

Falling Exodus

by

Daniel Ranalli

Daniel Ranalli
304 Melvin Dr.
West Chester, PA, 19380
(484) 653-7779
danran1995@gmail.com

FADE IN:

INT. WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

The PRESIDENT sits at his desk, facing the camera.

PRESIDENT
My fellows Americans...

EXT. PARK - DAY

People meander about on a warm summer day.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
today is a momentous day, not just
for our country, but for the entire
world...

EXT. THE PYRAMIDS - DAY

People look in awe at the great edifices.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
For today is a day we will
remember...

EXT. LONG ISLAND - DAY

Found footage: Smog obscures the sky over nearby Manhattan until a flying saucer, miles across, descends from of it. Some people point, others scream.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
for the rest of our lives.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

The President appears fearful.

PRESIDENT
These are not aliens...

EXT. TOKYO - DAY

Found footage: People look up in awe of another city-sized flying saucer.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
quite the contrary...

INT. WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

The President still appears fearful.

PRESIDENT

They are a different strain of
humanity, one that possessed
greater intelligence than our
ancestors.

INT. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Found footage: Astronauts gaze at a fleet of flying saucers
below them.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

Their intelligence was so great,
that they left the Earth two and a
half million years ago, at the end
of the Pliocene Epoch. Now they
have returned.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

The President wipes sweat from his forehead.

PRESIDENT

I've met their ambassador; they
wish us no harm, simply to reclaim
their planet and to move us.

EXT. SPACE - 2011

An armada of flying saucers approaches Mars.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

With their own blood, sweat, and
tears...

EXT. SPACE - 2111

The armada has disappeared. The northern half of Mars is
covered in an ocean. Green straddles the area around the
equator. The south remains a desolate desert.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)

they will terraform Mars so that we
may live there.

EXT. ROME - DAY

Found footage: A flying saucer hovers over the Colosseum.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
They have even agreed to duplicate
all of our major cities just as
they are...

Found footage: The saucer drenches the Colosseum in a
brilliant light.

PRESIDENT (V.O.) (CONT'D)
and even to move our great
monuments.

Found footage: The light grows until nothing else can be
seen. It disappears, the Colosseum with it.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

The President looks deep into the camera.

PRESIDENT
At this time, I ask all Americans
not to panic. For I have been
assured, no harm will come to us.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Silence fills the night. In the open door of her apartment
building, DYLAN HENDERSON, twenty-five, a heroin in search
of her cause, stretches, her silhouette cutting the street
light.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Dylan pulls her hood over her head before jogging down the
decrepit suburban sidewalk. The decaying development
resembles an archaeological dig site.

EXT. HILL - NIGHT

Dylan reaches the top of the treeless hill, where she stops
to catch her breath.

The hill overlooks an extensive suburban area. Miles beyond
that, exactly like the original city, stretches the skyline
of New London.

SUPER: "New London - 2111"

A fifty foot long hovercraft flies overhead, and Dylan
sprints after it.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

Two robbers watch a small military base a few hundred feet from them, one surrounded by a laser beam fence.

Directly in front of them, splitting this fence, is a gate guarded by two drones. These humanoid machines sport black, metallic armor. Both also wield fission guns, which resemble machine guns.

One of the two robbers, DEREK, their ambitious leader, leans his elbows on a window sill as he peers at the gate through a pair of advanced binoculars. The NERVOUS ROBBER next to him leans his elbows on the sill as well.

Over a dozen other robbers sit expectantly behind them.

NERVOUS ROBBER
You sure this'll work, Derek?

DEREK
Course it'll work.

NERVOUS ROBBER
You know no one's ever tried anything like this before, right?

DEREK
I know, but it'll work cause, for the first time, we have their tech. Fission guns and everything. Right? And you know that's exactly why they horde their tech from us and keep us in the 2010's; it's because they don't want us using it against them.

NERVOUS ROBBER
Just sayin' is all.

DEREK
Yeah, well, stop saying.

The hovercraft flies overhead.

NERVOUS ROBBER
There's the lorry.

DEREK
There you are, sweetheart. All that antimatter fuel, and it's all for us.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Dylan continues to sprint.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

Derek checks the time again.

DEREK

Come on.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Dylan can see the laser beam fence.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

Derek takes the binoculars from his eyes.

DEREK

You gave her the scan proof suit,
right?

NERVOUS ROBBER

Course I did.

DEREK

I'm just asking 'cause you know
these drones. They'll I.D. her,
then they'll scan her, and if they
see she's armed --

NERVOUS ROBBER

I gave her the suit.

She runs past the abandoned building, towards the gate.

DEREK

Late...as usual.

EXT. GATE - NIGHT

Dylan follows the road, which bends to her left, when DRONE
#1 spots her.

Drone #1 tries but fails to X-ray her. Her face is scanned
and identified.

At the bottom of its vision: "Henderson, Dylan: Wanted."

It gives chase.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

Derek takes the binoculars away from his face.

DEREK

Shit! Both were supposed to chase her!

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Drone #1 runs up behind Dylan and points its fission gun at her.

DRONE #1

Dylan Henderson! Freeze!

She stops.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

Through his binoculars, Derek watches the two of them, then back at the stationary DRONE #2.

DEREK

No, no, no!

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Dylan slowly turns around.

DRONE #1

Put your hands on your head!

She notices Drone #2 still at the gate.

DRONE #1 (CONT'D)

Put your hands on your head!

Dylan slowly raises her hands and puts them on her head.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

Through his binoculars, Derek cannot take his eyes off of Dylan as she gets to her knees.

DEREK

Oh, no, no, no, no! What is she doing?!

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Drone #1 takes out a pair of advanced handcuffs. It puts one cuff around her left wrist, which it notices has a metallic band around it.

Dylan closes her left hand, and the laser attached to that wrist shoots Drone #1 in the face.

She holds the drone in front of herself, blocking the shot Drone #2 takes, and shoots it with the laser attached to her other wrist.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

Derek laughs.

DEREK

She really has to tell me how she makes those things!

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Dylan detaches the spent lasers. She takes a grenade out from under her scan proof suit and tosses it at the gate, where it explodes.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

Three loaders haul metal crates out of the hovercraft and into the space elevator, a fifty foot tall cylinder contained within a shaft, which stretches into space.

The loaders, including the HEAD LOADER, hear the explosion of the grenade.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Two armored hover cars race out of the garage of the abandoned building and toward the gate. Dylan hops onto the one in the rear, without it slowing, and climbs in through the window.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

The eight drones, guarding the loaders, form into a perimeter.

HEAD LOADER

That's most of the load! Send the lift up! We'll load the rest when it comes back down!

The elevator's door is closed, and the loaders back away from the elevator. The Head Loader pushes a button on the space elevator's shaft, which says, "Launch."

The elevator screams into the atmosphere at supersonic speeds, making the air crack. The eight drones open fire on the robbers.

INT. REAR ARMORED HOVER CAR - NIGHT

Derek sits in the passenger seat, while Dylan and an ANGRY ROBBER sit in the two rear seats. All frantically return fire, the Nervous Robber driving.

NERVOUS ROBBER
(sees the rising elevator)
Derek, look!

DEREK
Damn! I hope that wasn't all of it!

EXT. TOP OF SPACE ELEVATOR SHAFT - SPACE

With the lush Martian surface hundreds of miles below, the sun's light shines on the shaft. It also shines on a freighter, a three hundred foot long, triangular ship, attached to the end of it.

The elevator decelerates before it arrives at this freighter.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

With the battle raging and the robbers now nearer, a supersonic boom from the elevator's reentry splits the air. The elevator decelerates before it arrives.

HEAD LOADER
Hurry! Just a few more!

The drones keep up their fire.

INT. REAR ARMORED HOVER CAR - NIGHT

Everyone in the hover cars vehemently returns fire. A circular spot of yellow light appears on the Angry Robber's chest right before that light detonates.

His body falls into Dylan's lap, a scorched hole where his heart had been.

Dylan cannot remove her eyes from him. She is nearly shot in the head and is broken from her trance. She immediately returns fire through the window.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

The last crate is loaded onto the elevator, a SCARED LOADER and DRONE #3 already inside of it.

HEAD LOADER
That's the last of it!

From eighty feet away, the two hover cars turn their broadsides toward the base, and the robbers unleash their payload.

INT. REAR ARMORED HOVER CAR - NIGHT

Dylan, the Nervous Robber, and a few others get out and fire from behind the hover cars. Dylan hits DRONE #4. Another yellow light appears on the Nervous Robber's neck and explodes it.

Infuriated, Dylan grabs another grenade from her belt and throws it at the drones, which it destroys three of. Derek grabs Dylan's arm and motions for her to follow.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

As their cohorts engage the remaining drones, Dylan and Derek sneak behind these drones, toward the elevator.

From out of the elevator, Drone #3 jumps and takes aim at Derek. Dylan pushes him out of the way and shoots it in the shoulder, making it fall into the elevator.

The Scared Loader sits in one of the seats next to the door, his knees to his chin and his hands on his ears.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

Dylan and Derek step inside. Three seats are on either side of them, one to their right contains the Scared Loader. In front of them sit the crates.

DEREK
Look at all that fuel. Screw the
Octavian Rebellion! This is how you
stick it to the purebreds.

What they don't see is Drone #3's hand tense. The Scared Loader clambers to buckle himself into his seat. Dylan spots him reaching for a button, which says, "Launch."

DYLAN
No!

The Scared Loader hits the button, the door closes, and the elevator screams upward with a magnetic roar. Dylan and Derek are flattened against the floor. All three strain under the immense momentum.

Clouds flash by, and soon the atmosphere disappears and is replaced by the sun's light. The elevator decelerates, and the three of them become weightless.

They reach for each other and take each other's arms, catching the other's eye. Then a circular spot of yellow light appears over Derek's heart.

Dylan sees Drone #3 pointing its fission gun at him. It pulls the trigger. A square inch area of Derek's chest explodes and the smile disappears from his face.

Drone #3 aims at Dylan, but she dodges and it misses, shooting a hole, which has an exit wound the size of a pinhead thanks to the elevator's thick armor, in the opposite side of the elevator instead. Air spritzes out. Dylan shoots Drone #3.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

ALEX, a determined robber, shoots DRONE #5. The Head Loader grabs Alex's fission gun, and as they struggle, the fission's gun pointed up.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT

Near the top of the atmosphere, the yellow light appears on one of the magnetic beams of the elevator's shaft.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

Alex, still grappling with the Head Loader, pulls the trigger.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT

An explosion tears that magnetic beam apart.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Dylan, her back against the wall, holds Derek's head, when the elevator stops. The circular door in the elevator's ceiling opens, and the two drones in the freighter peek through it.

She kicks off the wall, the drones draw their weapons, and she reaches the launch button. The door closes, and the elevator screams back towards the surface.

She's flattened against the bottom of a shelf, holding some of the fuel, ten feet over the Scared Loader. She notices the hole in the wall, through which air continues to seep.

Their faces redden as they struggle to breathe. A siren goes off. Over the launch button, a screen flashes the words "Warning! Low Air Pressure!"

Dylan sees the emergency hatch next to the door, at the bottom of the elevator. She launches herself towards the Scared Loader and grabs his buckles. She tries to unbuckle him, but loses her grip, and is flattened against the shelf.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

The elevator heats up as it enters the atmosphere.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

The screen now says, "Warning! Entering Atmosphere!"

A flame streaks in through the hole in the wall. Dylan gets her knife out, launches herself at the Scared Loader, cuts his buckles, and pulls him toward the emergency hatch.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Flaming fingers of fire wrap themselves around the entire elevator.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Dylan, with her hands grasping at the door handle and the Scared Loader's arms around her ankles, has nearly reached the emergency hatch.

The emergency coolant system goes off. The screen now says, "Warning! Temperature Threat!" "130 Degrees F!" "150 Degrees F!" "170 Degrees F!"

Dylan clenches her teeth and pulls herself toward the open-button for the emergency hatch, which she punches with all her might. The hatch opens.

She pulls both of them inside, and the Scared Loader's flattened against the hatch's ceiling. She hits the close-button, then is also flattened.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

The elevator hits the spot where the shaft had been shot.

BOOM!

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Inside the emergency hatch, the flames of the explosion leak inside just when the door closes.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Above, the explosion rampages up the shaft, which wobbles, then crumbles in a fiery river high in the sky.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

What remains of the band of robbers shoots the last of the drones. A yellow light drenches them.

The rumble of the explosion reaches them. The miles long shaft splits the sky in two, bits break off and streak through clouds, turning them into wisps.

ALEX

Run!

They scurry into their armored hovercrafts and floor it.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Inside the emergency hatch, Dylan and the Scared Loader clench their teeth under the immense momentum, which keeps them adhered to the ceiling. Through a circular window, Dylan can see the shaft rampaging downward.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

The elevator slams into the base with the force of an asteroid.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Inside the emergency hatch, Dylan and the Nervous Loader are flung into the floor.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

The shaft and all of the debris rain down in a maelstrom of hell and explode like so many small nuclear bombs.

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

The shock wave from the explosions annihilates the building.

INT. SPACE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Inside the emergency hatch, Dylan, dazed, opens her eyes and finds the Scared Loader dead, crushed by the force of the crash. A pool of blood surrounds his corpse.

She clammers to her feet and opens the hatch's door to find the rest of the elevator all melted and singed.

She takes one step out, but her boot's sole is melted by the floor and hisses. She lifts her leg, and the material stretches out like melted cheese.

EXT. SPACE ELEVATOR BASE - NIGHT

Dylan steps outside, when she hears the blare of approaching police sirens and sprints in the same direction as her cohorts.

EXT. WOODED HILL - DAY

At the top of this hill, under a gray sky, stands VICEROY ABDIEL, the man who rules Mars. His thoughts are a million miles away.

Appearing to be in his sixties, he carries himself as if he rules by divine will, while being the source of this will.

Behind him, DANTALION, his head guard, appearing to be in his twenties, a single soldier containing the collective resolve of an army, walks up.

DANTALION

Sir? Viceroy? Are you ready, sir?
(waits for answer)

Sir, I don't have any children, so
I don't know what it would be like
to lose one.

VICEROY ABDIEL

He was sick for a long time. It was
inevitable.

(walks past Dantalion)
Let's get this over with.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

A procession of aristocratic mourners, Viceroy Abdiel and Dantalion in the front, walks behind a levitating coffin.

DANTALION

Sir, if I might be so bold...What is the next course of action?

VICEROY ABDIEL

Course of action?

DANTALION

Mars needs to know that it's royal bloodline will prevail, especially at a time like this. And with your only heir dead --

VICEROY ABDIEL

Dantalion, I need you to find someone for me.

DANTALION

Sir?

VICEROY ABDIEL

I want you to find this person, and bring her to me.

INT. DYLAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

In her bedroom, Dylan sits on her bed with her eyes glued to a picture of her kissing Derek's cheek. She angrily slams the picture on the end table next to her, grabs her jacket, and marches outside.

EXT. SLUM STREET - DAY

Down a desolate and decaying street, Dylan marches and puts a necklace on. She squeezes the pendant at its apex, and a hologram of another face is projected over hers. She looks down when a GESTAPO OFFICER walks by.

Around her, people meander aimlessly. Filthy kids frolic in the street between abandoned hover cars as stray animals scavenge for food.

She enters a grocery store.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

A SHOP CLERK stands at the cash register as she turns the hologram off.

SHOP CLERK

Hello, Dylan.

She steps right past him and through the narrow door at the back.

JANITOR'S CLOSET

Dylan knocks on the wall opposite the door four times. A scanner pops out and scans her face. The wall opens into another door and she steps through it and down a flight of stairs.

INT. CRIMINAL BASE OF OPERATIONS - DAY

Dylan enters into a swarm of activity as people of all ages and races go about their various responsibilities. Many take a moment to stare in disbelief at her.

She walks past people playing cards, prostitutes trying to grab the attention of passing men, kids cleaning weapons, and a few people shooting up. All this occurs in an underground town of sheet-metal shacks.

SHERRY, a prostitute, comes up to Dylan.

SHERRY

Hey! You're here! I mean, you came back! A lot of us were worried you wouldn't come back; you know, after the raid and what happened to Derek
--

OFFICE OF THE DON

Dylan opens the door to find Alex sitting behind the office's mahogany desk and halts in frozen surprise.

ALEX

Dylan...Didn't expect you to be back so soon.

Dylan steps inside and closes the door behind her, shutting Sherry out.

DYLAN

Why the hell are you sitting in Derek's chair?

For a moment, he's too nervous to speak.

DEREK

Look...Dylan...Derek died, and you weren't around --

DYLAN

So you thought you could take over.

DEREK

I knew that I needed to take over, that someone needed to take over. Who else would? You? You weren't here.

DYLAN

Well, I'm here now.

DEREK

It's too late.

She's too stunned to speak for a moment.

DYLAN

No one'll take orders from you, Alex. Everyone knows you're just an opportunist...And if they didn't know it before, they'll know now.

ALEX

(calms himself)

Do you think you could do better?

DYLAN

(defiantly)

Yes.

ALEX

(condescendingly smiling)

Why?

DYLAN

(thinks)

Because I think we can be more than this.

ALEX

More than what?

DYLAN

A bunch of criminals.

ALEX

Oh? And what can we be?

DYLAN

A symbol. A symbol of defiance; a symbol of what happens when an entire species is left to rot.

ALEX

(condescendingly smiling)

If that's what you want to be, then you should join the Octavian Rebellion.

He leans back in his chair.

DYLAN

Derek thought we could be more.

ALEX

Well, he never told me.

She stares off into nothing for a moment.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Listen, Dylan, why don't you think about what you wanna do next? Hm?

She opens the door --

ALEX (CONT'D)

But if you stay, you're under my command.

Defeated, she exits.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Around a trashcan fire, Dylan, Sherry, and about a dozen other individuals sit and eat sandwiched between two buildings.

SHERRY

Why don't you eat something?

DYLAN

No thank you.

SHERRY

You know, whenever something's bothering me, I find it easier if I just talk about it.

The night sky reflects in Dylan's eyes.

DYLAN
It's a full moon tonight.

SHERRY
Huh?

From behind, their silhouettes cut through the fire.

DYLAN
On Earth. My mother always told me
how bright the moon was, especially
when it was full.

SHERRY
I didn't know your mother was born
on Earth.

DYLAN
She was one of the last. She always
talked about what it was like
there.

SHERRY
I bet it was nice.

DYLAN
No, actually. The pliocenes
destroyed it. She chose to come
here.

SHERRY
I suppose they wanted to make Earth
just like their old planet, then.

DYLAN
If they liked it that much, why
didn't they just stay there? Why
should I stay here?

SHERRY
Dylan, what are you talking about?

A patrol hovercraft pulls up at the end of the alley.

SHERRY (CONT'D)
Come on.

Sherry takes Dylan's hand, while the rest scatter.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The pair emerges from a door. Sherry sits and lights a cigarette.

DYLAN

(peers out over New London)
Do you know why the pliocenes tried
to make the cities here just like
they were on Earth?

SHERRY

I don't know, why?

Dylan shakes her head.

SHERRY (CONT'D)

Mm, I never bother myself with
those sorts of thoughts. Pliocene,
purebred, impure, loyalist,
patriot. Whatever.

DYLAN

"Impure."

SHERRY

What?

DYLAN

What makes us any less pure? Just
because we didn't descend from the
pliocenes, like the purebreds,
we're impure?

SHERRY

Why would you even want to be a
purebred? They're all the same,
keeping us impures in our place.

DYLAN

Not all of them. The loyalists
might want to keep things the way
they've been, but the patriots...

SHERRY

What? You think they actually want
to change things? No purebred wants
to make Mars a democracy. Like I
said, patriot or loyalist, all
purebreds are the same.

Dylan sighs.

SHERRY (CONT'D)

You never gave me an answer...Why did the pliocenes try to make these cities just like Earth's?

DYLAN

My mum always said that they were trying to trick us into feeling like we were home.

(walks toward Sherry)

She always told me that the real London was better.

SHERRY

How so?

DYLAN

(sits)

She said it just felt different. Do you think that's possible?

SHERRY

What?

DYLAN

That two cities could be exactly alike but still feel different?

SHERRY

I guess...Everyone only has one home, Dylan.

She smiles, Dylan smiles back and rolls her eyes. They both gaze out over New London.

SHERRY (CONT'D)

I've never heard you talk about your mum this much before.

DYLAN

I guess I'm just wondering what she'd do if she were me.

SHERRY

So what are you going to do?

Sherry takes a drag from her cigarette.

SHERRY (CONT'D)

Dylan?

DYLAN

I don't know. I think I'm just going to stay, though. Maybe if I do, I'll be able to keep some part of Derek alive here.

INT. DYLAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

In a towel, Dylan turns the shower knob. The rusty pipes creek and strain before water pours out.

She drops the towel and steps under the water, closing her eyes and putting her face right under it, letting it wash down her body.

She opens her eyes, which focus on a distant nothing.

QUICK FLASHES - DYLAN'S FLASHBACK (EMERGENCY HATCH)

--Dylan and the Scared Loader slam into the emergency hatch's floor.

--Dylan sees the Scared Loader dead next to her.

BACK TO SCENE

She goes into deep contemplation.

LATER

In her bedroom, Dylan lies awake on her bed with her eyes on the ceiling, her flat a reflection of her decayed society.

On the end table beside her rests a picture of her with Derek in New London. Her eyes flicker before closing.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

Three drones, DRONE #6, DRONE #7, and DRONE #8, sneak up to her apartment's door. Drone #6 X-rays her apartment and sees her.

It accidentally steps on a small piece of broken glass.

INT. DYLAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dylan opens her eyes.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

Drone #6 smashes the door open and throws a sonic stunner, a baseball-sized, metallic sphere, through her kitchen and into her bedroom.

INT. DYLAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

This sphere stops and emits a high frequency noise, which causes all of her windows and mirror to shatter.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

All three drones charge inside and fan out.

INT. DYLAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Drone #6 enters her bedroom to discover that she has vanished. It picks up the sphere and turns it off.

Drone #7 enters her kitchen, which it X-rays. It sees a man-sized metal box at the end that says, "Lead Lined."

Drone #7 freezes. Dylan swings open the door and shoots it in the face with a fission pistol. Drone #6 rushes in, and she shoots it, too.

She reaches the door, but Dantalion punches her in the face, knocking her out. In his black battle armor, he stands over her body and removes his helmet.

DANTALION

Drones. I miss the days of purebred soldiers.

DRONE #8

I apologize, sir. It will not happen again.

Dantalion pushes Drone #8 so hard it flies into the lead box. He leaps over and grabs its head, which he smashes against the lead box several times.

When Drone #8's head only puts a huge dent in it, Dantalion punches the drone in the face, and his fist flies through its head as if it were paper.

The drone collapses on the floor, and Dantalion walks outside to collect Dylan.

EXT. LORD SIMIEL'S ESTATE - DAY

Impures mow the lawn, clip the hedges, and water the grass outside of an illustrious mansion.

At the edge of the property, a hovercraft taxi flies away, having dropped off BRIATHOS, appearing to be in his thirties, a man with his conscience as his compass and his wits as his map.

He nervously walks up to the front door and knocks. An IMPURE BUTLER opens the door.

IMPURE SERVANT

Can I help you?

Briathos touches his collar, and the hologram covering his face is turned off.

IMPURE SERVANT

Ah, Lord Briathos. Master Simiel has been expecting you.

INT. LORD SIMIEL'S ESTATE - DAY

Entering the basement, Briathos walks down a flight of stairs to find six purebreds, two women and four men of all ages and ethnicities, sitting around a table. Around them stand ten purebred soldiers who are all holding fission guns.

Briathos takes his seat next to SIMIEL, the head patriot, a grandfatherly man.

SIMIEL

Briathos, so nice of you to have joined us.

BRIATHOS

Simiel.

They all look to Simiel.

SIMIEL

Gentlemen, ladies. We are here to discuss our situation, one which grows increasingly hazardous with each passing day.

AMITIEL, a hawk patriot, his fists clenched, cuts in.

AMITIEL

We are never going to see
eye-to-eye with the loyalists!
Let's all just accept that fact
now!

MANAKEL, a dove patriot, runs her fingers through her hair.

MANAKEL

Patriot or loyalist, we are all
purebreds. Surely there's a way we
could compromise.

AMITIEL

What is there to compromise? We
want democracy, they want
feudalism. And let us not forget
that they outnumber us one hundred
to one.

SIMIEL

Briathos, what do you think?

BRIATHOS

Well, two and a half million years
ago, when our pliocene ancestors
left us purebreds on Earth, they
did so so that we could rule over
mankind when they returned...

AMITIEL

So?

BRIATHOS

So the loyalists want power for
power's sake, but if the impures
rebel, they'll lose that power.
That means that we need to make it
clear to the loyalists that the
only way they can keep their power
is to democratize Mars.

MANAKEL

So what you're saying is that we
try and speak their own language to
the loyalists. We don't frame it as
a way to give the impures a voice,
we frame it as a scheme for the
loyalists to keep themselves in
power.

BRIATHOS

But they'll have to fear losing
their power first.

SIMIEL

So we show the loyalists what the
impures are capable of.

BRIATHOS

Exactly.

MANAKEL

Are you suggesting we ally
ourselves with the Octavian
Rebellion?

BRIATHOS

Why not? We've all been thinking it
for a long time now. I was just the
first to say it.

MANAKEL

The loyalists have tolerated our
impudence so far. They would not
tolerate this.

BRIATHOS

I don't see any other option.

Everyone else is too afraid to speak.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

Listen, we all saw those
impure-serfs working Simiel's land
outside. That's who we're really
doing this for, all the
impure-serfs on all the purebred
estates of Mars, all the impures
living in the slums; all of them!

INT. DUNGEON CELL - DAY

Dylan awakens inside of the dank, old cell that has lasers
instead of bars. She slowly sits up with her hand on her
forehead.

VICEROY ABDIEL

(from within the darkness)

It's about time you woke up.

(steps into the light)

How do you feel?

DYLAN
 (rubbing her head)
 Viceroy Abdiel.

VICEROY ABDIEL
 I suppose you're wondering why I'm
 here...why you're here.

DYLAN
 (nervously)
 I...I guess this is about your
 space lift.
 (summons her nerve)
 If I'd known wrecking it would've
 earned me an audience with the
 Viceroy of Mars, I'd have done it a
 long time ago.

Viceroy Abdiel chuckles.

VICEROY ABDIEL
 No, no that's not it at all. No,
 you mean so much more to me than a
 giant elevator and some fuel.

She stops rubbing her head.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)
 Dylan...you are my daughter.

She just looks at him for a moment, then at the wall.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)
 Hm! You really had no idea, didn't
 you? Didn't your mother ever say
 anything about who your father
 might be?

She can't move.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)
 Answer me, girl!

Dylan flinches. The Viceroy regains his calm demeanor.

DYLAN
 (fearfully staring)
 She...She'd change the subject
 every time I asked.

VICEROY ABDIEL
 Surely, though, you noticed that
 you were stronger and faster than
 (MORE)

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)
 all of the impures; that you were
 the only one who could stand
 toe-to-toe with drones?

DYLAN
 I...thought that I was just...a
 little stronger than everyone else.
 That I was just...

VICEROY ABDIEL
 Special? My dear, do you know why
 exactly we, the purebreds and the
 pliocenes, can do all of the things
 we can? Why I just celebrated my
 four hundredth birthday?

DYLAN
 All...All I know is that it's a
 secret.

VICEROY ABDIEL
 We are genetically modified. The
 pliocenes were the first, and they
 passed it along to us. I've even
 heard impures use the word
 "superhuman."

She can't say anything for a moment.

DYLAN
 So...what...now?

VICEROY ABDIEL
 Now? Now you are to be recognized
 as my daughter and heir.

He stands, and a PUREBRED GUARD comes over and waves his
 hand over the scanner next to the cell's entrance, making
 the laser-bars disappear.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)
 (grinning)
 Congratulations.

MONTAGE - DYLAN'S PREP'D FOR PRESENTATION

-- In her new chambers:

-- She gets her hair done by female servants. She doesn't
 move or speak.

-- She gets her makeup done by female servants. She doesn't
 move or speak.

-- She gets a dress fitted by female servants. She doesn't move or speak.

EXT. BALCONY - DAY

Dylan follows Viceroy Abdiel onto a balcony, overlooking the Main Square, which contains a crowd of thousands of cheering people.

She doesn't move or speak.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE - DAY

Almost directly below the balcony, Simiel and Briathos peer up at the new heir.

SIMIEL

I think we have just found our other option.

INT. DYLAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Dylan wakes in a large bed and stares at the ceiling. A window takes up most of the wall perpendicular her head and provides a scenic view of the Capital.

A knock on the door. She doesn't answer. Another knock.

DYLAN

Come in.

An IMPURE MAID enters holding a tray.

IMPURE MAID

My lady.
(waits for response)
It's time for breakfast.

DYLAN

Leave it on the table.

The Maid does as she's told and exits.

LATER

Dylan lies with her eyes open, when there's a knock on her door. She says nothing, then another knock.

DYLAN

Come in.

The Maid enters.

IMPURE MAID

Time for lunch, my lady.
 (waits for response)
 Should I leave it on the table
 again?

DYLAN

Sure.

The Maid does and sees that breakfast hasn't been touched.

IMPURE MAID

Did you not find breakfast
 satisfactory, my lady?

After waiting for a response, the Maid bows her head and leaves. After a moment, Dylan sits up.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Dylan exits her room, wearing the same dress as the one she wore on the balcony, and finds two drones on either side of her door. She's startled by them, but regains her composure and walks forward, the drones following.

As she does, nobles and servants alike bow their heads, but she passes by them in a trance.

INT. BOTANICAL GARDENS - DAY

Under a dome-glass ceiling, Dylan slumps on a bench. She looks up at the sun, then picks a flower. After holding it for a moment, she drops it.

INT. DYLAN'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

She enters and sees the dinner tray next to the other two. She sits on her bed, then lies down on her side.

INT. DYLAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Dylan sits on her bed with her eyes on a portrait of her new father hanging on a wall, when there's a knock on the door. She doesn't react. There's another knock.

DYLAN

(eyes on portrait)
 Come in.

Briathos opens the door with Simiel standing behind him, and they bow their heads.

BRIATHOS

My lady.

(waits for her)

Eh-hem, would you mind if we came in?

DYLAN

Sure.

He and Simiel step inside.

SIMIEL

My lady, might we have a moment of your time?

DYLAN

You're already in here.

The two men exchange glances.

SIMIEL

You know, I was once where you are.

She glares at him.

SIMIEL (CONT'D)

What I mean to say is that I was a bastard once, until I, too, was recognized.

Her eyes return to the portrait, and Simiel sits next to her.

SIMIEL (CONT'D)

How are you...adjusting?

DYLAN

Fine...So, what do you want?

BRIATHOS

Simiel.

He and Simiel huddle in a corner.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

I don't think now's a good time to ask her --

DYLAN

Ask me what?

SIMIEL

(walking back to her)

We understand that you lived as an impure...

(sits on the bed)

which is why we think that you'd be willing to help us.

DYLAN

Help you?

SIMIEL

You see, my dear, as of late, it has become dangerous for those belonging to our...particular ideology, in large part because of your father...

DYLAN

You're patriots, aren't you?

SIMIEL

My dear...would you be willing to spy on your father for us?

She cups her face in her hands and breathes heavily. She pulls her hair back and holds it against the back of her neck as she continues to pant.

SIMIEL (CONT'D)

We understand that this a lot to ask...but you have to understand that what we're doing is bigger than any one person.

BRIATHOS

Maybe we should come back.

DYLAN

I...I can't...I...

BRIATHOS

We understand if you want to think about it --

DYLAN

No, I mean...I can't do this!

(stands)

I can't be here! I don't belong here! A few days ago, I was a robber living in a slum, and now...

She cries.

SIMIEL

(holding her shoulders)

Yes, you were a robber. But now you're here! Now this is your life! You were just a robber. You are just a robber...but you can be the robber who helps end a century-long tyranny.

Dylan mostly regains her composure.

SIMIEL (CONT'D)

Briathos, perhaps we should show her the laboratory.

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

The three of them enter a long hall, with cryogenic chambers, cylinders large enough to fit people, on either side.

A thin layer of ice covers these cylinders so that their contents cannot be seen through their glass doors.

DYLAN

What's in them?

SIMIEL

Why don't you find out for yourself?

Dylan walks over to one, rubs the ice away, and finds a CLONE, its open eyes staring back at her. She jumps.

DYLAN

There are people in there!

SIMIEL

Clones, actually. You see, your father is a deeply paranoid man. Should anyone betray him, he assassinates them and replaces them with their clone and nobody is any the wiser.

BRIATHOS

And that's only one of the things he uses these clones for.

Simiel walks farther down the hall and searches for a particular chamber. When he finds it, he brushes away the ice.

Dylan starts to walk toward him.

SIMIEL
It seems Viceroy Abdiel doesn't
trust anyone.

She arrives and looks into the chamber. Briathos walks up to her and sees DYLAN's CLONE inside.

DYLAN
Okay. I'll do it.

Through the window of the door from which they entered, Dantalion watches them.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

With the other five patriots already inside, Briathos and Simiel enter.

AMITIEL
Well?

SIMIEL
She has agreed.

They both take their seats.

SIMIEL (CONT'D)
What news from the front?

MANAKEL
Abdiel launched another raid on one
of our safe houses last night.

AMITIEL
See? I told you people! The
loyalists cannot compromise!
(stands)
Abdiel has been launching more and
more raids, getting bolder and
bolder, and do you know why?
Because we will not fight back!

SIMIEL
So you agree with Briathos? That we
should ally ourselves with the
Octavian Rebellion?

AMITIEL
I do.

SIMIEL
Doing so would start a war, one
which we would not win...but there
(MORE)

SIMIEL (CONT'D)
is another way. What if we
assassinated Abdiel?

Amitiel sits.

BRIATHOS
That's impossible. He's too well
guarded.

SIMIEL
Not against family.

BRIATHOS
Are you saying -- ?

SIMIEL
She is the only person who's
allowed near him with minimal
security. She's our only chance to
kill him, which is our only chance
to avoid war. Not to mention the
fact that she is his heir.

MANAKEL
Having a patriot viceroy would
protect us, and it would eventually
allow for a democratic Mars.

SIMIEL
To carry out such an act would need
to be a unanimous vote.

Simiel raises his hand, immediately followed by Amitiel. The
rest follow, except for Briathos.

BRIATHOS
There must be another way.

AMITIEL
There isn't.

BRIATHOS
It's a suicide mission.

AMITIEL
Don't go soft on us now, Briathos.

BRIATHOS
What if she gets caught? How long
do you think before they break
her?...I'm sorry.

Amitiel sighs, and they all put their hands down.

AMITIEL

You were the one who proposed joining the Octavian Rebellion in the first place, so you're not afraid of putting yourself in danger. But now, you're against assassinating Abdiel because it'd put her in danger.

BRIATHOS

Whatever you're insinuating...it simply isn't true.

SIMIEL

Briathos, don't let your emotions cloud your judgement.

BRIATHOS

She's not ready. She hasn't even acclimated to her new life yet. I just know that we stand a greater chance with the Octavian Rebellion.

He exits.

INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

SUPER: "Two Weeks Later"

Viceroy Abdiel sits at dinner with half a dozen servants standing behind him. A grandiose table is stretched out in front of him, a room and chandelier to match.

The BUTLER knocks on and opens the door at the opposite end of the room.

BUTLER

My lord, Sir Dantalion to see you.

Viceroy Abdiel nods, then Dantalion enters and stands at attention at the opposite end of the table.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Don't be shy, Dantalion. Sit.

Dantalion does, Viceroy Abdiel eating throughout the conversation.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

Now, what is it?

DANTALION

My lord, I think I might know why your raids on patriot hideouts have been failures as of late.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Oh?

DANTALION

I suspect your daughter of betraying us.

VICEROY ABDIEL

I see. This is a serious charge, Dantalion. Do you have any proof?

DANTALION

Two weeks ago, Lords Briathos and Simiel took your daughter to where your clones are kept.

Viceroy Abdiel stops eating.

DANTALION (CONT'D)

In the months before this, nearly all your raids on patriot hideouts were successful. Since then, nearly all have been failures. With some, though, I made sure your daughter knew ahead of time, just to be sure.

The Viceroy wipes his mouth with a napkin.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Why didn't you come to me with this earlier?

DANTALION

I wanted to be sure, sir. Obviously, coming to you with this sort of accusation without sufficient evidence --

VICEROY ABDIEL

Would mean that you were disrespecting my daughter. So good of you to remember how I treat those who disrespect me and my family. So, they have turned my own daughter against me. Dantalion, I want to perform a test.

DANTALION

A test, sir?

VICEROY ABDIEL

There's something I need you to do,
and this time, make sure my
daughter doesn't know of it.

INT. PATRIOT SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

In a rundown building, Amitiel stands at a podium with an audience of thirty other patriots sitting in front of him, all of them yelling and shaking their fists.

AMITIEL

Ladies and gentlemen, the time to
act has come!

The crowd cheers.

EXT. PATRIOT SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

As it rains, an unknown figure X-rays the building and its occupants.

INT. PATRIOT SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

Amitiel waves his hands around as he speaks.

AMITIEL

The loyalists raid and arrest our
fellow patriots with impunity!

The crowd cheers again.

AMITIEL (CONT'D)

This is something which we cannot
allow!

The crowd cheers yet louder. A sonic stunner rolls down the central aisle, from a hall behind the crowd, and stops in front of the podium.

AMITIEL (CONT'D)

We must -- !

The stunner emits a high frequency sound, which shatters the windows and makes everyone collapse with their hands pressed against their ears.

Amitiel looks up, and sees DRONE #9 enter from the hall, a dozen more following.

Finally, Dantalion enters and strides up to the stunner, smashing it with his foot. He removes his helmet.

DANTALION

Line them up against the wall.

MOMENTS LATER

Amitiel is tossed against the wall, everyone else already lined up with the drones' guns fixed on them.

DANTALION

On your knees.

The patriots do nothing. Dantalion shoots an UNFORTUNATE PATRIOT in the heart with his fission pistol.

DANTALION (CONT'D)

Now!

Begrudgingly, they do as ordered, except for a DEFIANT PATRIOT, whom Dantalion steps over to.

Sticking his nose in the Defiant Patriot's face, Dantalion tips his head oh-so-slightly.

DANTALION (CONT'D)

(to the drones)

Now.

The drones execute all of the patriots, making the defiant one weep and tremble.

Dantalion snatches him by the throat and rakes him off the floor, but he kicks Dantalion away and escapes into the night.

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

Briathos walks tensely.

INT. NEARBY HALLWAY - NIGHT

Six armed drones march.

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

Briathos swivels his head around.

INT. NEARBY HALLWAY - NIGHT

The drones pick up their speed.

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

Briathos puts his hand in his pocket and grabs something solid. The sound of the marching drones draws louder.

INT. NEARBY HALLWAY - NIGHT

The drones turn the corner.

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

Briathos turns to see the drones jogging toward him. He begins to pull out the metallic object, when the drones pass him and keep jogging.

Briathos stops and knocks on Simiel's door, his eyes remaining glued to the drones, which turn the corner and disappear. Simiel opens his door.

SIMIEL
(relieved)
Briathos.

BRIATHOS
Simiel, what -- ?

Another band of six drones marches past.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)
(whispers)
What's going on?

SIMIEL
Come inside! Quickly!

Briathos does, and Simiel makes sure no one's watching.

INT. SIMIEL'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Briathos enters and sees the Defiant Patriot sobbing and rocking himself on Simiel's bed. Through the window, a thunder storm churns, lighting flashing every few seconds.

SIMIEL
Good thing you got my message.

BRIATHOS
Simiel --

SIMIEL
 Things are progressing very
 quickly.

BRIATHOS
 Simiel --

SIMIEL
 Faster than I could have ever
 predicted --

BRIATHOS
 Simiel! What is it?

SIMIEL
 (to the Defiant Patriot)
 Tell him what you just told me.

DEFIANT PATRIOT
 About thirty of us were having a
 rally...and Dantalion...and a bunch
 of drones came in...and they killed
 them all, even Amitiel.

Simiel stands right up against Briathos.

SIMIEL
 (whispers)
 This changes everything. Before,
 they were just arresting us. Now,
 they're starting to kill us off.
 It's only a matter of time. Abdiel
 must die so that Dylan may take the
 throne!

Briathos hesitates, then nods.

SIMIEL (CONT'D)
 So it is. I shall inform her.

Simiel takes a step toward the door.

BRIATHOS
 No. No, let me do it.

Simiel gives a slight nod before sitting next to the Defiant
 Patriot and putting his arm around him.

Briathos exits, uneasy yet determined.

INT. BRIATHOS' CHAMBERS - LATER

Dylan sits crouched in a chair, her eyes on the floor, while Briathos sits on her bed. The storm still churns outside.

DYLAN

No. Mm-mm.

BRIATHOS

Dylan --

She abruptly stands and goes over to the window, where she watches the nighttime city.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

Dylan...Dylan look at me.

She does.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

I understand that these last couple weeks have been extremely difficult for you, but Abdiel's moving to wipe us out! And if he succeeds, all of this would've been for nothing.

DYLAN

Seems more like you're just trying to save yourselves...Sorry, I --

BRIATHOS

No. You're not wrong. Impures have been dying for decades, yet it's not until now that we decide to take any real action. But that doesn't change the fact that this is much bigger than any one person!

DYLAN

(stands)

I know!...Look...I am still getting used to everything that has happened! To my new life! You have to see this from my point of view!

BRIATHOS

I do!

DYLAN

(calms herself)

It's not that I don't want to help you...It's just that it feels like

(MORE)

DYLAN (CONT'D)
 everything is piling up on my
 shoulders!
 (sits on bed)
 I've never killed anyone
 before...let alone my father.

BRIATHOS
 If it helps, try not to think of
 him as your father. He's just
 Abdiel.
 (thinks)
 Listen, I don't know how to prepare
 you for this, because there is no
 way to prepare someone for
 something like this. The only thing
 I can tell you is that whenever you
 fell doubt, remember all the lives
 you're trying to save; remember all
 your friends living in slums, or on
 some purebred's serfdom.

DYLAN
 You know, there was something I
 wanted to say a couple weeks ago,
 when you and Simiel recruited me...

BRIATHOS
 What?

DYLAN
 I said I was just a robber. The
 truth is that I wanted to be more.
 I thought I could be part of a
 symbol, a symbol for defiance. And
 as it turns out,
 (smiles at the irony)
 I'm the daughter of the man I
 wanted to rebel against!

BRIATHOS
 Yes, you are his daughter. But this
 is still your opportunity to be
 that symbol!

DYLAN
 Yeah...This can go wrong in so many
 ways, though. What if the loyalists
 try to rebel against me?

BRIATHOS
 The drones are programmed to follow
 the orders of the Viceroy. As soon
 (MORE)

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)
as your f...as soon as Abdiel is
dead, they'll obey you. You only
need one to know, so it can inform
the rest.

DYLAN
Well, what if the loyalists just
assassinate me?

BRIATHOS
They wouldn't.

DYLAN
Why not?

BRIATHOS
Because you don't have an heir.
Their goal is to keep the status
quo, and killing a viceroy without
an heir risks things getting even
further out of their control. But
that does remind me of something...

He gets off the bed and reaches under it.

DYLAN
What?

He pulls a black suitcase out.

BRIATHOS
(puts suitcase on bed)
Well, a while ago, I knew I might
have to escape, so the Octavians
gave me this.

He reaches back under the bed again.

DYLAN
The Octavian Rebellion?

BRIATHOS
(pulls out another suitcase)
I thought it'd be smart to get a
spare. I guess it'll be yours now.

DYLAN
What does it do?

BRIATHOS
Leads you to their headquarters.

DYLAN

What if we get captured and they scan our brains?

BRIATHOS

Already thought of that.

He opens a drawer in the nightstand and fishes his hand around. He stands with a neural encrypter, similar in appearance to a remote.

DYLAN

(stands)

What is it?

BRIATHOS

A neural encrypter.

He's about to put it against her forehead, but she shrinks away.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

It's okay.

He puts it against her forehead, and it charges up.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

The brain is like a computer, and like a computer, data can be encrypted.

DYLAN

So it can hide what I know about the suitcases.

BRIATHOS

It'll even encrypt your thoughts about it, and you can still recall the memory.

It hums for a couple seconds and beeps. He removes it from her forehead.

DYLAN

And it's that easy?

BRIATHOS

And it's that easy. I only have the one, though, so I haven't told anyone else.

DYLAN

What if one of the other patriots
gets caught?

BRIATHOS

We each have our own ways of
escaping. There's something else.

He opens the second suitcase and produces a round Device.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

This is what will actually lead you
to the Octavian Rebellion, and it
will only work for you or me.

DYLAN

How?

BRIATHOS

Hold out your hand.

She does, and he puts the Device in it. He wraps her fingers
around it by wrapping his fingers around hers. The Device
hums. They catch each other's eyes, but only for a moment
before they sheepishly avert their gazes.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

(clears his throat)

It'll familiarize itself with your
D.N.A.

DYLAN

They have a clone of me.

BRIATHOS

Did you know that sleep deprivation
can affect our D.N.A.?

DYLAN

No, I didn't know that.

BRIATHOS

You see, clones aren't an exact
copy of your genes because even
what we experience affects them.

DYLAN

And this thing can tell the
difference?

He nods. The Device stops humming and beeps. Briathos puts
it back in the suitcase.

BRIATHOS

(sits on bed)

It can also tell if the part of you touching it is alive or not.

DYLAN

What's the point of that?

BRIATHOS

To prevent them from chopping off your hand to trick it.

DYLAN

How thoughtful.

Dylan nervously sighs. She sits down next to him and stares at the floor.

BRIATHOS

You can do this, Dylan.

She meets his gaze for a moment before holding his hand and staring forward into nothing. Outside, lightning flashes and thunder rumbles.

INT. VICEROY ABDIEL'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Viceroy Abdiel sits in a chair at the center of a pompous room, while Dantalion stands in front of him.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Are you sure?

DANTALION

Quite sure, sir. After I released the traitor, I followed him to see where he'd go.

VICEROY ABDIEL

And?

Dantalion nods to Drone #9 behind him. Drone #9 nods, then exits through the grandiose, arched doors. It reenters with Simiel, dragging him by his collar before dropping him beside Dantalion.

Simiel cringes from his injuries, yet manages to kneel and look Viceroy Abdiel straight in the eye.

DANTALION

I scanned his brain and found something interesting. They plan to assassinate you, sir.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Do they?

INT. DYLAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Dylan sits on her bed, her eyes fixed on the portrait of her father. A knock on her door makes her jump. She goes over and opens it to find the Butler standing there.

BUTLER

My lady, his excellency, Viceroy Abdiel, has formally requested that you have dinner with him this evening. Do you accept his invitation?

DYLAN

Yes. Sure.

The Butler bows, then walks away. Bewildered, Dylan closes her door.

INT. BRIATHOS' CHAMBERS - DAY

There's a knock on his door, and he opens it to find Dylan.

DYLAN

I think Abdiel knows.

BRIATHOS

Come inside.

She does. Briathos checks the hall to make sure nobody saw her, then closes the door.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

What do you mean Abdiel knows?

DYLAN

(pacing)

His butler just came to my door and said that I was invited to have dinner with him tonight. He's never done that before, what if --

BRIATHOS

Dylan, just stay calm. Go home, and stay there. I'll come by later, alright?

DYLAN

(calming herself)

Okay.

She exits, and Briathos' face fills with fear.

INT. DYLAN'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Dylan gets a knock on her door, which she answers to find Briathos.

BRIATHOS

Here.

He gives her a vial with a clear liquid inside.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

For tonight. Put this in his food,
and this will all be behind us.

She nods and looks him in the eye. They hug, then press their foreheads together before he leaves and she closes the door. She stares at the little vial in her hands, then closes her eyes and leans against the door.

INT. BRIATHOS' CHAMBERS - DAY

Briathos answers the knock at his door to find Dylan there again.

BRIATHOS

(nervously)

Dylan --

She comes inside, and he closes the door.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

Dylan, you can't be here --

She kisses him, a tear rolling down her cheek.

DYLAN

I'm so scared, Briathos.

She kisses him again. At first, he tries to push her away before he leans into it. She kisses him faster, going from tentative to intense.

Finally, Briathos picks her up and carries her to his bed, where he drops her. For a moment, they stare into each other's eyes. He climbs on top of her, and they keep kissing.

INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

Viceroy Abdiel sits at the end of the grandiose table facing the doorway, while Dylan sits at the opposite end. Covering this table are all sorts of delicacies and exquisite foods.

Viceroy Abdiel eats without hesitation. Dylan eats one nibble at a time, slowly bringing the fork to her lips and taking her time to chew, before carefully selecting what she'll eat next.

Viceroy Abdiel takes a bite out of the leg he had ripped off of the roasted pig next to him.

Dylan watches him put the leg in his mouth and chew. She watches him take a drink from his wine glass, then a spoon full of soup.

VICEROY ABDIEL

You seem quiet, my dear.

DYLAN

Quiet?

VICEROY ABDIEL

You don't seem very hungry.
Something on your mind?

DYLAN

No.

Viceroy Abdiel smiles a most devious grin. A MAID approaches Dylan with a bottle of wine.

MAID

More wine, my lady?

Dylan nods but keeps her eyes down, and the Maid pours. After she's done, she returns to her spot against the wall with the other servants behind Viceroy Abdiel.

VICEROY ABDIEL

I know this is highly unusual, me
summoning you to dinner, but I
figured you're my daughter; I
barely even know you.

Dylan takes another small bite.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

You see, in the times we live in,
one cannot afford not to know those
around him.

She takes a sip of wine.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

I have many enemies, you know. Some even wish me dead. Of course, there are those who say that I'm paranoid. Do you think me paranoid, my dear?

DYLAN

No.

She takes another sip of wine, this one a bit bigger.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Really? I do. See, those who call me paranoid may mean it as an insult, but I see it as a compliment. You see, paranoia keeps those in power alive...

The Maid starts to walk back to Dylan with the wine.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

There are a lot of people who wish me dead, and if you're not paranoid, you often cannot see what is right in front of you.

He glares right at Dylan, who meets his eyes with a sudden fear. The Maid stands next to Dylan.

MAID

More wine, my lady?

Dylan looks up at the Maid's face, it's her own clone. Dylan jumps out of her chair.

VICEROY ABDIEL

(laughs)

It's about time you noticed her.

The Maid stares at Dylan blankly and emotionless.

MAID

More wine, my lady?

VICEROY ABDIEL

She'll keep asking that until you give her an answer. They're not the brightest ones. Maid, my daughter has enough wine.

The clone bows her head, then goes back to her position behind Viceroy Abdiel.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

(smiling)

There's no reason to be scared of her. She's perfectly harmless, that's more than I can say for your patriot friends, though.

He takes a drink from his wine glass.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

Oh, yes, I know all about this little plot set afoot, which is why I decided to test you. That poison that Briathos gave you...sugar water.

(to Dylan's clone)

Come here, dear.

The clone stands next to him.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

It wasn't easy. I had to make sure Briathos thought he was giving you the real thing.

QUICK FLASH - VICEROY ABDIEL'S PLAN

--Briathos gives Dylan the vial.

--Dylan's clock reads 11:23.

BACK TO SCENE

Viceroy Abdiel very salaciously puts his hand around the clone's hip.

VICEROY ABDIEL

So I had your clone seduce him,

QUICK FLASH - VICEROY ABDIEL'S PLAN

--Briathos lies asleep and undressed in his bed. Dylan's clone takes the vial out of Briathos' jacket and replaces it with an identical one.

VICEROY ABDIEL (V.O.)

and when he wasn't looking, she switched the vials.

--Briathos' clock reads 8:17.

BACK TO SCENE

If possible, Viceroy Abdiel smiles even wider, extremely proud of himself.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Now, I suppose that she could have switched the vials a different way, but that wouldn't have been as fun.

Dylan stands petrified, as if death itself were devilishly grinning back at her.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

(leans forward)

So, I suppose the only question now is: did you pass my test?

Dylan turns to exit but finds Dantalion there. He grabs her by the throat and lifts her off the floor.

She chokes and struggles, grasping at Dantalion's hand. Her face becomes red, and her eyes bulge out.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

Well, Dantalion?

Dantalion X-rays her body until he sees the vial in her side pocket. He removes and examines it.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

Well?

Dantalion tosses it to Viceroy Abdiel.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

Empty.

Dylan closes her eyes.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

How disappointing.

DANTALION

What shall be done with her, sir?

VICEROY ABDIEL

Take her to the dungeon. Let her think about what she's done...and the consequences.

Dantalion drops her before he and Drone #9 each grab one of her arms and drag her away.

DYLAN
 (crying/kicking)
 No! I'm your daughter! Please!
 Don't!

The Butler opens the door, which Dantalion and Drone #9 drag Dylan through. She screeches louder and louder as Viceroy Abdiel takes another sip of wine.

INT. DUNGEON CELL - NIGHT

Dantalion and Drone #9 toss Dylan into the cell. A PRISONER watches from his cell directly across from hers. Laser beam bars appear in the entrance of Dylan's cell, and Dantalion and Drone #9 exit.

Dylan curls up and cries. The Prisoner watches before removing an odd little gadget from his decrepit jacket. He winds it up, then places it on the floor right up against the laser beam bars, where it begins to tick.

LATER

Dylan lies curled up on the filthy floor, sobbing. The Prisoner sleeps, when his gadget begins to tick quicker, and he awakes.

PRISONER
 (whispers)
 Pst! Hey!

Dylan opens her eyes as the Prisoner picks up the gadget and extends his hand between the laser beams.

PRISONER (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Here. Take it.

Dylan crawls over to the edge of her cell and eyes this stranger for a moment.

PRISONER (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 I'm a member of the Octavian
 Rebellion.

He hears a noise in the distance.

PRISONER (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Come on! Quickly!

Finally, with the steadiest of hands, she reaches in between the laser beams, but the man's hand is too far. She brings her body closer to the beams, which buzz like a swarm of angry wasps in her ear.

She strains as she reaches, a beam singes her hair, but she grabs the gadget, which she brings inside of her cell.

PRISONER (CONT'D)

(whispers)

You'll want to back away.

The ticking gets quicker and louder. She drops it and curls up at the other side of the cell.

The gadget throws out bolts of electricity. These bolts strike at the ends of the laser beam bars, which begin to flicker. Sparks fly everywhere.

After a minute, the gadget dies with a cascade of smoke rising from it. Dylan sees the beams flickering.

Standing right up against them, she waits and prepares herself for what she has to do. A pause. She jumps through, but a beam burns a hole in her dress.

INT. DUNGEON HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dylan looks both ways.

DYLAN

(whispers)

I won't forget about you.

The Prisoner smiles and nods.

Dylan slinks quickly yet quietly to the exit, a short archway leading to a long, narrow flight of stairs.

Once there, she keeps her eyes fixed on the top of the stairs, waiting for any sign of movement. Nothing.

INT. STAIRCASE - NIGHT

She sprints to the top of the stairs, where they meet a corridor, and stops. She looks both ways and hears the sound of two approaching drones. She realizes they're in the hallway she just left.

She scans the corridor once more, the drones nearly at the bottom of the stairs.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

She hides behind the corner of the staircase, and they march by without noticing her. Dylan sighs.

The corridor forms a T-intersection with another hall, which is right across from her and leads into several four-way intersections.

She notices a NAVIGATION PANEL next to her, a panel in the wall.

DYLAN
(whispers)
Find nearest exit.

NAVIGATION PANEL
There is one exit.

It shows a blueprint of the Capitol Building and the route from her location to the exit. It sits atop the Capitol Building and is labeled "Landing Pad."

DYLAN
(whispers)
Find closest armory.

NAVIGATION PANEL
Thirty floors up. Only route:
elevator.

It shows a blueprint of the Capitol Building with only the closest armory, as well as the most direct route, highlighted.

Dylan sprints to the first intersection and peeks around the corner. Two drones march up to where she had just come from, and she hides around the opposite side of the corner.

Once the drones are gone, she sprints to the next intersection and peeks around that corner. She sprints to the next intersection, peeks around that corner and spots the elevator.

From down the hall comes the sound of two more drones. She sprints to the elevator and hits the open-button.

The elevator door opens.

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING ELEVATOR - NIGHT

She gets inside, just when the two drones reach the intersection, and presses the button for the thirtieth floor. The door closes, and they keep marching.

As the elevator moves, Dylan taps her finger, the only noise except for the whine of the magnets pulling her up.

The elevator stops on the eleventh floor. The door is about to open. Dylan closes her eyes. The door opens to reveal an old, aristocratic couple.

Dylan opens her eyes and smiles. The OLD NOBLEMAN and OLD NOBLEWOMAN exchange glances before stepping inside, where the Old Nobleman presses the button for the twenty-first floor.

All three stand in complete silence. The Old Noblewoman notices the burn in Dylan's dress. Dylan notices her eyes on her and meets her gaze. They smile uncomfortably.

MOMENTS LATER

The elevator stops and its door opens. The old couple gets off, and Dylan smiles awkwardly at them before the door closes again.

MOMENTS LATER

Dylan watches the little screen that says the floor numbers, "28...29...30." The door opens.

Dylan looks left, then right. To her right, where two hallways intersect to form a T, she sees a door, which says, "Armory," about thirty feet away.

INT. THIRTIETH FLOOR - NIGHT

She steps out, then anxiously walks toward the door, when DRONE #10 and DRONE #11 turn the corner behind her.

DRONE #10

Freeze!

Dylan leaps forward. The drones fire. They miss her as she whips around the left corner opposite the armory but shoot several holes in the armory door.

The alarm goes off. All of the lights are shut except for the dim, red emergency lights.

The drones give chase as Dylan runs up to a door that also says, "Armory" twenty feet from the other. She pulls the handle. It won't open.

The drones turn the corner. She leaps into a hall opposite the door, fission explosions all around.

She makes another left, then another, putting herself in the same hallway as the elevator. She sprints to the shot-up armory door and pulls the handle to no avail.

SLOW MOTION

--The drones turn the last corner.

--Facing them, she puts her heart over the handle, where the spot of light appears, and the drones fire.

--With superhuman speed, Dylan dodges the shot. One destroys the handle, another takes a small chunk out of her arm.

RETURN TO SCENE

With the drones still firing, she opens the door, jumps inside, and closes it behind her.

The two drones cautiously approach the door. Drone #11 X-rays the room but cannot see Dylan. They arrive at the door. Drone #11 reaches to where the handle had been.

An explosion blasts the door and the drones all the way down the hallway, flattening them against the opposite wall before they fall to the floor.

Dylan, in a walking fortress, a ten-foot biosuit which covers her from scalp to toe, with bulging armor and a myriad of weapons and gizmos, clomps to the drones.

DRONE #10

Free -- !

Dylan stomps its head as if it were an insect.

INT. WALKING FORTRESS - NIGHT

Battle armor covers her from neck to toe.

DYLAN

Computer, find Lord Briathos' chambers.

The computer maps out a path for her.

INT. ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH FLOOR ARMORY - NIGHT

Dantalion puts on his battle armor, Drone #9 behind him.

DRONE #9
You'd better hurry, sir.

DANTALION
Don't tell me to hurry. How is she even still alive? I mean, how many drones does it take to kill one little girl?

He puts his helmet on.

DRONE #9
She stole one of the walking fortresses, sir.

Dantalion pauses, then faces the drone. A distant explosion causes the room to vibrate and them to face down.

INT. FIFTIETH FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

In the middle of a T-intersection, Dylan fires a flurry of plasma rounds at three drones. A force field shield protects her left side from four more drones, her left arm raised, and her left fist clenched.

Dylan opens her fist. The force field explodes forward and annihilates the four drones. A battle pod, a refrigerator sized hover tank, escorted by four drones, turns the corner in front of her and takes aim.

Dylan jumps aside. The battle pod fires a shell, which blasts a hole several floors across.

She sees the pod through the walls with her walking fortress' X-ray vision and squints. A window appears, which says, "Heat Vision."

The battle pod takes aim at her, a red hole is burned in the wall immediately in front of her, then the next, then in the battle pod's cannon. The pod fires. The entire machine explodes, taking the drones with it.

Dylan stands and turns left. She's about to fly forward, when DRONE #12 fires at her back. She extends her open palm toward it.

Another window appears on her screen that says, "Magnet." Dylan closes her hand, and the drone's crushed. With her rocket boots, she flies through a wall and outside.

EXT. CAPITOL BUILDING - NIGHT

Dylan steers up to where the computer shows Briathos' room to be and crashes into its floor.

INT. TWO HUNDREDTH FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dylan comes crashing in, Briathos' room a mere fifty feet in front of her. She starts toward it, when Dantalion turns the corner fifty feet in front of her.

She freezes. So does he. Dantalion rips the fission pistol from his belt and shoots Dylan in the helmet, then in the kneecap.

DYLAN

Rgh!

She falls to her knees, half her vision static, before she fires a few panicked shots. Dantalion dodges one, then fires at her fission cannon, disabling it.

Dylan creates another force field and aims it at Dantalion, who stops. She releases her fist. The force field shreds the hallway and pancakes Dantalion against the opposite wall, which collapses on top of him.

Dylan clammers to her feet, then limps toward Briathos' room. Halfway there, Dantalion rises from the destruction. Still limping, she runs for it.

Dantalion shoots her shoulder. Dylan rampages through the walls and into Briathos' room. She flings away the bed to find the black suitcase.

She grabs it and rockets through the wall and outside. Dantalion runs into the room. He removes two halves of a bazooka from the pack on his back, locks them together, loads it, and takes aim at Dylan.

Through the scope, he finds his target and fires.

INT. WALKING FORTRESS - NIGHT

An alarm goes off in Dylan's suit and a window pops up: "Incoming S.A.M.!" She veers left, but the missile hits her. She careens toward the city streets. Feet from the street, she pulls up but crashes anyway.

INT. BRIATHOS' CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Dantalion scans the fiery wreckage, nearly a mile away, with his X-ray vision.

INT. WALKING FORTRESS - NIGHT

Fire consumes the suit. Dylan frantically begins to unbuckle herself. The thick smoke makes the air into a scorching soup, which she cannot help but inhale. She coughs and heaves.

Finally, she gets free and sees a backpack, which says, "Emergency" on it. She snatches it and crawls outside.

EXT. CAPITAL STREET #1 - NIGHT

Dylan emerges into the dilapidated street, while a crowd gathers around her. She puts on the backpack and sees that Briathos' suitcase, which had been in the hand of the walking fortress, has gone.

Three plasma shots are fired over her. She ducks as two battle pods race toward her from half a mile away. She sees the suitcase over one hundred feet in front of her, in the direction of the battle pods.

The battle pods fire again, now only a few hundred feet away. She dodges, then lobs a grenade, which explodes right in front of the right one, killing it.

Dylan sprints for the suitcase, dodges two more shots from the other pod, and grabs the suitcase. The pod fires a shell, which explodes directly beside her.

All falls silent. The pod and a dozen drones approach the hole that the shell had created.

INT. BRIATHOS' CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Dantalion presses his finger against his earpiece.

DANTALION
Are you sure, sir?...Very well.

EXT. CAPITAL STREET #1 - NIGHT

The pod and drones turn back.

INT. SEWER - NIGHT

From within the darkness of the hole in the street, Dylan watches the drones disperse before she herself fades into the darkness.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Viceroy Abdiel stands atop a podium to give his eulogy, an empty coffin beside him, a crowd of aristocrats in front of him.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Today, we gather to mourn the sudden and violent end of our beloved daughter. We do not know why she did what she did, why she stole a walking fortress, or why it malfunctioned. However, we must take comfort with the knowledge that she is looking down upon us now, that she is in a better place.

INT. SEWER - DAY

Dylan lights a flare and sees a rat on her foot.

DYLAN

(shaking it off)

Ah!

She continues forward, holding the Device, which now has a green arrow on its screen. She turns a corner to see that the sewer abruptly ends in the form of a solid metal door.

The arrow points straight at the door. Something spooks her, and she looks behind her, but nothing can be seen in the darkness. She turns back and notices a small keypad next to the door.

MOMENTS LATER

Dylan opens the suitcase on the floor to see what she could use to open the door. At the case's center is a rectangular, empty space where the Device fits.

Around that is a plasma pistol, two extra flares, a bomb, a thin metallic bar, and a plastic card.

She gently places her hand on the plasma pistol, then eyes the bomb. She looks at the keypad, then back at the card, which she picks up and flips over to see that it says, "1) 7 1 0 2" and "2) 0 2 0 2" written below that.

She picks up the flare and steps over to the keypad, where she types in 7, 1, 0, 2 and hits the enter key.

The sewer door opens and the sun's light pours in. Dylan covers her eyes as they adjust. After a moment, though, she uncovers them to see a vast jungle in the distance, stretching over the horizon.

EXT. FORBIDDEN ZONE BORDER - DAY

Through the dense vegetation, Dylan finds herself in a narrow clearing, which seems to go on forever in either direction, yet ends ten feet in front of her.

She takes a step forward, but the Device buzzes and the arrow becomes red for a second. She stops and looks at it, then left and right. She takes another step, the Device buzzes again.

Her eyes struggle to pierce the dark, dense jungle in front of her. Above her, she sees that the branches of the trees on either side of this thin clearing seem to have been sliced off at a ninety degree angle as if by a giant blade.

She hears a soft, electric humming just in front of her. She refocuses her eyes and is barely able to see a sheet of air, like a force field, a few feet in front of her.

She sees a black, metallic strip, with a width of two feet, that snakes on forever in either direction.

She clears away some of the foliage and sees the words "Forbidden Zone - To Contain Impure Criminal Movement" written below it on the strip.

She picks up a stick and taps it against this sheet of air. The end of the stick bursts into flames.

She removes the suitcase from her backpack and opens it on the ground.

She glances at the bomb but notices the eighteen inch metallic bar. It has the same width as the indentation from which the sheet of air is being emitted from on the black strip.

Cautiously, she moves the end of the bar closer to the strip's indentation. When over it, the bar's end doesn't get burned.

Enthused, she pushes the rest in until it fits snugly into the indentation. Dylan closes the suitcase and stands. She timorously sticks her hand through the opening and walks the rest of her body through but burns the back of the suitcase.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Dylan bends over, places her fingers on the bar, and rips it away. Her middle finger burnt, she wraps her lips around it as she peers into the jungle; weird and eerie noises echoing from deep within its bowels.

LATER

The sun barely shines through the thick canopy, which shifts about as if in a wind storm, yet it is not wind which moves it.

Dylan flinches at every little noise, her eyes dart around, her hand tensely grasps at her fission pistol, and she takes steps as if crossing a minefield.

Something little stings her in the neck. She winces, then gets woozy. Something else stings her. She tries to run, but falls. She climbs away, more stingers.

She looks around and sees that she's found herself in a circle of thorny branches, branches which launch these thorns at her. She claws herself away and out of range.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

No longer woozy, and with the treeline a few hundred feet behind her, Dylan walks tensely. A bird flies hundreds of feet to her left, and shifts toward her.

She looks right, then left and sees the bird. It rapidly approaches her, growing. She stops just when it flaps its wings, causing a gust that forces her backwards.

She sprints for the treeline. The colossal beast taking up half of the sky, it resembles a cross between an eagle and a dragon.

Red and blue feathers cover its body, meter long teeth fill its mouth, and its one hundred and fifty foot wingspan lifts its one hundred foot long body.

Nearly at the treeline, Dylan fires her fission pistol. The beast roars before landing in a thunderous boom. Its jaws lunge at Dylan just as she jumps into the trees.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

She dashes between the trees. The beast thrashes its arms around, shredding the trees as if twigs and creating a hurricane of debris.

Its head strikes at her with machine like precision, the rest of it moves just as deliberately.

She finds herself at the base of a small cliff. She shoots the beast but to no effect. It lunges, when a tentacle of mud grabs it by the neck, causing its beak to fall just short of her.

This mud tentacle thickens as it pulls the beast backwards. The eagon slices it with its talons, but a flurry of more mud tentacles springs up and grabs it, pulling even faster.

It reaches the edge of what would appear to be a mud pit. This mud monster wraps its infinite mud tentacles around the beast. For every mud tentacle the eagon slices, two more take their place.

Dylan runs away.

Dylan makes it around the edge of the small cliff, but can still hear the cries of the beast and stops.

Nearby, the beast's feet are being sucked into the mud monster, its body all but engulfed by mud tentacles.

Dylan arrives with the bomb from the suitcase in her hand. She watches the beast plead for help to the sky, less and less of it visible until a mud tentacle slithers down its throat, gurgling its roar.

Dylan activates the bomb, tosses it into the mud monster, and ducks behind a tree. BOOM! Mud flies everywhere, and the beast gets free. What's left of the mud monster twitches and bubbles.

The beast looks at the obliterated goop, when Dylan emerges from behind the tree. It eyes her for a moment, and she dares return its gaze before it walks away.

LATER

Dylan peeks over a log, and, seeing no danger, moves in the direction the Device is telling her to with her pistol drawn. She trips on a silk thread and looks up at a twenty foot wide spider web.

She stands and scans the trees with her pistol pointed. Finding nothing, she follows the Device until it points right. She looks back, but the spider web has vanished.

She runs in the direction the Device is telling her to, and can hear something rustling behind her but doesn't look back. The Device beeps and she looks down to see a dome-shaped mound. The spider web pounces on her, thousands of strands cocooning her despite her struggling and firing of the pistol.

It begins to drag her away, having wrapped her tightly, but she breaks free. Injured, the web retreats and she bends over the mound and brushes the dirt away. She sees a keypad, and gets the card from out of the suitcase, when the web wraps itself around her again.

She rips at its strands, but it's still able to pull her away. She fires the pistol, but runs out of ammo. She summons her strength and breaks free again, presses 0, 2, 0, 2 into the keypad, and the dome opens. She jumps inside and closes the dome behind her just as the web catches up, a few wriggling strands getting stuck.

INT. OCTAVIAN REBELLION H.Q. ENTRANCE - DAY

Dylan falls and finds herself in a dark, cylindrical hallway. She looks behind herself, then forward.

She points her fission pistol forward and cautiously starts walking. She reaches a four-way intersection, when a high frequency siren knocks her to her knees.

It stops, and she sees MARCY, a no-nonsense rebel, in scraggly clothes and a fission gun in her arms pointed right at her face.

MARCY

Put your pistol down and put your hands on your head.

Dylan does.

MARCY (CONT'D)

Now, who the hell are you?

INT. BRIATHOS' CELL - NIGHT

Right up against the laser beam bars, Briathos does tai chi. Nearby, two drones approach. When they pass in front of his cell, his tai chi naturally takes him into a crouching stance, facing them.

With super-human speed, he grabs DRONE #13 and pulls it through the laser beams but preserves its fission gun, which he uses to shoot DRONE #14.

Briathos fires at where the laser beams are projected out of the wall. They go out, and he races outside.

EXT. DUNGEONS - NIGHT

Briathos sprints away, the dungeon and a guard tower mere feet behind him, when the guard tower fires a plasma burst at him.

INT. REBEL HALLWAY #1 - DAY

Marcy follows COMMANDER OCTAVIAN, sixties, a wise and unflappable man. They reach a door with a REBEL GUARD standing there, all three in ratty clothing.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
I miss anything?

REBEL GUARD
No, Commander Octavian.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Commander Octavian and Marcy enter. FOREMAN, a technician, sits at a computer with a digital image of Dylan's brain on it.

He faces a two-way mirror, through which a nervous Dylan can be seen. In the cramped, dark room, she sits at a table with electrodes covering her head.

FOREMAN
She's all yours.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
Marcy, you want to take this?

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Marcy enters and sits on the other side of the table, where she coldly stares at Dylan for a moment.

MARCY
Who are you?

DYLAN
Dylan Henderson.

MARCY
And who is your father, again?

DYLAN
Viceroy Abdiel.

MARCY
So why are you here?

DYLAN
Some of the purebreds wanted to assassinate Abdiel. They wanted me to do it because they thought it would be easiest for me --

MARCY
Why would it be easiest for you?
You're his daughter.

DYLAN
They thought it would be easy because he's not as well protected when he's around me.

MARCY
So you couldn't go through with it?

DYLAN
Abdiel found out.

MARCY
So you escaped?

DYLAN
Yes.

MARCY
(immediately)
How? God knows how many of our own people have tried and failed...how many have died.

DYLAN
I had help.

MARCY
(immediately)
You had help? From who?

DYLAN
This rebel, he made this...this bomb, and it knocked out the lasers of my cell.

MARCY
 (holds up Device)
 And what's this? Who gave this to
 you?

DYLAN
 Briathos.

MARCY
 Briathos?

DYLAN
 He said that if something went
 wrong, there's a suitcase under his
 bed that I could use to find you
 people.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Foreman turns from the computer screen to Commander
 Octavian.

FOREMAN
 She's telling the truth.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
 Did you test her blood?

FOREMAN
 Yep, and she's no clone.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
 What about her mind?

FOREMAN
 She hasn't been brain-washed,
 either.

Commander Octavian puts his hand on his chin.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

Down a narrow hall with dozens of doors on either side,
 CASSANDRA, a bright-eyed rebel, leads Dylan. Dozens of
 others file through the hall, everyone matching Dylan's new,
 ratty clothing. Some of them give her dirty glances, but she
 just looks away.

CASSANDRA
 So you're really from the Capital?
 That is so cool! How did you get
 here? It must have been one hell of
 a trip, especially through the
 (MORE)

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
 Forbidden Zone. Oh, and my name's
 Cassandra, by the way. I'm your
 roommate.

She stops at a dorm door.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
 This is us.

She unlocks the door and steps away to let Dylan in. Dylan shyly steps into the doorway and scans the windowless space.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
 Everything you need should be in
 here. If you like, I could take you
 on a tour now.

DYLAN
 No, just...just give me a minute.

INT. DYLAN AND CASSANDRA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dylan steps inside, and Cassandra closes the door behind her, putting the room in complete darkness.

Dylan switches on the only light, which shows the featureless, concrete walls, ceiling, and floor. There are two cots, one of which Dylan slumps down onto.

She pulls the Device from out of her pants' waistline and cuddles it in her hands, her fingers gently rubbing it, when Cassandra reenters. Dylan hides the Device under the bed sheet.

CASSANDRA
 Hey, you ready now?

INT. LIVING QUARTERS HALLWAY - DAY

Cassandra leads Dylan down the hall.

CASSANDRA
 Okay, so this whole thing is
 Headquarters. This area is the
 living quarters, that's one of our
 armories...

A DIRTY REBEL almost runs into Dylan.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
 You get used to everyone being in
 such a rush.

DYLAN
What do you do?

CASSANDRA
I'm in charge of morale and making
sure the new guys get settled in.

INT. PROVISIONS AREA - DAY

The two of them enter a hall that has a series of freight doors on either side of it but with less rebels.

CASSANDRA
This is our provisions area. You
know, you never did tell me how you
got through the Forbidden Zone.

DYLAN
Well, I --

CASSANDRA
Oh, wait, you're a purebred. Duh!

Cassandra exits.

DYLAN
Yeah, I am.

Dylan follows.

INT. BRIDGE ENTRANCE - DAY

Two guards stand on either side of the bridge's closed door.

CASSANDRA
And this is the bridge. You know
where those things came from,
though, right? Those creatures. All
those monsters out there.

DYLAN
They're from the planet the
pliocenes left Earth for.

CASSANDRA
Some are. Some are from other
planets. They all seem pure evil to
me, though.

The door opens, and an OFFICER exits, giving Dylan a glimpse at the bridge, a circular room filled with rebels who swarm about like bees. At the center of this organized chaos stands Commander Octavian. They spot each other as the door shuts.

DYLAN'S NIGHTMARE - SPACE ELEVATOR (QUICK FLASHES)

--Derek reaches for her hand.

--Dylan reaches back.

--Derek is shot by Drone #3.

--The elevator careers for the Martian surface.

--The elevator hits the surface. Dylan and the Loader crash into the hatch's floor.

INT. DYLAN AND CASSANDRA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dylan's eyes open. She sits up.

CASSANDRA
Dylan? Dylan, what's the matter?

DYLAN
I'm fine.

CASSANDRA
You sure?

Dylan nods.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
You know, I'm here if you need anything.

Dylan nods again and lies back down.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
Would you like to tell me what it was about?

Dylan faces her back to Cassandra but keeps her eyes open. A single, lonely tear rolls down her cheek.

INT. MESS HALL - DAY

Dylan and Cassandra sit at a table with half a dozen other rebels, all with trays of putrid food. One, TIM, a baby-faced rebel, is really excited to meet Dylan.

ZARNO, a brooding rebel, appearing to be in his twenties, slouches next to him.

CASSANDRA
Yeah, and she made these really cool wrist lasers.

TIM
So, you really walked all the way
through the Forbidden Zone?

DYLAN
Yep.

Dylan pulls her spoon through the sludge on her tray.

TIM
Oh, man! That is sick!

ZARNO
Please, there's no way. No one
could get through that jungle.

TIM
You can if you're a purebred, dude.

ZARNO
Oh, yeah, forgot about that. How
was life in the Capital? That big
palace all to yourself, must've
been nice.

CASSANDRA
(to Zaron)
Stop it, Zarno. Don't listen to
him, Dylan.
(whispers)
He's had it rough.

TIM
So, what kinda animals you see out
there? You see that giant scorpion,
bugzilla-looking thing?

DYLAN
No...Although, I did see some sort
of dragon-looking thing, like a
dragon with feathers.

TIM
The eagon?! You saw the eagon?!

DYLAN
"Eagon?"

CASSANDRA
We call it that cause it looks like
it's half eagle, half dragon.

TIM
How did you escape?

DYLAN
Well, it got caught by some sort of mud monster, so I killed it with a bomb.

TIM
You killed the eagon with a bomb?!

DYLAN
No, no, the mud monster.

TIM
Damn, that's awesome! You gonna eat any of that?

CASSANDRA
You'll get used to the food after a while.

ZARNO
Wouldn't bother if I were you. Octavian's not gonna let you stay long.

CASSANDRA
Zarno --

ZARNO
What the hell are you doing here, anyway?

DYLAN
A friend told me I would be safe here...if it got too dangerous in the Capital.

ZARNO
Ph! "Too dangerous in the Capital."

DYLAN
He asked me to kill Abdiel.

Tim freezes with his spoon halfway to his mouth.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
He told me I'd be safe here if things went wrong.

TIM
And?

DYLAN
They did.

CASSANDRA
Does Octavian and the rest of the
leadership know this?

DYLAN
Yeah.

CASSANDRA
Well, then, you should be safe.

TIM
So, what are you planning to do?

DYLAN
What do you mean?

TIM
I mean, are you gonna go back and
try and save your friend or you
gonna help us?

DYLAN
I hadn't thought about it.

ZARNO
Please, they'll never let her kind
fight with us.

DYLAN
I fought my way out of the Capital.
You people would be lucky to have
me.

Dylan stomps out.

TIM
Damn.

Zarno watches Dylan before going after her.

INT. REBEL HALLWAY #2 - DAY

Dylan is marching along when Zarno exits the mess hall,
running.

ZARNO

Hey! Wait!

Dylan marches faster.

ZARNO (CONT'D)

Wait a minute.

DYLAN

What do you want?

ZARNO

Listen, I'm sorry about earlier,
okay? I know what you're going
through.

DYLAN

You don't know anything about what
I'm going through.

She tries to pass him, but he grabs her arm.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Let me go.

ZARNO

Not until you give me a chance to
talk to you.

DYLAN

I'm a purebred, remember?
Super-strength and all that.

ZARNO

I know. I know exactly what it's
like to be that strong.

DYLAN

What are you talking about?

INT. ZARNO'S ROOM - DAY

Dylan and Zarno enter, the space nearly identical to Dylan
and Cassandra's except that there is only one bed.

ZARNO

Shut the door.

She does.

DYLAN

What are we doing in here?

Zarno moves his bed away from the wall to reveal a trap door, which he opens. From it, he pulls out an ancient military officer's uniform.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

That's a...that's a naval officer's uniform. How did you get that?

ZARNO

It's mine from when I served in the Martian Navy.

DYLAN

I thought only drones were allowed in the military.

ZARNO

They are, but before them, it was just the purebreds.

DYLAN

You're a --

ZARNO

Nobody knows, except Octavian.

DYLAN

So why are you telling me?

ZARNO

Like I said before, I know what you're going through.

(lays uniform on bed)

I was a technical officer, mostly dealing with the ship's computing system.

He goes back to the trap door and pulls out a suitcase, which he also lays on the bed.

DYLAN

Would you be able to hack their system?

He opens the suitcase and starts removing documents: ship blueprints, weapon designs, drone designs, and holographic pictures of himself on all sorts of exotic planets. Dylan sifts through all of it.

ZARNO

There's only one place you could do that, the Main Computer at their Central Command. Octavian once

(MORE)

ZARNO (CONT'D)

thought of trying to get me in there, that was until I explained that it would be impossible. Hm! You could create all sorts of havoc from that building, though.

DYLAN

Like what?

ZARNO

First thing that comes to mind is activating the self-destruct sequence on pliocene ships.

DYLAN

They have those?

ZARNO

They used to have purebreds work on some of their ships, but they knew some of us weren't all that loyal.

DYLAN

The patriots.

ZARNO

Mm. They were worried that we might steal a ship, so they installed them with self-destruct sequences. Eventually, though, I guess they just decided that it made more sense to just replace us all with drones.

(scoffs)

You always know where a robot's loyalties lie.

DYLAN

Does the pliocene fleet still have that self-destruct sequence?

ZARNO

You kidding? With the heir to the Throne of Mars being a patriot? No purebred, except Abdiel himself and us technical officers know of it, though.

DYLAN

Hm, why not just reprogram the drones so they wouldn't obey me, though?

ZARNO

They are, or at least they're in the process of it.

DYLAN

How do you know?

ZARNO

The Octavian Rebellion has its connections.

DYLAN

What made you leave in the first place?

ZARNO

(scoffs)

You know, they always advertise that you'll get to see the solar system. Of course, I got stuck in a hole with no windows.

(sits on bed)

One day, I got tired of it and put in a request for a combat assignment. It got accepted, and that's when I saw just how brutal our side really is.

DYLAN

So you ran.

ZARNO

Octavian agreed to keep my secret. Of course, the fact that he had a purebred technical officer wasn't such a bad deal for him.

DYLAN

(sits next to him)

Wow.

ZARNO

Yeah. And Zarno isn't my real name, by the way.

DYLAN

What is?

ZARNO

Zephon. Octavian gave me Zarno. What about you?

DYLAN
What about me?

ZEPHON
Dylan's your impure name, what's
your real name?

She stops going through the suitcase.

DYLAN
Dylan is my real name.

Zephon gives half a smile. They stare into the distance.

MARCY (V.O.)
We can't trust her.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Commander Octavian, Marcy, and Foreman sit in a circle along with an UNEASY REBEL, fifties, bald and frail; and a COWBOY REBEL, forties and swaggerly.

MARCY
We don't know where her allegiances
lie. God knows the kind of schemer
Abdiel is.

FOREMAN
I scanned her brain and tested her
blood myself. What this girl says
is true.

UNEASY REBEL
This girl is a liability. We know
what purebreds are capable of --

COWBOY REBEL
Exactly, we know what they're
capable of. We could use her on the
battlefield.

UNEASY REBEL
And we also know that they're more
advanced than us.
(to Foreman)
No offense, but they could have
tricked your technology.

Foreman smiles and scoffs.

MARCY

What do you think, Octavian?

Commander Octavian sighs.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

I think we should trust her.

Marcy hangs her head.

UNEASY REBEL

Why?

MARCY

We cannot trust her. For all we she could --

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

She could be a lot of things, but we cannot make decisions based on what we do not know.

MARCY

I still think she's a threat.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

That may well be, but that doesn't change the fact that she's our best chance to end this war.

DYLAN'S NIGHTMARE - SPACE ELEVATOR (QUICK FLASHES)

--Derek reaches for her hand.

--Dylan reaches back.

--Derek is shot by Drone #3.

INT. DYLAN AND CASSANDRA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dylan awakens terrified and gasping for air. Cassandra remains asleep, but Dylan gets up and exits.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Through the dark and silence, Dylan steps.

INT. BRIDGE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Dylan takes pause in front of the door and begins to go back, when it opens. She jumps. Stepping out of the door is Commander Octavian.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
Ms. Henderson. Can't sleep, either?

He steps aside and points his arm into the bridge.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Dylan enters, all remains silent, except for the humming of machines. She goes to a prominent chair at the center of the room and places her hand on it.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
That's the commander's chair. You can sit in it if you want.

She removes her hand and folds her arms.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
(chortles)
Can't blame you, I suppose. Lot of responsibility goes into that chair.

Dylan says nothing.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
Something bothering you?

She shakes her head.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
Come on, you wouldn't be standing here if something wasn't bothering you.

DYLAN
I don't know. I just...there's just so much. I mean...

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
I understand.

This offends her as much as it surprises her.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
Oh, yes, I have a lot on my mind, too.

(approaching her)
 You see, with my job, I have to
 decide who lives and who dies
 everyday.

(reaches her)
 And then there's always the
 possibility that the purebreds will
 find us here.

(faces front of room)
 I've made this place almost
 impossible to find; that doesn't
 mean I don't think about what would
 happen if they did find it, though.

(faces her)
 See, that's part of being a leader.
 No matter what, you can't help but
 think, "what if?"

DYLAN
 What's your point?

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
 My point is, you can spend all your
 time thinking, "what if," or you
 could do something about it. I can
 only imagine what's on your mind,
 but at some point, you're going to
 have to return to that jungle.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

The stillness is broken when Briathos, dressed in ratty
 clothes, runs past.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

An OPERATIONS OFFICER with a headset, watches the radar and
 sees a blip on it.

OPERATIONS OFFICER
 (to Commander Octavian)
 Sir, we have movement in sector
 seven.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Briathos holds a device identical to the one Dylan used to
 find the Octavian Rebellion H.Q. in one hand and a black
 suitcase in the other. He types the code into the keypad,
 the hatch opens, and he jumps through it.

INT. OCTAVIAN REBELLION H.Q. ENTRANCE - DAY

Briathos lands and is immediately greeted by two armed rebels pointing their fission guns at him.

BRIATHOS

No! Wait! My name is Lord Briathos,
I'm a friend of Dylan Henderson.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Briathos sits at a table, when Dylan enters.

DYLAN

Briathos!

She dashes over to him.

BRIATHOS

Dylan!

They hold each other in their arms for a moment.

DYLAN

I can't believe that you're here!

Commander Octavian enters, and Foreman sidles up to him.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

(whispers)

You've tested his blood and mind?

FOREMAN

(whispers)

Yes, sir. All checks out.

An alarm sounds and red lights flash.

DYLAN

What is that?

Marcy enters.

MARCY

It's the alarm! They found us! And
you led them to us!

She runs at Briathos, but Commander Octavian grabs her.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

Marcy, wait!

MARCY

They've led the purebreeds right to us!

A distant explosion rocks the room and makes the lights flicker.

INT. REBEL HALLWAY #3 - DAY

Commander Octavian, Dylan, Briathos, and Marcy run for the bridge, while an army of rebels swarms about in a state of bedlam. More explosions rumble in the distance.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

With the bridge also in a state of bedlam, Commander Octavian reaches the command chair.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

Situation?!

OPERATIONS OFFICER

Two destroyers and one cruiser are over us. A division's worth of infantry and armor are on all sides!

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

How are our shield?!

OPERATIONS OFFICER

Holding up, but just barely, sir!

BRIATHOS

Commander, let me fight. Let me fight! I can help you!

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

Okay. Marcy, see that he has everything he needs.

MARCY

But, Octavian --

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

Just do it!

Marcy takes Briathos away.

DYLAN

I'll go with them.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
No! You come with me.

INT. ARMORY - DAY

Dylan behind him, Commander Octavian switches the lights on to reveal the battle armor she came there in.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
Put on your battle armor, Ms.
Henderson.

Unsure, she looks to him, and he glares back with the utmost resolve, something which finds its way into her eyes.

INT. OCTAVIAN REBELLION H.Q. ENTRANCE - DAY

The hatch is blown open and DRONE #14 jumps down onto the floor. It trips a security beam and gets fried by a bolt of electricity. From atop the hatch, DRONE #15 drops a grenade, which explodes on impact.

INT. NEARBY REBEL HALLWAY - DAY

A platoon of rebels, one dozen strong, dashes for the hatch, when a fireball, focused by the hallway, burns them alive.

INT. OCTAVIAN REBELLION H.Q. ENTRANCE - DAY

Half a dozen drones jump into and run down the hallway, when another platoon of rebels fires at them from an intersection thirty feet away. In a maelstrom of terror, combatants on both sides fall every couple seconds.

Drone #15 tosses a grenade into the rebels. Dylan, in her battle armor, catches and lobs it back, where it explodes. With a plasma cannon the size of a bazooka, she fires a round, which takes down two drones.

DRONE #16 shoots at her from around the corner of a wall, then ducks back behind it. With an X-ray vision visor, she takes aim and fires, blasting a hole in the wall, and obliterating Drone #16.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

Commander Octavian's subordinates race around him.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN
(to the Operations Officer)
Lieutenant, status report!

OPERATIONS OFFICER

Enemy infantry has breached our perimeter in four sectors! Our shields cannot sustain the naval and armored bombardment much longer!

INT. FOUR-WAY INTERSECTION - DAY

Cassandra and two dozen rebels battle thirty drones in the next intersection over.

From behind the drones emerges a battle pod, which slaughters an entire platoon's worth of rebels with one shot. Cassandra's throne back into an adjoining hallway.

Dazed, she opens her eyes to find a DEAD REBEL with a heat ray in his hands.

She picks it up, struggles to her feet, and hobbles back to the point in the intersection closest the enemy. From there, the survivors still firing, she takes aim.

The battle pod grows nearer. She can't focus her eyes, a river of blood flows down her cheek from her scalp. The battle pod aims at her.

She pulls the trigger. A small, red, round spot appears on the pod's turret. It turns yellow. Then white. The pod fires just as the spot explodes, annihilating the machine, taking all of the surrounding drones with it.

Relieved, Cassandra drops the heat ray. The ceiling just beside her, in the middle of the intersection, explodes, and the air fills with suffocating smoke.

It soon clears to reveal Dantalion in a walking fortress and holding a plasma cannon.

Dantalion fires in a one-eighty sweep. Cassandra dives into the hall beside her, the rest scatter.

In the whirlwind of sun-hot plasma, she's wounded in the leg and drops the heat ray, which is flung about fifteen feet in front of her by an explosion.

Dantalion faces her direction, though he does not see her. A platoon of rebels appears in the intersection just behind him. They fire at his back, but, with no effect, they stop.

A violet light glares from a panel on his back. It scorches the skin off the screaming rebels with Cassandra watching. She crawls for the heat ray.

About thirty feet to the right of Dantalion, a BRAVE REBEL kneels down with a bazooka and takes aim.

INT. WALKING FORTRESS - DAY

Dantalion's sensors go off, and he turns to the Brave Rebel.

INT. FOUR-WAY INTERSECTION - DAY

The Brave Rebel takes his eye away from the scope. Dantalion's right boot hums. An electric bolt streams through the metal floor right at the Brave Rebel, who convulses uncontrollably. Smoke rises from his ears and nose before he finally keels over.

Cassandra jumps up and runs away, but another platoon of rebels, including Tim, swings around the corner twenty feet in front of her and fires at Dantalion.

Nearly shot, she falls back to the floor and covers herself with a DEAD FAT REBEL.

Dantalion rips a fission gun from his belt and returns fire, killing two. In the crossfire, the back of the Dead Fat Rebel is torn up. The platoon hides behind the wall of their intersection.

Another platoon appears in the intersection thirty feet directly behind Dantalion and releases their own barrage. His suit damaged, Dantalion returns fire.

Tim peeks around the corner and shoots Dantalion in the knee. Dantalion falls to his knees with both platoons attacking. He fires frantically, back and forth, but neither platoon lets up.

Finally, his gun runs out of ammo. He drops it and punches his fists together, creating a red orb of pure energy. He rips his arms outward, and the orb explodes, vaporizing everything around him.

INT. OCTAVIAN REBELLION H.Q. ENTRANCE - DAY

Dylan and the rebels around her put up a fighting retreat. She notices the dying and dead all around.

She shoots DRONE #17 to her right, then DRONE #18 in front of her, before nearly shooting Briathos, who appears on her left.

BRIATHOS
Whoa! It's me!

He's grazed in the abdomen and she drags him about thirty feet to the next intersection.

DYLAN

Briathos, we have to get out of here. If we can get to Abdiel, we can end this.

EXT. SPACE

A purebred cruiser, a half mile wide flying saucer, hovers just over the Martian atmosphere and fires a plasma burst directly downward.

EXT. OVER THE OCTAVIAN REBELLION H.Q. - DAY

Battle pods fire at the H.Q.'s force field, their rounds, unable to penetrate, explode on impact.

The purebred cruiser's enormous plasma burst strikes through the force field and detonates on the surface.

The burst flings a blast front through the jungle, tossing some of the battle pods and obliterating hundreds of drones and two hundred foot tall trees.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

The Operations Officer, his spirit shattered as much as their force field, hangs his head.

OPERATIONS OFFICER

They've broken our shields, sir.

Marcy and a few others look to their petrified commander.

INT. REBEL HALLWAY #4 - DAY

Dylan leads Briathos through the maze of halls, the suitcase in his hand.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

Commander Octavian composes himself.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN

Full retreat!

The Operations Officer seems as confused as he is shocked by the order.

COMMANDER OCTAVIAN (CONT'D)
I said full retreat, goddamn-it!

OPERATIONS OFFICER
(into his headset)
Full retreat!

INT. REBEL HALLWAY #5 - DAY

Briathos and Dylan continue to sprint.

OPERATIONS OFFICER (V.O.)
(over the loudspeaker)
We are in full retreat!

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

The Operations Officer continues.

OPERATIONS OFFICER
Everyone to stations!

INT. OCTAVIAN REBELLION H.Q. CORRIDOR - DAY

With Dylan and Briathos about to reach the end of a corridor, the entire H.Q. shakes, knocking them over.

It still shaking, Dylan jumps up, races to a keypad next to a door at the end of the corridor, and presses in the code, which opens the door.

DYLAN
Briathos!

He bounds over to her, but Dylan finds herself at the top of a one hundred foot cliff.

She stands frozen with terror as the Octavian Rebellion H.Q. shakes ever more violently. The great roar of a fusion reactor is emitted from its bowls.

BRIATHOS
Dylan, come on!

She doesn't move, she can't move. Finally, Briathos pushes her off, then jumps himself.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Rounds of ammunition swarm like locusts around them as they fall, including a few from space. The pair, scared from these rounds, hits the forest floor with a thud.

The H.Q., hidden under mounds of dirt and vegetation, hums. The cliff it partially rests on crumbles.

The pair are in awe as the part of the H.Q. over them, and soon the rest, lifts off and levitates in the form of a flying saucer. The hum grows into a roar, and everything that isn't stuck to the ground is blown away.

Shells pour down from space and make the H.Q. wobble, but it roars yet louder, and a second later, it disappears at hyper speed into the sky.

The pair look on absolutely stunned, the ship's roar still echoing through the air.

BRIATHOS

We should find cover before
nightfall. Everything comes out at
night.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Dylan stands guard at the entrance, Briathos lies behind her.

She scans the night sky, hoping against the impossible for the slightest inkling for what has befallen the Octavian Rebellion H.Q.

She checks on Briathos, his eyes closed. She turns back and his eyes open. They fix themselves squarely on her.

The sound of a log being snapped in half makes her try to see where she cannot.

The blanket of the night obscures the throngs of creatures within, throngs of creatures slithering through the darkness, stalking, hunting, crying out in noises that man hasn't heard before.

EXT. SPACEPORT - NIGHT

Over a ten foot high laser fence, which surrounds the spaceport, a lorry flies towards a city-sized flying saucer, the Viceroy's flagship. The sun sets behind it.

Hidden in the foliage next to the laser fence, Briathos points to this flying saucer about one thousand feet from them.

BRIATHOS

(whispers)

See that? That's Abdiel's flagship. Right now, he's in Aachen. His ship's going there to bring him back here, but we'll take him out when we get to Aachen.

DYLAN

(whispers)

Aachen? But that's the pliocene capital on Earth.

BRIATHOS

(whispers)

Yeah, it is.

DYLAN

(whispers)

But that place is a fortress.

BRIATHOS

(whispers)

Exactly, he'll never see it coming.

Dylan spies a cargo hold about three hundred feet from them as cargo barges are taken from it to the flagship.

DYLAN

(whispers)

We can sneak onto his ship in one of those barges.

Briathos leaps twenty feet into the air and lands on the other side of the fence.

BRIATHOS

(whispers)

Come on!

Dylan takes a deep breath, then jumps. She makes it ten feet and hits the top of the fence, a railing. Her knee gets burned on one of the lasers. She holds in a yelp and tentatively pulls herself over.

EXT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

Dylan and Briathos stop next to the cargo hold's open entrance. Briathos peeks in to see it full of dozens of cargo barges guarded by one dozen drones. Thirty feet from them sits an open barge.

DYLAN
(whispers)
There.

She leads him to this barge.

INT. CARGO BARGE - NIGHT

In the pitch black, among stacks of cargo, they get as far inside as possible. Its doors are closed before it's picked up.

INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

A giant, levitating magnet lifts their barge off of the floor and brings it outside.

EXT. SPACEPORT - NIGHT

The barge and magnet arrive at the open cargo hold of the flagship.

INT. VICEROY'S FLAGSHIP - NIGHT

The magnet floats into the cargo hold, where it abruptly drops the barge.

INT. CARGO BARGE - NIGHT

Dylan and Briathos are jostled about.

INT. VICEROY'S FLAGSHIP - NIGHT

The magnet backs out of the flagship's cargo hold, and the cargo hold door closes behind it.

EXT. SPACEPORT - NIGHT

Engine humming, the flagship lumbers into the air.

INT. CARGO BARGE - NIGHT

The pair can hear the flagship's immense hum.

EXT. SPACEPORT - NIGHT

Once one thousand feet high, the flagship pauses and disappears into space at hyper speed.

EXT. OVER AACHEN - DAY

The flagship abruptly exits hyper speed a half-mile above the edge of the city.

Aachen, with its thousands of black skyscrapers all interconnected by cylindrical structures, resembles a great spider's web. In between these towers, thousands of ships swarm about.

The flagship lands at a spaceport at the city's edge.

INT. CARGO BARGE - DAY

Briathos cracks the door and peeks outside.

DYLAN
(whispers)
Well?

BRIATHOS
Lady's first.

She walks up the door and steps outside.

INT. VICEROY'S FLAGSHIP - DAY

Dylan steps out into the cargo hold to find over one hundred drones. She stands motionless, when the sound of Viceroy Abdiel's cackle echoes from her left, Dantalion next him.

VICEROY ABDIEL
You know, it never fails to amaze
me how easy it can be for people to
be tricked by those they
love...even with their minds
washed.

Dylan faces Briathos to her right, a blank expression on his face as if he lacked any and all emotion.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)
Arrest her.

Dantalion slams her against the crate.

INT. VICEROY'S FLAGSHIP - DAY

In a procession led by Viceroy Abdiel, Dylan sullenly walks in cuffs, six armed drones behind her.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Don't look so glum, my dear. Far better have found themselves in your position before.

DANTALION

Sir, we have a problem. Our hyper drive has malfunctioned.

VICEROY ABDIEL

How long will it take to reach Mars?

DANTALION

A day or two, sir.

VICEROY ABDIEL

I see. Well, no matter, let's not let one little hitch ruin the day.

DANTALION

Yes, sir.

They turn a corner into another hallway.

VICEROY ABDIEL

(boasting)

I bet you're wondering how you wound up in your current predicament.

DYLAN

(angrily)

Why didn't you just kill me in the Capital?

VICEROY ABDIEL

Ah, she speaks.

(boasts)

Well, I was going to force you to lead us to the Octavian Rebellion Headquarters, but when I heard you were escaping, I figured it'd better for you to lead us their none-the-wiser.

Dylan can't believe that she'd been tricked so badly.

DYLAN

How did you know about that? How did you know I knew how to get to their headquarters?!

VICEROY ABDIEL

(boasting)

Briathos may have encrypted his own thoughts, but he forgot he mentioned it to Simiel. How did I put our little ruse, Dantalion?

DANTALION

"Kill two birds with one stone," sir. Destroy the Headquarters, recapture her.

VICEROY ABDIEL

(boasting)

Ah, yes. Of course, it would've been a lot simpler if you'd have stayed at the Headquarters like a good little girl.

The procession stops at a twenty foot wide freight door.

DYLAN

Why do you even need me? You've replaced plenty of people with clones.

VICEROY ABDIEL

True, but none of them were my heirs. I mean, could you imagine? A planet run by a clone? No, no, I need you. That's why we sent Briathos, to make sure you stayed safe. None of this would've even been necessary had we cloned my son and uploaded his mind. Of course, the Octavian Rebellion saw to it that the copies of his mind were destroyed.

DYLAN

They are capable of a lot.

Viceroy Abdiel smiles.

Two drones enter, dragging a bruised Zephon.

VICEROY ABDIEL

You know, my dear, the lowest circle of hell is reserved for traitors. What he faces is far worse than what you're about to witness.

DYLAN

Why would you still want me as an heir after all this?

VICEROY ABDIEL

Well, we can still delete your memories, which, after what's about to happen, you will thank me for.

DYLAN

What will I thank you for?

VICEROY ABDIEL

For making you forget this.

The freight door, a force field immediately behind it, opens to reveal a small room. In it stands Simiel, Marcy, Commander Octavian, Tim, and Cassandra, all bloodied and bruised. Another freight door behind them.

Dylan presses her hands against the force field.

DYLAN

What are you going to do to them?

VICEROY ABDIEL

Set them free.

The freight door behind Dylan's friends opens, revealing the endless abyss that is space. The rushing air blows their hair and clothes.

Eyes red and teared up, Dylan's body crumples onto the floor. Her father grins.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

You know, my dear, you once told me that whenever you asked your mother about me she would never answer. I remember her. She was a beautiful woman, talented as well. It's too bad those talents were wasted on the Octavian Rebellion, though they couldn't save her from being captured.

He grabs Dylan by the neck and brings her face to his.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

When my soldiers brought her to me,
they wanted to kill her, but I
thought what kind of man would I be
if I didn't enjoy the spoils of
war?

DYLAN

(crying profusely)

No.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Oh, yes. I had them drag her to my
chambers.

DYLAN

No!

VICEROY ABDIEL

And paralyze her, so that I could
do all that I pleased.

DRONE #19 and DRONE #20 grab and begin to drag Dylan away.
She allows her body to be limp for a moment, then she slings
Drone #19 it into a wall and punches a hole through Drone
#20.

SLOW MOTION

--A hellish wrath in her reddened eyes, Dylan glowers at her
father.

--Behind her, DRONE #21 raises its gun, causing the air to
vibrate.

--These vibrations reach her ear. She turns, rakes the gun
away from Drone #21, and kicks the drone in half.

RETURN TO SCENE

Dantalion grabs her by the throat and lifts her up.

DANTALION

You've found your purebred
strength.

She gets free and throws her fist, but he catches it.

DANTALION (CONT'D)

Too bad you don't know how to wield
it.

He twists her arm, forcing her torso parallel to the floor. The last thing she sees is his knee as it flies into her face.

INT. BRIG - NIGHT

Dazed, Dylan awakes to find herself on the floor of a cramped cell lit by one small light.

She puts her fingers on the dried blood over her lips, then on her nose, before forcing the bone back into place.

She holds back a yelp and her eyes flutter. A tear rolls down her cheek. She fixes her eyes on it before swiping it away.

She stands straight up and slams her hand on the cell's door. The concussion echoes through the cell in a low rumble. She unleashes a volley of fists on the door.

Her knuckles bloodied, she rubs them, when a tray of food is slipped through the panel at the bottom of the door. On this tray, besides food, is a piece of folded up paper.

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

Half a dozen scientists in lab coats stand around, when two drones enter with Dylan on a levitating stretcher. An OLD SCIENTIST stands over her, next to DRONE #22.

OLD SCIENTIST

And you're sure she's been paralyzed?

DRONE #22

Yes, sir.

OLD SCIENTIST

Alright, let's get to work.

MOMENTS LATER

Strapped to a chair, Dylan lies with a brain penetrator, a circular device, around her head. Ten feet away, the Old Scientist sits in front of a screen that has a picture of her brain on it.

OLD SCIENTIST

Just hold still, my dear. Soon you will be the docile and obedient princess, which your father requires.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

At the front of the room, and with the drone crew going about their business at their various posts behind him, Viceroy Abdiel stares through the windshield into space.

The bridge's door opens and he turns to see Dylan. She bows her head when she arrives in front of him.

DYLAN

Father.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Nice to see that you have made a full recovery.

He goes to touch her arm but she pulls away.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

(suspiciously)

Can you remember anything? Anything from your little...accident?

DYLAN

No, Father, I cannot.

Dantalion enters and clicks his heels in attention when he arrives in front of Viceroy Abdiel.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Dantalion, what news do you have?

DANTALION

We shall be arriving at Mars shortly, sir.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Good.

Viceroy Abdiel starts to turn back around.

DANTALION

And we've figured out why the hyper drive malfunctioned, sir.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Oh?

INT. CENTRAL GENERATOR ROOM - DAY

Out of an elevator, Dylan, Dantalion, Viceroy Abdiel and six drones enter the vast, round, dark room and step onto catwalk #1.

On this railed catwalk, they follow Dantalion toward a two hundred foot wide sphere, the central generator, at the center of this vast room, four hundred feet ahead.

A section of the central generator's outer paneling has been taken away so that the two repair drones can search its internal workings for clues. At its center streams a current of raw, glowing energy.

Dozens of twenty foot thick columns stretch out of the central generator in all directions and reach out to the room's edge.

DANTALION

Something exploded deep inside of the generator, sir.

Dylan's eyes wander about and see a web of hundreds of more catwalks. Below her, churn violet beams of pure, glowing energy. They funnel like a cyclone toward a column, which leads straight into the central generator.

The party arrives at the central generator.

VICEROY ABDIEL

How could this have happened?

DANTALION

Someone sabotaged it, sir.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Sabotaged? Do you think that one of the rebel prisoners escaped and found their way into here?

DANTALION

That is impossible, sir.

VICEROY ABDIEL

You said the same thing about Lord Briathos escaping the Capital dungeons --

DYLAN

Lord Briathos?

They both glance at her.

VICEROY ABDIEL

My dear, you seem a bit ill. Why don't I escort you to your chambers?

Dylan bows her head. As she heads back, Viceroy Abdiel gives Dantalion a glance without her seeing it, before following her back to the elevator. Dantalion places his fingers on his fission pistol.

On catwalk #1, Viceroy Abdiel sidles up to Dylan, who remains composed.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

You have been through a terrible trauma. Some rest will do you well.

DYLAN

Yes, Father.

Out of the elevator, three drones drag Briathos. Viceroy Abdiel comes to a calm stop, but Dylan stiffens up.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Lord Briathos, I suppose you were the one who sabotaged my ship. I don't know how you avoided the effects of brainwashing, nevertheless...

(approaches Briathos)

What should I do with you? I can't let you live. Daughter, come here.

Dylan obeys.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

(takes pistol from belt)

Would you do the honors?

DYLAN

Father...

VICEROY ABDIEL

You must prove yourself to me...after all that has happened.

He grimaces at her, so she takes the pistol and points it at Briathos' face.

At the central generator, Dantalion wraps his hand around his pistol.

At catwalk #1, Dylan peers into Briathos' eyes. Finally, she full-mouth kisses him to the disgust of Viceroy Abdiel.

At the central generator, Dantalion un-holsters his pistol.

At catwalk #1, Dylan pulls her lips away and points the pistol at Briathos' face. Briathos ducks, and the BATTLE DRONE behind him is shot.

At the central generator, Dantalion, his pistol smoking, steams.

At catwalk #1, with Briathos still bent over, Dylan shoots the other two drones as he pulls a watch out of his mouth. Dylan points the pistol at Viceroy Abdiel, who knocks it out of her hands and into the energy cyclone.

She's wounded by Dantalion, and Viceroy Abdiel leaps down to catwalk #2. She holds the Battle Drone in front of herself and Briathos to shield them from the onslaught of Dantalion and the six drones with him.

Briathos twists the watch, now on his wrist, and the vision of the six drones adjacent Dantalion becomes impaired.

Briathos grabs the fission guns of two of the dead drones and returns fire.

Dantalion dodges before he lobs a grenade at them. Briathos shoots it midair, but the explosion hides another grenade, which explodes at the elevator shaft, disabling it.

Dylan grabs Briathos and is about to bring him over the edge of the catwalk, when she sees how far the next one is. Eighty feet. She dodges a round and jumps anyway, Briathos just behind.

They land hard on catwalk #2, Viceroy Abdiel having already entered an elevator in the column supporting the central generator.

Briathos follows Dylan ten feet to where the catwalk goes through one of the columns supporting the central generator, forming a hall. They barely dodge the fire from Dantalion and the drones.

They stop in this hall, both out of breath.

BRIATHOS
Are you alright?

DYLAN
(nods)
You?

He nods. Three shots are fired at the column's entrance.

BRIATHOS

I see my antidote worked.

FLASHBACK - DYLAN IN THE BRIG

--Dylan opens the piece of paper on the food tray. Wrapped in it is a pill, which falls into her hand. The paper has a message on it.

DYLAN

"Take this pill. It will protect you from the brainwashing. Act like you've been brainwashed, then wait for me."

--Dylan downs the pill.

BACK TO SCENE

The drones and Dantalion never let up their fire.

DYLAN

Where'd you even get those pills?

BRIATHOS

We all had them, all the patriots.

Another flurry of fire interrupts them.

DYLAN

Is there any way out of here?

BRIATHOS

There's one more elevator over there.

He points to an elevator on the other side of the room.

DYLAN

There's no way this week could get any worse.

BRIATHOS

Yeah, well, you weren't the one who was fucked by a clone.

He gives her a fission gun, then takes a few shots at their adversaries and kills DRONE #23.

At catwalk #1, Viceroy Abdiel exits the elevator and runs up to Dantalion, who's firing like mad.

VICEROY ABDIEL
Dantalion!

He doesn't hear and keeps firing.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)
Dantalion!

Out of ammo, he stops firing.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)
Dantalion!

He turns to his master.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)
Call for more drones.

At catwalk #2, Briathos follows Dylan towards the other elevator, both firing wildly and sprinting. DRONE #24 lands in front of Dylan and DRONE #25 behind Briathos.

Both drones try to point their fission guns, but Dylan shoots Drone #24, and Briathos throws Drone #25 off of the catwalk and into the energy cyclone.

Twenty more drones emerge from the operational elevator. Briathos presses his watch, grabs, and crouches down with Dylan. A force field appears around them, which the drones fire at but cannot penetrate.

BRIATHOS
Dylan, you have to kill Abdiel!
They'll follow your orders if you
do!

She peers up at Viceroy Abdiel, who meets her gaze.

At catwalk #1, with five fresh drones already around him, Viceroy Abdiel backs away from the railing.

VICEROY ABDIEL
Protect your viceroy.

At catwalk #2, Dylan eyes her father's catwalk, then looks down through the grated floor at the energy cyclone below. She calmly inhales, then bounds upward.

All of the drones train their weapons on her. Briathos double taps his watch, which hums. The catwalk draws nearer to Dylan. Briathos' watch explodes with beams of electricity, which target the drones.

The catwalk draws nearer, she's nearly there but descends. She outstretches her arms and grabs its edge.

At catwalk #1, Dylan pulls herself up and stands, but Viceroy Abdiel is gone. He lands behind her, and he knocks the gun out of her hands. He backhands her in the face, and she falls to the floor.

At catwalk #2, watching this, Briathos disables the force field and stands. He readies himself to jump, when Dantalion lands behind him, grasps his throat, and lifts him into the air.

At catwalk #1, Viceroy Abdiel bends over and grabs Dylan's arm, but she pulls him onto the floor, rolls on top of him, and lets loose a tirade of fists.

He punches her, then rolls so that they both have their sides on the floor, and kicks her between the catwalk's rails and off of the platform.

At catwalk #2, Dantalion, his hand no longer around Briathos' neck, punches him to the floor. Briathos sees Dylan falling, jumps up, kicks Dantalion away, then reaches out and grabs Dylan.

Dantalion grabs and lifts Briathos, who throws Dylan up and over the catwalk's railing. Dantalion tosses him over the railing, but he grabs the side of the catwalk.

Dantalion raises his foot to crush Briathos' hand, but Dylan tackles him. Briathos pulls himself up before Dantalion throws Dylan off of himself and stands.

BRIATHOS

Dantalion!

Briathos puts his fists up, and Dantalion marches toward him. Dantalion throws a punch, Briathos dodges and lands a punch on him.

Dylan sees Viceroy Abdiel above her, then jumps up to catwalk #1. There, she lands in front of him. He grins, and she lunges forward, punching his face in midair.

She lands, but Viceroy Abdiel punches Dylan in the stomach, bending her in half, then knees her in the face and kicks her to the floor. He grins as she puts her hands to her bleeding nose.

VICEROY ABDIEL

Come, now, you're barely even putting up a fight.

She looks at the blood on her, and he scoffs.

VICEROY ABDIEL (CONT'D)

You really are just like your
mother.

A nuclear fury returns to Dylan's eyes.

She screams and charges him. He swings a fist, but she wheels around him, grabs him by the neck and breaks his back on the railing.

She lifts him off the floor by the throat and walks him into the central generator. There, she stands feet from the beam of energy at its center.

She glowers into her father's pleading eyes one last time.

DYLAN

I am just like her.

She throws him in. He's vaporized instantly, though his scream lingers.

The two repair drones, witnesses to the carnage, bow to their new viceroy.

Briathos and Dantalion see this. Dylan turns her hellish gaze toward Dantalion. The functional elevator opens and twenty more drones step out.

DANTALION

(sees the drones)

Shit.

Dantalion activates his rocket boots and jets upward.

DYLAN

Kill him!

The drones fire at Dantalion, but he lobs a grenade at the top of the room. BOOM! A hole is blasted in the room's ceiling, and he flies straight through.

Dantalion, his fists outstretched, smashes his way through one wall after the next until he reaches an escape pod. He lands and jumps into it.

INT. ESCAPE POD #1 - DAY

Dantalion gets into the pilot's seat and presses a red button. The pod's door closes, and the pod is blasted into space, with Mars a mere few thousand miles away.

He puts the headset on and pushes the accelerator to full. The pod's engines roar.

EXT. SPACE

Pod #1 streaks toward the formerly red planet.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

Dylan and Briathos enter, and she heads straight for the front of the bridge. DRONE #26 stands next to her.

DYLAN

Where is he?

DRONE #26

My lady, he used an escape pod to reach the Capital.

DYLAN

Can we kill him?

DRONE #26

Doing so would result in mass civilian casualties. There is something else. He sent a distress signal, but not to the pliocenes.

DYLAN

To who?

EXT. OVER THE CAPITAL - DAY

Dantalion's escape pod careens toward the great metropolis.

EXT. CAPITAL STREET #2 - DAY

The people watch his escape pod crash into the top of a skyscraper, then bounce off and hit the top of a lower building. It bounces off again only to crash into the street with people scattering.

Dantalion punches the pod's door off and jumps onto the shattered street. Around him, the people stare in bewilderment, when two personnel carriers, one hundred foot wide flying saucers, land behind him.

Their bows open and dozens of armed purebred soldiers emerge in battle armor. The PUREBRED COMMANDER marches up to Dantalion, stands at attention, and salutes.

PUREBRED COMMANDER
Sir Dantalion! Just as you ordered,
an army of purebreds.

DANTALION
Have the pliocenes been contacted?

PUREBRED COMMANDER
Yes, sir. They are preparing a
fleet as we speak.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

Drone #26 scans the computer screen in front of itself.

DRONE #26
My lady, the pliocenes are rallying
a fleet. They will be here within
the hour.

A flash, next an explosion, and the entire flagship jolts, throwing everyone to their feet.

DRONE #26 (CONT'D)
My lady, they seem to have hit the
ship with an interstellar cannon.

BRIATHOS
Damage?

DRONE #26
Our main engines have been
disabled. We will not escape the
Martian gravity. A crash landing is
inevitable.

BRIATHOS
Dylan.

DYLAN
Put all of the rebel prisoners in
escape pods...except one.

INT. INTERSTELLAR CANNON COMMAND ROOM - DAY

A PUREBRED SOLDIER sits in the super-weapon's control chair. Dantalion stands next to him in the small, spherical room, the base of the one hundred foot weapon.

PUREBRED SOLDIER

Their engines have been disabled,
but they'd have crashed before the
interstellar cannon would be ready
to be fired again, sir.

EXT. NEAR-EARTH SPACE - DAY

An overwhelming fleet of pliocene warships, flying saucers miles wide, assembles over Earth.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

Drone #26 scans the computer screen in front of itself.

DRONE #26

My lady, the rebel prisoners have
been freed in the escape pods.

Zephon, battered from torture, enters with DRONE #27.

DRONE #27

(supports Zephon)

My lady, I have brought you the one
you requested.

DRONE #26

Brace for impact.

Dylan, Zephon, and Briathos strap themselves into chairs on the side of the room.

EXT. SPACE

The enormous flagship hits the top of the Martian atmosphere. The bottom half of it becomes engulfed in flame, the Capital just ahead.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

As the flagship violently quakes, Drone #26 mans the helm, struggling to pull up. The Capital's skyscrapers peek over the now diminishing reentry flames.

EXT. OVER THE CAPITAL - DAY

The lumbering, decelerating flagship scrapes the tops of towers, heading straight for one of the tallest skyscrapers.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

They all brace themselves as the flagship screams toward the skyscraper.

EXT. OVER THE CAPITAL - DAY

The flagship smashes into the skyscraper and bisects it, but the flagship is stopped, and its rear falls onto one of the shorter towers underneath.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

Terrified and gasping for air, Dylan, Briathos, and Zephon are jarred by an explosion.

EXT. CAPITAL STREET #3 - DAY

Dantalion stands next to five tanks, which fire another volley. Their shells blast craters into the flagship.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

The trio of Dylan, Briathos, and Zephon already unbuckled, a shell destroys the flagship's windshield.

DYLAN

Come on!

She charges through the broken windshield and onto the top of the flagship with Briathos, a limping Zephon, and twenty drones behind her.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FLAGSHIP - DAY

The street over one thousand feet straight below them, Zephon shakes Dylan's hand.

ZEPHON

It's been nice knowing you.

He jumps, and four drones follow. Horrified, she dares peer over the edge. She takes Briathos by the hand, when another barrage from the tanks strikes home.

BRIATHOS

Dylan! We have to jump!

A huge section of the middle of the flagship explodes, and the vessel bends in half.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

Dylan!

She closes her eyes, then leaps, Briathos and the rest of the drones right behind her. She opens her eyes, and, through all of the chaos, attains a sort of tranquility.

EXT. CAPITAL STREET #4 - DAY

Dylan and her entourage slam into the pavement, shattering it like glass. A plasma round zips over her. On either side of her, fifty purebred soldiers close in from a few blocks away, Zephon and the other drones already fighting them.

She and Briathos take cover behind a hover car alongside two drones engaging the enemy. One of them, DRONE #28, is shot. Dylan picks up its gun and returns fire. Less than one hundred feet ahead, the purebreds close in. She's wounded in the arm and falls backwards.

Her hand on the wound, Dylan dares to peek around the side of the hover car, the purebreds now less than fifty feet away. An artillery shell annihilates a platoon's worth of purebreds, the rest beat a hasty retreat.

A hover tank rushes overhead, blasting away. Another chases off the purebreds on their opposite flank. Three personnel carriers come to a hover over the street. They open their bomb bay doors, and eighty drones and fifteen battle pods emerge out of each.

Dylan runs over to Zephon, on the other side of the street, with Briathos close behind.

DYLAN

Zephon! We need to get to the
Central Command!

BRIATHOS

I know how to get us there.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER'S ROOF - DAY

With a pair of advanced binoculars, Dantalion watches the contingent of drones begin to move with reinforcements arriving. He lowers the binoculars.

DANTALION

Unbelievable.

EXT. CAPITAL INTERSECTION #1 - DAY

With the skyscraper the flagship had crashed into about one thousand feet behind them, and twice as many drones and battle pods as before, Dylan and her small army moves swiftly through the city.

A hover tank shell blasts a crater in a building right over Dylan and Briathos, who crouch as debris and glass fly everywhere.

DYLAN

You okay?

BRIATHOS

Yeah.

Over one hundred purebreds and two hover tanks turn a corner three hundred feet in front of them, guns blazing. All of the drones and their artillery returns fire. Dylan and Briathos take cover around the far corner of a tower and return fire as well.

They're almost killed by plasma rounds from behind. Another contingent of purebreds of the same number turns the corner a few blocks away.

Briathos and Dylan dash around to the other side of the corner, between it and a hover car, as some of the drones face the new threat. More shots come from their opposite flank, then from their rear.

DYLAN

(petrified)

We're surrounded.

Three friendly hover tanks fly in and shoot down a couple of the purebred tanks, the rest return fire. Nevertheless, the carnage and the noise of exploding shells and people alike makes Dylan crumple onto her knees and elbows.

BRIATHOS

Dylan! Dylan we have to move!

A shell explodes over them. Glass and debris rains.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

Dylan!

(grabs her shoulders)

Viceroy. We cannot stay here.

DYLAN

(mouthing; without her voice)

Advance.

(barely audible)

Advance.

(at the top of her lungs)

Advance!

Immediately, the drones move as one, the battle pods and tanks covering them. Though with great casualties, they drive the enemy back until they reach the central street of the Capital.

EXT. CENTRAL STREET - DAY

At the T-intersection, this central street stretching to their left and right, Briathos points left toward a gargantuan edifice a half-mile away, which can barely be seen through the smog.

BRIATHOS

The Central Command is there.

A deep, low rumbling makes the planet quiver. Halfway between them and their destination, a mega tank, the size of a small building, turns onto the central street from between two towers.

With a small nuclear explosion, it fires its payload. The shell explodes mere feet away, eviscerating half of the war party, while sending Dylan and Briathos flying through an adjacent building.

Shaken, the two of them emerge from the debris as the drones fall back. More shots from behind force their retreat to halt.

The hum of a hover tank announces the approach of a purebred one from a quarter-block away. It stops, aims its main gun at them, but explodes. An escape pod soars overhead, firing at another purebred tank.

BRIATHOS (CONT'D)

That's an escape pod from the ship.

Another escape pod swoops down, then another, then another, all firing sporadically. The mega tank obliterates one of them. The escape pods fire helter-skelter at it, but their rounds only burn its surface, and it kills another two.

DYLAN

Briathos, I've got an idea.

INT. ESCAPE POD #2 - DAY

A REBEL PILOT steers as a DEADSHOT REBEL fires the escape pod's guns.

DYLAN (V.O.)
Attention all escape pods!

EXT. CAPITAL STREET #5 - DAY

Dylan holds the radio receiver attached to a COMMUNICATIONS DRONE.

DYLAN
This is your viceroy!

INT. ESCAPE POD #3 - DAY

The Pilot Rebel raises the volume.

DYLAN (V.O.)
We must destroy that mega tank!

EXT. CAPITAL STREET #5 - DAY

A shell explodes nearby.

DYLAN
But we'll have to concentrate as much of our fire on it simultaneously! All those who can, will fire in five seconds. Five, four, three --

The mega tank points its main gun right in her direction.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Shit. Fire!

All at once, the escape pods, battle pods, and hover tanks fire at the mega tank, the escape pods from all angles.

The mega tank's main and secondary guns sputter shells about. It destroys one escape pod, another charges straight at it, but the mega tank shoots it. However, the escape pod's own momentum propels it into the mega tank's main gun, which explodes.

With the entire war party still firing on it, the rest of the mega tank shares the fate of its main gun.

A series of shells strikes right behind Dylan, Zephon, and Briathos.

BRIATHOS

We're running out of time!

Another shell hits an escape pod, which tumbles right toward them. Dylan, Zephon, and Briathos jump out of the way right before it crashes, barely intact.

DYLAN

Zephon! Do you think you could pilot that?

ZEPHON

Maybe.

BRIATHOS

What are you thinking?

INT. ESCAPE POD #4 - DAY

Zephon takes the pilot's seat as Dylan and Briathos take the passenger seats behind him.

DYLAN

(into the radio)

All advance to the Central Command!
Now!

The hatch closes, escape pod #4 lifts off of the street, and Zephon presses the accelerator forward.

EXT. ROOFTOP NEXT TO THE CENTRAL COMMAND - DAY

Dantalion watches the battle, when escape pod #4 rushes under him and into the Central Command.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND LOBBY - DAY

The pod's hatch opens, and the trio of Dylan, Briathos, and Zephon jumps out. Zephon heads over to the computer.

ZEPHON

Computer, the main control room.

INT. MAIN CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The room's doors fly off their hinges and across the room. Where these doors used to be, the trio stands with their feet still outstretched.

They rush inside, computers all around and a window along the far wall of the room. Underneath of this window rests the Main Computer, which Zephon runs to.

BRIATHOS
What's he doing?

DYLAN
Hacking into the pliocene fleet's
computers.

BRIATHOS
Look out!

He grabs one of the doors and holds it in front of Zephon, a fission shot hits it. Dantalion stands thirty feet down the hall. He takes aim at Dylan, but she jumps to the floor, and he hits a computer behind her.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND HALLWAY - DAY

Briathos throws the door at Dantalion, who knocks it away, but Briathos is right behind it, shooting and running. Dantalion dodges but gets wounded.

Briathos points his fission pistol point-blank, but Dantalion knocks it out of his hands and takes out his own, which Briathos crushes.

INT. MAIN CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Zephon continues to type in the code, when Dylan stands.

ZEPHON
You okay?

She starts toward Dantalion and Briathos.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND HALLWAY - DAY

Dantalion punches Briathos to the floor and is about to stomp in his head, when Dylan punches him to the floor. He quickly stands, and dodges another blow, then throws his own. She dodges, and his fist penetrates the wall.

She roundhouse kicks him down the hall. As he stands, the outside explosions get louder as the lights flicker.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND LOBBY - DAY

What's left of the drones and rebels gather in the expansive room, furiously defending their position against an encompassing enemy. Overhead, hover tanks and escape pods streak through the air, as do pieces of ships and bodies.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND HALLWAY - DAY

Dantalion picks up Briathos and throws him through a wall. Dylan throws a punch at Dantalion, but he uses the momentum to swing his leg and trip her to the floor.

He's about to stomp her head in, but she grabs his foot a mere centimeter away from her nose. She strains under the tremendous force, when Briathos tackles Dantalion and pounds his face with his fists. Dantalion kicks Briathos off of himself.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND LOBBY - DAY

An explosion tears through entire ranks of drones. An escape pod is shot and careens into the lobby, taking more drones and rebels with it.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND HALLWAY - DAY

Dylan is punched down the hall and into a four-way intersection, when a TERRIFIED REBEL runs up.

TERRIFIED REBEL
My lady, our lines have been
broken! They -- !

He's shot dead, and she jumps to her feet as one hundred purebreds run up from three directions.

EXT. NEAR-EARTH SPACE

The pliocene armada is lined up, all facing Mars.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND HALLWAY - DAY

Dantalion grabs a gun from the Purebred Commander and takes aim at Zephon.

Dylan jumps toward Dantalion, he pulls the trigger, Dylan lands on him, the round goes through the chair Zephon's sitting in and hits him in the heart.

He falls out of the chair, dead.

EXT. NEAR-EARTH SPACE

The fleet jumps to hyper speed.

EXT. NEAR-MARS SPACE

The fleet arrives in tact and begins to deploy its gun and carrier ships.

INT. MAIN CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Dantalion enters and sees the virus code on the computer screen. Dylan and Briathos are dragged in by purebred officers.

DANTALION

(grinning)

So that's what you were trying to do. You were trying to upload that self-destruct virus.

(points pistol at Dylan)

And as much as I'd like to kill you, Mars still needs its viceroy, and the pliocenes still want royal blood. I think it'll be fun, though. I've never ruled a puppet regime. I will give you one chance to surrender.

Dylan glowers at him for a moment, him back. She slowly raises her hands and puts them on her head before getting to her knees. Briathos watches, both horrified and taken aback. Dantalion appears almost disappointed.

The Purebred Commander takes out a pair of advanced handcuffs and puts one cuff around her right wrist. Her sleeves roll down a bit.

PUREBRED COMMANDER

(sees the lasers attached to her wrists)

What...?

Dylan closes her right hand, and a laser beam shoots him in the face. She jumps up, holds him in front of herself, and aims at Dantalion's heart. He shifts, but the beam hits him in the lung.

Dantalion falls to the floor, the rest take aim, but she's already thrown a grenade from the Commander's belt at them. BOOM! All of the purebreds fall to the ground. She and Briathos jump through the window.

Dantalion clammers to his feet and runs over to the empty windowpane just in time to see Dylan and Briathos hit the street. Around them, drone reinforcements come rushing in. Dantalion aims straight at Dylan.

EXT. CENTRAL COMMAND ENTRANCE - DAY

She stares back up at him. A platoon of drones shoots at him, and he falls back into the room. Pliocene ships begin to land on rooftops, one atop the Central Command. Dylan grabs Briathos' arm and leads him away.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND HALLWAY - DAY

A PLIOCENE GENERAL, in full battle armor, which includes a helmet that covers the face, strides up toward the Main Control Room with a pliocene platoon just behind.

INT. MAIN CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The purebreeds turn and face the pliocenes with fear in their eyes. Dantalion can't speak. The General enters, and the purebreeds bow their heads, saying nothing. The General removes the helmet, revealing her face.

PLIOCENE GENERAL

Then where is Abdiel's daughter?

INT. CRIMINAL BASE OF OPERATIONS - NIGHT

The lights off, Alex enters his office and switches the lights on to find Briathos and Dylan. Dylan points a pistol at him.

ALEX

Dylan?

DYLAN

Alex.

He's too stunned to move or speak.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Why don't you think about what you wanna do next, Alex? But if you stay, you're under my command.

THE END.