Kazuya observes the Megaload mayhem on the forward screens.
Fires have broken out in the city.

The communications monitor at his command station flashes.
Lord Tana's STEWARD appears. Kazuya bows.

STEWARD

Kazuya, you are summoned to Lord Tana's
Council Chambers immediately.

KAZUYA

Thank you, Steward.

He bows again. The screen goes blank. Kazuya sighs.

INT. DRAIN PIPE - NIGHT

Much narrower now.

Winston and Kaliber crawl inch by claustrophobic inch. A
glow stick lights their way.

Runoff water splashes into Winston's face. He coughs. Spits
a mouthful. He wiggles onto his back to take a breather.

Kaliber chuckles. He mocks Winston's earlier statement.

KALIBER

I don't care where it goes so long as it
doesn't get any smaller.

Winston gives him the finger. Rolls over. Crawls onward.
He sees an opening ahead.

INT. DRAIN BASIN

A waterfall of street runoff pours into the small reservoir.

Winston squirms out of the pipe like some strange insect
leaving its pupa pod. Kaliber writhes out after him.

Winston checks his timer: "05:59:23."

He inspects the metal grate. Lays on his back. Pushes up
with his legs. Kaliber joins in.

EXT. BUSINESS DISTRICT - STREET (RAINING)

The drain cover lifts up, then grinds aside. Winston and Kaliber poke their heads out.

ALVs barricade the road several blocks down. FIREFIGHTERS battle a blaze from the Megaload havoc.

WINSTON

My God, what a fucking disaster.

KALIBER

Unless you want to lend a hand, we should be moving along.

They steal away into the darkest shadows they can find.

INT. KAZUYA'S HOUSE

The full moon shines through the transparent ceiling.

Kazuya wears formal 16th century samurai attire. The design and decor of his home presents the same era.

INT. VIRTUAL REALITY INTERFACE CHAMBER

Ambient light permeates through the walls of the small spherical room. Kazuya enters. Kneels and bows penitently.

KAZUYA

Lord Tana's Council Chambers.

The room ripples with concentric rings. An image forms.

INT. LORD TANA'S COUNCIL CHAMBERS (VIRTUAL REALITY)

Kazuya now kneels in a classical Samurai Lord's Great Hall.

The Tana Corporation's COUNCIL LORDS kneel at either side.

At the head of the Hall sits LORD TANA (70s), a venerable, imperious man with his white hair tied in a top-knot. His period attire is far more elaborate than the others.

LORD TANA

Over two hundred years of impeccable loyalty and service, and now this. Explain yourself, Kazu!

KAZUYA

I cannot, my Lord.

LORD TANA

So it seems. I gave you license to eliminate anyone suspected of treason. Yet you allowed Usagi to live and bring this assassin into my city. If this so-called Widowmaker or any of these smugglers escape, it will be utterly devastating. Do you understand this?

KAZUYA

Yes, my Lord. It would be a great loss of face for ...

LORD TANA

Loss of face? No, Kazuya, it would be a disastrous loss of stock! We are, first and foremost a corporation. We must maintain absolute control if we are to keep the contract for Widow's Eye.

(beat)

Then there is the matter of Daijiro. Two centuries to successfully clone your DNA. Billions of credits to finally produce Daijiro and only a single moment's negligence to destroy it all. Already this has affected our future projections.

(beat)

Perhaps the error was conditioning you as an ancient Bushido Samurai instead of a corporate executive. Life is indeed duty and honor, but before even that, life is business. Business!

(beat)

Now go, Kazu, and attend to yours.

The Great Hall ripples, then is gone.

INT. VIRTUAL REALITY INTERFACE CHAMBER (REALITY)

Kazuya remains bowed. His right hand draws his short sword, his left grabs the samurai top-knot of his hair.

EXT. RALLY POINT - ALLEY - NIGHT

A car with its lights off turns in from the street and stops. Winston and Kaliber get out. They grab their bags.

WINSTON

I'm sorry about Shank and Umbra.

KALIBER

Don't be. Just finish the fucking job.

Winston nods. They climb the ladder of a two-story building.

EXT. RALLY POINT - ROOFTOP

Winston and Kaliber crawl under the ducts of the building's large air circulation system. It hums steadily.

Kaliber pulls a glove off his heavily scarred and tattooed hand. He holds his palm against the machine.

KALIBER

This isn't hot enough to hide us from thermal scanning but it will help.

WINSTON

I'll take what I can get.

He grabs a pair of high-tech night-sight binoculars from his bag then does a methodical sweep of the area. He frowns. Checks his timer:

"05:17:45" remaining.

WINSTON

Fuck! There's no one out there.

KALIBER

If anyone's made it, they're hiding.

WINSTON

We'll have to wait for them to change positions and hope we pick it up.

He lifts the binoculars to his eyes.

WINSTON'S POV

Something moves in the foreground. Winston pans down. Finds a garbage can with a cock-eyed lid. The lid raises.

WINSTON (O.S.)

I got something.

Ratchet climbs out of the garbage can. Looks around nervously. Runs around a corner several blocks away.

WINSTON

Good timing, Ratchet. Let's get him.

They sling their bags then climb down.

EXT. RALLY POINT - ALLEY

Winston jumps in the driver's seat.

Kaliber hesitates suddenly. He looks around then climbs in.

EXT. BACK-ALLEY

Ratchet relieves himself in a dark corner. He zips up as Winston's car turns into the alley.

Ratchet hears it. He spins around, terrified. Looks for an escape, then bolts.

Winston stops the car. Jumps out.

WINSTON

Ratchet, it's us.

Ratchet skids to a halt.

RATCHET

Winston! Oh man, am I glad to see you.
I thought I was the only one left.

WINSTON

What do you mean? Where's Derrick?
Where's Cyndi?

RATCHET

I'm sorry, Winston, I ... he told me to
run so I did, but I should've stayed. I
should've helped him.

WINSTON

What are you saying? What happened?

RATCHET

They were waiting for us! It was a set
up. There was a samurai and troopers.
Derrick knew something was wrong. He
told me to jump out the window if
anything happened. So I did and I ran
and stole a lift to get here.

KALIBER

Was he killed?

RATCHET

I don't know. I didn't see.

KALIBER

Our plan could be compromised.

WINSTON

What about Cyndi?

RATCHET

She wasn't there. I mean, we never saw
her. They jumped us before we got her.

RATCHET (CONT'D)
This big guy set us up. Derrick knew him.

WINSTON
Sato?

RATCHET
Yeah, that's the fuck.

Winston leans on the car. Drops his head in his hands.

KALIBER
(to Winston)
We need to make a move ... fast!

RATCHET
Where's the others?

KALIBER
We are the others.

RATCHET
Everyone? Are they dead?

KALIBER
As far as we know.
(to Winston)
It's time to move out.

RATCHET
To the launch station?

KALIBER
Yeah.

WINSTON
I'm not leaving without Cyndi.

He keeps his head in his hands.

KALIBER
Negative! That is not an option.
Samurai and troopers are waiting. You'd be walking into an ambush.

WINSTON
I'm going back to get her.

RATCHET
No, man! Don't even think about it.

KALIBER
No, do think about it! Think real hard.
Parker wouldn't do this.

WINSTON
I'm not Parker. I'm Winston Reed and I'm
going back for Cyndi.

KALIBER
I can't allow that.

Winston pushes Kaliber.

WINSTON
Then stop me!

He tries to push Kaliber again. Kaliber grapples Winston.
Spins him around then locks him in a choke hold.

KALIBER
I would have to kill you, wouldn't I?

WINSTON
Yes.

Kaliber releases him.

WINSTON
I haven't done all this to stop now,
Kaliber. You can help me or not, but I'm
going to finish the fucking job!

KALIBER
All right. Let's do it then.

Ratchet jumps in the back seat. Winston and Kaliber climb in
front.

Suddenly, Kaliber tilts his head and looks back out the door.
His face hardens.

He yanks his pistol out. Gets one foot out of the car. Aims
behind them. But too late.

BLAM! A gunshot hits his face below the left eye. He's
blown back into the car.

Winston and Ratchet are stunned. The instant is an eternity
as Kaliber collapses onto the seat.

Blood splatters.

Widowmaker stands fifty feet behind them.

Winston snaps out of it. He floors it. They screech down
the alley.

Widowmaker sprints after them.

Winston looks back. Sees her gaining.

Winston holds the steering wheel with one hand and Kaliber with the other.

He slams the brakes. The car skids, wheels shuddering.

Widowmaker stops. Aims.

Winston hits reverse, mid-slide. The tires spin and smoke. The car races backwards at Widowmaker.

Winston sees her drawing a bead on him. He ducks. Two bullets burst through the seat. One grazes his side.

Widowmaker flips over the vehicle. She fires again.

Sparks fly inside the car.

Ratchet screams. Drops his pistol.

The control panel explodes outward onto Winston.

The car scrapes against a building on the driver's side.

Widowmaker darts after them.

Winston glances back. The main street intersection rapidly approaches. He gets ready.

Winston screeches backwards around the turn perfectly.

Widowmaker's right on them, grinning manically. She hears the shrieking tires. She rounds the corner and sees --

The car stopped. Winston's pistol aimed.

Her smile vanishes.

The muzzle flashes.

The first shot impacts square in Widowmaker's forehead. It sparks off her reinforced skull. She loses her footing. Bullets zip past. She dives behind the cover of the building.

WINSTON

Die, bitch!

The remaining rounds tear the corner apart as Winston follows through with his fire.

Winston wrenches the car into reverse. Floors the accelerator. Half a block down, he whips the wheel.

The car spins forward. The tires screech as he tears off into the distance leaving a trail of smoke and rubber.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT STREET

Widowmaker is on her hands and knees. Blood drips freely onto the concrete. She gets to her feet.

WIDOWMAKER'S POV

Flashing static from her cyber-eye obscures her vision. She grinds her teeth angrily.

A recording of Winston replays through her cyber-audio.

WINSTON (V.O.-PRERECORDED)
I'm going back for Cyndi.

WIDOWMAKER
That's it, pretty boy. No more playing nice.

EXT. STREET - CAR

Sweat pours down Winston's face. Ratchet, covered with blood, holds both hands over Kaliber's face.

RATCHET
He's really bleeding, man!

WINSTON
Just hold on! We can't do anything now. We need to find another car.

RATCHET
I got one! I stole a lift.

WINSTON
Where is it?

RATCHET
Uh, uh .. take a right! No, left!

Winston swerves right then turns left.

WINSTON
Where is it? Was it at the rally point?

RATCHET
Yeah. But I'm mixed up. I'm not sure where we are.

WINSTON
Come on, Ratchet! We need that lift!

RATCHET

Okay, okay! Uh, stay on this road ... I think.

EXT. STREET - CAR - LATER

Winston and Ratchet search the alleys. Ratchet spots his lift in the shadows.

RATCHET

There, I see it! In that alley.

Winston turns into the alley. He looks at Kaliber.

Kaliber's left cheek bleeds from the gaping wound. His face is swollen and blood-caked.

WINSTON

Let's move him into the lift.

They haul Kaliber into the back seat of the lift-car. Winston grabs the equipment. Takes off.

RATCHET

Whoa! He's not bleeding anymore.

WINSTON

Good.

Winston's timer reads: "04:48:56."

INT. SECURITY COMMAND

Kazuya strides to his station. He remains in his traditional samurai attire. His head is entirely shaved.

The Technicians stare. Ryu appears astonished.

KAZUYA

Recall all samurai, Ryu. You are all to await me in my meeting chambers.

Ryu bows and leaves as commanded.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Derrick remains suspended. Saliva dribbles from his mouth. Sweat and blood runs watery-pink.

Hundreds of long needles impale him. Wires feed into a black box with buttons and dials.

The fire in Derrick's eyes burns as furious as ever.

Hisoka removes a number of needles. Places them in a tray full of a hundred used ones.

Another tray of larger needles extends from the wall. Hisoka takes one to hand. He holds it up. Twists the end.

The point opens into tiny blades that spin then retract. He moves to work on Derrick.

HISOKA

You have been a most difficult subject.
For my trouble, I will introduce you to
an entirely new level of discomfort.

Part of the floor raises Hisoka. He inserts three of the larger needles into the bottom of Derrick's foot. Hisoka works them as if he were knitting a sweater.

HISOKA

This must indeed be the worst yet.

Derrick's bloodshot eyes dart about maniacally. Mucus sprays from his nose and mouth.

HISOKA

Yes, you believe me now, don't you? It
is only the ...

KAZUYA (O.S.)

Hisoka! That will be enough.

Hisoka looks up. Kazuya stands at the door.

KAZUYA

This interrogation is finished. Remove
the needles. Bring him upright.

Hisoka does. Derrick slowly turns right side up.

HISOKA

My apologies, Kazuya. It has been much
longer than I anticipated. But I am
quite close now. Another few ...

KAZUYA

Leave my presence. Now!

Hisoka hurries out.

Kazuya steps close to Derrick.

KAZUYA

I am Samurai. Nothing is of more
importance than my honor.

KAZUYA (CONT'D)

My word and my honor are the same.
Knowing that, listen carefully. I know
Winston is Parker. I wish to ...

Derrick's torso shudders violently. He smiles, keeping his lips together. At the corners of his mouth thick, dark blood seeps out.

Derrick opens his mouth. Inhales. He chokes on blood and his tongue that he has bitten off.

Derrick battles against the instinct to breathe. Through every violent spasm he manages to smile mockingly.

Kazuya jumps on the raised platform. He touches several pressure points on Derrick's back.

Derrick coughs up his tongue. He goes limp.

Kazuya steps down. He faces Derrick a moment then leaves.

HALLWAY

Hisoka waits anxiously. Kazuya does not look at him.

KAZUYA

If he dies, I take your head.

He strides away.

EXT. SIDE STREET - NIGHT

Winston finds an out-of-the-way spot. Parks.

He grabs an equipment bag.

RATCHET

What are we going to do now?

WINSTON

Check our inventory and put a plan together.

RATCHET

What about Kaliber?

WINSTON

We'll get him fixed up on the ship. They have an infirmary.

RATCHET

Who was that psycho bitch?

WINSTON
An assassin.

RATCHET
Do you think you killed her?

KALIBER (O.S.)
Killed who?

His voice is strained but clear. He wipes the crusted blood off his face. The wound is nearly healed.

RATCHET
Oh my God! You're ... I mean ... how?

KALIBER
Trade secret, kid.
(to Winston)
Did you kill her?

WINSTON
I don't think so. I hit her head but it sparked and ricocheted off.

KALIBER
If we meet her again, don't wait up for me. Understand?

Winston nods.

KALIBER
So what's the plan?

EXT. LIFT REPAIR SHOP - NIGHT

Ratchet works on the back entrance control panel. He smiles.

RATCHET
Got it!

The door opens.

INT. LIFT REPAIR SHOP - LATER

Kaliber preps the weapons. Winston instructs Ratchet.

WINSTON
Under no circumstances are you to come near the club. No matter what. I don't care if you hear sirens, shooting, or a fucking bomb go off, don't leave your position until ordered.

RATCHET
I won't. Just make sure you two ...

Something catches Ratchet's eye.

RATCHET
Holy fuck!

Winston turns.

Kaliber pulls off his jumpsuit. Tattoos and thick scars cover every exposed area of skin.

RATCHET
What are those?

WINSTON
Campaign tattoos.

Ratchet looks confused.

WINSTON
From the military.

RATCHET
How many?

WINSTON
Hundreds. So are you clear on everything?

RATCHET
Yeah, totally.

WINSTON
Good. Now get that blood off you.

Winston walks to Kaliber. His gunshot wound now has a fresh pink scar. Kaliber wears a makeshift patch over that eye.

WINSTON
We need to find another way across the wall. Any suggestions?

KALIBER
No. That's your department.

RATCHET (O.S.)
Hearse.

WINSTON
What?

RATCHET

My buddy Hearse. He works at the mortuary. He drives corpses out to the launch stations all the time.

WINSTON

Would he help us?

RATCHET

For enough credits, he'd do anything.

WINSTON

Is he in your CID as a known associate?

RATCHET

No.

WINSTON

Call him. Get his license number and cargo schedule so I can change it for tonight. Make it quick.

(to Kaliber)

I'm unsure at this point as to who's saving who.

KALIBER

We're saving each other.

Ratchet finds the phone. He dials. Waits.

RATCHET

Hey, Hearse, it's Ratchet. Uh, so how's things? Oh yeah, your party. I forgot. No, I don't think I can make it. Actually, I'm calling because I kinda need a favor. Uh, yeah, I guess you could say it's a pretty big favor.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ratchet sets the lift down. Winston and Kaliber wear black fatigues, pistols and bandoliers. They exit the lift.

Winston gives Ratchet a thumbs up. Ratchet returns it.

Winston and Kaliber creep down the street.

EXT. ALLEY

Winston and Kaliber open a sewer access cover.

KALIBER

I'll have you covered.

Winston nods and checks his timer: "04:29:53." He drops down. Kaliber heads up a fire escape.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - BACK ALLEY - SERVICE TUNNEL

Winston finds his way with a pen-light. Climbs the ladder to the access cover. Listens.

EXT. ROOFTOP

Kaliber looks through his rifle's night scope.

The back alley of Midnight Decadence looks clear. He scans the adjacent buildings.

KALIBER
(into mic)
You're all clear. Looks like surveillance
has been pulled.

WINSTON
They didn't think we'd dare come back.

EXT. BACK ALLEY

Winston climbs out, then up the fire escape ladder.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - MAIN ROOM

Cyndi finishes another dance routine. Exits the stage.

INT. CYNDI'S ROOM

Cyndi hurries in. She sees the open window. Freezes.

Winston steps out of her closet. Cyndi jumps, startled.

CYNDI
Winston, what are you doing here?
They're after you!

WINSTON
I know. We've got to move. I have a
ship at Launch Station Ninety-three.

CYNDI
A ship? Are we ...?

WINSTON
Yes, we're getting out of here, baby.
Come on.

He takes her hand. They turn to the window.

Widowmaker swings in from above. Smiles.

Winston draws his pistol.

Widowmaker's cyber-arm shoots out. She grabs Cyndi around the neck, and uses her like a shield.

WIDOWMAKER

What now? Can you shoot me without hitting your little whore? I think not.

WINSTON

Let her go! She didn't do anything.

WIDOWMAKER

What difference does that make? Besides, I'm the jealous type, and I owe you for the head shot, kiddo.

She suddenly turns just as --

Kaliber crashes through the window.

His flying kick rocks Widowmaker's head. She releases Cyndi. All four go down.

Kaliber and Widowmaker are the first up. She draws her pistol. Kaliber kicks it out of her hand.

It flies out the window.

Cyndi scurries over to Winston as fast as she can.

WIDOWMAKER

(to Kaliber)

I thought I nailed you already.

KALIBER

You thought wrong. Get out of here, Winston.

Widowmaker lunges at Kaliber.

Winston and Cyndi run.

HALLWAY

CLIENTS and GIRLS come out of the other rooms. Winston and Cyndi dash to the end of the hall.

Crashes come from Cyndi's room, then gunshots.

Cyndi hits the elevator button.

WINSTON
No. The stairs.

They bolt through the door.

INT. CYNDI'S ROOM

Kaliber has been knocked backwards into Cyndi's closet. Her stuffed animals lay scattered about him. His pistol smokes.

He looks out the shattered window.

KALIBER
Nimble little bitch.

He runs. Jumps out.

INT. STAIRS

Winston looks down. Sees TROOPERS coming up.

WINSTON
Back up!

They retreat.

HALLWAY

More TROOPERS run to Cyndi's room.

The elevator remains open. Winston and Cyndi dash for it. The Troopers hear. They turn and fire.

The elevator doors close. Bullets ricochet.

CORPORAL
Hold your fire! We need them alive!

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - BACK ALLEY

Kaliber steps slowly, pistol ready. Looks for Widowmaker. He hears several lifts approach.

Widowmaker jumps out. Swats the gun from Kaliber's grasp. Spin kicks him in the gut.

Kaliber smacks against the building.

Troopers charge out of the back door of Midnight Decadence.

TROOPER
Freeze, fuckers!

Widowmaker splits. Kaliber disappears the other way.

The Troopers fire but hit nothing.

INT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - BACKSTAGE

Winston and Cyndi rush out of the elevator. Winston looks around.

WINSTON
Is there a way outside?

CYNDI
Yes, the side access door.

WINSTON
Lead the way.

She does. They run down the backstage hall. Sato sees them.

SATO
Cyndi, wait! Winston, don't do this!

Winston and Cyndi sprint for the exit.

SIDE ALLEY - NIGHT

Winston barges out. An ATL descends above them.

WINSTON
Shit!

He leaps back inside.

BACKSTAGE HALL

Sato leads CLUB SECURITY toward the exit.

WINSTON
Fucking Hell!

Winston and Cyndi do another "about face" back out the door.

SIDE ALLEY

Winston wedges the door shut with his knife. He grabs Cyndi's hand. They run towards the descending ATL.

CYNDI
What are you doing?

WINSTON
Under the lift!

Winston and Cyndi dive under the ATL as it sets down on its landing gear.

The rear hatch opens. TROOPERS storm out.

Sato and Club Security shoulder the side door open. They surprise the Troopers from the ATL. The two groups almost blast each other. They have a quick exchange of words.

SATO

They must be heading for the back.

The two squads disappear around the back alley.

EXT. STREET

A squad of six Troopers searches for Widowmaker and Kaliber. The lead Trooper passes a doorway.

A tattooed arm lashes out and snatches his rifle. Kaliber mows the Troopers down with it. Disappears around a corner.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - STREET

The ATL Troopers return and board. The lift-drivers engage.

CYNDI

They're taking off. We'll be seen!

Winston unbuckles his bandolier then refastens it through the lift's winch hardware.

The ATL's landing gear retracts.

WINSTON

Hold on to me!

CYNDI

Are you crazy?

WINSTON

They'll kill us!

She wraps her arms around him.

No one sees them lift off.

The ATL races over Midnight Decadence. Winston and Cyndi are flung about underneath.

EXT. STREET - LIFT-CAR - NIGHT

Ratchet waits impatiently. Kaliber jogs around the corner. Ratchet smiles and waves.

Kaliber stops. Spins. Braces himself.

Widowmaker flies down at him. She nails Kaliber with her kick. He loses his rifle.

She lands rolling. They square off.

Ratchet jumps out of the lift. Grabs his rifle.

KALIBER
(to Ratchet)
Get back in there! Find Winston. He's
in trouble!

Ratchet hesitates.

KALIBER
Do it!

Ratchet lifts off.

Kaliber pulls his big knife. Widowmaker draws her own. They circle each other. Slowly closing the gap.

WIDOWMAKER
Must be hard fighting half-blind. Don't
worry, it'll all be over soon.

KALIBER
Let's see it then.

Widowmaker hurls a throwing spike. It hits Kaliber in the chest. She lunges. Strikes. Slashes his arm.

Kaliber thrusts. Misses.

Widowmaker throws an elbow to his temple. The blow drives him to a knee. She stabs down into his back then knees him in the face. Sends him flying.

Kaliber lands on his back. He's slow to get up.

They close again. Exchange ferocious techniques. Kaliber takes the worst of it.

EXT. ARMORED TRANSPORT-LIFT

Winston and Cyndi hang on desperately. The ATL banks right. Cyndi screams. She slips down Winston's shoulder, arm and wrist. Their hands lock.

WINSTON
Don't let go, baby! Don't let go!

The ATL descends. Races over the rooftops. Banks again. Cyndi swings, her legs kicking up.

The bandolier buckle gives then breaks.

They fall ten feet to a rooftop. Both hit hard and roll.

Cyndi looks up, scraped and bloodied. Winston doesn't move.

CYNDI

Winston!

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC

The ATL nearly collides with Ratchet's lift-car as it races over the roof.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - LIFT-CAR

Ratchet screams and swerves.

He sees two figures on the roof as he roars over their heads.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - ARMORED TRANSPORT-LIFT

The ALV PILOT regains control.

ALV PILOT

I'm gonna ace that fuck!

The ALV COPILOT points down at Kaliber and Widowmaker.

COPILOT

Wait! Look at that!

PILOT

That's them! I'm taking us down.

COPILOT

Fuck that! I'm calling for back-up.

EXT. STREET

Kaliber fakes a low kick. Stabs high.

Widowmaker blocks it. She follows through with a punch. Kaliber spins to the ground.

Kaliber kicks out. Smacks Widowmaker in the mouth. She stumbles back.

They face off again.

Some of Kaliber's wounds heal, but he still bleeds profusely.

WIDOWMAKER

How's it feel, old man?

KALIBER
I'm still here.

Widowmaker charges. One after another she throws kicks and killing strikes. Kaliber blocks or dodges some but not all.

Widowmaker drives him clear across the street into the wall.

Beaten and bloody, Kaliber finally goes down.

EXT. AERIAL TRAFFIC - LIFT-CAR

Ratchet sees Kaliber drop.

RATCHET
Oh no.

EXT. STREET

Widowmaker kneels. Gloats. Soaks it in.

WIDOWMAKER
So ends an illustrious career.

Kaliber spits a mouthful of blood at her.

She avoids it. Puts her knife point to his throat.

WIDOWMAKER
Oh what tears doth fall for the loss of a legend. But no one will cry for a beat up has-been, or for his schitzo pretty-boy employer. Was it a big brother kind of thing? Too bad, because I'm going to carve him up good.

KALIBER
You don't get the kid, bitch.

WIDOWMAKER
Oh yes I do.

KALIBER
Think again.

He raises his hand. It holds a grenade.

Kaliber smiles.

Widowmaker dives.

The grenade explodes.

EXT. ROOFTOP - LIFT-CAR

Ratchet lands. He hears the grenade. Sees the flames.

He jumps out and runs to where Cyndi cradles Winston's bloody head in her arms.

RATCHET

Oh no, oh no! Please tell me he's alive!

Cyndi's face is wet with tears.

CYNDI

Help him!

Ratchet kneels over Winston. Checks his pulse.

RATCHET

He's alive but I'm only a tech-monkey. I don't know anything about head injuries. We got to get him to the ship.

CYNDI

Who are you?

RATCHET

A friend. Come on, we can't stay here.

She nods. They carry Winston into the lift then take off.

They watch ATLS land at the scene of Kaliber's last stand.

RATCHET

Kaliber, my God, I can't believe this.

WINSTON

What about Kaliber? What's happened?

CYNDI

Winston?

RATCHET

You're okay!

WINSTON

What happened to Kaliber?

Ratchet is nearly in tears.

RATCHET

He's dead. The Widow-whore got him.

Winston squeezes his eyes shut.

WINSTON
We better make it to Hearse.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - LATER

A Sergeant waits by his pursuit-lift. Widowmaker, scorched and blistered, grabs him from behind. Snaps his neck.

EXT. MIDNIGHT DECADENCE - PURSUIT LIFT-VEHICLE

Widowmaker's enhanced cyber-audio plays a new recording.

WINSTON (V.O.)
I have a ship at Launch Station
Ninety-three.

EXT. MORTUARY - NIGHT

Ratchet sets the lift down in the back parking lot. They look around.

WINSTON
Where is he?

RATCHET
He'll be here, don't worry. I'll check
the front.
(to himself)
You better be here, Hearse!

Winston finds a dark corner. Slumps down. Cyndi goes to him. Finds his face wet with tears.

CYNDI
Derrick ... is he ...?

Winston nods. His body convulses from the force of his sobs. She strokes his head.

WINSTON
I should tear my fucking eyes out!

CYNDI
You did everything you could for him.
It's not your fault.

WINSTON
Yes it is my fucking fault! All of
this! Everything! I could've gotten us
away. We'd be safe. But I didn't
listen. I didn't fucking listen!

Ratchet peaks around the corner, concerned.

CYNDI

Baby, please don't do this to yourself.

WINSTON

Eight of my crew, ten ... maybe twenty security troopers, civilians. My God, what have I done?

CYNDI

Winston, stop this. Please. You're a good man, and you did what you had to.

WINSTON

I killed my brother, Cyndi! Don't you understand! I killed him ... all of them!

RATCHET (O.S.)

That's bullshit!

Winston looks up.

RATCHET

None of us thought we were getting out of the base alive. But you got us out. They all knew the risks, and they knew you were our the best chance of escape.

WINSTON

But they're dead, Ratchet. I didn't save anybody.

RATCHET

You saved me.

WINSTON

Well, don't get your hopes up, we're not off-planet yet.

Cyndi slaps Winston hard. He looks up, stunned.

Cyndi's eyes burn with love and anger. Tears flow.

CYNDI

That's for Derrick, because he would kick the shit out of you if he was here. He loved you, Winston. And, yes, he probably did die for you, just like you would for him. And that's exactly how he would want to go out - fighting for you! So don't you dare take that away from him, or the others. And don't you dare break down now and waste their sacrifice.

Winston stares at Cyndi for a long moment. His eyes regain their strength. He stands. Wipes his face.

WINSTON

I won't. Thank you. Both of you.

He takes Cyndi in his arms. Squeezes her tight. They kiss.

WINSTON

God, how I adore you, Cyndi Love.

CYNDI

I know, Winston Reed.

Another sweet and passionate kiss.

Ratchet adverts his eyes, embarrassed.

The lover's moment is as brief as it is tender.

RATCHET

Hey, he's here!

The big lift-hearse banks around the mortuary. Lands. HEARSE (30s), a lanky death-rocker type, climbs out.

HEARSE

I thought there was four of ya.

WINSTON

There was.

HEARSE

We got papers for this ride?

WINSTON

It's logged in the system. I took care of it.

Hearse opens the rear hatch. A platform extends. It holds six oblong containers. Winston, Cyndi, and Ratchet look uneasy.

HEARSE

They're coffins, man. I take them to the launch stations. They shuttle them up to get blasted into space. Don't worry, ya ain't going to die 'cause ya get in one.

Winston shrugs. They all get in.

HEARSE

So, where to?

WINSTON

Take East Gate Seventy Nine out of the city. I'll direct you from there.

HEARSE

Ya got it. I'll ring ya when we've passed the perimeter.

WINSTON

Fine.

He hands Winston a comlink. Closes the coffin.

EXT. TUBE TRANSIT LINE - LIFT-VEHICLE - DAWN

The transit tube bends lazily around jagged, high-peaked mountains then winds down into a deep valley. Tana City looms behind in the distance, an imposing silhouette against the first hints of morning.

From behind the mountain a tiny dot of light races within the tube. It grows larger, becoming two lights, then four. Hearse's lift rushes past, then down into the valley. It quickly vanishes behind the distant ridge.

HEARSE (INTO INTERCOM)

Calling all corpses. You can lift your lids. We're out of the cage.

WINSTON (V.O. THRU INTERCOM)

Coming up.

Winston crawls up front. His timer reads: "03:47:48." Cyndi and Ratchet follow.

HEARSE

What'd I tell ya? Smooth, baby, smooth. They didn't even bat an eye at the gate. Nobody wants to fuck with the dead. So where to now?

WINSTON

Launch Station Ninety-three.

HEARSE

No shit? That's on the other side of the planet, man.

WINSTON

I know. We're behind schedule. Can you make up some time?

HEARSE

We can't run the Tube full throttle.
They got speed regulations, ya know.

He looks at Winston. Winks.

HEARSE

But fuck all that, right?

He drops the accelerator. The hearse leaps forward.

CYNDI

Whoa.

HEARSE

My fat girl can move, can't she? Ooyeah,
baby! Do your thing!

RATCHET

(whispers to Winston and Cyndi)
He's got a thing for big women.

Winston reclines and watches the dead landscape blur past.
Voices fade as his eyes slowly close.

EXT. TUBE TRANSIT LINE - LIFT-VEHICLE - DAY

Hearse wakes Winston.

HEARSE

We got a problem.

Winston sits up. Hearse points at a half constructed launch
station in the distance.

HEARSE

I think you got your transit tubes tied,
man. This place ain't happening.

WINSTON

We're on target, don't worry.

Winston checks his timer: "00:17:24."

WINSTON

We made good time.

HEARSE

Speed's my second favorite word.

RATCHET

Don't ask what his first is.

WINSTON
You're a good pilot, Hearse.

HEARSE
I know.

EXT. LAUNCH STATION 93 - LIFT-VEHICLE - LATER

The tube exit seals itself. The airlock looks thrown together. It pressurizes.

RATCHET
What a cob job. The Company wouldn't slap this thing together like this.

WINSTON
Tana abandoned the project when they discovered there was no ibirium ore in this region. It's logged as inoperable, so satellites don't monitor it. My off-world smugglers got it operational.

CYNDI
I had no idea your operation was this large, Winston.

WINSTON
No one did.

HEARSE
You're fucking big-time, huh?

RATCHET
Huge!

WINSTON
Not if I get my way.

Hearse idles into the unfinished hangar. Several lifts are parked with tarps thrown over them.

HEARSE
Fuckin' ghost station.

WINSTON
That's the way we like it.

INT. HANGAR

Cyndi and Ratchet exit the lift. Winston and Hearse talk in the cockpit.

RATCHET
I wonder if he'll come.

INT. LIFT-VEHICLE

Hearse is shaking his head.

HEARSE

Nah, man. I only got about three years left on my contract. As much as I hate this shithole, it wouldn't be worth it.

WINSTON

Smart thinking, but I had to ask.

Winston hands Hearse a credit card and micro-disc.

INT. HANGAR

Ratchet pulls a long face.

RATCHET

Winston's paying him. He's not coming. Oh man, I'm going to miss that creep.

CYNDI

I know what you mean. I'll miss my girls at the club.

EXT. LIFT-VEHICLE

Winston and Hearse shake hands.

WINSTON

Thanks again, Hearse.

HEARSE

Sure thing.

Winston joins Cyndi and Ratchet.

HEARSE

Well folks, I've gotta say it's been googally. I'll see ya, Ratchet, you ol' tech-spazz you.

RATCHET

Take it easy, Hearse, and good luck.

They watch Hearse depart.

Winston checks the timer: "00:07:31."

WINSTON

Come on. The clock's winding down.

They leave the Hangar.

INT. LOBBY

Winston leads them towards an unlit hall at the far side.

DARK HALLWAY

Winston searches along the wall. He finds a switch. Flips it on. The hall lights up. They all freeze.

Widowmaker waits at the end. She gives her predatory smile. Walks towards them.

Winston looks around desperately.

WIDOWMAKER

There's nowhere to go, my love. Your ride just went back to town. Too bad. You have no idea how much fun it's been tracking you down. I'm truly sorry it has come to an end.

WINSTON

(to Cyndi and Ratchet)

Run!

Winston pulls his pistol.

Widowmaker draws and fires before he even levels his weapon.

Winston's shoulder erupts in a crimson spray. He spins and falls to the ground.

CYNDI

Winston!

She and Ratchet try to help him up.

Widowmaker laughs and enjoys the moment.

Ratchet grabs for Winston's pistol.

WINSTON

No! She'll kill you!

WIDOWMAKER

Sorry, sweetheart, but I'm going to kill them anyway. I do have a reputation to ...

Suddenly she looks behind them.

They turn and see --

Kazuya. His eyes blaze into Widowmaker's.

Neither Winston, Cyndi or Ratchet want to be in the middle of this. They inch away.

WIDOWMAKER

Well, well ... Tana's chief of vat-grown adolescents has finally come out to play.

She fires.

Kazuya quick-draws his katana. He deflects the bullets with the blade. Then, in a single swift maneuver, sheathes it.

WIDOWMAKER

Neat trick.

Widowmaker leaps. Throws a flying kick.

Kazuya swats it aside.

Widowmaker lands, rolls and stands. Closes. She strikes to the head.

Kazuya deflects the strike. Snaps two punches to her face. Widowmaker's head whips back.

Kazuya spin-kicks her. The blow sends her flying. He leaps.

Widowmaker rolls to her feet. Kazuya's kick topples her.

Widowmaker loses her patented smile. Replaced now with fear and doubt.

She throws a flurry of punches and kicks.

One by one, without effort, Kazuya deflects them.

Widowmaker tries the cyber-arm strike that destroyed Daijiro.

Kazuya slips it. He hooks her cyber-arm. Spins and snaps it at the elbow.

Widowmaker screams.

He quick-draws his sword. Slashes across her abdomen.

Widowmaker cries out and doubles over.

With a fluid spin, Kazuya slashes down with his katana and cleanly decapitates her.

Kazuya looks with contempt at the creature that killed Daijiro. He flicks the blood off his sword and sheathes it in the same spinning motion. He turns to Winston. Advances.

Winston, tired and bleeding, does nothing. Kazuya looks him over.

KAZUYA
(to Ratchet and Cyndi)
Go to my lift. Bring what you find
within.

They look to Winston. He nods. Cyndi and Ratchet hurry off. Winston staggers to his feet. Faces Kazuya. They remain silent.

Cyndi and Ratchet return with a gurney. Ratchet beams with delight.

RATCHET
It's Derrick!

Winston looks to Kazuya. Kazuya nods.

WINSTON
Take him to the ship. Hurry.

Cyndi hesitates.

WINSTON
I'll be okay.

She nods and follows Ratchet.

Winston meets Kazuya's eyes.

KAZUYA
What will become of Parker?

WINSTON
Parker is dead. Forever.

Kazuya nods.

KAZUYA
Honor has been served for Daijiro, my
son, whom you spared, and for your
friend, and for myself perhaps. We are
even, you and I.

He bows. Winston returns it.

KAZUYA
Now go.

Winston nods then walks away. He looks back at the samurai.

KAZUYA

Go.

Winston stumbles into a limping run. His timer reads "00:00:12."

Kazuya follows, walking heavily.

INT. LAUNCH HANGAR

The doors open. Winston sees the starship through the transparent wall of the airlock. The CAPTAIN helps Cyndi and Ratchet get Derrick up. Winston limps out.

CAPTAIN

(to Winston)

I've got to launch now!

The Captain sees Kazuya enter the airlock.

CAPTAIN

Let's go, let's go!

He and Winston run up the gangplank. It retracts. The hatch closes behind them.

Kazuya watches as the hangar opens. The ship lifts off, then blasts into space.

Kazuya kneels. His own words echo within his head.

KAZUYA (V.O.)

It is its final duty.

He nods.

Kazuya draws his short sword, parts his kimono, then commits seppuku.

INT. SMUGGLER'S JUMP-SHIP

Winston watches the dark gray planet become smaller and smaller. His vision blurs. He collapses.

INT. SMUGGLER'S JUMP-SHIP - LATER

Winston wakes to the excited voices of Ratchet and Cyndi. He sits up, his shoulder in a sling. Derrick sits propped up on a gurney next to him.

CYNDI

Baby, look ... look!

She points out the porthole.

There in the distance, a bright blue planet approaches on an elliptical orbit of its brilliant yellow star.

RATCHET

It's really Earth. We made it!

Derrick hugs Winston around the neck.

DERRICK

(mended tongue swollen)

You did it, my brother. You did it.

CYNDI

Oh God, Winston, it's beautiful!

WINSTON

Yes it is.

He leans his head against the hull of the ship and smiles as the tears run down his face.

THE END