

BLACK VEIL: EPISODE 1X6, "IN THE RED"

Written by

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Final Draft

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TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. SHINE TOWN - HYDROPONICS BAY - DAY

HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR READS, "53 MISSING. SEARCH & RESCUE CONTINUES. HALF RATIONS IN EFFECT. UNLIMITED PORT EXCHANGE FOR ALL."

Search and Rescue CREWS continue to remove the collapsed building. Crews have reached the depths of the SILOS FOOD STORES. Carefully they salvage seed and grain, but most is lost to the fire.

Among the S&R Crew is AXON. From the deep bowels of the lower level he loads debris into a pulley-cart, and glances nervously at the heavy steel BUNKER DOOR just peeking through a large pile of rubble.

We PUSH THROUGH the Steel Bunker Door into:

INT. REBEL BUNKER

Pitch black. Eerily quiet. The faint SOUND of workers outside the bunker can be heard. A SPARKING WIRE throws shadows across the room. This once busy haven for freedom is now a concrete and steel tomb.

A female figure, NYKA, begins to move from behind a crushed computer terminal. Particles of DUST GLISTEN in the FLICKERING LIGHT. Nyka COUGHS, trying to clear her dry throat.

NYKA  
Strat... Till...  
(cough)  
Hello?

A helpless, hopeless expression forces her back down to the ground in a lump of loneliness. She's the only one that survived the launch. How unlucky.

Pulling herself together she listens and hears the SOUND of workers DRILLING and POUNDING outside. Her face shifts from despair to fear. She knows what must be done before she's caught.

She reaches into the leg pocket of her cargo pants and pulls out a .380 pocket pistol. She racks the slide, and then hesitates.

NYKA (cont'd)

Anybody?

Tears threaten. She's afraid, but lifts the pistol to her head and starts to move her finger to the trigger. She closes her eyes and takes a breath.

A COUGH from across the room.

Nyka's eyes dart open. She doesn't move. Was that sound real?

STRAT  
(OS, pained)

Ahh!

Nyka immediately lowers the gun and puts it on safety.

NYKA

Till?

STRAT  
(OS)

Nyka?

That voice! Nyka tosses the pistol in her pocket and hurries to her feet.

NYKA

Strat!

STRAT  
Over here. My leg... I can't move.

NYKA  
I'm coming.

Climbing over debris in the dark, Nyka stumbles. Her hand makes contact with glass, and happens to smear a thick layer of dust off an active computer monitor. The FLICKERING SCREEN sheds MORE LIGHT in the room. Next to that screen is another monitor, which she clears off to get more light. She sees the READ OUT, "LAUNCH COMPLETE", and smiles briefly before continuing her survey of the room.

As her eyes grasp the reality, the small smile fades when she realizes not only did they survive, but now they're going to have to die... the hard way.

She focuses on the NOISE of workers outside, and then Strat COUGHING.

NYKA (cont'd)  
Where are you?

STRAT  
Here. Over here.

She follows his voice and in seconds she's shoving a PANEL out of the way to get to him. Relieved that he's in one piece, mostly, she takes his dusty face in her hands and smiles. Strat returns the sentiment, albeit a little more somber when he sees her. After all, this wasn't the plan.

Strat reaches for his leg and winces.

STRAT (cont'd)  
It's broken.

Nyka shifts her attention and feels his shin. He flinches.

NYKA  
Sorry. Sorry. I'll splint it.

STRAT  
Why?

She ignores him and touches his face lovingly again.

NYKA  
Because I love you, stupid.

That elicits a genuine smile from Strat. He touches her wrist.

STRAT  
You love me stupid? That's why I'm so dumb.

She smiles back and breaks away to hunt down scraps for a splint.

Strat sits there for a moment and we see an array of emotions rattle through him. Love for Nyka. Fear of the NOISE outside. Disappointment that there's only one way out. Heartbreak.

STRAT (cont'd)  
Where's Till?

NYKA  
I don't know.

STRAT  
Maybe he got lucky.

That gives Nyka pause. Lucky that Till is dead. There's a thought. She gathers up a piece of rebar, wire, and plastic panel.

STRAT (cont'd)  
Did it launch?

Nyka returns to his side and gets to work on a splint with a nod to his question.

STRAT (cont'd)  
Did it make orbit?

She shrugs and braces his leg.

STRAT (cont'd)  
At least one thing went right.

She checks a glance with him. She knows what he means, and she doesn't like it either.

Strat watches her tie up the brace. She's struggling with more than just the wire knot. He reaches out and stops her.

STRAT (cont'd)  
You don't have to do this.

NYKA  
There's no reason to suffer.

STRAT  
There's no point. I can hear them outside the door. You know we can't let them take us.

He shows her the snub nose revolver in his hand.

NYKA  
Stop it.

She puts her hand over the gun.

NYKA (cont'd)  
Just stop it. We have time.

She goes back to work and finishes securing the brace to his leg.

NYKA (cont'd)  
Not right now. Understand? Just...  
not right now.

He puts the revolver in his lap and nods. Maybe she's right.

TILL

(OS)

Uggh! Oh, feck! Help!

Strat and Nyka sharply look in the direction of the distressed voice.

STRAT

Till!

TILL

(OS)

It hurts! Ahh! Help!

STRAT

We're here. We're coming. Just hang on.

Strat starts to get up, but Nyka stops him. She's got this.

MOANS from Till fill the dimly lit room. Nyka navigates the piles of debris toward his location.

NYKA

Keep talking, Till. Where are you?

More GROANS of agony from Till. It's enough for Nyka to home-in on him. He's across the room, behind the fallen ceiling.

STRAT

Hey, buddy. We all made it. We're like cockroaches. We just won't die when we're supposed to.

TILL

(OS)

I can't... I can't... It's in me.

Nyka crests the mound of rubble and ascends the other side to find the horror that awaits her. Till is pinned to the floor with a huge steel support beam skewering his abdomen.

Her emotions cause her to freeze, until Till makes eye contact. He reaches out to her with one hand, and she moves to his side, taking his down stretched hand.

TILL (cont'd)

Help me. Please.

Nyka grasps his hand tightly and fights to hold herself together.

NYKA

Till. I... what do I do?

Till's eyes glance to the floor where he was reaching for his fallen GUN. Nyka's eyes follow, then back up to his.

STRAT

What's going on? Talk to me!

Concerned, Strat tries to get up, but fails.

TILL

(OS)

It's okay... It's okay... just do it. Do it. Please! It hurts.

STRAT

Nyka? Say something.

GUN SHOT. Strat flinches. In these closed quarters we hear the RINGING IN HIS EARS, and Nyka's.

Nyka stands over Till's lifeless body. She lowers her right hand to her side with GUN therein. Tears stream down her face. Trembling, she hangs her head and closes her eyes.

STRAT (cont'd)

(softly)

Nyka...?

FADE OUT

MAIN TITLES: BLACK VEIL

END TEASER

ACT ONEEXT. SHINE TOWN - HYDROPONICS BAY

A MUFFLED GUN SHOT from behind the steel bunker door grabs a WORKER'S attention. Axon hears it too, but keeps working.

WORKER

Hey man, did you hear that? Sounded like a bang.

Axon frowns and pulls out an orange ear plug.

AXON

Huh?

WORKER

I said it sounded like a gun shot.

He points at the steel bunker door. Axon shrugs, and looks around at all the jack-hammers and drills running.

AXON

Guns were destroyed years ago.

WORKER

You think somebody's alive in there?

AXON

Doubt it. Nobody is supposed to be down this far. Food Store Silos is the lowest level.

WORKER

Yeah, well, Compliance Control said the launch came from here. Somebody has to be in there, right?

AXON

Then I hope they're dead.

He grins, as does the Worker.

WORKER

We'll find out what's behind that door soon enough.

Axon frowns for an explanation.

WORKER (cont'd)

A Mech Suit has been authorized to speed up the search. We'll breach the door in seconds.

Axon nods, and dumps a chunk of concrete into the pulley-cart to hide his concern.

AXON

When does the Mech Suit get here?  
I'm tired of this crap.

WORKER

Later today, I think. That old-war tech is glitchy, you know. They're working on getting it running now.

AXON

Huh. Right. I trained on one of those suits before they scrapped most of them for parts. Be lucky if it doesn't kill the driver. Who's the operator?

The Worker frowns hard.

WORKER

Me.

Axon winces.

AXON

Oh. Sorry.

WORKER

Gee. Thanks.

AXON

Ever operate one before?

WORKER

Only in a port simulation.

AXON

Well, good luck.

He goes back to work. Meanwhile the Worker looks really worried.

WORKER

Any advice?

AXON  
 Huh? Oh. Yeah, don't panic when it  
 over rotates. If you overcompensate  
 you'll snap your spine.

The Worker gulps down his worry.

AXON (cont'd)  
 Sorry. Didn't mean to scare you.  
 (beat)  
 I'd offer to drive it, but I've got  
 another ten hour shift after this  
 one.

The Worker has a thought.

WORKER  
 I'll take your next shift.

Axon ponders the offer, like it's a hard one, and then nods.

AXON  
 Sure. Why not. Just log it with the  
 supervisor.

WORKER  
 Consider it done. Thanks.

Axon glances around at a handful of CREW standing around in  
 a trance-like state. Their blue filaments are lit-up. They  
 are porting.

AXON  
 What's going on?

The Worker looks around confused, and then he understands.

WORKER  
 Oh, that. Director Nola is holding a  
 public forum. You want to port in?  
 I'll cover for you.

Axon looks back at the bunker door, and then nods. He steps  
 aside and activates his port.

WHITE FLASH

INT. VIRTUAL REALITY PORT - SHINE TOWN - COURTYARD - DAY

This VIRTUAL CITY is perfect and undamaged by the rocket.

NOLA stands on a cement platform about two feet higher than the gathered CROWD. Nearby is the STATUE of Calix Amias. The quote on the plaque reads, "FROM DARKNESS COMES LIGHT, CREATOR OF THE BLACK VEIL, CALIX AMIAS."

The Crowd is edgy. Nola is too, but she portrays confidence. With her hands she quiets the crowd.

NOLA

I'm sorry to inform you that food rations will continue until further notice.

The Crowd VOICES their grievances. Nola sympathizes.

NOLA (cont'd)

I know. We are all under a lot of stress and an empty belly makes it worse. That's why we have extended recreational porting beyond your allotted times.

CITIZEN 1

A virtual diet isn't going to keep my kid alive!

NOLA

I understand. Our engineers are working hard for our future. The next generation of crops promise to yield more and be more resistant to--

CITIZEN 2

We need food now!

The Crowd AGREES LOUDLY. The anger directed at Nola puts her back on her heels for a moment, but she quickly recovers.

CITIZEN 3

We need seeds not scientists!  
There's food outside these walls!

Part of the Crowd agrees strongly. The other half murmurs their disapproval. Citizen 4 is the more boisterous of the bunch.

CITIZEN 4

I say let the traitors go look for their imaginary seeds. Let them die in the Dead Zone. More food for us!

Part of the Crowd CHEERS. The other Citizens become combative. It's clear to Nola that the people are divided, and it's getting out of control.

NOLA  
Listen to me.

The Crowd continues to argue. Pushing starts. Nola gestures for COMPLIANCE CONTROL OFFICERS to break it up.

NOLA (cont'd)  
LISTEN TO ME!

Her VOICE AMPLIFIES, and the Crowd is startled into silence.

NOLA (cont'd)  
Thank you.

She composes herself, and then prepares to speak with authority, but loses her words as she sees AXON in the crowd. He's looking at her, and she's shooting daggers at him. This is his fault after all.

NOLA (cont'd)  
We are here because of one man...

Axon holds her stare. Is she going to rat him out?

The Crowd gets restless at Nola's pause. She breaks her line of sight from Axon and searches the faces for her train of thought. Her eyes land on the statue of Calix Amias. She's found her inspiration once again.

NOLA (cont'd)  
One great leader had the foresight to  
save us from total extinction.  
(gestures at the  
statue)  
Calix Amias. Our ancestors rose  
above the destruction and chaos of  
world war. And now because of their  
sacrifice, their ingenuity, and their  
strength we are able to flourish in  
social order and communal safety.

She looks into the Crowd and sees that she's winning some people over.

NOLA (cont'd)  
Calix Amias may be gone, but his  
vision lives on in each of us.

Nola steps into the Crowd and they make room as she speaks to each of them.

NOLA (cont'd)

We have been bio-engineered to survive under these harsh conditions. We share the same universal blood type. We share the same resistance to disease. We've never suffered the illnesses, or plagues, or the wars that ravaged our ancestors. We live because our founder made certain that we would have the best chance at survival.

Most of the Crowd is on Nola's side again. But a handful, like Citizen 3 remains in opposition, albeit quietly.

NOLA (cont'd)

Unity. It's why we are here today. It's how we have endured when the rest of the world destroyed itself. We are the last of humanity. The best of humanity. But only if we work together.

(beat)

All I ask is patience. We will adapt and overcome as we always have.

Axon observes the power of Nola's words as she gives hope to most of the Crowd. Citizen 3, and a handful of citizens however, are not buying the flowery speech.

A MAN approaches Nola.

MAN

Director. Excuse me. Director. My daughter... she's among the missing. Please, is there any news?

Nola places a comforting hand on the Man's shoulder.

NOLA

I'm sorry. We're still looking. Don't give up. We haven't.

A WOMAN pushes through. She's desperate.

WOMAN

Director! My husband wasn't at the launch site, but he's missing too.

MAN 2 steps in.

MAN 2  
My friend too!

Two other Citizens AGREE.

NOLA  
I promise you, we won't give up the search. We're close to excavating the silos. It's only a matter of time before we have answers.

WOMAN  
He wasn't near the silos.

Citizen 5 takes Nola by the arm and moves her aside for a private word. Compliance Control OFFICERS move to protect the Director, but the interaction is over too fast.

CITIZEN 5  
The missing aren't part of the fallout. You won't find them. They were taken.

Citizen 5 logs-off the port and disappears just as Compliance Control Officers reach Nola.

CC OFFICER 1  
Director, are you okay?

Nola is shaken by Citizen 5's words.

CC OFFICER 2  
I'll have the citizen collected?

NOLA  
What?

She catches up to the current conversation, and stops the officer.

NOLA (cont'd)  
No. No. It's fine. He has a right to his emotions. We're all stressed.

She addresses the remaining Crowd.

NOLA (cont'd)  
Thank you all for coming. We will hold another public forum next week.

More and more of the Crowd disappear as they log-off the port. Axon catches Nola's eyes briefly before she coldly vanishes from the forum.

EXT. SHINE TOWN - HYDROPONICS BAY

People stand still in the streets and sit on the benches. They are clearly PORTING. As people leave the VR Public Forum they begin to go about normal activities.

We CLOSE IN on the debris of the hydroponics bay. Axon is leaving the area, but workers continue the search.

We PUSH THROUGH the Steel Bunker Door into:

INT. REBEL BUNKER

Nyka sits on the floor across from Till's body. SHADOWS and dim FLICKERING LIGHTS from the computer monitors surround her. She's in shock. She has just murdered her friend, and can't stop staring at his body.

Deep despair silences her world. A nearby SOUND, and MOVEMENT go unnoticed. A HAND touches hers...

Nyka emerges from thought to see Strat pulling the GUN from her hands. She let's go, and then stands, grabbing him in a tearful hug. He reciprocates, and glances at Till's body.

STRAT

(gently)

Come on.

He starts to lead her around the rubble and away from their dead friend. Crying, Nyka speaks through a shaky voice.

NYKA

I had to.

STRAT

I know.

His tone is soft and understanding. They climb out.

NYKA

He was suffering. He was in so much pain.

She lands on the other side and wipes her tears. Reaching out she helps Strat down, careful of his injured leg.

NYKA (cont'd)

He wasn't going to make it.

STRAT

I know.

Even though Nyka is helping Strat to walk, Strat is ushering Nyka back to a spot on the floor by the LIGHT of the computer monitors. They sit, and he puts an arm around her, pulling her close.

NYKA

We weren't supposed to make it.

Strat kisses her head and holds her tighter.

STRAT

I know, baby. I know.

A gap of silence between them. Reality set in. Nyka speaks it out loud.

NYKA

(whispers)

We have to die down here.

Strat swallows hard and sets Till's GUN between them. He looks at it, and she looks at it.

STRAT

(whispers)

I know.

FADE OUT

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. SHINE TOWN

The afternoon sun beats down on the city. People sit on benches porting, or just going about their business.

The HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR READS: "FOOD RATIONS: 300 GRAMS PER DAY."

We CLOSE IN on the Compliance Control HQ, which is a large modified Air Traffic Control Tower overlooking the city.

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Nola stands in front of the PICTURE WINDOW and watches the city below. In her hand is Miwa's port device.

Her expression is full of grief and worry. A holographic ALERT pops up along with a KNOCK at the door. The alert reads, "AXON". Nola's expression instantly changes to cold and condemning. She steels herself and turns.

NOLA  
Access granted.

The door unlocks and Axon cautiously steps through, but no further. He knows what to expect from Nola, and he is not disappointed. After giving Axon a hard look of loathing, Nola turns back to the window.

NOLA (cont'd)  
You heard the forum?

AXON  
Most of it.  
(pause)  
You're getting good at crowd control.

Nola ignores him and walks over to her desk. Axon curiously watches as she collects a CLEAR CABLE and plugs it directly into the port on her neck. She holds out the other end to him.

NOLA  
Tether in.

A little apprehensive at first, he takes the cable and plugs it into his neck-port.

WHITE FLASH

INT. CLOSED CIRCUIT VIRTUAL REALITY PORT - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Inside Nola's memory-construct they are standing in a faded version of the Director's Office. PAST MEMORIES of Nola's first conversation with Miwa from Episode 2, pgs 8-10, pgs 14-17, and pgs 20-22, play out like ghosts in the background. Meanwhile, vibrant, almost electric versions of the REAL Nola and Axon stand in the midst.

This is a closed circuit virtual reality, an intimate, private port-session usually shared for sexual encounters. That is why Axon was nervous. He's a little surprised by the surroundings.

AXON

Okay. Not was I was expecting.

NOLA

Seriously?

AXON

Closed circuit ports are for... you know...

He makes a crude gesture indicating sex. She rolls her eyes, repulsed by the idea.

NOLA

We're fire-walled. That's all this is.

(beat)

Did the communications satellite make orbit?

AXON

Yes.

That's about all he can say. Nola reads his face. He's holding back.

NOLA

Is it working?

AXON

Yes.

Pause. His silence tells her everything. Nola shakes her head, disappointed. There's been no contact with Kael. They may have failed.

NOLA  
Kael is out there. He just hasn't  
made contact yet.

AXON  
Of course.

He tries to sound positive, but comes up short. Nola closes her eyes and changes the subject.

NOLA  
Right.  
(beat)  
What did you do with the missing?

Axon frowns hard, and then laughs as if it's a joke.

AXON  
What?

NOLA  
Fifty-three people are missing. Some  
of which weren't near the launch  
site.

She walks through the ghost image of Miwa and over to the HOLOGRAPHIC CITY-WIDE TRACKER. The missing are indicated by RED DOTS. Most are within the Hydroponics Area, but MANY are scattered across the city.

Axon takes a concerned interest both for the missing and for Nola's accusation.

AXON  
You think I took them?

NOLA  
You blew up our food supply. I don't  
know what you're capable of anymore.

Firmly set, Axon faces Nola.

AXON  
WE don't kidnap people.

Nola glances to the faded image of Miwa. Her tone is full of self-loathing.

NOLA  
No. We just murder them.

Pause. Axon gets it now. Nola is blaming herself, as much, if not more than him.

AXON  
You need to see this...

WHITE FLASH

INT. CLOSED CIRCUIT VIRTUAL REALITY PORT - REBEL BUNKER

We are brought back to the scene from Episode 3, page 45, in which Miwa is meeting with Axon, Nola and the rebels in the bunker for the first time. Memory scenes are in *ITALICS*. The memory-images are faded, but Real Nola and Axon are vibrant as they watch:

AXON  
*She needs to go. She can't be here.*

NOLA  
*What am I going to do?*

MIWA  
*Exactly what I told you. Normal routine. Work, come home, use the port. That's all.*

AXON  
*What about a scrub? Get rid of the evidence on her port.*

MIWA  
*No. I'll handle it.  
(to Nola)  
I won't let anything happen to you.  
Trust me. Go home. And try to keep  
your vitals normal.*

*Nola swallows hard. She takes a few deep breaths, nods and heads out.*

*Miwa waits for her to leave, and then turns to Axon.*

MIWA (cont'd)  
*Show me your plans for the rocket.*

*Axon pulls up a holo-image of the SCHEMATICS and a simulation. Miwa studies it hard.*

*Nola steps closer to the memory. She looks at Miwa with confusion.*

NOLA  
Miwa...? She did this?

*Miwa nods at the simulation.*

Nola looks to Axon and he barely shrugs, then nods at Miwa's image.

MIWA  
*Preliminary casualties will be high,  
but survivable if we are successful.*

AXON  
*You're not afraid that the backlash  
against the rebels will hurt our  
cause?*

*Miwa sighs and faces Axon.*

MIWA  
*Maybe not, if the betrayer is bigger  
than the betrayal.*

*Axon frowns, not fully understanding. Miwa gives him a  
small reassuring smile and places a hand on his shoulder.*

MIWA (cont'd)  
*I have preparations to make. Ready  
the launch.*

*Happy to hear that, Axon nods, and gets to work immediately.*

Nola turns from the scene and glances at Miwa's port in her palm.

NOLA  
*I can't believe it. Why? Why would  
she do this knowing the fallout would  
be catastrophic?*

AXON  
*Her son.*

Nola looks up at him. It's a good reason, but is it worth it?

AXON (cont'd)  
*And you. For all of us.*

NOLA  
*That still doesn't make it right.*

Axon takes a step closer and looks at the port in her hand.

AXON  
No. That's our job.

For the first time Nola looks at Axon with a lot less animosity. She holds out the port.

NOLA  
They scrubbed Miwa's port, but I was hoping...

Axon nods.

AXON  
I'll see if they missed something.

WHITE FLASH

INT. CLOSED CIRCUIT VIRTUAL REALITY PORT - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

No memories in play here. Just the empty virtual reality of Nola's office.

NOLA  
There was a man at the forum... he said the missing were taken. I think he knows something. I need to find him and talk to him.

AXON  
You shouldn't be doing that -- putting yourself out there. Let me handle it.

NOLA  
He came to me. Besides, I need to do more than just crowd control.

Axon looks distracted. Nola takes note and gives him a suspicious glare.

NOLA (cont'd)  
What?

AXON  
Uh... there's... There's something else you should know...

Nola frowns. What now?

WHITE FLASH

INT. CLOSED CIRCUIT VIRTUAL REALITY PORT - REBEL BUNKER

Another memory of the moments before the rocket launch. Nola witnesses Axon, Till, Strat and Nyka at the launch computers. *The COUNTDOWN READS THIRTY MINUTES.*

STRAT

*We got this, Axon. Time for you to go.*

AXON

*One more systems test.*

NYKA

*(smiling)*

*Axon, get out.*

STRAT

*Till, get him out and seal the door.*

*Till starts to usher Axon toward the exit.*

Nola glares at Axon.

NOLA

What is this?

AXON

*Wait. I should stay. If something goes wrong-*

NYKA

*Sorry, no more room for smart people.*

*Axon is shoved out of the bunker and the door locks shut in his face with a loud ECHO of hollow metal. He puts his hand on the door and hangs his head.*

WHITE FLASH

INT. CLOSED CIRCUIT VIRTUAL REALITY PORT - HYDROPONICS BAY

Nola and Axon now stand in the memory of the collapsed remains of the Hydroponics Bay. They are at the dig site and the exterior door to the Rebel Bunker.

NOLA

*It was supposed to be a remote launch. Why are people down there?*

Axon feels the anger from Nola directed at him once again. He sighs. This is hard to admit.

AXON

We couldn't risk Compliance Control intercepting the signal. The Command Net had to be on-site. Nyka, Strat, and Till volunteered to stay.

Nola stares at him in disbelief.

AXON (cont'd)

We took precautions. We stripped their ports, but they may still be alive. Search and Rescue is going to breach the door with a Mech Suit. I'll be operating it.

Frustrated and furious, Nola paces, barley holding back her emotions. Just when she was starting to trust him...

NOLA

Are you kidding me? You left them? They're still down there? Alive?!

AXON

They weren't supposed to survive.

NOLA

(shock)

What?!

(realization)

No, of course not.

AXON

They bunker was supposed to be destroyed in the launch. They knew that. They prepared for it, but...

NOLA

What do you want me to do, finish killing them for you?

There's a pause -- that's kind of what Axon was thinking.

AXON

Just cancel the search.

NOLA

Can't. The BoT want everything from the launch site. All of it.

She paces and thinks. Axon watches, worried.

AXON

If they find survivors-

NOLA  
 (sharply)  
 I know!

She huffs and stops to compose herself. A thought occurs.

NOLA (cont'd)  
 You're driving the Mech Suit?

Axon nods.

AXON  
 I could try to collapse the bunker.

NOLA  
 No. I'll delay S&R, but just long  
 enough for you to get them out -- if  
 they're still alive.  
 (beat)  
 Tonight.

Axon holds her gaze. That might work.

NOLA (cont'd)  
 Nobody else dies.

She rips out the cable to her port, and her Virtual-Self  
 fades from Axon's view.

He does the same and as he hands the cable to Nola, she  
 hands him Miwa's port device.

Axon wants to say something more, but after contemplating  
 Miwa's port he simply leaves.

Failing to compose her anger Nola snaps he next word.

NOLA (cont'd)  
 Triton.

The holographic face of a Humanoid Construct POPS UP.

TRITON  
 Yes, Director.

NOLA  
 Play back the events of today's  
 public forum. I'm looking for a  
 particular citizen.

Nola closes her eyes as her blue-filaments light-up.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. REBEL BUNKER

The SOUND OF DIGGING outside of the steel bunker door jars awake the only two remaining occupants of the room.

Nyka stirs from Strat's shoulder. Strat moves his leg and winces.

They are both tired, but manage to focus on the worrisome sound of workers just outside the door.

NYKA  
We'll run out of oxygen soon. Maybe  
we won't have to...

She glances down at the elephant in the room -- the GUN resting on the floor between them.

Strat's brow furrows. His silence is joined by the sudden SILENCE OUTSIDE. An eerie quiet...

NYKA (cont'd)  
(hopeful)  
They stopped.

They sit quietly in anticipation.

NYKA (cont'd)  
Maybe they gave up?

She frowns after she says it. There's no happy ending to this scenario either way.

She looks at Strat. She can tell he's feeling the same thing, if not more. She takes his hand.

NYKA (cont'd)  
I wanted this. It's not your fault.

He meets her gaze. She can read him like a book.

STRAT  
You only volunteered because I did.

NYKA  
You only volunteered first because  
you knew I was going to.  
(MORE)

NYKA (cont'd)

(smirk)

See, we both love each other stupid.

Strat softly laughs a little, until his eyes drift to the GUN again. Nyka sees it.

STRAT

Do you think they made contact with Kael?

NYKA

I know they did. And I know he's going to save our city.

Strat nods solemnly.

STRAT

I wish we could see it.

(groggy)

I think I'm going to go to sleep now.

Nyka holds back the tears and takes his head into her lap as he slips down to get more comfortable. She runs a hand through his hair.

NYKA

Me too.

She closes her eyes, mostly to stop the tears.

EXT. SHINE TOWN - SUNSET

The HOLOGRAPHIC DISPLAY reads, "MANDATORY 12 HR REST. S&R TO RESUME IN THE MORNING. CURFEW BEGINS IN TWENTY MINUTES."

Citizens exit their work places and proceed home in a leisurely manner. We FOCUS ON Nola. She is positioned in the shadows and casually watches the BIO-ENGINEERING FACILITY. As the workers exit, she SLOWLY BLINKS once to activate a RETINAL SCANNER. When she opens her eyes they have a GLOSSY SHEEN. She's scans the crowd diligently, and patiently.

THROUGH NOLA'S EYES

Citizens are OUTLINED in GREEN as they pass by. The building empties. More GREEN silhouettes filter through her view, and then... bingo! A glimpse of a MALE CITIZEN OUTLINED in RED. He is DR. KERR, an older gray haired man wearing a white lab coat.

BACK TO SHOT

Nola hurries through the flow of people, desperate not to lose him. Doctor Kerr takes a path between TWO BUILDINGS. Nola quickly pursues.

EXT. ALLEY

From behind Nola shouts and Doctor Kerr startles.

NOLA  
Doctor Kerr!

Kerr turns. At first he's apprehensive, but quickly smiles.

KERR  
Director Nola. How are you? I haven't seen you since you left Bio-Engineering.

Nola returns the warm smile.

NOLA  
Oh, Doctor, you know that's not entirely true. We were at the public forum together.

Kerr almost looks caught, but chuckles her accusation away.

KERR  
I'm afraid you're mistaken. I was unable to participate today.

Another smile from Nola, this time she's got him.

NOLA  
You were there, but your face wasn't. Handy, those VR identity masks. I've used them myself on occasion.

Kerr's friendly smile fades and he swallows hard.

NOLA (cont'd)  
Thing is, sometimes it's my job to unmask citizens.

A look of fear etches across Kerr's face. He nervously glances around as if Compliance Control is going to pounce on him.

KERR  
I... Am I being detained?

NOLA  
 No. Nothing like that. I just want  
 to ask you a few questions.

Kerr frowns, he doesn't like this.

KERR  
 Questions? About what?

NOLA  
 What you said... "the missing were  
 taken".

Kerr wags his head in defiance.

KERR  
 I don't know what you're talking  
 about.

Nola steps closer to him.

NOLA  
 You work in the Red Lab, Doctor. I  
 think you know exactly what you're  
 talking about.

Kerr hardens.

KERR  
 I'm not at liberty to discuss my  
 work, not even with you, Director.  
 You know that.

NOLA  
 Sure. You and I report directly to  
 the BoT. So why did you come to me?  
 What do you know about the missing  
 citizens?

Kerr backs up, worried that he's being tested, or watched by  
 a higher power.

KERR  
 Nothing. I have to go now.

He turns and starts to hurry off. Nola gives chase. She's  
 like a pit-bull. She's not going to let this go.

NOLA  
 I know about the genetic testing on  
 the exiles, Doctor Kerr. Part of the  
 project came through my lab.  
 (MORE)

NOLA (cont'd)  
You're targeting specific strands of  
DNA, and turning exiles into Ferals.

KERR  
You shouldn't be saying such things,  
Nola.

NOLA  
The Ferals are failed experiments  
aren't they?

KERR  
You're putting us in jeopardy.

Nola snags him by the arm and stops him cold.

NOLA  
It's genetic manipulation, but to  
what purpose, Doctor? Are you trying  
to make us better, stronger, more  
resilient?

KERR  
Stop it. Just stop.

NOLA  
You have the missing in the Red Lab  
don't you? You're experimenting on  
them.

Kerr looks away. He's guilty, but he denies it with a shake  
of the head. Clearly, he is morally conflicted, and scared.

NOLA (cont'd)  
What is it? What are you doing to  
them?

Kerr shakes loose of Nola's grip and looks her in the eyes.

KERR  
I can't help you, Director.

NOLA  
Then help them.

That hits home with Doctor Kerr. He seems to waver. Nola  
senses that she is about to flip him.

NOLA (cont'd)  
Can you get me inside the Red Lab?

Too much. She's said too much. She sees Kerr move away.

KERR

No. No way. Not unless you're one of the missing.

He hurries off, leaving that bombshell confession at Nola's feet.

EXT. SHINE TOWN - HYDROPONICS BAY - NIGHT

The HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR READS, "CURRENT TIME: 2 A.M. MANDATORY SLEEP CYCLE IN EFFECT. ALL PORTS ARE CLOSED. S&R TO RESUME AT 6 A.M."

INT. COLLAPSED BUNKER

There is a stillness in the room that hints of impending death. Nyka and Strat are slumped together, but are they sleeping, or have they suffocated?

Closer now... Will they take one more breath?

A MOAN OF STRESSED METAL breaks the tension.

Nyka flinches awake. She groggily looks around. Did she hear something, or was she imagining it?

Lonely silence fills the room. She saddens as she looks at Strat. He limply holds the GUN in his hand.

Nyka frowns. Is he even still alive? She places a hand on his chest, and witnesses the small rise and fall of air filling his lungs. Relief crosses her face until her eyes land on the gun. She reaches for it. Maybe now is the time to finish this.

SCREECH! The sound of the bunker door being torn from it's massive steel frame rips through the air.

A startled jerk sits Strat upright. He's oxygen deprived. They both are, but adrenaline has given him a boost.

Nyka and Strat both stare down the bunker door. Another ear-splitting SCREECH lets in gap of MOONLIGHT. A GUSH of fresh air moves across the room, which in turn breathes life back into the lungs of Nyka and Strat. But this is not their salvation, this is their doom, and it registers on both their faces.

NYKA

They're coming.

Nyka lifts Strat's GUN-HAND, and levels the pistol at her own head.

NYKA (cont'd)

Do it.

She closes her eyes and waits. Strat is mortified, but holds the GUN where Nyka left it. His HAND starts to TREMBLE. He struggles with the thought of taking her life.

The alternative SCREECHES at the door again. More light pierces the room as the BUNKER DOOR is clawed half-way open. The Mech-suit outside is folding the metal door like tin.

Strat looks back at Nyka who is now looking at him with tears in her eyes.

NYKA (cont'd)

Baby, you have to do it now. There's no other way.

More light floods the room from the Mech Suit's SPOTLIGHT. The circumstances are dire. Conflict of emotion battles across Strat's face. His HAND SHAKES almost uncontrollably.

STRAT

I... I can't. I love you.

In one lightning fast decision Strat turns the gun on himself.

BANG! A BLINDING FLASH of LIGHT.

A pause of utter disbelief from Nyka, and then...

NYKA

NOOOO!

Strat slumps down, and Nyka collapses on top of him in shock, pain, and horror.

NYKA (cont'd)

Strat...

Suddenly, the MOAN OF METAL breaks completely through the door and Nyka's sorrow. She looks up and sees the bunker door is down. The silhouette of the Mech Suit fills the opening. It's blinding spot-light zeros in on Nyka.

More sharply now, Nyka sees the clear tragedy of her boyfriend, and the reality of what she must now do.

The HISS of the Mech Suit's canopy opens. The SOUND terrifies Nyka into action. She scrambles for the gun in Strat's hand as the Mech Suit releases it's occupant.

Nyka PRIES THE GUN free. The shadowy figure enters the bunker.

With the gun in her hand Nyka swiftly puts it to her head, and then hears a familiar voice...

AXON  
Nyka! Nyka stop! It's me.

Confusion etches across Nyka's face. She doesn't lower the gun, but she pauses just long enough to see AXON appear in a SHAFT OF LIGHT.

NYKA  
Axon?

AXON  
I'm here to get everybody out.

"Everybody", that word hits home for Nyka. She looks over at Strat's body, and thinks to pull the trigger anyway.

AXON (cont'd)  
Nyka... don't...

Axon places his hand on the gun and wrenches it out of Nyka's hand.

AXON (cont'd)  
You don't have to.

NYKA  
You're not supposed to be here.

Axon starts to lift her to her feet.

AXON  
Where's Till?

Nyka doesn't respond, she's almost catatonic now. Axon has his answer as he looks around. Bad things happened here.

AXON (cont'd)  
Okay, let's get you to the Safe House.

Supporting her, Axon moves Nyka out of the bunker.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUREXT. SHINE TOWN - NIGHT

The full moon fills the sky above the city. We move closer. THE HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR READS, "CURRENT TIME: 3 A.M. MANDATORY SLEEP CYCLE IN EFFECT. ALL PORTS ARE CLOSED. S&R TO RESUME AT SUNRISE"

NOLA (V.O.)

How is Nyka?

We focus in on the OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, nearest to the wall.

AXON (V.O.)

Alive. Beyond that...?

Closer now we ZOOM IN on the pillaged remains of what once was an OFFICER'S CLUB, but now it looks more like an scrap heap surrounding the dilapidated building. Totally off the grid, neglected, and forgotten.

INT. REBEL SAFE HOUSE

NOLA

What happened down there?

Nola and Axon stand in what looks like an old wine cellar outfitted with obsolete and SCAVENGED TECH. The equipment is powered by solar batteries, but the lighting is furnished by candles.

AXON

They must have thought I was Compliance Control. I got to Nyka before she... you know...

Nola lets out a heavy sigh, and casts a worried glance at Nyka who is curled up on an old sofa with a blanket. She's traumatized and withdrawn. Nola can relate.

NOLA

Okay. Good work saving her.

Axon just nods. How much of her did he save?

NOLA (cont'd)

I unmasked Doctor Kerr. He has the missing in the Red Labs.

Axon turns to her with interest.

AXON  
He told you that?

She turns to a computer monitor and punches up rudimentary POWER GRID DISPLAY.

NOLA  
Not exactly. I followed a energy hot spot. Here.

She points to a RED PULSE.

NOLA (cont'd)  
Bio-medical Engineering. Home, sweet home. Energy consumption has tripled to this facility since the rocket launch.

AXON  
You sure they're not just ramping-up genetic crop testing?

NOLA  
Kerr is guilt-ridden, and it's not because of plants. He fell short of a confession, but yeah, he has those missing people.

Nyka stirs a little. Some of their conversation has drawn her out, at least enough to listen.

AXON  
So what do we do with that? We can't break down the doors. Can we cut the power to the facility?

NOLA  
No. Not without shutting down crop sciences too. The only way in is through Dr. Kerr.

AXON  
Will he help?

NOLA  
I don't know.  
(beat)  
He said that someone has to BE one of the missing to get into the Red Labs.

She notices a FLASHING LIGHT on another MONITOR.

NOLA (cont'd)

What's this?

AXON

The open satellite comm. Nothing from Kael yet.

That's depressing, not just to Nola, but Nyka as well. Nyka curls up a little tighter. Did Strat and Till die for nothing?

NOLA

Any luck with Miwa's port?

Axon nods toward a designated computer where Miwa's port is hooked up.

AXON

That's it there. As soon as I pinged her port something started downloading from the satellite. She must have uploaded a file before we launched. We're deciphering the code now, but these old computers are as slow as feck.

Nola nods, at least it's something positive. She glances at Nyka who has not moved an inch.

NOLA

What's going to happen to Nyka?

Axon follows Nola's gaze to the couch. He's as concerned as she is.

AXON

She'll have to stay dark. If she recovers she can operate from here.

Nola nods. The bad news just keeps coming.

NOLA

One more of the missing.

Nyka squeezes her eyes shut, trying not to cry.

A BEEP from the computer draws Axon's attention. He moves to execute a command.

AXON

Miwa's port. The data pack has been downloaded and decrypted.

NOLA  
Let's see it.

With a punch of a button the computer monitor plays a slightly static riddled VIDEO OF MIWA standing in the Rebel Bunker, pre-launch.

MIWA  
My beautiful boy, I am so very proud of you. You have done what I have always been afraid to do -- fight for what is right. I wish that I could be there to see the new world that you will build. I know that it will be a life of freedom, privacy, individual prosperity, and personal liberties, just like we talked about. I love you Kael, and I believe in you. Always remember that.

There's a somber quiet between Nola and Axon. Behind them, Nyka sits up on the sofa. She's still hurting emotionally, but Miwa's message has made her think beyond her pain.

NOLA  
I wish she was here-

NYKA  
I can get in.

Axon and Nola both turn, surprised to see Nyka standing up.

NOLA  
Nyka. How are you feeling? Do you need anything?

Nyka drops the blanket on the sofa and squares her shoulders toward them. She's certain of what she's about to say.

NYKA  
Take me back to the bunker. Turn me in to Compliance Control.

Nola moves to comfort Nyka. She can't be serious.

AXON  
Are you crazy? They'll interrogate you. They'll kill you.

Nola checks Nyka's resolve with a firm look in her eyes. Once she's satisfied with the earnest return...

NOLA  
No. She'll become one of the missing.

AXON  
That's better?

NYKA  
They'll take me to the Red Labs.  
I'll expose what they're doing, and  
spread it on the port exchange.

AXON  
You don't have access. We stripped  
you. You can't connect. Even if we  
plug you back in the moment you enter  
the system they'll shut you down.  
You've been offline too long.

NOLA  
He's right. Your data stream will  
trigger multiple fail-safes.

The look on Nyka's face indicates she understands the problem, but doesn't much care. Her eyes glance at the desktop holding Miwa's port. A thought arrives...

NYKA  
Stack the ports. Take mine, Till,  
Miwa, and Strat's, and re-code them  
to confuse the system. Once I'm  
inside, I'll feed the data to the  
satellite, and then you can broadcast  
it from here.

Axon gives pause to the idea. It could work, but he still dislikes putting Nyka back in harms way. He glances at Nola who seems a little uncertain, but willing.

AXON  
Stacking the ports will only give you  
a few minutes.

NYKA  
(shrugs)  
That's all I'll need.

For a moment it looks like Axon is going to help, but then doubt creeps in. He wags his head.

AXON  
No. You would have to smuggle the  
ports in.

(MORE)

AXON (cont'd)  
The scrapyard is going to rip your hardware out. They'll find it.

Nola nods. He's got a point.

AXON (cont'd)  
Besides that, even if you were to get inside the Red Labs you won't have the freedom to blink, let alone hack-in and port-up.

Logic and defeat. Nyka looks utterly crushed. And then Nola speaks up...

NOLA  
There may be a way... with Doctor Kerr's help.

Light at the end of the tunnel! Nyka perks up.

NYKA  
Yes! He can smuggle in the hardware, and get me in and out safely.

Frustration creeps up on Axon. The girl just doesn't give up.

AXON  
(at Nola)  
Kerr won't help, that's what you said.

NOLA  
Maybe. I mean, I couldn't appeal to his guilty conscience, but he reacted pretty positively to fear.

She's got a plan. Axon doesn't like it. She tries to sell it anyway.

NOLA (cont'd)  
He's already on our side, he just hasn't fully committed yet.

AXON  
Nuhn. Too risky. I just saved Nyka, now we're sending her back out to die? I've lost too many friends already.

NYKA

Then don't let their deaths be our failures. What they did has to mean something, or else what are we doing?

Nola hesitates, and then gives in. She stands beside Nyka showing her support. Axon is shocked.

AXON

(at Nola)

I can't believe you're going along with this. After everything...

NOLA

I can't believe you're not. Guess we've both changed.

NYKA

We're doing this, right?

Axon gives them both pause. He closes his eyes and sighs.

AXON

First of all, let's be clear... this is insane.

(at Nyka)

And suicidal.

Nola looks closely at Nyka, but the woman is solid.

NYKA

But we're doing it.

Axon checks a glance with Nola and confirms it with an eyebrow. Axon nods and shrugs.

NYKA (cont'd)

Good. We're wasting time. Put me back in the bunker.

NOLA

Slow down. This isn't going to be fun for you. You need to know what to expect...

#### MONTAGE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

##### A) EXT. COLLAPSED BUNKER - DAWN

The empty Mech Suit sits nearby the open bunker door. A crowd has gathered. Compliance Control OFFICERS keep the people back. TWO BODY BAGS are recovered, and then Axon escorts Nyka out.

The Crowd angers and Compliance Control push the citizens further back as Axon hands Nyka over to OFFICER 1 and OFFICER 2.

NOLA (V.O.)  
Once Compliance Control takes you into custody, you'll be sent to the Scrapyard.

Nyka resists as she's dragged away. Citizens express their feelings by SPITTING and SHOUTING at her.

B) INT. SCRAPYARD - EXTRACTION ROOM B

Nyka is on the table getting a BLOODWASH. Nola stands at the door watching coldly, but just under the surface she worries.

NOLA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
I can't do anything for you there.  
You'll have to endure the three B's.

On the two tables nearby, Nyka groggily looks over to see the gruesome sight of Technician 1 RIPPING HARDWARE OUT of Till and Strat's dead bodies. She turns her head and fights back the tears, finding strength in her purpose.

NOLA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
Since you're not ported, the only consolation is that there won't be a nano-scan.

NYKA (V.O.)  
What happens after that?

C) INT. STERILE HALLWAY

Nyka is wheeled out on a GURNEY with bloody bandages wrapped along her body where her hardware was stripped out. She is barely conscious. Nola observes from the end of the hall as Nyka is handed over to DR. KERR and his Red Lab TEAM.

NOLA (V.O.)  
If all goes well I'll have blackmailed Dr. Kerr into helping us.

Doctor Kerr ignores Nola's stare as he checks Nyka over. His loyalty is questionable. Nola shows signs of suspicion toward Kerr as he leaves with his Team and Nyka.

NOLA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
From there you'll be taken to the Red Labs.

D) INT. RED LABS - REPOSITORY

Nyka is wheeled into the room on the gurney. The Repository is dark, but as they enter, small sections of the room light up in a soft blue-hue. We can't see anything except Nola's immediate position, but there is a sense that this is a very big room, at least half a football field.

NOLA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
Once inside Kerr will give you the stacked ports.

Nyka wrenches her neck trying to make out the shadowy shapes in the darkness.

Dr. Kerr and his Team park the gurney and begin to hook Nyka up to a bunch of TUBES. Nyka begins to fear the worst. This isn't going according to plan.

AXON (V.O.)  
The ports will be re-coded. That will give you five minutes from hack-to-upload before they can trace you. So you need to work fast.

Doctor Kerr dismisses the Team and launches a program that sends the machine that Nyka is hooked-up to into action. Terror grips Nyka. Kerr has betrayed them!

AXON (V.O.)  
Once you're in the system, start uploading everything you can to the satellite. You should be able to open comm.'s with us. As soon as we start receiving data we'll flood the port exchange.

A CLEAR TUBE begins to fill with YELLOW FLUID. It inches closer and closer to Nyka's I.V. line. Nyka struggles against her restraints.

NOLA (V.O.)  
If your hack is detected I'll have to implement countermeasures. Any delay on my end will look suspicious.

AXON (V.O.)  
One more thing... Everything hinges on Kerr helping us.

The yellow fluid is now inches from injecting Nyka.

NOLA (V.O.)  
He'll comply. I won't give him a  
choice.

The yellow fluid is almost there. Nyka panics and glares at  
Kerr, who ignores her completely.

This is it! The plan has failed!

SMASH TO BLACK

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVEEXT. SHINE TOWN - SAFE HOUSE - DAY

Axon, and SEVERAL REBELS man the old-school computers, but nothing is happening.

ELUS

Nothin' from the satellite.

Axon paces. He's trying not to freak out, but he and everybody else are feeling the same thing. Something has gone terribly wrong.

AXON

She should have made contact by now.

EXT. DIRECTOR NOLA'S OFFICE

Alone, Nola busies herself, but she can't help but steal glances out of her window at the quiet BIO-ENGINEERING FACILITY. She fears trouble.

INT. RED LAB - REPOSITORY

The yellow fluid has now filled the tube, and closes the last gap of air to Nyka's arm. Suddenly, Dr. Kerr PINCHES OFF the line, and looks up as the LAST Team Member leaves the Repository. They are finally alone.

Kerr slowly, and carefully pulls the tube out of Nyka's arm.

KERR

Apologies. My team is thorough, and slow.

He wraps Nyka's open wound, and lets her out of the restraints.

NYKA

Where am I?

Nyka attempts to sit up, but is weak and in pain. Kerr assists her.

KERR

The Red Labs, Repository. You must hurry.

NYKA  
Repository?

KERR  
Yes. Lights to full.

A charming PONG NOISE is heard and the LIGHTS come on at full blast.

Nyka squints at first, and then as her eyes adjust, horror fills her face. FORTY-SOMETHING MISSING CITIZENS are strapped to metal tables, all unconscious with various tubes and fluids running in and out of their bodies. Some appear to be more Feral than Human. It is Dr. Frankenstein's Lab.

NYKA  
Oh my g-What are you doing to them?

She stumbles over to a nearby Citizen who looks like he is half-way to becoming a Feral.

NYKA (cont'd)  
Is tha- Is that a Feral?

Kerr is trying to urge her away, but she's not budging yet.

KERR  
These are the missing. They feel nothing. They're sedated. Come.

Nyka snaps around to him, anger creeping in. She asks again.

NYKA  
What are you doing to them?

Shame, or intimidation give Kerr pause. Maybe it's both.

KERR  
What the Overseer needs. This is yours.

He hands Nyka the stacked ports, and starts to help her further down the room.

NYKA  
What does that mean? The Overseer is allowing this?

KERR  
The information you seek is this way.

He finally gets Nyka moving, only because she's too bewildered to think.

As they walk past rows and rows of Citizens in various stages of genetic alterations, Nyka is disgusted and more resolved to expose these wrongs. She picks up the pace, as much as it physically pains her.

KERR (cont'd)

I thought that my work was for the good of the people. For our survival. Testing was only done on exiles, but this... this is wrong.

NYKA

No, this is fucked up. And you're going to help fix it.

They reach a HOLOGRAPHIC interface. Kerr stays back as Nyka enters a BLUE BEAM OF LIGHT, which SCANS HER and THE STACKED PORT. The BEAM of light FLUCTUATES between RED with a "UNKNOWN" label, and BLUE with a "RECOGNIZED" label. The system is having a hard time reading the stacked port.

NYKA (cont'd)

It's not working.

Kerr backs up, afraid. Nyka grabs him by the arm and YANKS him into the BEAM. The SCAN locks onto Kerr and a solid BLUE LIGHT labeled, "RECOGNIZED", grants access to a HOLOGRAPHIC INTERFACE. It reads, "WELCOME DOCTOR KERR."

KERR

What have you done? My port is logged in! They'll think I violated the system.

NYKA

Shut up. You'll be fine.

She watches the STACKED PORT send a CODE into the system.

KERR

No, no, no, no...

He moves to break the link, but Nyka stuns him with a punch to the face.

NYKA

Stay still.  
(nods at the image)  
Look.

The HOLOGRAPHIC INTERFACE now reads, "WELCOME DOCTOR PEN, WELCOME DOCTOR SHAF, WELCOME DOCTOR QESS." And about seven other names flash by.

NYKA (cont'd)

It's working. You're safe. Now tell me what to look for.

Kerr blinks past his fear and the pain in his face.

KERR

Recent experiments are filed under Fallout Groups A, B, and C. Each citizen is sorted by their birth generation, and genetic modifications.

As he speaks Nyka easily bypasses security features and accesses the FALLOUT FILES. It's just as Kerr said. All the missing citizens are listed in groups of experiments. Holographic images of their unaltered faces fly by. Nyka GRABS the HOLOGRAPHIC information and tosses it into download mode.

NYKA

Uploading to the satellite.

#### INT. SAFE HOUSE

Suddenly all the COMPUTERS begin to ACTIVATE. Axon and his team jump into action.

ELUS

She got it! The satellite is active.

AXON

Start flooding the port exchange. Somebody hack in to the Public News Feed.

BAN

On it!

#### INT. DIRECTOR NOLA'S OFFICE

Triton's holographic head pops into view. Nola looks up from her desk, as if busy.

TRITON

Director Nola. An anomaly has been detected on the port.

She almost smiles, but forces a frown.

NOLA  
Can you identify it?

Triton concentrates, and a STREAM OF CODE runs over his face.

TRITON  
Indeed. A viral threat. Several attacks are occurring at once. An attempt is being made to seize control of the public news feed.

NOLA  
Employ countermeasures, and trace the location of the attack.

The STREAM of code running inside Triton's head alters and shifts as he starts to hunt and block the hack.

Nola calmly watches, hoping he doesn't succeed.

INT. RED LAB - REPOSITORY

Nyka works on opening communications, but notices DRAG on the downloads.

NYKA  
Sorry Axon, no comm's for now.

She pauses in thought, and then glances around the room.

NYKA (cont'd)  
But a picture is worth a thousand words...

Kerr watches as Nyka taps into the security cameras. Several angles of the Repository appear in LIVE VIDEO. Doctor Kerr snags Nyka's hand as she grabs the holographic VIDEO FEED and prepares to send it to the satellite.

KERR  
What are you doing?

NYKA  
People need to see this. They need to see what happened to their loved-ones. It's the only way to move them into action.

Kerr places a hand on Nyka's bandaged arm and SQUEEZES hard enough to force her to let go of the images. She YELLS and loses her grip on the VIDEO FEED.

KERR

I'm on that video! Do you know what the BoT will do to me?!

He shoves Nyka back. She stumbles but regains her balance quickly enough.

Kerr makes moves on the Holographic Interface to alert security, but Nyka TACKLES him to the ground in a furious rage. All of her pinned-up emotions are taken out on Doctor Kerr as she starts to CHOKE the life out of him.

EXT. SHINE TOWN - STREETS - DAY

Citizens going about their business suddenly stop in the street and look up at the Public News Feed.

The HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR sputters to life with the FACES of their loved-ones. Words filter through reading: "BIO-ENGINEERING FACILITY, RED LAB, GROUP A, EXPERIMENTATION ON CITIZEN #364,799."

Confusion murmurs through the gathering crowd.

INT. SAFE HOUSE

Axon's TEAM fights Triton in an battle for control of the port.

AXON

In, in, in. News Feed is receiving.  
Ha-ha!

BAN

Feck! They're on to us.

Axon examines the red code as it invades their screens.

AXON

Prepare to go nuclear. Keep posting the faces of the missing. Has Nyka made contact yet?

ELUS

No. No, comm's.

BAN  
We gotta nuke the port exchange  
before they shut us down.

AXON  
Do it!

Ban begins to send the CODE.

EXT. SHINE TOWN - STREETS

A larger crowd has gathered in the streets now. The MAN from the public forum pushes through the people to see a face emerge on the HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR. He nearly collapses to his knees when he sees who it is.

MAN  
My daughter!

The News Feed Reads, "RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTATION ON CITIZEN #455,001. FAILED CURE. CATASTROPHIC REACTION. FERAL STATUS."

MAN (cont'd)  
That's my daughter!

INT. DIRECTOR NOLA'S OFFICE

Triton's head is still running frantic code against the Rebel attack.

TRITON  
They're attempting to breach  
individual firewalls.

NOLA  
Whose?

TRITON  
All of the citizenry. The virus is  
advancing rapidly.

NOLA  
Get me a location so I can send in  
Compliance Control.

TRITON  
One moment please...

Nola waits. She can't hide the worry any more. Suddenly Nola's PORT and the FILAMENTS in her skin shoot to life in BRIGHT BLUE. She grabs her head in agony.

When she opens her eyes we see images from the News FEED streaming freely in her LENSES.

EXT. SHINE TOWN - STREETS

Simultaneously all the citizens experience the same thing we just saw with Nola. Information floods their personal ports, causing pain.

INT. DIRECTOR NOLA'S OFFICE

The flood of information is crippling.

NOLA

Ahh... what's happening. Triton...

TRITON

I have the location of the security breach. Bio-engineering facility, Red Labs.

NOLA

Send a team.

Triton pauses to do so, and then...

TRITON

Compliance Control is not responding.

NOLA

Ahh... Black Veil protocol. Now!

TRITON

Initiating Black Veil protocol. In three, two...

EXT. SHINE TOWN - STREETS

The streets, the Holographic Projector, and the citizen's ports all go dark, and everything electronic in the city is shut down.

INT. RED LAB - REPOSITORY

Nola still has a strangle hold on Doctor Kerr. His skin glows blue with activity the Rebels nuclear attack. The only thing preventing Nyka from killing him is darkness and total silence as the city is shut down.

Kerr's port shuts down simultaneously.

The only light in the room is from the sky light.

Nyka snaps too, and races back to the Holographic Interface, which is no longer there. She GROWLS and grabs the stacked ports.

NYKA  
It's gone! It's all gone!

Kerr rubs his throat. His voice is raspy when he speaks. He gets up and begins to leave.

KERR  
I'll tell them you kidnapped me and forced me to help. The Director blackmailed me.

He exits and his cry for help is heard as he closes the door behind him.

KERR (O.S.)  
Security! Help!

Nyka glares and races after him only to find the door is locked. She's trapped. She peers through the WINDOW in the door and DOWN THE HALL.

#### INT. HALL

Kerr stumbles down the hallway to meet FIVE SECURITY OFFICERS. He points them toward the door. Nyka's face ducks away from the window in the door.

#### INT. RED LAB - REPOSITORY

FOOTSTEPS are heard running down the hall toward Nyka's location. She blocks the DOORS with HEAVY EQUIPMENT. It won't hold for long, but it buys some time.

Suddenly there's MOVEMENT on the gurneys. A different terror grips Nyka -- The experiments are waking up.

Frantically, Nyka looks for an escape, but there's only one door, and that leads to OFFICERS who are POUNDING on it.

She'll never make it. There's only one thing to do. One last hope to ensure that the people know what happened here.

Nyka turns to a gurney with a Feral and releases the RESTRAINTS. She moves on to the next, and the next racing to beat the POUNDING at the door before the Officers breach the room.

EXT. HALL

The Five Officers RAM and KICK at the blocked door. It begins to CRACK the BARRICADE. After one more good boot to the weak-point the DOOR FLIES OPEN, knocking the barricade down.

With Surge Pistols powered-up, the Officers enter the dark room and stop to evaluate the scene. Doctor Kerr is right behind them.

KERR  
She's here. She's hiding... Oh. Oh,  
no...

He notices that all the gurneys in the room are EMPTY.

Sheer terror grips Doctor Kerr. He begins to back out, leaving the Officers as they continue to investigate.

KERR (cont'd)  
... they're loose...

OFFICER A  
What?

Officer A turns to see Doctor Kerr flee back into the hall and disappear.

We FOCUS IN on a SHADOWY FIGURE standing at the end of the room.

OFFICER B  
Hey, you! Get down on the floor with  
your hands above your head.

The SHADOWY FIGURE awkwardly moves it's head, tasting the air, but to the Officer it looks like a shake of the head "no".

OFFICER A  
On the ground now, or we'll use force  
if necessary!

The Shadowy Figure jerks strangely, which causes the Officers to flinch and take a harder aim. But nothing happens.

OFFICER A (cont'd)  
I said- AH! GAAH!

From the darkness a FERAL leaps out and tackles Officer A, shredding his jugular. Then like a pack of wolves the rest of the Ferals converge on the FOUR remaining OFFICERS.

Blasts of ELECTRICITY LIGHT UP THE ROOM as some Officers aim and fire on the Ferals. Two Officers remain and begin retreating toward the door. The Ferals are super fast taking another Officer down as he SCREAMS.

The LAST OFFICER makes it out into the HALLWAY. Scared out of his mind he runs. The large PACK OF FERALS give chase.

EXT. BIO-ENGINEERING FACILITY - DAY

Doctor Kerr exits the MAIN DOOR, and then turns back just in time to see the LAST OFFICER piled-on by the Ferals. Screams from inside the facility as WORKERS run toward the EXIT.

Doctor Kerr joins the running Workers, but he is one of the people tackled and devoured by the Ferals.

INT. RED LAB - REPOSITORY

From the back corner of the empty room, Nyka emerges from a barricade of equipment. With her are a HANDFUL of the missing CITIZENS that have not turned FERAL, yet. They are disoriented and as physically pained as Nyka.

NYKA  
C'mon. We need to get out of here.

They make their way past the dead Officers, and into the HALLWAY.

EXT. BIO-ENGINEERING FACILITY

Nyka and the rescued Citizens exit onto the STREETS only to see utter chaos ravaging the city. FERALS are running wild, attacking anything that moves, or makes a sound. Citizens are screaming and running for safety. Compliance Control Officers are blasting away at the monsters.

NYKA  
This way. Stay close.

She leads them through the mayhem.

INT. DIRECTOR NOLA'S OFFICE

All systems are dark. No computers or holograms are running. Nola stands alone at the window watching the horror show below in the streets.

NOLA  
(whispers)  
What have you done...?

INT. STREETS

Nyka and her GROUP skirt through the city avoiding the Ferals as they ravage the citizens. Compliance Control Officers try to contain the situation. Ahead of Nyka is the REBEL SAFE HOUSE.

INT. REBEL SAFE HOUSE

Running on an independent system from the city, the Rebels still have power to the old computers, but their own ports are shut down.

The Rebels and Axon continue to sort through the information being downloaded to their computers through the satellite.

BAN  
The city is dark.

AXON  
We lost the port but we still have the satellite and everything Nyka gave us.

ELUS  
Umm, you need to see this.

Axon hurries over to Elus's station. On screen is a still satellite IMAGE of a portion of SHINE TOWN.

AXON  
What am I looking at.

ELUS  
Real time image of the city. Hold on, let me enlarge it.

The IMAGE ZOOMS IN and we see a clear picture of war in the street. Compliance Control Officers shooting at Ferals. Citizens running for their lives. And Ferals attacking everybody.

From behind, and unnoticed by Axon and his Team, Nyka and her Group enter the room.

AXON  
Those are the Red Lab Ferals.  
They're out. How did they-

NYKA  
I let them out.

AXON  
You? They're killing everybody!

MISSING  
They were killing us!

The MISSING are all tattered and tired. Axon softens at the sight of them.

AXON  
Get them blankets and rations.

A couple of Rebels retrieve the items.

NYKA  
It was the only way to expose the truth.  
(points at MISSING)  
They were being experimented on -- turning them into Ferals. We were trapped down there, letting them out was our only escape. And now they can't lie to us anymore.

Axon seems uncertain.

AXON  
I hope you're right. How long before they reboot the city?

ELUS  
Five minutes.

NYKA  
Did you get the files?

AXON  
We got them. We were able to post a few to the News Feed before the blackout. Once the port exchange is back online we'll start leaking information again.

Nyka frowns and points at an active PORT being picked up by the satellite.

NYKA

If all the ports are down, then who is that?

Axon turns to the screen, stunned to see any activity. He smiles when he realizes who it is.

AXON

It's Kael.

Everyone is filled with sudden hope, and the MISSING are even interested.

SMASH TO BLACK

THE END