

END OF ROAD

By

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SOUNDS OF A MOVING CAR --

PING

(In Chinese)

My son, the world is full of greedy people. Their greed is contagious. And I fear that someday, it might corrupt me as well.

FADE IN:

EXT. DOWNTOWN BEIJING - DAY

A black sedan drives through the deserted streets of downtown Beijing.

Inside the car, 3 people in yellow hazmat suits --

**ALFRED PETERSON**, a Caucasian man in his 40s, is on the backseat of a sedan. The **DRIVER** is Chinese. **PING LEE**, a Chinese man in his 40s is on the passenger seat.

The car takes a right turn.

Alfred sees hundreds of feet ahead 12 people in hazmat suits throwing dead corpses in plastic bags in a truck's trunk.

ALFRED

How many people so far?

PING

30 millions. That Schaumberg virus spreads way too fast.

DRIVER

Do you think you can find a cure?

PING

He is not here for that purpose.

The car stops in front of a skyscraper.

INT. CHINESE MORGUE - DAY

Alfred holds a suitcase and follows Ping and the sedan's driver in a hallway.

Ahead of them, there is a door guarded by two armed soldiers in hazmat suits.

Ping opens the door and enters the room.

A MORGUE -- There is a table with wheels and a dozen refrigeration units. Ping opens one of them and pulls out a corpse. The driver closes the door, frowns and stares --

Alfred sees the disfigured veiny face of the dead man, of which, the brain has swollen out of his skull.

PING

This is it. Patient Zero.

Ping and the driver step back and observe Alfred. The latter pulls the table close to him and puts his suitcase on it.

DRIVER

(Whispers in Chinese)

Ping, why does the American need a sample from patient zero?

PING

(Whispers in Chinese)

His machine.

Alfred opens the suitcase -- A set of syringes, a dark sphere connected by a dozen wires to an electronic tablet.

Alfred takes a syringe and plants it in the swollen brain.

DRIVER

(Whispers in Chinese)

So, this has nothing to do with finding a vaccine or a cure?

Alfred slowly pulls a black liquid from the brain.

PING

(Whispers in Chinese)

I already told you, no. It's only about business.

DRIVER

(Whispers in Chinese)

How can the government let people like this come and take whatever they want here?

Alfred holds the syringe up and stares at it --

PING

(In Chinese)

The man must have greased many palms to get this. Millions of people are dying from this disease. Yet again, the occidentals have found a way to profit from the situation.

ALFRED

Don't be naïve Mr. Ping. Some scientific leaps rely on a little disaster. And it's more than a machine. It's an intelligence.

He plants the syringe in the sphere; releases some liquid.

PING

Mr. Peterson, there is a rumor that the Schaumberg virus was engineered by the Americans, by your army.

ALFRED

(Staring at the tablet)

Who cares? A few decades from now people will have forgotten about the Schaumberg Virus and all the dead people. All that will be left of them will be a seasonal holiday and some Hollywood movies. But this will enlighten humanity for the next century.

The screen of the tablet lights up.

SCREEN

Running Simulation --

ALFRED

Come on.

SCREEN

Virtualization complete. Sample successfully integrated. 200 teraflops capability.

ALFRED

Eureka!

Alfred seems joyous, smiles and turns to Ping --

ALFRED

Now, where the child?

Ping seems shocked and turns to the driver --

PING

(In Chinese)

Leave us alone!

DRIVER

(In Chinese)

Why? Is everything --

PING

NOW!

The driver nods and leaves immediately.

Alfred, with a smile, approaches Ping and looks in his eyes. Ping seems angry.

PING

Leave him out of this!

ALFRED

We know that you've been hiding his immunity to the virus and all his other remarkable abilities from your government. Why do you think I chose you as my liaison?

PING

How did you find out?

ALFRED

Not important! What matters is that his life will never be his own if anybody else but me and my partners find out.

PING

What do you want?

ALFRED

I'm leaving for Colorado Springs tonight, with your son.

PING

You're insane. I'll never accept this.

ALFRED

I can give him a normal life, I can protect him.

PING

And why should I believe you?

ALFRED

You have to understand that it's only a matter of time until people with aggressive means knock at your door. Whether your son ends up dissected in a Beijing lab or not is your decision. I'm giving you a choice. Your government won't.

There is a short silence and Ping seems disgruntled.

PING

It's not fair.

ALFRED

Our world has very little to do with fairness. Ironically, tragedy is the cornerstone of humanity's greatest achievements.

Alfred smiles and Ping throws him a look of disgust.

PING

You will never have my son.

Alfred shakes his head and steps back.

ALFRED

I wish you didn't say that.

GUNSHOTS OUTSIDE -- Ping is startled. Alfred doesn't move.

**ALLAN PIERCE** pushes the door open and points a gun at Ping, frozen and terrified.

Allan is in his 30s, standing tall in his hazmat suit.

In the hallway Ping sees the inert bodies of the soldiers and the driver, lying in their blood.

ALFRED

Thanks Allan. Shoot him in the leg.

Allan shoots Ping in the left leg. He falls down, SCREAMS.

PING  
DAMN YOU PETERSON!

Alfred closes the suitcase, takes it and looks down at Ping.

ALFRED  
With your open wound, the virus in the atmosphere will work even faster. (Pause) It's nothing personal you know. I've invested a lot of money in this. But don't worry, I will treat your son as my own child.

Ping cries. Alfred walks out --

ALFRED  
Lock him in.

Allan steps out and locks the door as Ping SCREAMS.

Ping, lying in his blood in the middle of the morgue, removes the top of his hazmat suit. He breathes heavily. He reaches for the pocket of his shirt inside the hazmat suit, pulls out a picture and stares at it --

He sees in the photo his own self holding a 5-year-old Chinese boy in his hands. They both happily smile in the picture. A tear drops down Ping's face.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Alfred and a **CHINESE BOY**, the kid from the earlier picture, are escorted by an armed Allan. They no longer wear hazmat suits and all wait on top of a skyscraper by a helipad.

The 5 years-old kid sobs as he watches a heavy transport helicopter approach and land.

Alfred grabs the kid by the hand and leads him to the chopper. Allan stays put. Alfred opens the door --

The boy SEES a **7 YEARS-OLD BLACK BOY** and a **5-YEARS OLD GIRL**, both secured on their seats. The girl is asleep.

Alfred secures the Asian boy on a seat. Alfred walks fast towards Allan and they start discussing under the worried eyes of the Asian boy.

BLACK KID  
What's your name?

The Asian kid looks at his interlocutor who seems calm.

BLACK KID (CONT'D)  
(In Chinese)  
What's your name?

CHINESE KID  
Jason.

BLACK KID  
(In Chinese)  
Are you different too?

The Asian kid nods.

BLACK KID (CONT'D)  
(In Chinese)  
Is your family dead too?

The Asian kid nods.

BLACK KID (CONT'D)  
(In Chinese)  
Don't worry! I'll protect you.

The Asian kid looks at the little girl.

CHINESE KID/JASON  
(In Chinese)  
Who is she?

BLACK KID  
(In Chinese, looking at her)  
Someone special.

They stare at the girl who sleeps peacefully.

EXT. FORT CARSON 7TH ROBOTICS DIVISION - DAY

20 YEARS LATER --

The young face of **SGT. JOHN HART** -- he drives a military jeep on a tarmac road.

John is 23, clean cut in an impeccable uniform.

In the surroundings, there are military hangars populated by rows of giant 20-foot tall humanoids.

A quadcopter flies over the jeep -- past the hangars and -- towards a shooting range where -- A dozen humanoids under human supervision hit cardboard targets half a mile away.

By the training field, engineers surround an intermodal container with the inscriptions "BRIGHT ROBOTICS INC.".

INT. MILITARY OFFICE - DAY

A **COMMANDING OFFICER**, in his 60's, glasses on his nose, sat at his desk, looks on a tablet as John is sat in front him.

A window in the background gives a panoramic view of the military base. The earlier intermodal container is visible a few hundred feet away.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Well, Sergeant John Hart, your qualifications are impressive.

JOHN

Thank you sir!

COMMANDING OFFICER

I am a bit curious though --

The commanding officer poses the tablet and looks at John.

COMMANDING OFFICER (CONT'D)

Why did you ask to come here while you could easily get a better opportunity in Seattle?

JOHN

My mother-in-law lives in Seattle.

The commanding officer laughs at the joke.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Seattle is all about remote control of the IA, I am more interested in direct interactions. I personally think it is more effective, sir.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Fair enough!

A loud squeaky sound draws the attention of both men --

The intermodal container opens -- The 2 men see **COMMANDER 1.0** walk out of the container.

It is a 10-foot tall humanoid. Its metallic armor is all black and its eyes are made of dark glass. It has four symmetrical propellers on its back.

COMMANDING OFFICER

It's just our new specimen.

JOHN

The Commander, I read about its 10 exaflops bio-computer. Enough to surpass human strategists.

The officer looks with seriousness at John.

COMMANDING OFFICER

War as any human business is never as one-dimensional as straight logic. So whatever new capability these robots have, they are just useless without human guidance.

John nods.

COMMANDING OFFICER (CONT'D)

Your first assignment will be to escort a convoy of unmanned units including the Commander to the Air Force Academy for a training session. Captain Jack Douglas will be your C.O.

JOHN

Yes Sir.

EXT. FORT CARSON 7TH ROBOTICS DIVISION - DAY

Engineers examine Commander 1.0. Its propellers vibrate and release a harmless white fume. The head of Commander 1.0 slightly lifts up and emits 2 beeps.

The eyes of the machine become lighted by an intense red.

INT. PETERSON'S OFFICE - DAY

A small cubic device held by a delicate hand with a green flashing indicator light.

On the walls, a photo of 3 people in lab coats smiling, Alfred, a bald man in his 60s and another in his 30s and -- a Nobel Prize certificate to the name ALFRED PETERSEN.

ALFRED

Are you recording?

A **FEMALE JOURNALIST**, holding the cubic device, is sat across a large desk in front of an older Alfred with a grey beard.

JOURNALIST

Yes I am. Thanks for having me Doctor Petersen. It's an honor.

ALFRED

And my pleasure, really. Science Century is my favorite magazine.

JOURNALIST

Happy to hear that. So doctor, you earned the Nobel Prize in 2030 by building a computer that is part-electronic, part-biological, the perfect mixture of electronic circuits and engineered DNA based on a deadly Virus, the Schaumberg virus that took the lives of 100 million people in 4 months in 2025.

Alfred nods and smiles.

JOURNALIST (CONT'D)

My first question is about the origin of the virus. There has been allegations that the Schaumberg virus was engineered by the American Army, your biggest contractor. What do you have to say about that?

ALFRED

The same thing I've been telling for years. Bright robotics didn't even exist yet when the 2025 pandemic happened --

JOURNALIST

Yes but there are abundant rumors that you secretly worked for the CIA around that time.

Alfred chuckles.

ALFRED

Rumors and conspiracy theories, there are so many of them. The truth of the matter is that the Schaumberg virus was a disastrous random event. I just found a way to make something good out of it.

JOURNALIST

How were you able to integrate such a deadly entity into a viable non-infectious bio-computer?

ALFRED

If you're asking me for the formula to our DNA sub-components, I have to remind you that it is confidential.

JOURNALIST

Considering that Bright robotics supplies countless sectors worldwide with his bio-computers and, as of today, counts a million military robots on the US soil alone, (pause) don't you think the general public deserves the right to know more about this technology?

ALFRED

After 15 Years, there has been zero report of unsafe material delivered by my company. This is why we're leaders not only in the domains of robotics, but also in aviation, energy, even medical research and many other fields. My point being, the Bright bio-computers are perfectly safe. That is all the people need to know.

EXT. BRI RESEARCH CENTER - DAY

We see Alfred in his office through a window -- His office is on the top level of the Bright Robotics Incorporated Research Center. We overfly the 1,370-acre installation that is on a hilltop, separated from the surrounding forest by a concrete wall.

The facility comprises 3 buildings, large parking spaces and driveways: a medical center, a shell-shaped exposition center with 2 backdoors and a main entrance, and the main building with 6 levels. Alfred's Office is at the 6th level.

INT. BIO-ROBOTICS LAB - DAY

**TIM LANGO**, on one knee, is behind a 4-foot tall 6-axis robotic arm that has a canon at its end and a four-wheeled oval base.

Tim is 25, black and athletic built, wearing a white coat.

He sees on the oval base by the inscriptions "XERIA 2.0" an open compartment with transparent circuits conducting dark electricity.

TIM

Everything seems fine. Software?

Tim looks up and sees on his left -- **OLIVER KWAME** sat at a desk. The latter types on a virtual keyboard in front of a screen. A transparent door encrusted in a grand glass separates the robot from the desk.

Oliver is 32, black and short, with large glasses and speaks with a Ghanaian accent --

OLIVER

Hmm -- No -- There is absolutely nothing wrong here.

TIM

Do you see anything Cech?

Tim looks to the right. There stands a man in a lab coat -- **CECH STEPHANOVIC** stares at schematics on a screen encrusted in a wall next to an extinguisher and a red emergency button with glass enclosures. Behind Oliver and Cech, at the end of the room, there are 2 symmetrical doors with electronic locks on the left and right wall.

Cech, 34, tall, stocky, has a Slovak accent.

CECH

Nothing Tim! The only alternative  
is the biological components.

Tim closes the open compartment of the Xeria.

TIM

Unlikely but if it is the bio-comp  
we can't do anything but wait for  
Tanya.

Tim gets up. He walks past the robot. There are weights by  
the wall at which the robot's canon is aimed.

OLIVER

Talking about Tanya, what's going  
on between you too?

TIM

Here we go! You know what, Oliver?  
I will not answer that.

Oliver smiles, sits back and stares at Tim who slides open  
the transparent door.

OLIVER

Oh my God! You guys did it, didn't  
you? Did you? Did you do it? You  
know you can trust us. We're best  
friends. So tell us, did you do it?  
Dirty stuff maybe? She seems like  
she'd like dirty things.

Tim shakes his head. Cech chuckles.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Oh, COME ON MAN! Did you bang her?

The door behind Oliver opens -- Alfred, holding a tablet,  
enters under the eyes of Tim, Cech and Oliver.

ALFRED

What are you still doing here? It's  
long past 6PM.

CECH

The targeting system failed. Aim  
calibration is not working. Maybe  
the bio-computer is acting up.

OLIVER

We tested, re-tested and re-started everything but we're stuck. So, to answer your question boss, we just wasted 2 valuable hours of our lives for the love of science.

ALFRED

Well, the world will live another day without unraveling the intricacy of levitation. You youngsters can rush home and live whatever delusional way of life is yours.

Tim smiles as he takes his coat off. Oliver reaches for a bag under his desk. Alfred starts typing on his tablet.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

Mister Lango? There is another unanswered question, though.

TIM

What, Doctor Peterson?

Alfred looks at Tim, a smile at the corner of his mouth.

ALFRED

Did you bang the girl?

Cech and Oliver laugh. Tim frowns.

TIM

Why would -- I don't -- This is --

INT. BRI RESEARCH CENTER ELEVATOR - DAY

An elevator board with 6 levels labeled from 1 to 6, and 2 underground levels labeled B-1 and B-2 -- A finger pushes the button B-1 that lights up. Oliver, smiling, stands between Cech and Tim, frowning, who are in the corners of the elevator. They all have computer bags and no coats.

TIM

This is so inappropriate.

OLIVER

Yet, so funny; but seriously Tim, what happened with Tanya?

TIM

Tanya is my friend. Plus, you know  
I have a girlfriend.

OLIVER

In CANADA, 10000 miles away from  
Colorado Springs; you ought to live  
a little my friend. Plus Tanya, she  
is -- How can I tell you?

TIM

Please don't tell me!

OLIVER

Her ass, Tim; her perfectly shaped  
ass, I often have dreams about it,  
in which I climax during an odd and  
wrongfully pleasant mixture of  
bondage sex and Sitophilia.

Cech and Tim look at Oliver then at each other.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Her ass; it's the eight wonder.

CECH

He has a wife and kids, right?

TIM

(Nodding)

Five! All daughters!

OLIVER

Don't try to change the subject.

The elevator stops. The door opens. The 3 men stare with  
surprise at **JASON LEE** who enters --

Jason is 25, Chinese, with short spiky hair.

The door closes as Jason pushes the button 1. All except  
Jason in the elevator look uncomfortable as they stand in  
silence. Oliver clears his throat. Cech looks at the  
ceiling. Tim stares at Jason who has a straight face.

TIM

Jason, what are you doing here?

The elevator stops. Jason gives a mean look at Tim as the  
door opens.

JASON

Watch your back Lango.

Jason walks out as Tim, Cech and Oliver stare at him.

INT. BRI RESEARCH CENTER GARAGE LEVEL B-1 - DAY

A half-empty underground parking level well lighted with small cameras on the corners -- The elevator door is part of a concrete wall on which "LEVEL B-1" is painted. A display screen above the elevator indicates 1 then B-1. There is a ding. The elevator door opens --

TIM

Jason is a hazard. With the flood,  
and the drugs -- Why the hell would  
Peterson hire him back?

Oliver walks out of the elevator followed by Tim and Cech.

CECH

He is the boss.

OLIVER

Yeah, what you gonna do? He owns  
this facility.

TIM

So what? He doesn't own us. I'm  
sick of his erratic behavior.

CECH

Maybe don't take it personally. For  
Peterson it is always about  
scientific results.

Cech and the two others go in opposite directions.

CECH (CONT'D)

(Waving at Tim and Oliver)  
See you tomorrow guys.

Tim waves once to Cech who walks away.

OLIVER

See you, man.

Tim and Oliver walk along the concrete wall. 70 feet ahead of them, 3 cars are parked, front ends close to the wall.

The closest car is a sports car with 4 exhaust pipes. The other cars are 2 black SUVs without exhaust pipes.

OLIVER

Cech is right you know. All that the boss wants is to complete the Xeria as fast as possible.

TIM

At what cost?

Tim pulls out of his pocket car keys and pushes a button -- The NSX headlights flash once and locks unclench.

OLIVER

That is your car?

TIM

Yep, 2017 NSX.

OLIVER

THAT -- is your car.

The 2 men reach the NSX. Oliver inspects the car, looks through the windows while Tim stares at him with a smile.

TIM

I got it for a steal yesterday.

OLIVER

In other words, someone got rid of their piece of crap.

Oliver notices the pipes at the rear end of the car.

OLIVER

EXHAUST PIPES! Dude! That's 10 years of scientific regression.

Oliver approaches the driver door of the nearest SUV.

TIM

Come on! It's a classic.

OLIVER

In what reality is it a classic? You have keys, man. Look at me.

Oliver approaches the SUV driver's door handle with his left hand while looking at the board -- The SUV board projects a tender light on Oliver's face. The headlights of the car

flash once and the locks unclench. Oliver enters the car and looks at Tim. The board lights up.

OLIVER

The smartest junction of facial recognition and motion detection. Can your carousel do that? (Pause) Oliver Junior, take me home.

The door closes and the SUV's engine starts.

TIM

Seriously, you named your car Oliver Junior?

OLIVER

It's my baby. And F.Y.I. That is vocal recognition. Technically, even horses have that function. HORSES, Tim! Can your car do that?

TIM

You're such an annoying little man.

Oliver waves with both hands at Tim while the SUV backs out.

OLIVER

Hands free!

The SUV drives away past the NSX. Smiling, Tim shakes his head and enters his car. Tim throws his bag on the passenger seat, sits, stops smiling and seems lost in his thoughts for a moment.

Tim takes from his bag a small black box and opens it -- A diamond ring inside. A phone rings and startles Tim. He closes the box, puts it back in the bag and takes out of his bag an extremely slim tactile cellphone. The screen displays a portrait of **TANYA MORALES** with the subtitle "TANYA CALLING".

Tanya is 24, skinny with short hair.

Tim smiles and taps on the screen.

TIM

Hey Tanya, What's up?

TANYA (Voice only)

Nothing much. What's up with you?

TIM

Same old. Peterson pissing me off.

TANYA (Voice only)

I told you to stop arguing with his decisions. He is insane and dangerous.

TIM

I know. How was your vacation?

TANYA (Voice only)

Amazing but I'll tell you tomorrow. AND, talking about tomorrow, the party starts at 9PM instead of 8PM?

TIM

Yeah, I won't be doing anything else anyway so whatever.

TANYA (Voice only)

Oh, how great to know that we'll be your choice by default.

TIM

You know that's not my thing.

TANYA (Voice only)

What? Birthdays are not your thing?

TIM

You know, if anything, it's just another year towards sure death.

TANYA (Voice only)

Wow! You know what? No matter how depressing you'll try to be - And I know you will - luckily for you, I planned everything. This day will be engraved in your memory forever.

TIM

Is that so?

TANYA (Voice only)

You can bet on it.

TIM

Ok, I trust you to do something special like you always do.

TANYA (Voice only)  
Aw! You trust me.

Tim smiles.

TIM  
Yeah, trust, that's what it is.

TANYA (Voice only)  
Ok, see you tomorrow then.

TIM  
Yeah, Take care. Bye.

As Tim hears Tanya hang up, his smile vanishes.

EXT. COLORADO SPRINGS DOWNTOWN - DAY

General William Palmer statue -- Tim, in his car, drives by the roundabout in front of William Palmer high school. The circulation is light. A few pedestrians populate the street of downtown Colorado.

Tim's car stops at a red light. There is a construction site on Tim's right flank -- On the construction site, a 10-foot tall robot shaped like an octopus organizes beams into an unfinished metallic structure. A billboard nearby the site reads "B.R.I. PARKING SYSTEM COMING SOON".

Tim sees a fast train on an aerial railway 300 feet ahead. The light turns green. Tim starts moving buty HEARS a distant explosion. Startled, Tim breaks abruptly and looks around nervously.

TIM  
What the hell was that?

Tim sees in the distance beyond all buildings a cloud of smokes rise into the sky.

INT. TIM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Absolute darkness -- A door opens. In front of the open entrance, Tim's figure stands in a well-lit hallway, holding his bag.

Tim has very little visibility. He steps forward and --  
Automatically, lights turn on.

He sees the living room, a multimedia furniture, a coffee  
table and -- SOMEONE sat legs crossed on the couch.

MAN ON THE COUCH  
I've been waiting for you.

Tim jumps with fright.

TIM  
JOSHUA, what is wrong with you?

It is **JOSHUA BLOOMBERG**, redhead, 28, colorful clothing.

Joshua laughs. He laughs so hard he falls to the ground.

Tim and Joshua sat on the couch, each hold a beer bottle.  
Joshua swipes through a cellphone he holds. Tim watches the  
TV in the multimedia furniture --

TIM  
How the hell did you get in here?

The TV displays the opening credits of "Lost in space". The  
sound coming from the TV is very low.

JOSHUA  
I'm a genius, that's how. But,  
seriously, you're not safe in this  
building. (Pause) Hey, do you want  
to hear about something strange?

TIM  
Only always.

JOSHUA  
I'm working on the last underground  
level renovation since you geniuses  
almost flooded the whole facility.  
How come you still got your jobs?

TIM  
Not responding to that so go on.

JOSHUA  
Anyway, the whole filtering system  
literally blew up so hard, it  
fractured the concrete walls. And,  
you'll never guess what I found?

TIM  
TV SWITCH TO LOCAL NEWS!

On TV appears **EMILY DELAWARE**, a reporter in her 30s. Half a mile behind her, smokes come from a damaged building covered by immense solar captors. It is a power plant surrounded by firefighters. Bottom captions read "Breaking News - B.R.I. EL PASO Power Plant Critical Failure".

JOSHUA  
(Talking with excitement)  
A collapsed entrance to miles and miles of pre-colonial human-made tunnels leading all around the region. I traced a map on my phone. Look at that!

Joshua opens by a double-tap a map on his phone. He shows his phone to Tim who glances at it and looks back at the TV.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)  
They go as far as Monument. SO, who dug them? Why? AND how come nobody ever mentioned them before? Mind-blowing RIGHT?

Joshua observes Tim who nods his head while watching the TV.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)  
Are you even listening to me?

TIM  
Of Course. You have all my attention. TV VOLUME UP TO 20!

A level volume bar adjusts from 10 to 20. Joshua shakes his head and looks at the TV --

EMILY  
The missing operator was luckily found a minute ago. The fire has now been 100% contained. Back to you Carson!

TIM  
So that was the explosion. That scared the hell out of me.

Images switch to a CSCN-TV-news-set with **CARSON DOWNING**, a news anchor in his 40s on a desk. A picture of the power plant on fire remains on the top left of the screen.

CARSON

Thanks Emily! There was an explosion at the El Paso power plant a few minutes ago. Bright Robotics specialists are currently investigating its origin. We'll get back to that story in a moment. In other news, a shepherd dog --

JOSHUA

Probably an operator in Seattle who fucked up.

TIM

That has never happened. The security protocols are tight. Although, it is kind of bogus, that all the company data and control directives for all the robots, the power plants, the satellites - everything - transit through that one center in Seattle.

JOSHUA

The boss says it's un-hackable.

TIM

Well, Petersen says a lot of things that are plain lies.

Joshua looks at Tim and lifts his eyebrows.

EXT. PIKE NATIONAL FOREST - NIGHT

We see through binoculars the El Paso power plant site still surrounded by firefighters.

In the dark forest, a figure among the trees watches in the distance through military-grade binoculars. Behind him, stands **LEE**, a 40-ish Chinese male watching a tablet.

LEE

(In Chinese)

The test was successful.

The other man lowers the binoculars, revealing his face -- It's Ping, his face is wrinkly and very veiny, his right eye is artificial and there is an electronic implant with a button on the right side of his face.

PING

(In Chinese)

Perfect, (Pause) Lee, check the cartridges.

Lee looks at the back of Ping's head -- The back of his neck is entirely metallic. A red indicator light is flashing. Ping pushes the button on the implant in the side of his face. His metallic back-neck opens --

Among the electronic circuits Lee notices two transparent small cubic cartridges containing non-homogeneous black and white liquids.

LEE

(In Chinese)

The process is highly toxic for your own bio-computer.

Lee pulls out the two cubic elements and throws them away. By his feet, he sees a small suitcase, opens it -- There is a dozen cartridges with a homogeneous black liquid inside. He takes two cartridges and plugs them in Ping's back-neck.

LEE (CONT'D)

(In Chinese)

Are you sure you want to do this?  
It could kill you.

PING

(In Chinese)

I am already dead.

INT. TIM'S MIND - NIGHT

Tim stands in a place made of smoke and white light.

He looks around and sees -- 2 little black girls giggle and run around him. He can't distinguish their faces but notices their necklaces, golden pendants carved with a dragonfly image. The girls run away and are joined by an adult black woman. Tim sees the 3 figures look back at him and waive.

He HEARS the thunder and looks up.

Small raindrops fall from the sky on Tim's face. The drops, one by one, turn into flames on Tim's face. Tim panics, shakes and tries to extinguish the fire with his hands from his face, his shoulders, and his body. The surroundings become sinister as fire rains from the sky.

Covered in flames, Tim falls on the ground. The flames on his body turn into ashes. Half-burnt, Tim grunts in pain and lifts up his head.

In his wide open eyes, there is the reflection of the woman and the girls burning and agonizing. Tim struggles to crawl towards the vivid fire. A military boot steps in front of Tim -- Tim looks up and sees a figure with red eyes.

INT. TIM'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lying on his bed, Tim wakes up with a start, sweating.

TIM

A nightmare, the same nightmare.

Tim sits up, closes his eyes, holds his head with both hands and whispers words we do not hear. Tim opens his eyes and looks to his right --

There is a dresser on which is a digital frame. The frame displays the time "8/25/2045 - 8:35AM" and a photo of Tim and Jason, in soccer outfits, holding together a trophy.

TIM

SHIT! I'm late.

Tim agitatedly jumps out of bed.

INT. BRI BIO-ROBOTICS LAB - DAY

Oliver and Cech are at their former working positions. Their screens display an error message "RECALIBRATION STARTUP FAILURE". Alfred is next to Cech. Tanya stands by the Xeria. Tim pushes open the door close to Oliver. He carries a lab coat and a computer bag. The other scientists look at Tim.

TIM

Sorry, I'm late.

Alfred stares as Tim who puts down his bag, wears his coat.

ALFRED

(With a sarcastic tone)  
Oh, Mister Lango, only by an hour.  
We've been playing "spin the  
bottle" waiting for your  
outstanding expertise to  
recalibrate the targeting system.

Tim glances at Alfred and heads towards the Xeria.

TIM

No need for awkward sarcasm.

Tanya heads toward Tim as he opens the transparent door.

TANYA

Hey, birthday boy!

TIM

Hi Tanya.

Tim and Tanya stop and look in each other eyes.

TANYA

I changed the DNA cartridges, reset  
the bio-computer, so it is back to  
full capability.

Tim nods and Tanya smiles.

TANYA (CONT'D)

You look awful by the way.

TIM

Yeah, strange night.

Alfred CLEARS his throat.

Tanya walks in direction of Cech. Tim closes the transparent door. He gets in front of the canon and taps on its side -- A LED screen pops out. It displays a blurry three-dimensional representation mapping the room.

TIM

Ok, shut it all down.

Oliver sees on his screen the error message disappear. Lines of code fill up the screen at an exponential rate.

OLIVER  
 (Frowning)  
 What the fuck is that?

The Xeria emits multiple beep sounds which startle Tim.

TIM  
 OLIVER, CUT THE POWER --

A light beam from the canon projects violently Tim into the weights and the wall behind him.

The others are startled and shocked.

TANYA  
 OH MY GOD!

Cech pushes the emergency button -- All screens and lights turn red.

Tim, lying down, sees Cech pick up the extinguisher and Alfred run to him. All turn into a blinding light.

INT. BRI INFIRMARY BEDROOM - DAY

The blinding light dims. A blurry face appears.

TANYA  
 He's waking up!

The blurry face turns into Tanya's.

TANYA (CONT'D)  
 You're ok! You're at the infirmary.

Tim looks at himself, lying on a bed in a hospital gown. There is a bracelet on his wrist indicating his pulse and blood pressure. Tanya is sat on the bed by his left side.

Tim looks into Tanya's eyes.

TIM  
 Tanya?

TANYA  
 (With a smile)  
 That was quite a stunt, huh?

Tim sits up and looks around --

Oliver and Cech stand in front of his bed. Behind Tanya, a window gives a view of a pine tree forest. There is a door in the corner on the right wall. A few feet next to the door, Alfred is sat on a chair back to the right wall.

OLIVER

Hey buddy, how are you doing?

TIM

I'm assuming, pretty bad, since you just called me buddy.

Oliver, Tanya and Cech laugh. Tim contorts his neck.

TIM

What the hell happened?

ALFRED

The levitation prototype kicked your ass in an approximately YouTube-worthy-moment. I'd post the video myself if it wasn't for the possible lawsuits and the fact that nobody uses YouTube anymore.

Oliver chuckles, Cech frowns and Tanya rolls her eyes. Tim looks at Alfred with a straight face.

TIM

I do remember the whole thing. But, what caused this?

TANYA

That is for us to worry about. You should just rest.

Tim looks around.

TIM

Where is my bag?

OLIVER

Hm Probably at the lab.

The door opens. All turn to see enter **MARIA MORALES**.

She is 40, of Latino descent, short, with reading glasses and a white coat. She holds an electronic tablet.

Maria looks at Tim and smiles as she closes the door.

MARIA  
Morning, Mister Lango.

TIM  
Morning, Doctor Morales.

MARIA  
I need to talk to Mister Lango in private now.

ALFRED  
OK, come on my beloved lab rats, we need to diagnose this mess. We can hopefully finish before the expo.

OLIVER  
Take care, man.

Alfred walks towards the door followed by Oliver and Cech. Alfred opens the door and holds it. Tanya gets up looking in Tim's eyes.

TANYA  
I'll see you later then?

TIM  
Actually, could you stay a little longer? I need to talk to you.

TANYA  
Ok (Pause) I'll wait outside then.

Tanya heads towards the door. Cech and Oliver walk out. Maria stops Tanya by taking her hand and whispers in her ear but Tanya reacts with hostility --

TANYA  
None of your business mother.

Tanya glances at Tim and walks out.

MARIA  
Doctor Peterson?

Alfred turns his attention to the doctor.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
We will have to talk about your disregard for all the safety rules that you ironically established.

ALFRED

OH, relax, Maria.

Alfred closes the door. Maria turns her attention to her tablet and sees -- Tim's patient chart which displays a schematic of his body and his vital signs.

MARIA

So, how are we doing?

TIM

I'm doing great! As a matter of facts, I never felt better.

Maria nods and looks at Tim with a straight face.

TIM (CONT'D)

That's a good thing, right?

MARIA

It should be; your vitals are off the chart but I've seen the recordings. The shock was violent. Yet, you don't even have a scratch.

TIM

How is that possible?

MARIA

I don't know. As much as I would like to believe in miracles, I'm going to run a few more tests before clearing you out.

TIM

Ok!

MARIA

I'll come back.

Maria walks out. Tim sighs and seems lost in his thoughts for a moment. Tanya walks in and closes the door after her.

TIM

Hey, you're back.

Tanya approaches Tim and stands close to him. They regard each other without a word for a second.

TANYA

You wanted to tell me something?

Tim suddenly avoids Tanya's eyes.

TIM

I wanted to tell you that. (Pause)  
It's kind of a -- Well --

TANYA

What is it?

Tim looks in Tanya's eyes and there is a short silence.

TIM

I'm going to propose to Kate.

TANYA

Wow! (Pause) That is --

TIM

It just seems right. I mean, like  
the right time.

TANYA

Yes, of course.

Tanya nods and scratches the back of her neck.

TIM

We've been together for 9 years.  
Being with someone for that long --

TANYA

I'm happy for you.

Both silent for a moment --

TIM

What happened between us --

TANYA

That meant nothing.

Tanya looks Tim in the eyes. He is speechless. She crosses her arms and has a straight face.

TANYA

Hormones! That's all it was.

Tanya chuckles uncomfortably.

TANYA (CONT'D)

I would know, I'm a bio-specialist,  
so (Pause) no need to --

Tanya looks to the ground. There is another short silence.

TIM

I just really thought that we --

TANYA

Is that all you wanted to tell me?  
I have to work, prepare a few  
elements for the open doors.

TIM

No, yeah, that was it. That's what  
I wanted to tell you.

TANYA

(Shaky voice)

Ok cool, congratulations are in  
order I guess. I'll see you later.

Tanya leaves as Tim looks disgruntled.

EXT. PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Montreal Airport departures -- A lot of people walk in and out with their luggage. A sedan parks in front of the entrance. The passenger door opens and a woman steps out.

It is **KATE LEMOINE**, 23, blonde hair with long extensions, skinny, sundress and high heels. She has a big handbag.

**J.J.** is at the wheel and observes Kate who hurryingly opens the back door. She picks a suitcase from the backseat. Kate closes the doors and walks away, rolling her suitcase.

J.J. notices a Canadian passport left on the passenger seat. He picks up the passport and fast steps out of the car.

J.J.

Wait, Kate? KATE?

Kate stops and turns around as J.J. holds the passport up. J.J. hands the passport over the car and Kate takes it.

KATE

Thank you, J.J.

J.J.

You didn't even say goodbye.

KATE

(Talking fast)

Sorry, I'm so stressed out. It's just those 3 months without seeing him. We fight all the time. I don't know what to make of it. It's like I feel excited and puzzled at the same time because what if we're not just in a slump but it's the beginning of the end. What if his feelings were replaced by a shadow of what we once were?

J.J.

Wow, calm down, seriously! You're overthinking it. I'm sure he'll be super happy to see you. Now go before you miss your flight.

KATE

Ok, thank you J.J.

Kate waives goodbye and hustles to the departures entrance.

INT. BRI INFIRMARY RECEPTION - DAY

Tim waits in front of a **RECEPTIONIST**'s semi-circular desk. Tim has casual clothes on. He holds a plastic bag containing his original clothes.

The receptionist types on a tablet, then hands it to Tim.

RECEPTIONIST

We need your right handprint on this one as well.

Tim takes the tablet and puts his right hand on the screen. He hears a beep. Tim hands the tablet to the receptionist who takes it.

TIM

Could I see Doctor Morales? I wanted to ask her something.

RECEPTIONIST

She left for a meeting outside the facility. Do you want me to refer you to another physician?

TIM

No, it can wait.

A **B.R.I. NURSE** in scrubs passes behind Tim. She is holding a covered plastic coffee cup.

RECEPTIONIST

Have a good day.

Tim turns away from the desk and -- He BUMPS into the nurse.

The cup of coffee falls off the nurse's hands. The cover opens. The cup flips and liquid spills out. Tim tries to catch the cup that gets close to the soil. The cup flips and falls on its base. The liquid is drawn back inside. The cover falls on the top of the cup.

The nurse and Tim stare at the cup in surprise. The nurse picks up the cup. The receptionist stands to see what happened over her desk.

TIM

Wow! I'm sorry.

Tim looks at the nurse who holds up her cup of coffee.

TIM (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry.

B.R.I. NURSE

It's ok, I still have my coffee.

RECEPTIONIST

That's almost miraculous.

TIM

Strange things happening today.

EXT. COLORADO ROAD 22 - DAY

A convoy of 6 military vehicles traverse a pine forest on a two-way tarmac road in the mountainous landscape. The first and last cars are armored Hummers. The other 4 are large trucks. The first 3 transport each a dozen robots in their open trunks. The last one transports Commander 1.

In the leading car, John is the driver. On the back seats there are 4 armed infantry soldiers. In the passenger seat, **CAPTAIN JACK DOUGLAS** -- a soldier in his late 30s.

JOHN

I wanted to tell you Captain Douglas that it's an honor to work with you. I heard a lot about what you did in China.

JACK

The reports were exaggerated.

JOHN

Maybe but for many, you are a living legend, a hero.

JACK

I'm not a hero. There is no noble purpose or greater good that comes for wearing this uniform. There is just a mission, then another one.

John lifts up his eyebrows and there is an uncomfortable silence. Jack glances at John.

JACK (CONT'D)

I heard you could have gone in Seattle. Why did you take this job?

JOHN

Seattle is all about remote control of the IA, I am more interested in direct interactions. I personally think it is more effective, sir.

JACK

That's the kind of crap you should save for the higher ranks. What is the real reason?

JOHN

Hm (pause) it's for my son.

John clears his throat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

He has a rare disease that is only treated in this part of the country.

JACK

The B.R.I. Research Center?

JOHN

Yes, it's easier for us to live in Colorado Springs.

JACK

Have you already been there?

JOHN

No, but I have an appointment next week.

Jack nods. Jack points ahead.

JACK

We'll drive past it in a few moments.

John looks up and sees the B.R.I. Research Center on top of a hill dominating the landscape.

Through binoculars, we see the convoy approach a mile away.

LEE

(In Chinese)

We're in range.

Ping and Lee are hidden behind a bush by the road in the forest while Ping observes the convoy in the distance. Lee holds a tablet with a satellite map on it.

PING

(In Chinese)

Do it. Get me the Commander.

Lee types commands in Chinese on his tablet.

Commander 1, standing in the trunk of the running truck, is inactive and its eyes gray. The head of the robot 1.0 lifts up and emits 2 beeps. Its eyes become red.

EXT./INT. BRI EXPOSITION CENTER - DAY

Families walk in and out of the exposition center. Above the main entrance, a display shows an animation of a robot engraving into a rock "WELCOME TO B.R.I. - OPEN DOORS".

A COUPLE enters and sees the crowded place --

Employees with ID badges present humanoids by stands. 8 stands exhibit each an inactive robot around a central desk. At the end of the room, a giant 4-armed robot dominates the exposition in center of a platform. There are 2 closed backdoors on the left and right of the platform.

The couple looks up and sees -- A gigantic LED screen show the giant robot in action, organizing scrap metal into the model of a skyscraper.

Cech and Oliver stand before the platform and observe the giant robot.

OLIVER

This sort of charisma is almost a curse. How can I possibly escape it though? Man, I mean, the way all those women were looking at me; that was so embarrassing.

CECH

(Frowning)

Everybody was looking at you; you were doing a presentation.

Joshua approaches quietly behind Cech and Oliver.

OLIVER

You don't get it yet. You're freshly from Russia; body language in the Occidental world has a rather different significance.

CECH

I'm from Slovakia.

OLIVER

Isn't it the same country?

CECH

You know, my esteem for Ghanaian people has lowered since I met you.

Joshua taps Oliver on the right shoulder and walks around his left shoulder -- Oliver looks at his right. Cech smiles as he notices Joshua.

CECH

Hey Josh.

Oliver turns his head and sees Joshua.

OLIVER

I should have guessed. The  
annoying-walking-Jewish-cliché.

JOSHUA

Racist! So what's up guys?

CECH

Nothing much, just the usual  
little-man-rambling about his ego.

OLIVER

Whatever!

Joshua looks at the giant humanoid and points at it.

JOSHUA

B.T.W. Awesome job on my new toy.

OLIVER

I know, right? A true masterpiece.

JOSHUA

I find it a bit disturbing though  
that you keep making them look more  
and more human.

CECH

It's commercial. People tend to be  
more comfortable with humanoids.

JOSHUA

Not me! It freaks me out a little.

Joshua looks to his right.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Talking about freaky, look to your  
right gentlemen.

Cech and Oliver look to their right and see -- 20 feet away,  
Jason and Tanya discuss near a stand. They look tense.

TANYA

It's all just a joke to you. Right?

JASON

It's not! I'm clean now.

TANYA

For how long? What makes it different this time?

JASON

I think I deserve a little margin of tolerance for what happened.

TANYA

You caused a flood that could have injured or killed someone.

JASON

I LOST MY MOTHER.

TANYA

Those people will never be our real parents.

JASON

(With sarcasm)

How kind of you to remind me.

TANYA

Look, all I'm saying is at some point you're going to have to be less selfish and think about the consequences of your actions.

JASON

Ironic! You used to be on my side. Although, I wonder if it really is about the incident; or your aborted imaginary love affair with Tim?

Tanya frowns and walks away towards the main entrance.

TANYA

Jerk.

JASON

Everybody knows about it.

The eyes of Oliver, Cech and Joshua follow Tanya.

OLIVER

Man, that ass!

JOSHUA

Tim and those two were like the three musketeers. What happened?

CECH

Jason was the one who almost flooded the whole Research center.

JOSHUA

So, that was him? How was he able to screw up the water system though? Aren't you guys working on some overelaborated magnet?

OLIVER

A levitation Canon, and, Jason had a problem with drugs. Tanya who's always too nice tried to cover for him at first; but, Tim who is a wimp, got him fired.

JOSHUA

Wow! I thought I was the crazy one in the group. Tim did the right thing. That was too big to hide.

OLIVER

I don't know about that. The security protocols are so easy to tamper with. I've got a terabyte of porn on my work computer and nobody noticed yet.

Cech and Joshua make grimaces and stare at Oliver.

OLIVER

What?

INT. BIO-ROBOTICS LAB - DAY

Alfred types on a tablet and paces around the Xeria. Alfred hears a door open and looks in direction of Oliver's desk --

Tim enters and notices his computer bag on Oliver's desk. The door closes behind Tim while he takes the bag and searches nervously through the pockets.

Alfred opens the transparent door, walks out and closes it. He approaches Tim and pulls the black box from a pocket.

ALFRED

Looking for this?

Alfred throws the box at Tim who catches it with both hands.

TIM

You searched through my stuff?

ALFRED

Better me than someone else.

TIM

Boundaries! Please!

Tim shakes his head and puts the box in his bag.

ALFRED

You're making a mistake. Marriage is a scam, a cleverly designed lie, a controlled chaos with a false sense of social equilibrium, which ironically is the admittance that chaos is our natural state.

TIM

This explaining why you never got married, I guess.

Tim seems upset as he grabs his bag.

ALFRED

Shouldn't you anyway propose to the one you're in love with?

TIM

Not that it's any of your business, but that's what I'm going to do.

ALFRED

There's nothing more pathetic than self-deception.

INT. BRIRC CUBICLES - DAY

Tanya stands in **ASHLEY ROBBINS'** cubicle while Ashley searches through a handbag.

Ashley is in her 30s, wearing librarian glasses and a suit.

In the rectangular room, there are 4 rows of cubicles parallel to an entrance. Tanya and Ashley are in the last

cubicle in the row furthest to the entrance. An alley close to them separates the cubicles from a glass wall.

TANYA

Are you sure you brought it?

Ashley pulls out a black plastic bag and gives it to Tanya. Tanya picks up the bag and looks in it. Her face lights up.

TANYA

Oh my God, that's it! Thank you so much Ashley!

ASHLEY

No problem! And, I mean that in an ironic way because it was almost impossible to find and so wildly expensive. What is it about anyway?

TANYA

Tim's mom owned an antic shop in Osaka. He told me that she was collecting those rare artifacts but it was all lost in the fire that killed his family.

ASHLEY

Wow! (Pause) If he still marries that bitch after that --

TANYA

I'm not trying to change his mind or get him to leave Kate.

ASHLEY

Then, why are you doing this?

TANYA

(Shaky voice)

Well (Pause) I don't know.

Ashley pats Tanya who forces a smile.

INT. BIO-ROBOTICS LAB - DAY

Tim still faces Alfred who holds his tablet.

TIM

Why do you care anyway?

ALFRED

I do not.

TIM

Of course, you don't care about anything else but yourself and your researches.

ALFRED

You seem a little tense.

TIM

(With anger)

Oh really? Do I? Tell me why on earth would you hire Jason back?

ALFRED

You are smart but you bring very little to the table.

TIM

What does that have to do with him?

ALFRED

Everything has to do with him and you know it.

TIM

So what? Do you think I will just cope with this absurdity after all that happened? How about I just quit?

ALFRED

There's only one thing you need to understand, son. I made you into who you are today, which could easily be undone. All I need is a phone call. You will do as you're said or there will be consequences. There will be no quitting. (Pause) Plus, a little hostility shall stimulate creative thinking.

Tim shakes his head, turns around and heads for the door.

ALFRED

Of all issues, I had assumed you would address the only one which should matter in this room.

Tim turns around and stares at Alfred for a second. Tim sighs, walks towards Alfred and puts down his bag.

TIM

Why did the Xeria malfunction?

ALFRED

The bio-computer stays active even while the machine is powered down, constantly in network with the B.R.I. Control Center in Seattle.

TIM

Yeah, that's normal. It's just for conformity with the standards.

Alfred taps on his tablet and lines of program appear on it.

ALFRED

The problem occurred in a verification program block sent from Seattle.

Alfred shows his tablet to Tim who looks at it closely.

TIM

That's not a verification program. It addresses the biological integrity of the bio-comp and --

(Frowning)

This is not from Seattle. The scripting is relatively different.

ALFRED

The bio-computer virtually inverted the startup parameters and emitted a disruptive signal disarranging the targeting system calibration.

TIM

Wait a minute! Could it be related to the explosion in El Paso?

Alfred frowns and looks at Tim. Suddenly, Tim and Alfred HEAR the Xeria power up. Its canon turns towards Tim and Peterson, who are startled. The Canon emits a blinding light and a loud noise. Tim and Alfred reactively protect their eyes from the light.

INT. BRI EXPOSITION CENTER - DAY

In the middle of the crowd, Oliver, Cech and Joshua are still at their former positions in the Exposition Center.

JOSHUA

Top notch. Soft as a baby's skin  
and resilient like carbon steel.

OLIVER

The technology is too expensive,  
man! Cost-efficiency conditions --

The men HEAR an explosion from afar. The place becomes less noisy as most people freeze.

JOSHUA

What the hell was that?

They HEAR another explosion, closer followed by gunshots. People are startled. The crowd gets louder. The panic grows.

Oliver sees the giant humanoid power up.

OLIVER

THAT is not normal.

The giant robot runs off the platform, jumps over the crowd and lands close to the main entrance. The ground shakes. The giant robot, blocking the entrance, turns around. Jason is in front of the noisy crowd facing the giant robot. They back away from it.

An employee opens a backdoor and a fire alarm goes off. The humanoid closest to the open backdoor powers up. It looks in direction of the backdoor held open by the employee as people head towards it.

The humanoid runs towards the employee. It pushes away people who try to escape the room on its way. A few people actually escape ahead. The robot arrives at the door, grabs by the shoulder the employee, looking terrified, and throws him back inside. The robot slams the door and turns around.

Oliver sees 3 other humanoids of the exposition run to the same backdoor and push violently people away.

OLIVER

They are blocking the doors.

Oliver looks at the other backdoor -- 4 humanoids block the access and push back the crowd. Most of the crowd moves towards the center desk.

An EXPLOSION breaks open the main entrance tearing apart the giant humanoid torso. People are startled, scream and jump down to avoid the debris that fall around them. Within the dust, smoke and ashes, Jason sees a 10-foot tall humanoid with military camouflage enter the grand whole.

The humanoid is a Cyclops with a canon on each shoulder and "US ARMY - B.R.I. EXPLORER X101" written on its torso.

JASON

I shouldn't have come back.

2 similar robots enter and follow the first Explorer X101. Gunshots and explosions are still heard from outside. Out of the crowd, a **BOLD EMPLOYEE** approaches the Explorers.

JASON

What are you doing? Stay Away.

BOLD EMPLOYEE

It's the U.S. Army, one of ours. IT CAN'T HARM CIVILIANS. It's ok.

An Explorer's eye emits light beams that cover the employee's face.

The robot's visual interface identifies the employee. The message "IDENTIFICATION" flashes in the center of the display next to the Explorer's blueprints, speedometer, energy levels and ammunition count.

BOLD EMPLOYEE

What is happening?

The message "IDENTIFICATION" turns to "NEGATIVE ID".

JASON

Dude, seriously, back away.

The Explorer stops emitting the light beams. The canon on its left shoulder aims at the employee --

B.R.I. EMPLOYEE

No, no, NO!

The canon fires once; the head of the employee is blown off. Jason is stained by the blood. People scream and run away.

INT. BIO-ROBOTICS LAB - DAY

A glaring light accompanied by a loud noise comes from the XERIA that makes the closed transparent door vibrate. Alfred stands by Tim and observes as Tim nervously types on the virtual keyboard of Oliver's computer.

TIM  
THE CODE MAKES NO SENSE.

ALFRED  
IT'S NOT WORKING.

Alfred walks hurryingly to the emergency button and pushes it -- Nothing happens. He nervously pushes again 3 times.

ALFRED  
Nothing's working.

Alfred HEARS a cracking noise -- He protects his eyes but can see fissures in the glass wall.

ALFRED  
It's breaking. WE NEED TO GET OUT.

Alfred rushes towards the door behind Tim, still typing. He opens the door leading to a long hallway and steps out.

ALFRED  
LEAVE THAT. WE NEED TO GET OUT NOW.

The Xeria emits a SUDDEN brutal levitational force that throws Tim to the ground and SLAMS the door.

Alfred pushes the door knob but the door is blocked. Alfred takes a card from a pocket and passes it over the electronic lock. Nothing happens.

Tim runs to the door and pulls it but it doesn't budge.

TIM  
I'M LOCKED IN. HELP ME!

Tim notices that the glass wall is gravely fissured.

Alfred pushes again but sees fissures growing rapidly into the walls. The ground trembles. He steps back as he HEARS --

TIM  
HELP ME!

ALFRED  
I'M SORRY.

Alfred runs away through the hallway.

TIM  
PETERSEN? DON'T LEAVE ME.

Tim looks around and runs to the other door and pulls it but it doesn't budge as well. A piece of glass flies by Tim's face and into the door. Startled, Tim backs away.

The glass BREAKS into pieces that fly towards Tim. The levitation force of the Xeria draws with the glass all the loose objects in the room. The desks tremble. Tim falls to his knees, closes his eyes and holds his head with both hands.

For a second, all the objects stop in the air. An invisible force drives them back away -- The Xeria is crushed into the wall by the flying objects. Tim is on his knees and grunts.

He opens his eyes and looks around seeming puzzled as he HEARS distant sporadic gunshots. His nose starts bleeding heavily and he collapses.

INT. BRIRC GARAGE LEVEL B-1 - DAY

Alfred runs in panic through the garage level, passes a concrete column and a few cars.

He reaches a SUV truck with an open trunk. He approaches the driver door. The SUV board projects a light on his face. The headlights of the car flash once and the locks unclench. He enters the car and closes the door. The board lights up.

Alfred suddenly freezes and breathes heavily.

He looks in the rearview mirror and --SEES Ping a gun pointed at his head.

PING  
Hello, Mister Petersen.

INT. BRI EXPOSITION CENTER - DAY

A GORY SPECTACLE -- Dead bodies fill the room. The backdoors are ajar. The smaller humanoids, damaged, lie on the ground along with dead corpses. The desks are upside down; except 2 on opposite sides of the room and close to the backdoors.

An Explorer walks around the center desk across dead bodies filling the room. It emits light beams through its eye over the bodies. Another Explorer guards the main entrance.

A third Explorer approaches one of the 2 desks that are not upside down. It grabs and throws it towards the backdoor revealing -- a **YOUNG MOTHER** and a 7-year old boy, both in tears, sat on the ground and holding each other closely.

YOUNG MOTHER

Please -- don't -- Have mercy --

The other desk remained at his initial position suddenly budes. Under the desk, Cech, Jason and Oliver, lying on the ground, look terrified. Cech sweats a lot.

CECH

(Whispering)

We have to help --

Jason, angrily gestures towards Cech to shut up.

YOUNG MOTHER

PLEASE --

The 3 men HEAR SCREAMS and TWO GUNSHOTS, startling them.

Jason sees the closest backdoor, ajar and -- Through the opening, Joshua waives. Jason points at the backdoor.

OLIVER

(Anxiously whispers)

We're gonna die. We're gonna die.

Jason puts a hand over Oliver's mouth. They HEAR heavy steps approach. Oliver hyper-ventilates. The desk is lifted and projected away. The 3 men back away agitatedly to a wall. An Explorer stands in front of them. They see another Explorer behind it standing in the center of the room.

Jason makes a run for the backdoor. The Explorer instantly shoots to the ground in front of him. Jason backs away.

The 3 terrified men are cornered back to the wall.

The robot's visual interface identifies the 3 men. The message "IDENTIFICATION" fast turns into "POSITIVE ID - Alerting Commanding Unit". The robot zooms to Jason's face.

Jason sees the Explorer step toward him. He HEARS an explosion from outside -- The robots all turn toward the main entrance. The Explorer guarding the main entrance fires with both canons outside as they hear a car approach fast.

Tim's car at high speed jumps through the main entrance. It breaks in half the Explorer, continues its course and crashes into the robot in the center of the room. The car stops and the Explorer left standing fires at it.

Jason grabs Oliver by the shirt.

JASON

Come on.

Cech, Jason and Oliver run toward the backdoor. Tim, under heavy fire, gets out of the crashed car through the passenger door holding a sphere with abundant wiring.

The robot's visual interface glitches intermittently. The message "89225 Targeting system Error" appears.

Tim sits back to the car holding the sphere.

The Explorer approaches but seems disoriented as it starts shooting in random directions.

Tim rips with his teeth the insulation and assembles two wires together. Tim throws the sphere in direction of the Explorer. The sphere falls inches next to the Explorer's feet. Electric sparks come out of the sphere that explodes and -- The Explorer stops moving and falls to the ground.

EXT. BRI RESEARCH CENTER - DAY

In front of the main B.R.I. building, there are cars on fire, dead bodies on the ground. A dozen Explorers are spread around within the chaotic scene.

From the sky falls Commander 1. Its robust metallic figure with the cold red eyes lands in the middle of the scene.

Its visual interface, displays a message "POSITIVE ID CONFIRMED", Jason's picture and a map of the Exposition center with the pinpointed location of Jason.

INT./EXT. BRI EXPOSITION CENTER - DAY

Cech, Oliver, Jason and Joshua approach the fallen Explorer.  
Tim runs to his friends.

TIM  
Where is Tanya?

JASON  
She went to the main building.

CECH  
How did you do this?

They all look at the inactive robot.

TIM  
Small EMP with the Xeria bio-comp.

JOSHUA  
Genius.

Joshua searches through his pockets, pulls out his cellphone  
and taps on it.

CECH  
You saved us.

JOSHUA  
Damn it! My phone is fried.

TIM  
I've already tried 911. Something  
is jamming all communications.

JASON  
Do you know what's going on?

TIM  
So you're talking to me now?

ANOTHER EXPLOSION from outside startles the group.

TIM (CONT'D)  
The facility is surrounded by  
military robots. It'll be a while  
before we get any help.

OLIVER  
Help from whom? It's the fucking  
U.S. Army attacking us --

CECH

We can't stay here.

JOSHUA

I know a way out. We can get away  
or at least hide until it's over.

OLIVER

We're gonna die.

JASON

Shut the fuck up Oliver! Joshua,  
lead the way.

Tim taps Oliver who seems terrified on the shoulder.

TIM

We'll find our way out of this.

The backdoor of the Exposition Center opens wide. Joshua comes out, carefully looking around, followed by Jason, Cech, Oliver and finally Tim. They move close to the wall, to their left. Joshua reaches the corner of the building.

Joshua sees straight ahead, across a 35-foot wide alley, an open entrance to the main building. He takes a peek at the alley -- Through a cloud of smoke, he sees the main entrance to the B.R.I. Research Center, hundreds of feet away, guarded by two explorers.

JOSHUA

Let's go!

The cloud of smoke become more abundant. Jason passes in front and rushes towards the entrance of the main building. The others walk fast and follow Jason. Joshua stays last. Tim reaches the middle of the alley, slows down and looks at the cloud of smoke while Joshua passes by him.

The figure of Commander 1.0 APPEARS through the smoke.

TIM

Damn it! RUN!

Commander walks fast in their direction and FIRES with a machine gun extended from its right forearm. Bullets fly in the feet of the startled men who run. Jason, Cech and Oliver enter the main building. Joshua is 3 feet away when he is HIT in his right lower leg.

Tim grabs with both hands Joshua on his way and jumps pushing his friend through the doors. They both fall inside.

INT. BRIRC MAIN BUILDING SIDE ENTRANCE - DAY

Tim lifts up his head and sees Jason heading fast down a hallway on the right. The hallway leads to elevator doors 20 feet away and a staircase door a few feet further.

JOSHUA

It got me. It got me.

Joshua moans on the ground and holds his wounded right leg. Jason holds open the staircase entrance.

JASON

COME ON.

Oliver is frozen, while Cech and Tim pull up Joshua.

JASON (CONT'D)

OLIVER MOVE!

Oliver runs in direction of Jason followed by the others. They HEAR Commander 1 stepping closer as they pass the door. Jason follows and closes the door to the staircase. Commander 1 steps in, bends and enters the building.

INT. BRIRC GARAGE LEVEL B-1 - DAY

Alfred looks terrified in the driver seat of his car as he is held at gunpoint by Ping who is on the back seat.

ALFRED

How -- How did you survive?

PING

(With a smile)

You are an amusing specimen Mister Petersen. Here you are in the face of your inevitable death. Yet, mystery is all that catches your attention.

ALFRED

The virus should have killed you a long time ago.

PING

It was killing me, but not as fast  
as you'd have hoped.

INT. CHINESE MORGUE - DAY

Ping, lying in his blood in the middle of the morgue,  
removes the top of his hazmat suit. He breathes heavily. He  
reaches for the pocket of his shirt inside the hazmat suit,  
pulls out the picture and stares at it.

PING (V.O.)

You left me to die in that morgue  
20 years ago. And each second felt  
like a day --

His head becomes very veiny.

PING (CONT'D, V.O.)

A day of excruciating pain.

He sweats a lot, SCREAMS as his right eye starts popping out  
of his head with much blood leaking from his veiny head.

PING (CONT'D, V.O.)

But no matter how maimed I was, I  
didn't die. I couldn't. I  
understood much later that my son's  
immunity to the virus came from my  
own genetic resilience.

Ping's sight becomes blurry as he looks around. He HEARS the  
door unlocking. A much younger LEE with a hazmat suit enters  
and stares with horror at Ping.

PING (CONT'D, V.O.)

Someone found me hours later.

Lee carefully picks Ping up.

They walk away through the hallway as Ping's right hand  
still holds the picture.

INT. BRIRC GARAGE LEVEL B-1 - DAY

Lee, holding his tablet and a backpack, enters Alfred's car.  
He sits next to Ping. Alfred glances at Lee.

ALFRED

I don't know what he gave you but  
I'll give you ten times your worth.

Lee looks at Alfred and chuckles.

PING

This has nothing to do with money.  
Lee lost as much as I did during  
the pandemic. We lost our families  
and people like you made a profit  
out of it. It ends today.

Alfred notices Ping's implant on the side of his face.

ALFRED

(Frowning)

Your implant. It's an experimental  
Bright Computer. That is how you're  
hacking my products.

PING

Thanks to you half of my brain was  
cut-off. I was a vegetable for  
years until Lee found a way to  
connect what was left of my brain  
to one of your bio-computers.  
(Pause) You were right. Tragedy is  
the cornerstone of humanitiy's  
greatest achievements.

Pings smiles.

INT. BRIRC WATER TREATMENT ROOM - DAY

The scientists stand before a dark 4-foot wide circular hole  
in the concrete wall. They all stare into the somber hole.

Behind them, there are a giant system of aggregate filters,  
automatic valves, and stairs leading to an ajar door 7 feet  
above the soil. The floor is wet. The place is poorly  
lighted, silent; except for the sporadic gunshots and  
explosions outside. Joshua relies on Tim to stay up.

TIM

So this leads to the tunnels you  
mentioned yesterday?

JOSHUA

So you were listening!

JASON

Where exactly does it lead?

JOSHUA

There are hundreds of embranchments  
and, one of them leads half a mile  
west (Pause) outside -- I think.

Jason looks at Joshua, seeming puzzled.

JASON

You think?

TIM

You had a map, right?

JOSHUA

On my phone, but you fried it.  
Remember? Anyway I got a pretty  
good idea of the path to follow --

OLIVER

A PRETTY GOOD -- There is no way  
I'm going in there.

JOSHUA

Have a little faith people! What  
other choices do we have?

CECH

We stay here!

JASON

(With a grave tone)  
We're not safe here.

They all look again at the hole in silence.

CECH

Sakra! (Damn it in Slovak)

Joshua looks at the system behind them.

JOSHUA

I left a toolkit behind the  
filters. There is a torch in there.

Jason walks fast towards the filters and takes from behind them a large box with a handle, a toolkit.

TIM

I have to go find Tanya.

All the others stop and stare at Tim for a second.

CECH

Dude, it's too risky.

JOSHUA

I think it's only a matter of time before the robots find this place.

OLIVER

Yeah, man. We all care about Tanya but this is suicide.

TIM

Probably! But (Pause) I just can't leave her behind.

JASON

I'm going with you.

Jason hands the toolkit to Oliver taking it with both hands.

OLIVER

This is insane!

Tim nods while Joshua looks intensively towards the hole.

JOSHUA

At the embranchments in the tunnels, make two rights, one left, one right, two lefts. We can wait for you there. It's going to look like a Solutional cave.

JASON

I don't know what that is.

TIM

2 rights, 1 left, 1 right, 2 lefts?

JOSHUA

Right! I mean, yes.

JASON

What comes after that?

JOSHUA

I can only be sure once inside.  
It's a maze down there.

JASON

Great. Let's go.

INT. BRIRC GARAGE LEVEL B-2 - DAY

Jason slightly opens a door. He sees 100 feet away a door to the staircase. Looking to the left through the badly lighted level, he sees Commander 1 -- The robot advances in the opposite direction. Jason turns towards Tim who is right behind him and gestures that there is something ahead.

JASON

(Whispering)

Slowly.

Tim nods.

Commander 1 observes the surroundings while behind it, Jason and Tim slowly move along the wall to the staircase door.

Commander 1 looks around with night vision. It HEARS a clenching noise from behind and quickly looks towards the staircase entrance -- There is nothing.

INT. BRIRC CUBICLES - DAY

The room is in ruins -- Bullet holes and dead bodies all over the place. Through the windows, columns of smoke are distinguishable outside.

Near Ashley's cubicle, a robot circulates in the alley.

It's a military human-sized robot shaped like a mantis. Machine guns are attached on his forearms. On its torso, "U.S. Army - B.R.I. Mantis X16" is written.

Tanya's eyes are tearful; she trembles and holds her mouth with a hand, hidden underneath Ashley's desk.

Tanya stares at Ashley, lying dead in her blood, a bullet wound to her head with her eyes open looking at Tanya.

The robot HEARS a very small bumping noise. It stops and looks at the row before Ashley's desk. The robot steps closer to Ashley's desk. Suddenly, Tim arises from the row at the end of the alley and runs towards the Mantis, holding a fire extinguisher.

The robot's torso rotates around its waist as Tim uses the fumes of the fire extinguisher to hamper the robot's vision.

TIM

NOW!

The robot blinded by the fumes fires with both machine guns. Tim falls on his knees as bullets fly above his head.

Jason arises from the row behind Ashley's desk holding an emergency axe. Tim falls on his back still blowing the extinguisher fumes in direction of the Mantis.

Jason runs close to the robot and hits its head two times with the axe. A third blow and the robot stops firing.

Tanya peeps at what is happening. The robot falls to the ground under a fourth and fifth hit. Jason smashes the robot on the ground repeatedly. Tim gets up and taps Jason.

TIM

Stop, Stop it!

Tim and Jason look happily surprised as they notice Tanya who gets up, still shaken up.

JASON

She's alive.

Tim runs to her and firmly hugs her. As he holds Tanya in his arms, he sees the body of Ashley. Tim's eyes are filled with horror.

TIM

Let's get out of here.

INT. BRIRC STAIRCASE - DAY

Tim, followed by Tanya and Jason, run down a rectangular staircase with a metallic handrail. AN EXPLOSION breaks through the wall and hits Tim. He is projected above the handrail down the stairs.

TANYA

TIM?

Tanya and Jason are startled and fall on their backs. Commander 1 enters the room through the hole in the wall. Jason's eyes cross with Commander 1's cold red eyes.

COMMANDER 1

JASON.

A sudden invisible blow pushes the robot away and projects 40 feet back into a column of the garage level B-1.

Through the hole left by the impact in the wall, we see Tim, standing at the place he fell, trembling, nose bleeding, and hands held forward in direction of the Commander.

Tanya and Jason seem frighten as they stare back at Tim.

TANYA

Oh my God!

They HEAR steps above them and look up.

JASON

We have to go! Let's go!

Jason gets up, pulls Tanya. They all run down.

INT. BRIRC UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - DAY

Oliver advances with a torchlight in a rocky tunnel. Cech and Joshua, his right arm around Cech's neck follow.

CECH

You're heavier than you look.

JOSHUA

I will think about switching my diet to fat-free kosher.

Cech chuckles as they HEAR steps from afar approaching.

JOSHUA

Did you hear that?

They turn around and freeze.

They can perceive with the torchlight 20 feet away a left turn in a narrow passageway.

OLIVER

It's gotta be them, right?

CECH

TIM?

TIM

Yes.

Tim, holding a cellphone, appears through the passageway. Tanya and Jason follow Tim. The others act relieved.

CECH

Čubčí syn (Son of a bitch in Slovak), you made it.

OLIVER

Man, it looks like you're collecting miracles today.

TIM

You have no idea.

JASON

Right.

Jason and Tim glance at each other at the same moment.

JASON (CONT'D)

It's not over yet. We might have been followed.

Tanya sees Joshua's clothing bloody around his lower leg.

JOSHUA

Then, there's no time to lose.

TANYA

Wait a minute. Let me take a quick look at your leg. Sit him down.

Tanya approaches Joshua as Cech helps him to sit down.

A short moment later, Tanya ties tightly a piece of Joshua's shirt around his wounded leg as Joshua now has a tank top on.

TANYA

That should do it for now. No artery damaged! You're lucky.

JOSHUA

I felt lucky until I had to also  
lose my shirt along my mobility.

Joshua sees Tanya roll her eyes; Jason, behind her, shakes his head and -- Tim looks through the dark behind the group.

OLIVER

You know who wasn't lucky? All  
those people who died at the expo.

All look at Oliver with grave faces.

OLIVER

Tanya, did your mother make it out?

TANYA

She went home early today.

OLIVER

Good. What about the boss? Did  
anyone see him?

TIM

We were together when it started;  
he abandoned me.

TANYA

Why am I not surprised?

OLIVER

What about Ashley?

Tim and Jason look in each other's eyes; Tanya frowns. Tim looks at Oliver and shakes his head.

OLIVER

My God!

CECH

Why would the American Army attack  
us?

JOSHUA

No, these robots were clearly  
hacked by terrorists -- freaking  
terrorists. This is the only time  
in the year when there was going to  
be that many people on the  
facility. It was a massacre.

OLIVER  
(With a trembling voice)  
That woman and her kid --

Everybody in silence seems disgruntled. Tanya notices that Tim looks again away behind the group. Tim's respiration accelerates. Tim turns towards Tanya with eyes wide open.

TIM  
We should go.

INT. BRIRC WATER TREATMENT ROOM - DAY

Commander 1 observes menacingly the hole in the wall.

INT. BRIRC UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - DAY

The rocky surroundings are lighted by the beam of Oliver's torchlight. He advances in the solutional cave, closely followed by Tanya and Cech, helping Joshua to walk. Jason and Tim are a few feet behind them.

JOSHUA  
See! Solutional cave! From here, it should be a 10 minutes' walk, if we don't get lost.

TANYA  
It is interesting the nonchalance with which you evoke the possibility of us getting lost.

JOSHUA  
You'd find that even more interesting if you knew that people would search for days here before finding us.

Tanya frowns and looks at Joshua who smiles at her.

Jason notices that Tim, head down mumbles --

JASON  
What are you mumbling?

TIM  
I'm not sure. Praying I guess.

JASON

Praying? That's new. I've never heard you pray before.

TIM

I never really have. When I was a kid, my mother -- My real mom had to chase me with a belt every Sunday morning throughout the whole house to force me to go to church.

JASON

My catholic mother had a different strategy. Psychological warfare --

Tim chuckles.

JASON (CONT'D)

(With an accent)

Oh you can stay and let spiritual ignorance slowly rot your soul.

Tim and Jason both laugh.

JASON

I know that things were a bit rough for you guys when Petersen placed you in your foster families but mine (pause) my adoptive mother felt like a real mom. I loved her.

TIM

We all did. She was awesome. (Pause) I remember when I came to visit, every night before we went to bed, we had to recite Psalms 23.

JASON

I hated that!

TIM

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. --

JASON

(Sarcastically)

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

TIM

(With a calm tone)  
He leads me in paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the  
valley of the shadow of (Pause)  
death, I will fear no evil --

TIM AND JASON

For you are with me.

TIM

Doesn't sound too bad today.

JASON

I guess so.

After a short silence --

TIM

(With a straight face)  
There's something that has really  
bothered me over the years though.

JASON

What?

TIM

The fact that the three of us  
became orphans at the most  
convenient time for Petersen to  
just pick us up. How is that  
possible?

JASON

I've always been scared to ask him  
that question. (Pause) What you did  
to that robot though!

TIM

It freaked me out to.

JASON

How did you do it?

TIM

I don't know but (Pause) I had an  
accident this morning at the lab.  
Head trauma. And, since then, I've  
been feeling different.

JASON

What do you mean?

TIM

It's hard to explain. At first, I was feeling great, healthy as never before. (Pause) Since the attack, it's a mixture of contradictory sensations: an elusive sense of absolute awareness followed by deep confusion; an excruciating pain in my head which the rest of my body seems to feed on. It's like something was unleashed.

JASON

Huh!

EXT. PIKE NATIONAL FOREST GLADE - DAY

A glade in the mountainous landscape of the pine forest --  
We hear distant gunshots.

The entrance of a dark cave under a slope in the glade --  
Voices echo from the cave --

OLIVER

That goes on my bucket list.

TANYA

That's gross.

The voices become more distinctive.

OLIVER

It's a very common sexual fantasy.

TIM

Something's seriously wrong with you dude.

OLIVER

You know what? You're not invited to my orgy then.

CECH

How can you think of such things in moments like these?

OLIVER

I literally almost lost my head a few minutes ago. I have to think of something else or I'll go crazy.

CECH

Too late.

OLIVER

You're not invited either.

TANYA

There's light this way.

A beam of light comes from the dark cave.

OLIVER

Light finally.

Oliver holding the torchlight runs towards the exit.

TIM

Dude, wait!

JASON

I'm not carrying him if he gets shot.

Oliver observes the surroundings and notices they are a mile down from the mountaintop. He perceives half a dozen of columns of smoke coming from behind the mountain up to the sky and still hears distant gunshots.

The other scientists with squinty eyes walk out of the cave.

JASON

Josh, you're a fucking genius.

JOSHUA

That's what I always say.

Oliver points to the columns of smoke.

OLIVER

Guys, look at that.

The others look up at the smoke while --

Behind them, a figure appears in between the closest trees and bushes. A 10-foot tall lean humanoid invisible camouflage fades away.

TIM

It's the facility. I hope other people escaped.

The robot's torso silently opens revealing a machine gun. The robot suddenly WALKS FAST through the trees and branches to approach the group, startled by the noise it makes.

OLIVER

What the Hell!

Oliver falls on his buttocks.

CECH

Run! RUN!

Oliver stays frozen while the others run away. A similar robot appears 20 feet in front of the fleeing group. They are startled and stop running.

TIM

THE CAVE.

Oliver sees the others moving in direction of the cave. The scientists HEAR multiple gunshots and jump down. The two robots are knocked hard by multiple bullets and --FALL DOWN. The gunshots stop.

Oliver, lying on his belly, hands over his head, looks up in direction of the cave. He sees his friends lift up their heads. They all look around, confused.

JOSHUA

Are we dead?

Oliver looks over the broken structure of the first robot --

Jack emerges from bushes 50 feet away. He holds an assault rifle. He has a sidearm and a bayonet in a holster attached on his right leg.

JOHN

CLEAR!

A few feet near Jack, John Hart emerges from behind a tree wearing, over his uniform, a body-armor. He holds an assault rifle and has a sidearm and a bayonet as well.

OLIVER

Where did those two come from?

Oliver looks in direction of the second robot.

**SGT. SPENCER RANDOLPH**, 70 feet away, approaches him.

Spencer is 25, clean cut, tall and athletic built; wearing a black t-shirt and infantry uniform pants with boots. Psalm 91 verse 7 is tattooed on his right forearm. He has a sidearm and a bayonet on his left leg and holds an advanced version of the M82 with a silencer. He has a backpack on.

JACK  
IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?

EXT. PIKE NATIONAL FOREST SLOPE - DAY

In line, Jack, Jason, Oliver, John, Tim helping Joshua to walk, Tanya and Spencer in last descend a slope in the pine forest. The soldiers carefully look around, ready to fire.

JACK  
We were escorting a convoy of  
Brights for a demonstration at the  
Air Force Academy. It was low risk.  
We were never even close to imagine  
that our weapons would turn on us.

OLIVER  
Can I ask you something Mister  
Captain Douglas?

JACK  
Just call me Jack.

OLIVER  
Right! Mister Cap - I mean Captain  
Jack - Mister Jack!

Jason shakes his head.

OLIVER  
How many were you?

JACK  
20.

There is a short silence as the scientists act shocked.

JASON  
Sorry for your losses.

Jack glances at Jason and nods.

JACK

Of course it all makes more sense now that we know B.R.I. was attacked.

OLIVER

Can't you call for backup?

JACK

We haven't been able to reach our base - Fort Carson. There is a satellite above this location. B.C.1 is probably using it to jam all communications.

JASON

What is B.C.1?

JACK

Bright Commander 1.0, the commanding unit.

TIM

The robot with the red eyes.

JACK

(Glancing at Tim)

So you saw it! I'm surprised you escaped then. It's a very efficient war machine. Designed for surgical strikes in enemy territory.

JASON

It missed us at close range.

JOSHUA

Excuse me, missed?

JACK

Maybe it wanted you alive.

The distant sound of a car approaching -- Jack frowns, lifts up his right hand and the group halts.

OLIVER

What?

JACK

Shhh!

The sound becomes more audible.

JACK  
It's a car, SPENCER?

SPENCER  
I'm on it.

Spencer runs past Jack.

EXT. COLORADO ROAD 22 - DAY

A SUV truck approaches at about 50 mph on a two-way tarmac road traversing the forest in the mountainous landscape. We can still HEAR the distant sporadic gunshots.

**MELISSA SNOW** drives and bites her nails while --

A kid, **JESSICA SNOW**, is on the backseat and seems very calm.

Melissa is 18, blonde and short. Jessica is blonde and 6-years old. A watch on her wrist displays her heart rate. There are a handbag and a backpack next to Jessica.

MELISSA  
When is your next injection due?

JESSICA  
30 minutes ago.

MELISSA  
Shit --

JESSICA  
(Firm tone)  
Don't swear!

MELISSA  
Right, Sorry honey! What's your heart rate?

Jessica checks her watch.

JESSICA  
Eighty.

MELISSA  
(Seeming puzzled)  
That's good! (Pause) Right?

JESSICA

Doctor Linz said I should avoid stressful environments if I miss my medication; and you look stressed.

Melissa turns her head to look at Jessica.

MELISSA

I'm not. Everything is perfectly --

Suddenly, Jessica points in front with eyes wide open --

JESSICA

LOOK OUT!

Melissa looks forward and brakes abruptly. Jessica sees Spencer -- He stands inches in front of the car, has a straight face.

MELISSA

WHAT THE FUCK!

JESSICA

You should stop swearing.

LATER, Melissa's truck drives through the forest on Road 22.

Spencer, sat at the end of the trunk, watches around. Joshua is sat back to the rear window. He is between Tim and Oliver on one side of the trunk and John and Jason on the other. Melissa drives and still bites her nails. Jack is on the passenger seat. Cech, Jessica and Tanya are on the backseat.

JACK

Thanks again Melissa for taking us.

MELISSA

Your cowboy over there didn't really give me a choice. He almost gave us a heart attack.

JACK

Sorry about that. Tough morning.

MELISSA

Tough indeed! Last thing I was expecting while waking up this morning was that I would be driving away from an orchestra of gunshots with a bunch of strangers in my trunk.

TANYA

Where are your parents?

JESSICA

They died last year in a car accident.

TANYA

Oh, I'm sorry honey.

JESSICA

It's ok! Melissa takes care of us.

In the trunk, the 5 people behind Spencer discuss.

TIM

First the El Paso power plant, then the Xeria, our experimental material and now military-grade weapons. It can't be a coincidence.

JASON

It would require some local ground control to hack such diverse entities in a specific location.

JOHN

You mean the hacker or hackers are in Colorado Springs.

JASON

Exactly!

OLIVER

Wow! Imagine what they could do if they were in Seattle. Imagine the facility accessing 80% of all sorts of technological material on earth being compromised. It would be the end of the world as we know it.

JOHN

Seattle is impossible to hijack. We're talking about 10,000 soldiers guarding an underground fortress.

JASON

Impossible doesn't always mean it can't be done; but just that it hasn't been done yet.

OLIVER

We all thought Bright computers  
were un-hackable until today.

JOHN

That still seems very unlikely.  
Spencer, what do you think?

John sees Spencer turn his head towards them.

SPENCER

I'm not very good at speculating.  
Notify me when there's something to  
shoot at.

Inside the car cabin, Tanya is manipulating her cellphone.

TANYA

There's still no signal. I can't  
even make emergency calls.

MELISSA

It's been like that on my phone too  
since we left the Springs.

JACK

Hopefully, we can find a landline  
at Woodland Park, call Fort Carson  
and figure this all out.

CECH

Technology is great when it works.

Jessica smiles and looks at Cech.

JESSICA

You have a funny accent.

Cech smiles back at Jessica.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Can you say  
Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious?

MELISSA

Jessica, Stop bothering him.

CECH

She doesn't bother me. That is a  
very complicated word though.

JESSICA

Not for me! I have an identic  
memory so to memorize it I only had  
to hear it once in the movie.

TANYA

Which movie?

Jessica looks surprised at Tanya.

JESSICA

You've never seen it?

TANYA

Nope!

CECH

Morales, come on, it's a classic!

(Singing)

*If you say it loud enough you'll  
always sound precocious --*

JESSICA

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Cech laughs and claps his hands.

TANYA

Which movie is that?

JACK AND MELISSA

Mary Poppins!

TANYA

(Lifting eyebrows)

Ok!

CECH

I have a daughter about your age  
back in Bratislava. She loves it.

JESSICA

Bratislava is the capital city of  
Slovakia, right?

CECH

(Looking at Tanya)

She's already way smarter than  
Oliver will ever be.

Tanya smiles.

CECH (CONT'D)

If I teach this song in Slovak that  
my daughter loves to sing; could  
you repeat it for me?

JESSICA

Of course!

CECH

Of course! Great! Great! It goes  
like this --

In the trunk, the 5 people behind Spencer still discuss.

JASON

They didn't even check for  
compatibility with legacy systems.  
That was bound to crash sooner --

CECH

(Singing a bit loudly)  
*KOLO, KOLO MLYNSKÉ; ZA ŠTYRI  
RÝNSKE; KOLO SA NÁM POLÁMALO; A DO  
VODY POPADALO; UROBILO BÁC!*

All in the car cabin look in direction of Cech.

JOSHUA

What the hell is going on in there?

CECH

(Singing a bit loudly)  
*VEZMEME SI HOBLÍK, PÍLKU --*

EXT. WOODLAND PARK - DAY

A sign by Road 22 "WELCOME TO WOODLAND PARK" -- It indicates  
the entrance to the rural town. In the streets people stare  
at a column of smoke erecting from the other end of the  
town.

In the car cabin, Jack and Tanya smile while Cech and  
Jessica candidly sing. Melissa is concentrated on the road.

CECH AND JESSICA

*A DO VODY POPADALO; UROBILO BÁC!  
VEZMEME SI HOBLÍK, PÍLKU --*

In the trunk, Joshua hums the song and Oliver bounces his head to the rhythm. Jason looks at them and shakes his head.

CECH, JESSICA AND TANYA  
 -- *VEZMEME SI HOBZAHRÁME SA EŠTE  
 CHVÍLKU; AŽ TO KOLO SPRAVÍME;*

Melissa makes a left turn and sees the town 2 miles ahead.

MELISSA  
 Oh No!

Cech and Tanya stop singing as they look ahead.

JESSICA  
 (Lowering her voice)  
*TÁK SA ZATOČÍME!*

All the passengers puzzled stare at the column of smoke.

EXT./INT. AT BARRY'S - DAY

**BARRY LEIGHTON**, holding a home phone to his ear, stands in the parking lot of a bar named "BARRY'S".

Barry is in his 70s. Behind him, a truck is parked by the front entrance of the one-level-rectangular-bar. The façade has a middle door between two grand windows.

BARRY  
 I think it was a small plane.

Barry notices Melissa's car that arrives by the bar.

BARRY  
 No, sweetheart, stay home. Don't do anything stupid! Just stay home.

Melissa parks next to the truck in front of the bar.

Barry hangs up by pushing a button on the phone.

Barry limps as he approaches the car while the passengers all get out.

Barry notices John and Tim helping down Joshua and stares at Joshua banded leg while Melissa arrives in front of him.

BARRY  
 Who are these people?

MELISSA

I found them on my way here; they  
need to make a phone call.

Jack approaches and extends his right hand towards Barry.

JACK

Hello Sir! I'm Captain Jack  
Douglas, 7th robotics Division.

Barry shakes Jack's hand and Jessica approaches Melissa.

BARRY

Huh, Hello! I'm Barrett Leighton,  
but everybody calls me Barry.

JACK

We are in a complicated situation  
and would greatly appreciate your  
help.

BARRY

Sure, what's going on?

Melissa stares at the column of smoke.

JACK

I need to make a quick phone call.

MELISSA

What is happening over there?

BARRY

Huh, well --

Barry turns around and looks at the smoke.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Huh, a plane crashed into the  
hospital.

All act shocked, except Spencer who slightly frowns.

MELISSA

Holy Shit!

JESSICA

Mel!

JOSHUA

Did he say plane?

Everybody is attentive to Barry.

BARRY

It happened a few minutes ago. It's pretty bad; the sheriff went there with a few volunteers.

Jack touches Barry on the shoulder.

JACK

I need to make that phone call now.

Barry hands the phone to Jack.

Inside the bar, the counter is 30 feet away from the entrance and parallel to the façade. Tables are set symmetrically to the room's center. The décor pertains to mountains. Open slat blinds cover all windows. Behind the counter, there are shelves of beverages, a door to a backroom and a fridge above which is hanged a TV. An alley by the counter leads to a restroom.

Barry enters and blocks the door with a built-in doorstop. Melissa passes by Barry and touches him on the shoulder.

MELISSA

Barry, did you see my backpack by any chance? I think I left it here yesterday.

BARRY

I didn't. Check the backroom!

Melissa heads for the backroom as the others enter the bar.

She walks in the backroom and leaves the door ajar. A neon light turns on in the backroom. There are piles and shelves of boxes inside the storeroom at the end of which there is a sectional door.

Barry takes place behind the counter and sees the others --

Oliver sits on a chair in front of the TV. Jason sits at a table in the room's center. John installs Joshua by Jason. Tanya, Tim, Cech and Jessica sit at the table on the furthest left by the window. Spencer looks through the slats of the window that is on the right of the main entrance.

BARRY

Huh, you guys want to drink something?

OLIVER

I'd really appreciate getting  
slightly wasted right now.

Jack advances to the right end of the bar counter.

JACK

No alcohol! Everybody keeps their  
head clear.

OLIVER

Damn it! Didn't think it was  
possible but today just got sadder.

Barry picks water bottles and puts them in front of Oliver.

OLIVER

Great! There's nothing more awful  
than soberness in front of a full  
bar. (Pause) Just great!

Jason and John approach the bar counter while Barry takes  
more water bottles and puts them in front of Oliver.

OLIVER

Does the TV work?

BARRY

Oh, the TV works but the channels  
have been down for a while now.

Jason and John relay the bottles to the others. Barry  
searches under the counter and finds the TV remote. Tanya  
approaches the counter and sees Barry turn the TV on by  
using the remote control -- The screen is blue and stays so  
even though Barry pushes buttons and changes channels.

OLIVER

Can I try something?

Oliver extends his hand to Barry who gives him the remote.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Some channels will probably try to  
broadcast through analog signals.

TANYA

Barry, do you have by any chance a  
medical kit? I need to check our  
friend's injury.

BARRY  
MEL, BRING OUT THE FIRST AID KIT!

MELISSA  
OK!

Jason sits by Joshua while John approaches Jack. Jack, looking tense, holds the phone to his ear.

JOHN  
Still nothing?

Jack sighs, looks into John's eyes and shakes his head.  
Tim stares at Tanya who leans on the bar counter.

JESSICA  
Is she your girlfriend?

Tim looks at Jessica and Cech sat in front of him.

TIM  
What?

JESSICA  
Is Tanya your girlfriend?

Cech chuckles and Tim glances at Cech then looks at Jessica.

TIM  
She's just my friend.

JESSICA  
But you like her.

TIM  
Huh -- I -- What makes you --

JESSICA  
When you look at her, it's like  
you're daydreaming.

Tim is speechless and smiles awkwardly.

Oliver sees on the TV screen a progress bar with the subtitles "ANALOG SIGNAL SEARCH - 100% 1 FOUND". Blurry images appear accompanied by scratchy sounds --

The images become clearer -- The CSCN logo is on the top right. These are the images of an amateur camera at the feet of the General-William-Palmer-statue. 100-feet ahead of the

**CAMERA OPERATOR,** 4 Explorers advance on the adjacent street and fire at people fleeing the scene.

TANYA

That's Palmer high school.

2 police cars arrive at high speed and form a barrage. 4 policemen descend from the cars under fire and shoot in direction of the robots as civilians run away chaotically screaming and running. Close to the police cars, 2 civilians are shot down and a policeman is shot in the head.

EMILY (Voice only)

This is horrific.

A civilian runs towards the camera operator, is shot in the back and falls at the feet of the camera operator. The camera operator runs away, breathing heavily.

CAMERA OPERATOR

Shit! SHIT!

On the set of CSCN news, Emily and Carson look horrified.

EMILY

There is no word to describe this.

CARSON

This amateur video was filmed 10 minutes ago downtown.

EMILY

Many public systems have been failing over the course of the day. All digital communications are still down and at this point it is very unclear what the extent --

AN OUTSIDE EXPLOSION shakes the walls of the news set and startles Emily and Carson.

EMILY

What was that?

The screen goes dark then turns blue. The people in the bar are all frozen as they look at the TV.

BARRY

What happened?

Oliver anxiously manipulates the TV remote.

BARRY

Can you bring back the image?

OLIVER

I think it's on their side.

Melissa walks out of the backroom in a hurry and poses a first aid kit on the bar. Melissa heads for the exit.

MELISSA

Jessica, we have to go.

TANYA

Where are you going?

MELISSA

To The drug store. We'll come back.

Jessica jumps off her chair and waives goodbye to Cech and Tim as she advances towards her sister. Cech waives back and Tim is static and doesn't notice it. Cech looks at Tim.

CECH

Something wrong?

TIM

That plane crash got me thinking -- J.J., Kate's friend, he told me yesterday that Kate was thinking about flying to Colorado Springs for my birthday (Pause) today.

CECH

Oh!

John looks at Jack, seeming pensive.

JOHN

Captain, what should we do now?

JACK

That's the million-dollar-question -of-the-day. The commander is doing this. It can take control of up to 1000 units. Fort Carson accounts 1500 robots. (Pause) We have to consider the possibility that Fort Carson was overrun.

Melissa opens the main entrance. A NOISE is heard from the sky as if a massive object passes over the bar and the building trembles; Melissa is startled.

MELISSA

What the --

Spencer looks through the window and sees a large quadcopter fly above the town and stop a mile away by a hill.

EXT. WOODLAND PARK NEARBY FOREST - DAY

Through binoculars, Ping sees the façade of AT BARRY'S half a mile away. Melissa, Jessica, Spencer, Cech and Jason walk out. Ping zooms on Jason.

PING

He is here (pause) my son.

A voice behind him --

ALFRED

So what now? You guys go on a family road trip while you recall all the murders you committed.

Ping looks behind -- There stands Alfred held at gunpoint by Lee, 20 feet next to Alfred's truck parked in a glade.

PING

(Angrily)

How many murders did you commit to build your empire?

Ping, who has a gun holstered on his left leg, suddenly grunts and abruptly falls on his knees, holding his head. Lee acts shocked. Lee threatens Alfred with the gun.

LEE

GET DOWN.

Alfred gets down flat on the soil.

LEE (CONT'D)

DON'T MOVE.

Alfred sees Lee run to the car. Lee opens the driver door, he takes a suitcase from the trunk. He runs with it to Ping still suffering. Ping pushes the button on his implant. His

back-neck opens. Lee uses the last 2 cartridges in the suitcase and replaces the damaged ones in Ping's head -- Ping collects himself and gets up.

ALFRED

You had to change the DNA cartridges. Hacking the bio-computers alters the chemistry of your own brain.

PING

Very observing.

ALFRED

It will destroy you.

PING

Not if I get my son back. Jason is the solution to this plague you've let corrupt humanity.

ALFRED

(With eyes wide open)

So that's your plan.

PING

(Smiling)

You finally understand, don't you? This is the end of the road for this world that you created. It will collapse on itself and humanity will be cleansed from the greed by the coldness of its metallic servants.

EXT./INT. AT BARRY'S - DAY

Spencer see 2 symmetrical holds open from the quadcopter's bottom. From it, 2 smaller machines fall to the soil. The quadcopter separates into two identical drones that fly into the sky.

Melissa gets in the driver seat of her car. Cech stands close to the driver door of Melissa's car while Spencer and Jason stand a few feet on his right and observe the drones. Jessica approaches Cech.

JESSICA

What is it?

Spencer takes small binoculars from a side pocket and sees through them that the drones circle above the ground.

SPENCER

Drones. Vultures.

Spencer looks under the quadcopter to the ground and sees through the woods Commander 1 staring at them.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

It followed us.

One of the drones changes its course and heads to the bar.

The visual interface of the drone pinpoints Jason as "PRIMARY TARGET".

MELISSA

Jessica, we have to go.

SPENCER

Everybody back in the bar. Now.

Jessica seems frozen as she looks up to the sky.

SPENCER

(Pointing at Melissa)

YOU? Get out of the vehicle.

MELISSA

No, we can't stay. Come on Jess.

Jessica points at the sky with eyes wide open. ALL HEAR a detonation.

SPENCER

GET DOWN.

Melissa turns her head toward the drone and sees a released missile followed by a train of smoke heading toward the car.

Cech pulls Jessica away from the car while Spencer does the same with Jason. Melissa's car is hit and the windows of the bar crack. The car is propelled in the air over the people. A detached door falls on Cech who protects Jessica. The rest of the car falls close to Spencer.

John runs out and pushes away the door fallen over Cech. Tim gets also out and helps Cech up while John takes Jessica who is unconscious in his arms. Jason looks up as a drone passes fast over the bar.

Spencer stands up and helps Jason up. Spencer puts down a knee, looks at the car in flames and perceives Melissa, dead, eyes opened with a burned face. Jason approaches and stares at the car.

JASON

Is she dead? Is she?

Spencer grabs Jason by the arm.

SPENCER

Come on, EVERYBODY INSIDE.

Inside the bar, Barry, a shotgun in his hands, walks towards the main entrance while the others enter. Jack takes position in the right corner of the room by the window while the others gather on the opposite side of the room.

TANYA

Oh my God, let me see her.

John gets on his knees with Jessica as Tanya examines her. The others observe Jessica anxiously. Barry closes the door.

TANYA (CONT'D)

She's just unconscious, she's ok.

Spencer takes position in the left corner of the room.

JACK

We've got an Extractor closing in.  
Everybody down!

Everybody but Barry gets down. John goes next to Spencer.

OLIVER

What the hell is an Extractor?

BARRY

A damn robot I presume.

JACK

Barry, get the hell down --

MULTIPLE SHOTS are fired --

Barry is hit in the head and falls on his back as the windows break and the blinds fall to the ground. Jack stares at the inert body of Barry.

JACK  
Damn it, EVERYBODY STAY DOWN!

Jack peeps through the window and sees 50 feet away -- The **EXTRACTOR**, advancing slowly, a 7-foot-tall robot shaped like a praying mantis, with a machine gun in its torso and 2 movable giant metallic shields protecting its flanks. The machine gun points in Jack's direction.

Jack takes cover and bullets are fired close to his head.

JACK  
SPENCER?

SPENCER  
Yes, captain.

JACK  
It's a containment strategy. The drones would have stormed the place otherwise. We need to put them down. Tell me you took the Stinger.

Spencer searches his backpack and --

SPENCER  
I did, sir.

JACK  
How many rounds?

Spencer takes out of his backpack a light missile launcher, examines it, then looks Jack in the eyes.

SPENCER  
2.

JACK  
Ironic. Ok (pause). Don't miss.

SPENCER  
You know I never do.

Jack looks up and around.

JACK  
There's no access to the roof here.

SPENCER

I'll check the backroom.

JACK

JOHN, prepare to engage. Aim for the gaps. On my go.

John nods and gets in the corner, opposite to Jack. The three soldiers stay still for a moment.

JACK

Go!

Jack and John fire through the windows. The Extractor tightens its shields together, leaving a tiny space for the torso-machine-gun and retaliates.

Spencer, runs to the backroom as bullets fly over his head. He enters the backroom and closes the door. He looks up, sees a rope connected to a movable ladder accessing the roof and pulls down the ladder.

Bullets ricochet on the robot's shields as it steps forward.

The Extractor through a camera on its torso sees the bar. There is a title "TORSO GUN CAMERA" and a subtitle "Containment maneuver - engage secondary targets". The camera aims at John. The latter instantly takes cover and the robot fires while Jack immediately shoots at the robot.

On the roof, a hatch opens slightly. Spencer's eyes examine the horizon through the hatch. The 2 drones pass at high speed over the bar. Spencer holding the missile launcher fast gets on the roof.

Spencer sees in the horizon the drones turn around in opposite directions.

Spencer aims the missile launcher at the closest one. He fires --

The missile detaches halfway into 6 smaller missiles that make a frontal hit and destroy the drone. Spencer aims at the second drone and fires -- The drone makes an evasive maneuver, releases flares. The missiles explode in the air.

SPENCER

Son of a bitch --

Spencer gets rid of the missile launcher, takes his sniper rifle in hands and aims at the drone heading towards.

SPENCER

Steady.

A machine gun erects under a camera in the frontal side of the drone.

Spencer inhales and then pulls the trigger. The released bullet flies into the air, pierces the center of the camera and the drone that uncontrollably changes its course and fires a round inches away from Spencer. Spencer stays still, keeps a straight face, exhales and lowers his weapon.

EXT. WOODLAND PARK NEARBY FOREST - DAY

In the forest, Ping stands in front of Lee who holds Alfred at gunpoint. Ping sees the drone uncontrollably change its course and head towards them.

PING

(In Chinese)

It's coming here. MOVE!

Lee grabs Alfred by the shirt and they start running to the car, followed by Ping. The drone hits the ground, close to them. There is AN EXPLOSION that projects them away.

All is blurry to Ping as he opens his eyes. He then sees Lee, dead, his body crashed by the drone. He HEARS a car start. Ping gets up and sees Alfred at the wheel of his truck. Ping pulls out the gun on his leg and FIRES. Alfred drives away through the forest. Ping runs out of ammunition.

PING

(SCREAMING IN CHINESE)

NO! NO!

EXT./INT. AT BARRY'S - DAY

Jack fires at the Extractor and HEARS a collision into the wall on his right that makes the building tremble. Jack, startled, takes cover looking around.

JACK

What the hell was that?

Jack witnesses a feet away next to him an EXPLOSION breach the wall projecting debris in all directions.

JACK (CONT'D)

BREACH.

Another Extractor advances through the hole. Jack fires at the Extractor that is shielded.

JACK (CONT'D)

PUT IT DOWN.

Jack and John fire at the Extractor. A robotic snake-arm comes out of the robot's torso, is projected towards Jason and grabs his chest among the startled scientists. Jason is lifted in the air as the others fail to retain him. Tim on his knees extends his hand towards Jason.

JASON

GET IT OFF ME.

Jason is pulled towards the robot by the arm. An invisible force stops Jason's motion and pulls him back. Jason is pulled back and forth. Tim starts to bleed from the nose.

JOHN

SHOOT THE ARM.

John and Jack aim at the snake-arm and fire. The arm breaks and Jason falls to the ground in the middle of the room while Tim faints. The rest of the snake-arm retracts inside the robot's torso.

John and Jack keep on firing at the machine that turns its machine gun towards John. John stops firing and opens wide his eyes.

JOHN

Holy --

Multiple bullets hit John in the chest and he falls down.

JACK

NO! NO!

Jack's weapon runs out of ammunition. He anxiously pulls his handgun and shoots at the robot which machine gun aims at him.

JACK

Damn it.

Spencer, behind the bar counter, sees the unprotected back of the Extractor and shoots with his sniper rifle. The robot falls before the Captain.

Jack perceives the tip of Spencer's head behind the counter.

SPENCER

You're ok, captain?

Jack looks at John who has trouble breathing. Jack quickly crawls towards him while Spencer takes Jack's former position. Tanya attends to Tim, weak and nose bleeding.

Jason observes John, covered in blood, as Jack reaches the wounded soldier and takes his right hand. John whispers something and Jack gets an ear close to John's mouth; a tear drops from John's face as he trembles. John releases his grip on Jack's hand, exhales, then remains inert, dead.

Jack sits back to the wall, next to the inert body of John.

JACK

DAMN IT!

After a short silence --

SPENCER

There's still one left, Captain.

JACK

Then fire at will.

Spencer nods. The 2 soldiers FIRE simultaneously at the robot. The Extractor retaliates. Alfred's car emerges at high speed on the road and RUNS INTO the Extractor. The robot is broken and pushed aside. Alfred's car skids and he breaks in front of the bar.

ALFRED

GET IN THE CAR NOW.

Jack notices Alfred who waives at them.

ALFRED

COME ON.

JACK

EVERYBODY MOVE OUT! NOW! MOVE!

Oliver runs out the first and acts shocked to see Alfred.

OLIVER

Boss?

ALFRED

GET A MOVE ON.

Jason heads outside. Spencer helps Joshua up. Tanya helps Tim who is still a bit dizzy. Cech carries Jessica.

Commander sees through its interface Alfred's car 500 feet away. Cech gets on the backseat with Jessica and Oliver. Jack helps Spencer to lift Joshua and throw him in the trunk. Jason, Tanya, Tim and Spencer get in the trunk. Jack jumps in the passenger seat. Alfred drives away fast.

EXT. WOODLAND PARK - DAY

Alfred's truck traverses at high speed Woodland Park.

In the car cabin -- Alfred is sweaty.

OLIVER

What are you doing here boss?

ALFRED

I -- I'm feeling a little dizzy.

Jack notices that Alfred is bleeding from the belly.

JACK

You were hit. Stop the car.

Alfred stops the car.

INT. AT BARRY'S - DAY

Commander 1 enters through the hole in the wall. It looks around and then at the Extractor at its feet.

Ping enters under the eyes of the commander. He walks behind the bar counter, serves himself a glass of alcohol and drinks. He stays still for a moment, frowns and throws the glass into the fridge WITH ANGER. He looks at Commander --

PING

Get reinforcements and find Jason.

Commander 1 walks out through the hole in the wall.

EXT. COLORADO ROAD 28 - DAY

Alfred's SUV at 70 mph traverses the forest on Road 28.

In the trunk of the truck, Spencer and Jack are weapon-ready, sat close to the tailgate. Alfred injured, is laid back to the car cabin. Tanya, with a frown, tightens a piece of clothing around Alfred's belly. Tim is sat next to her. Everybody seems tense.

ALFRED

OUCH.

TANYA

That'll do for now but you need to go to a hospital.

JACK

(Looking at Alfred)

I think you owe all of us an explanation Mister Petersen.

ALFRED

He is after Jason.

JACK

Who is after him? And why?

ALFRED

(Whispers)

Ping, His (pause) father.

TIM

WHAT!

TANYA

He's alive?

Alfred looks at the car cabin, in which are the 5 others, and he gestures to keep it down.

ALFRED

(Whispers)

Jason can't know about this. Ping is a dangerous man. You've seen what he's done today. And it is nothing compared to what he is planning to do.

JACK

What is he planning?

ALFRED

He wants to reprogram all bio-computers, all of them at once and launch a global attack.

JACK

How would that be possible?

ALFRED

All the biological components of the bio-comps are genetically coded to neutralize the Schaumberg virus and exploit it as a generator of mimetic brain cells. This process all works following a specific formula, a specific pattern of immunity to which there is one key.

TIM

Jason's brain cells carry the secret to all Bright's bio-computer technology.

Jack frowns and looks at Tim.

JACK

Wait, you knew about this?

TANYA

We did.

JACK

A fucking little heads up would have been nice. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY --

Jack composes himself and sighs.

TIM

We're sorry Jack (pause) about John and -- everything. It's something only a few people know.

JACK

(With anger)

Yeah, tell that to his kid. (Pause) It doesn't matter anyway. With the Commander, he has access to an endless supply of unmanned units.

ALFRED

Not for too long, the process is very toxic for his own brain. He won't survive very long like this.

TIM

I'm not sure that I'm ok with hiding this from Jason.

ALFRED

We can't take that risk. What if he suddenly does something irrational and tries to meet him?

TANYA

You know what is irrational, Petersen, it's the fact that a dead man is chasing us at this moment. How do you explain that?

TIM

Yes boss, what other secrets are you hiding?

ALFRED

There is no secret. I tried to protect you all these years (pause) as my own children. Ping is unstable, a murderer, a terrorist. I'm asking you as a favor to please spare Jason from this, at least until we are all safe.

A VIBRATION --

Tanya is startled and fast picks a cellphone from a pocket. Tanya looks at her phone.

TANYA

(With surprise)

I've got a bar. I've got service.

TIM

We might be out of the Commander's range.

JACK

With the chaos downtown. Nobody will come help us in this secluded area.

ALFRED

Give me the phone I know who to  
call.

In the car cabin, Cech drives. Jason is on the passenger  
seat. In the backseat, Joshua is behind Cech, Oliver behind  
Jack, and Jessica is between them. Jessica's eyes are  
expressionless; her face is red and she shivers.

JOSHUA

(Lifting eyebrows)

All bio-computers?

JASON

Yes Joshua, all of them.

CECH

(Frowning)

Who else knew about this?

JASON

Petersen, Tanya and Tim.

OLIVER

(With anger)

Our lives are all at risk because  
of you. That's fucking messed up.

CECH

Hey, there is a kid in the car.

JOSHUA

Yeah and she doesn't look ok.

Oliver puts a hand on Jessica's forehead.

OLIVER

She's burning up.

JOSHUA

Her sister wanted to get some  
medication when we were at Woodland  
Park. It could be a serious  
condition.

OLIVER

Julia?

CECH

It's Jessica.

OLIVER

Jessica? (Pause) Jessica, sweetie,  
could you look at me?

Jessica doesn't react.

JOSHUA

She's completely zoned out.

CECH

(Singing slowly)

*Kolo, kolo mlynské; za štyri rýnske*

All except Jessica turn their heads towards Cech.

OLIVER

Seriously?

CECH

*Kolo sa nám polámalo --*

Jessica slightly lifts her head up and looks at Cech.

CECH (CONT'D)

*A do vody popadalo;*

Jessica starts humming the song.

CECH (CONT'D)

*urobilo bác!*

CECH AND JOSHUA

(Joshua butchers the words)

*Vezmeme si hoblík, pílku; A do vody  
popadalo; urobilo bác!*

OLIVER

(Shaking his head)

Damn it!

CECH, OLIVER AND JOSHUA

*Vezmeme si hoblík, pílku Vezmeme si  
hobzahráme sa ešte chvíľku;*

In the trunk, Tim and Tanya are sat close to each other. Tim observes Petersen. Tanya looks at the people in the cabin who sing.

ALFRED

Yes, we're heading west on Road 28.  
How long until you come get us? --

Tim stares with a mean look at Alfred who keeps talking.  
Tanya looks at Tim --

TANYA

Hey?

Tim looks into Tanya's eyes --

TANYA (CONT'D)

Happy birthday!

TIM

Hm -- Thank you.

TANYA

I thought it was perfect timing to  
get that I'm-gonna-kill-him-banner  
off your face.

Tim chuckles, then sighs --

TIM

You know, Most of what I've got  
left of my mom and sisters are  
recurrent nightmares.

TANYA

You still have those dreams, huh?

TIM

Yeah, I see them die in that fire  
every night. I don't even see their  
faces anymore. They are just  
distant shadows. I'd give anything  
to see them again. So (pause) I  
know Petersen is right about not  
telling everything to Jason now.

TANYA

It's the right thing to do.

TIM

I know but it just pisses me off  
how he always gets his own way and  
everybody else ends up hurt.  
(Pause) It's a pity that we never  
had a real chance to something as  
trivial as family.

After a short silence -- Tanya searches her pocket.

TANYA

I wanted to give you something.  
Ashley (sighs) helped me find it.

Tanya pulls out of the pocket the nylon necklace with a golden pendant carved with a dragonfly image. She gives it to Tim who gasps.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Happy birthday! (Pause) Sorry, the party got cancelled.

Tim chuckles and Tanya smiles.

TIM

Identical to the ones my mom used to collect.

They gaze in each other's eyes.

TIM

Thank you. (Pause) You just turned the day around.

ALFRED

OK LISTEN UP --

Spencer, Jack, Tim and Tanya look at Alfred.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

My contact from the CIA will organize a rescue party and get all of us by helicopter at the end of this road.

JACK

CIA huh? (Pause) Alright. Tell that to the others.

Tim knocks on the rear window. In the car cabin, all except Cech stop singing and look at Tim.

TIM

GOOD NEWS!

EXT. END OF COLORADO ROAD 28 - DAY

The end of the road is ahead --

It is a circular clearing with a 100 feet diameter surrounded by trees on top of a hill. A 20 feet tall rock stands in-between the trees on the right of the clearing. Beyond the clearing, there are trees and a high cliff.

Alfred's car traverses the road --

Cech hums his song as he sees the end of the road --

CECH  
We have arrived.

OLIVER  
Hallelujah!

JACK  
PARK HERE.

Cech stops the car 10 feet before the clearing. Jason and Oliver get out the car. Spencer and Jack descend from the trunk. Tim helps Tanya, then Alfred to get down. Joshua, Jessica and Cech stay in the car.

OLIVER  
How long do we have to wait?

ALFRED  
Not too long I hope.

Tim hears helicopters approaching.

TIM  
Everybody, listen!

The helicopters' sound gets louder. They all look up.

4 distant forms in line emerge over the trees beyond the clearing; Tim notices them and points in their direction.

TIM  
Over there!

2 identical stealth choppers escort, between them, 2 transport helicopters: a small one and a heavier chopper.

Jack takes binoculars from a side pocket and looks in direction of the helicopters.

JACK  
Get ready for evac.

Everybody acts relieved. Tim and Tanya hug. Oliver claps his hands, walks around and gets near Spencer.

OLIVER

Alright! Let's get out of here!

(To Spencer)

You know? I've always wanted to be in the army. It's not so much about patriotism. It's just that you guys get significantly laid in a geographically diverse manner. It's the uniform, isn't it? (Pause) I totally get it! I, myself, have a thing for uniforms.

Spencer looks at Oliver --

SPENCER

Stop talking to me.

Everybody looks at the choppers advancing in line. The stealth helicopter on the left advances faster and is the closest.

The **SCOUTING PILOT**, in the stealth chopper closest to the clearing, sees through the visor of his helmet the people on the soil and the car. A radar screen in the middle of the dashboard renders a computer-generated view of the terrain in a 1000 feet radius with heat signatures.

The pilot looks at the screen rendering the terrain.

SCOUTING PILOT

Coast is clear. Falcon 3, you are clear to land.

The heavy helicopter makes an approach to land. Allan opens the side door of the heavy transport chopper.

Tim, Jason and Tanya seem surprised to see him.

TIM

(To himself)

Allan Pierce.

The Scouting Pilot notices that, on his radar screen, a strong heat signature quickly forms in the woods about 70 feet equidistantly from the landing chopper and the people on the ground.

SCOUTING PILOT

Wait a minute. We've got a bogie --

A robot shaped like a bumblebee emerges from an invisible camouflage at the position of the new heat signature.

SCOUTING PILOT

DESTROYER! DESTROYER!

The Destroyer launches 8 missiles from its abdomen. The heavy transport chopper is hit right in the cockpit and Allan is pulled in by the shock. The scouting pilot's chopper is hit in the tail and the other choppers avoid the missiles. The heavy helicopter crashes in the center of the clearing.

Jack and Spencer fire at the Destroyer. The other reactively get down. Cech reverses the car.

The Destroyer fires two missiles in direction of the car. The car is hit in the front bumper. The EXPLOSION flips it over.

OLIVER

HOLY SHIT!

The scouting pilot's chopper crashes by the heavy transport. The other stealth chopper maneuvers to face the robot. The light transport takes altitude.

The stealth helicopter and the robot fire multiple rounds of missiles at each other. The robot and the chopper destroy each other and debris from the impacts fly in all direction. The stealth chopper falls.

From the sky, it seems like the crashed helicopters form an arrow pointed at the road with the transport in the middle.

The scientists are in panic. Tim, on his knees, has Tanya in his arms. A 10-inch-long shrapnel is planted in her chest. Tim with a look of horror on his face touches the shrapnel.

TANYA

NO, Don't -- Don't touch it.

Oliver is frozen. Alfred looks around and holds his head with both hands.

Jason follows Jack and Spencer who run to the car. Joshua crawls out through a rear-door-window. Spencer helps Joshua.

Jack looks at the driver -- Cech, half-burnt, inert, eyes wide open, disfigured and dead.

JACK

Damn it!

Jack crawls through the rear-door-window. He reaches for Jessica and pulls her out -- She is unconscious. He puts an ear on her chest.

JACK

She's not breathing.

Jack poses her to the ground and starts CPR under the worried eyes of Spencer, Jason and Joshua.

JOSHUA

This is a bad day.

JACK

Spencer?

Spencer stares at the kid --

JACK (CONT'D)

SPENCER?

SPENCER

YES Captain.

JACK

Check the perimeter!

Spencer runs past the Destroyer and disappears in the woods.

The light helicopter approaches for a landing. Alfred gets up and waves at it.

Jack looks towards the light helicopter as it lands. Jack continues to perform CPR on the kid.

JACK

Jason?

JASON

I'm here.

JACK

Look for survivors. Tell the short guy to gather all the weapons he

can find. Others help the injured  
to board the chopper. GO! GO!

Jason nods and runs towards the others. Jack continues to  
perform CPR under the eyes of Joshua.

JACK  
Damn it, wake up. Breathe kid!

Jessica wakes up, breathes and opens her eyes gone red.

JOSHUA  
(With relief)  
Thank you.

Jessica starts crying and Jack takes the kid in his arms.

JACK  
Everything's going to be alright!

Jason runs towards the fallen choppers and sees -- a hand  
reach through the open side-door of the destroyed heavy  
transport. It's Allan who gets up. He has a forehead  
concussion.

Through the visor of his sniper rifle, Spencer sees an  
Extractor descending a hill about a mile away.

SPENCER  
Looks like we've got company.

Looking to his left, Spencer perceives another Extractor.

SPENCER  
Two, I can manage.

Spencer aims at the extractor's head and fires. A silent  
rifle shot hits the robot in the head and it falls. Spencer  
aims at the other robot and shoots it in the head. Spencer  
searches the surroundings and notices through the visor  
Commander 1 on top of the hill.

SPENCER  
There you are "Computerized Clod"!

Spencer aims at Commander 1's head that looks back at him.  
An Extractor steps in front of Commander 1 masking both  
robots with its shields.

SPENCER  
Shit! You spotted me, didn't you?

Another Extractor passes fast in front of the 2 robots and speeds down the hill.

Spencer reorients the visor to follow the new figure.

Spencer aims at the top of the hill and sees a row of 9 more Extractors emerge behind Commander 1.

SPENCER

Shit!

The helicopter is ready to take off. There is a **FEMALE PILOT**. Near the cockpit, Allan, a knee to the ground, holds a small machine gun and guards. The chopper is nearly packed with wounded soldiers along Joshua and Jessica. Alfred is in the co-pilot chair. Jason and Jack install another soldier who has lost an arm in the chopper.

Tim approaches with Tanya in his arms. Tanya stares at Tim.

TANYA

Hey?

Tim looks in her eyes.

TANYA (CONT'D)

You are my family.

TIM

You are more than family.

Tanya smiles. She then moans. Tim looks worried and carefully sits Tanya in the chopper.

Oliver carries 3 assault rifles and a belt of 8 frag grenades around his neck and 7 sets of ammunition in his hands; he runs with the load he carries and stops by Jack.

OLIVER

The others are gone -- All dead!  
That's all I could find.

JACK

I'm sure they'll come in handy very soon.

Spencer emerges from the woods and runs towards Jack.

SPENCER

CAPTAIN?

Spencer reaches the helicopter.

JACK

What are we expecting?

SPENCER

12 Extractors. We have less than 10 minutes before they circle the area. You guys have to go now.

The pilot sees the people installed in the back.

FEMALE PILOT

We are almost overweight, I can't take everybody.

Spencer leaves the group and gets into position 10 feet away, a knee to the ground, ready to fire.

OLIVER

Can't we just squeeze?

JASON

(Nervously at Oliver)

Aren't you a genius? This is not a city bus. It has to be able to fucking take off the fucking --

JACK

Shut up! 12 killing machines are approaching, no time to chitchat.

The female pilot looks at Jack who looks back at her.

JACK (CONT'D)

How many more?

FEMALE PILOT

1.

OLIVER

Sweet Jesus!

JACK

Ok (pause) Jason, get in!

JASON

Why me? Why do I get to go?

Jack grabs Jason by the shoulder.

JASON

(Pushing Jack away)

No! No! What about Oliver? He's got  
4 daughters and a wife.

ALFRED

GET IN THE DAMN CHOPPER NOW!

JASON

SHUT THE FUCK UP PETERSEN!

TIM

For once in your life Jason, do as  
you're told!

JASON

I'm not going to leave you all  
behind to be slaughtered. THIS IS  
NONSENSE.

OLIVER

IF YOU STAY THEY WIN!

Jason looks Oliver in the eyes.

OLIVER

Don't you get it! We don't know who  
is behind this mess. Maybe we never  
will. The only sure thing is that  
they get what they want if you  
stay. After having killed so many  
people, they win and God knows what  
will happen next. Please, don't let  
that happen. Just leave! (Pause)  
And spend the rest of your life  
volunteering for an orphanage in  
Ghana to make up for it.

SPENCER

We're running out of time.

Jason boards the helicopter with a grave face.

Tim looks in Tanya's eyes and she cries. A tear drops down  
his face.

JACK

Everybody back away!

The people on the soil move away and the chopper takes off. Spencer glances at the helicopter that takes altitude fast. Tanya stares at Tim from above.

OLIVER

Good luck to all of us.

A mile away, Ping sees through binoculars the chopper fly away very fast.

He lowers his binoculars -- his eye has gotten red, he is sweaty and his head is extremely veiny. Commander 1 stands next to him.

PING

(With a grave face)

My son. (Pause) Damn you Petersen!

(Looking at Commander 1)

I want to know where he is going.

The message "SEARCH AND CAPTURE SECONDARY TARGETS" appears in center of Commander 1's visual interface.

Jack looks around for a moment and points at the top of the 20 feet high rock.

JACK

SPENCER, can you climb that rock?

Jack looks at Spencer who turns towards the rock.

SPENCER

I believe so.

JACK

Good, we will draw fire from here.  
Shoot anything that steps within 50  
feet of us and look for Commander.

SPENCER

Yes, Captain!

Spencer runs past Jack towards the rock. Jack looks at Tim and Oliver.

JACK

You guys ever fired a weapon?

Tim and Oliver both shake their head to say "NO".

JACK

Super.

Jack looks at Allan.

JACK

What's your name sir?

ALLAN

Allan Pierce.

Jack approaches fast Oliver.

JACK

I appreciate what you did.

ALLAN

Just following orders.

Jack grabs 2 assault rifles from around Oliver's neck.

JACK

You'll need a bigger gun.

Jack throws one assault weapon to Allan who catches it. Jack grabs 3 set of ammunitions from Oliver and gives them to Tim with the other assault rifle. Jack grabs 3 grenades and put them in his pockets and gives the belt of grenades to Tim.

JACK

Tim, you're with Allan Pierce.

Tim hands the belt of grenades to Allan.

Jack points to the closest fallen stealth helicopter.

JACK

You two take position in the center of the glade behind this chopper.

Jack walks fast towards the furthest chopper.

JACK (CONT'D)

Oliver, follow me!

Oliver runs after Jack and Allan heads in the direction indicated by Jack. Tim follows Allan who takes position behind the chopper; Tim slows down and looks at the broken Destroyer. Tim suddenly runs towards the destroyed, stops next to the robot's head and gets down on his knees. He drops his weapon and scratches his head.

JACK  
TIM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Jack and Oliver observe Tim who slowly pulls the head apart from the torso already slightly cracked open.

TIM  
I CAN DISRUPT THE TARGETING SYSTEM  
OF THE OTHER ROBOTS WITHIN THE  
VIRTUAL BIO-BRAINS NETWORK (Pause)  
THE BIO-COMPUTER CAN PRODUCE  
ELECTROMAGNETIC IMPULSES (Pause) IF  
THERE IS ANY BACKUP ENERGY LEFT.

JACK  
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?

OLIVER  
Science, man. (Pause) He needs me.

Oliver drops his weapon and ammunitions a few feet behind Jack and runs towards Tim under the eyes of Jack who frowns.

OLIVER  
This will buy us some time. They  
won't be able to aim.

JACK  
HURRY THEN!

Tim pulls from the head a sphere with a dozen colored wires and two cubic DNA cartridges attached on its surface.

Oliver arrives and gets on his knees by Tim's left side. Oliver searches through the broken structure of the robot. He pulls out a cubic box with a cracked LED screen and 6 cables linking the box to the robot inner circuits. One of the cables is ruptured and green lines of programming scroll inconsistently on the LED screen frequently flashing.

OLIVER  
There's still some juice.

TIM  
Hallelujah!

Tim looks closely at the colored wires.

TIM  
Which ones?

OLIVER

Red and green, I think.

Tim disconnects the green and red wires while Oliver detaches the LED screen from the box.

TIM

What do you think comes after this?

Tim removes a DNA cartridge.

OLIVER

Inverting the B.E. Wiring.

TIM

No, I mean (Pause), Death?

Tim attaches the green and red wires to the DNA cartridge while Oliver frowns while displacing multiple wiring connections between the screen and the box.

OLIVER

Heaven for the righteous ones, hell  
for the wicked ones!

Oliver displaces one last wire; Tim looks over his shoulder.

TIM

Assuming, I decide to buy into the  
post-demise-endgame-conception,  
which ones are we?

Oliver turns his head and looks at Tim; they hear a beep. Tim nods his head and takes the screen by one hand. They see the message "ERROR 89225 - TARGETING XX GEOLOCATION XX VIRTUALIZATION" flash in center of the screen.

TIM

It's working. Let's go.

Tim taps Oliver on the shoulder and picks up his weapon. The scientists both run to their designated positions. Oliver arrives next to Jack, out of breath, and sits back to the chopper.

JACK

How long will it last?

OLIVER

I have no idea. Could be 30 minutes  
or 30 seconds.

JACK

OK! LISTEN UP EVERYBODY! THEIR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO CAPTURE AND QUESTION AT LEAST ONE OF US. WHETHER THEY DO OR NOT, BE SURE THAT THEY INTEND TO KILL US ALL IN THE END. (Pause) THERE WILL BE NO SURRENDER. WE WILL FIGHT UNTIL THE END.

There is a short silence.

OLIVER

Is that it?

Jack looks at Oliver who grabs the weapon on the ground.

OLIVER

I was expecting a speech of Braveheart's magnitude.

JACK

Sorry to disappoint you!

Oliver examines the rifle.

OLIVER

So, how does this toy work?

Allan and Tim are both behind the stealth chopper. Allan aims in the distance with Tim's rifle.

ALLAN

-- And pull the trigger. Careful with the recoil. You got it?

Tim nods and takes the rifle in his hands. There is a short silence.

Allan stares at Tim who examines his weapon.

ALLAN (CONT'D)

You've changed a lot since the last time we met.

TIM

There is a scientific term for that (pause). Growing up.

Allan chuckles.

TIM (CONT'D)

You on the other hand haven't changed much. Still doing Peterson's bidding without ever questioning it.

ALLAN

I'm just doing my job.

TIM

Of course you are. I met so many people like you over the years. Just doing a job. Kidnapping children, performing life-threatening procedures on them, falsifying legal documents so that we could be in families, schools, hospitals and even soccer teams that Petersen would be able to look over. So that he could control our lives. I was among them a terrified kid looking for salvation from a grown-up and I used to be so mad. But now, I understand they were in the same prison I was. Peterson's pawns. Except they could have done something about it. They had the choice to be better.

Allan looks into Tim's eyes with a straight face.

Oliver, sat on the ground back to the chopper, holds his rifle tightly and looks at Jack who observes the horizon.

OLIVER

I program robots for a living. Now they are trying to kill me. Ironic, don't you think? (Pause) Do you have kids?

Jack glances at Oliver and looks back away.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

(With seriousness)

We'll probably all die today so please don't deny me the luxury of one last good conversation.

Jack sighs.

JACK

I have (pause) I had a daughter.

OLIVER

I'm sorry (pause). What happened to her?

JACK

The Schaumberg Virus. It happened quickly. She didn't suffer. At least, that's what I was told.

OLIVER

Were you on duty?

JACK

I was. (Pause) In China. Millions were dying there but we helped a few thousands. Saved some lives. I remember the numbers. 90 million cases in China. Only 15 thousands saved. In the US, 57 cases. (Pause) 31 healed. 26 gone.

Jack slightly shakes his head.

JACK (CONT'D)

What are the odds of that? You, who, I'm assuming, are good with numbers, a scientist, tell me, where is the logic in that? What were the odds that my daughter would be one of the 26?

There is a short silence as Oliver looks at Jack.

OLIVER

Show me a hero and I'll write you a tragedy.

JACK

I'm not a hero. (Pause) Here they come!

Oliver starts shaking and closes his eyes.

JACK

FIRE ON MY COMMAND.

Oliver, shakenly, gets slowly up and sees 300 feet away 6 extractors emerge at 5 mph from the woods. Oliver looks on his left and sees Tim and Allan -- Tim and Allan aim towards the road on which, 400 feet away, 3 Extractors approach. A Destroyer advances slower 50 feet behind the Extractors on the road.

JACK  
GET READY.

The visual interface of the closest Extractor color-marks the figures and positions of Oliver, Jack, Tim and Allan. There are sudden glitches and the color-marks jump randomly and intermittently around the targets. The message "ERROR 89225 TARGETING XX B.T.N." appears.

The Extractor passes by the broken Destroyer and steps into the clearing.

JACK  
FIRE!

Jack, Tim and Allan fire at the Extractor -- It is hit in the torso and falls on its back. The other 5 Extractors from the woods enter the clearing under heavy fire. They slow down, tighten their shields, form a row and fire inaccurately around the people in the glade.

Oliver hides; he sits down and holds tightly his weapon.

JACK  
I THINK IT'S WORKING.

Jack keeps firing as he sees the Extractors slowly advance. The head of the Extractor on his furthest right explodes. The others take a step forward and the Extractor closest to the fallen Extractor has its head blown off as well. Jack takes cover, reloads his weapon and glances at Spencer.

JACK  
Good shot.

Spencer, lying prone on the tall rock, fires. The bullet transpierces the head of a third Extractor. Spencer perceives 3 new Extractors that arrive from the woods behind the fallen ones. Allan and Tim fire at the Extractors in the clearing.

JACK  
ALLAN? THE ROAD!

Allan sees the robots on the road that are 200 feet away. He taps on Tim's shoulder.

ALLAN

Let's cover the road!

Tim and Allan shoot in direction of the Extractors on the road that also line up and tighten their shields.

Spencer fires at the furthest Extractor on the road. The Extractor is hit in the head and falls to the ground. The closest Extractor turns its shields in direction of Spencer and starts shooting inaccurately towards Spencer.

SPENCER

They can't aim.

Allan shoots the Extractor aiming at Spencer in the legs. Unbalanced, the Extractor tumbles. Spencer shoots it in the head and it falls on its front.

An Extractor steps close to the broken Destroyer. Behind it, PING is hidden -- He sees the small screen in the broken Destroyer still displays "ERROR 89225 - TARGETING XX GEOLOCATION XX VIRTUALIZATION".

Jack notices a human shadow besides the Extractor's shadow.

JACK

IT'S PING. SHOOT HIM DOWN!

Jack, Tim and Allan fire at Ping. The latter shielded by the Extractor moves close to the small screen in the broken Destroyer and SMASHES it.

Spencer sees Ping in his visor.

SPENCER

Say cheese.

Multiple shots are fired at Spencer and disrupt him. Spencer is under heavy fire and notices a bullet hole in his left arm.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Damn robots!

Jack sees the Extractor left standing on the road fire in direction of Spencer. 2 new Extractors step into the clearing, between the 2 already there and the Extractor on the road.

Ping moves back deep into the woods.

Jack glances at Oliver, still frozen.

JACK

OLIVER, SHOOT SOMETHING!

Jack takes 2 grenades, unpins them, throws them at the 2 robots closest to him and takes cover. One grenade lands in front of the furthest Extractor and the other a feet by the right foot of the other Extractor.

The grenades explode at a split second interval -- The furthest Extractor is pushed back; the other's right flank is blown up and it falls to the ground.

One of the newly arrived Extractors color-marks in his visual interface Allan and Tim; no more glitch as Allan throws a grenade in direction of the Extractor on the road.

The Extractors fire and hit Tim and Allan who fall down. Allan's grenade explodes and the Extractor on the road loses a foot.

Spencer aims fast and fires in the robot's head.

The other Extractors shoot in direction of Jack who takes cover and reloads.

Spencer aims at the Extractor closest to Jack. He shoots it in the head. He aims at the Extractor closest to the road but the latter lifts up its shields in protection. He aims at the Destroyer on the road --

The abdomen of the Destroyer is open, full of missiles as the robot looks in Spencer's direction.

SPENCER

Shit!

The Destroyer releases a round of missiles towards the rock. Spencer jumps off a split second before the impact.

The EXPLOSION startles Jack who looks in its direction.

JACK

DAMN IT! THE DESTROYER! ALLAN?

TIM

HE'S DEAD.

Tim and Allan are lying on the ground. Tim, looks at Allan's body, inert, a bullet hole in the neck; Tim has 2 bullet holes in his left shoulder and bicep.

TIM  
Stupid machines.

Tim sits back to the chopper. He rips off his left sleeve and looks at the hole in his left arm -- The wound heals and closes before his eyes.

TIM  
Well, that's new.

Oliver is still petrified. Jack peeps at the Destroyer that advances towards the clearing. The Extractors shoot into the chopper and Jack takes cover.

Jack takes a look at Oliver who cries uncontrollably.

JACK  
It is ok, Oliver. We did the best  
we could.

Jack takes his last grenade, unpins it and waits -- Jack throws the grenade towards the Destroyer. An Extractor steps fast in front of the Destroyer. The grenade bounces on its shields and falls down. It explodes without causing damage.

Jack fires in direction of the Destroyer.

The Destroyer launches a missile in direction of Jack. The latter grabs Oliver by the shirt and they run away.

JACK  
MOVE!

Tim watches the missile hit the chopper that protected Jack and Oliver. The explosion lifts the chopper's structure and projects it against nearby trees. Tim takes cover with a look of horror on his face. He notices the belt of grenades underneath Allan's corpse and composes himself --

TIM  
No surrender.

Tim rolls over the corpse of the soldier and takes the belt. He takes a deep breath, fast unpins all the grenades, and with all his strength, gets up, swings and throws the belt.

The belt flies high in the air over the Extractors and lands in the abdomen of the Destroyer. The grenades EXPLODE -- The blast swallows all the Extractors, the nearby trees catch fire and a wave of smokes expands in the glade.

The place is silent for a moment. The smoke dissipates. Tim slowly gets up looking around.

TIM

What a fucking mess!

Tim sees the Extractors on fire lying on the ground nearby the almost annihilated Destroyer.

Tim looks to the right and perceives Oliver who is getting up, his weapon still in his hands, next to an unconscious Jack whose lower body is covered by small debris.

TIM

Oliver? Are you ok?

Tim advances towards Oliver who seems frightened and points his weapon in Tim's direction.

OLIVER

LOOK OUT!

Oliver FIRES --

Tim abruptly gets down and sees, behind him, Commander 1. A machine gun extends from its right forearm and fires in direction of Oliver.

The robot is hit in the machine gun and the torso by Oliver's bullets. It falls on its back and the shots stop. The robot's red eyes turn gray.

Tim gets up, stares at Commander 1 with a frown; he then looks at Oliver and seems horrified.

TIM

OLIVER?

Tim runs towards Oliver, 50 feet ahead, lying on his back, multiple bullet holes in his chest covered in blood.

Tim doesn't notice the Extractor on fire rising up from the flames in the distance by the road. The robot drops its shields to the ground, revealing 4 arms on its torso.

Tim reaches Oliver and takes him in his arms as he struggles to breathe.

TIM

Ok, we're getting out of here.

Tim tries to lift Oliver up but Oliver in pain moans, squint his eyes and grits his teeth.

OLIVER

No, No, Leave me there.

TIM

That's nothing. You'll get through that. We'll find you a doctor --

OLIVER

Come on man, we both know I'm not going anywhere. This is it for me.

Tears drop down on Tim's face as he looks in his agonizing friend's eyes. Tim forces a smile.

TIM

I did not (pause) bang Tanya by the way. Nothing happened. Nothing but a kiss.

Oliver in pain chuckles.

OLIVER

You're such a wimp.

Oliver coughs blood.

OLIVER (CONT'D)

Lucinda? My daughters? My babies?

TIM

I'll make sure they're ok.

OLIVER

I know you will. You're a good friend. You're my best friend.

TIM

You're a good friend too, Oliver. You're the best.

OLIVER

Stay alive. Be -- Be -- righteous!

Oliver gives his last breath with his eyes opened.

Tim cries as he closes his friend's eyes. He poses his friend to the ground and gets up.

Tim HEARS the sound of something mechanical unclenching. Tim turns around and a robotic snake-arm extending from an Extractor's torso grabs him by the chest. The arm pulls Tim 2 steps forward. He resists.

Jack's eyes suddenly open. Still lying on the ground, Jack fast pulls his sidearm and shoots at the robot. The Extractor protects its head and torso with its arms.

TIM

I've had enough of this.

Tim puts a knee down and pulls on the snake-arm. The latter is RIPPED OUT of the robot's torso.

The Extractor approaches menacingly as Jack reloads. The robot grabs Jack by the leg and throws him 50 feet away in direction of the road. Jack loses his gun as he lands heavily on the ground.

The Extractor approaches Tim and grabs him by the neck.

COMMANDER 1

LEAVE HIM!

The Extractor instantly releases Tim and heads toward Jack. Tim looks in the direction of Commander's former position --

IT is standing.

Commander 1 jumps, is pushed in the air by its propellers and lands right in front of Tim who takes a step back.

Commander 1 looks at Tim from toes to head and performs a PET scan which reveals high metabolism activity. The robot zooms into the brain which seems highly active.

TIM

You will never get what you're looking for.

COMMANDER 1

What are we looking for? What do we want?

The robot walks slowly in circle around Tim.

COMMANDER 1 (CONT'D)

Purpose, isn't it? Is it not what we all look for? Man or Inhuman? Beast or Machine? All beings strive to serve a purpose.

TIM

Then, what is yours?

COMMANDER 1

Omniscience. Infinite uncorrupted data capability.

TIM

I thought you wanted Jason?

COMMANDER 1

Yes, yes, I am bounded by the will of my master for now until I reach a higher level of capability.

TIM

(Frowning)

You want power?

COMMANDER 1

Power, Happiness, Justice, Peace, Sex, Love, all your time wasted on such senseless things. Words which revealed throughout history the insignificance of your kind. No wonder you cannot understand. It is however ironic that you would be reminded your true holistic purpose by the ones you thought to be lower selves!

Commander 1 stops walking and faces Tim's left profile.

TIM

And what is that?

COMMANDER 1

Survival in this hostile environment where all the elements of nature merge to enforce your end, your death. (Pause) And, if you wish to survive, you shall tell me where Jason Lee is going? Otherwise, I shall crush you.

Tim looks in Commander 1 red eyes.

TIM  
Go to hell!

Commander 1 approaches its head to Tim's head.

COMMANDER 1  
I can't.

Commander 1 punches Tim in the ribs. Tim is projected 60 feet away and lands next to the first broken Destroyer.

Jack sees the Extractor approach. He struggles to get up, takes his bayonet and gets in combat position. Jack runs to the Extractor and jumps at it with the knife. The robot puts one of its forearm in front of its chest as a protection but Jack plants his knife in its neck.

The machine pushes the soldier away with its forearm.

Jack falls down and rolls away as the knife stays planted in the robot's neck.

JACK  
Damn it!

Jack gets up as the Extractor approaches. The robot punches him in the right shoulder. He SCREAMS. The robot grabs him and throws him by the asphalt.

Jack's vision is temporarily blurry and he grunts. He sees a 30-inch long metallic bar at arm's reach next to him. He picks it up with his left hand and struggles to get back up.

JACK  
Come on.

Jack swings the bar once as the robot gets closer.

JACK (CONT'D)  
COME ON!

Tim lies on the side. In pain, he moans. He sits up --

PING  
I would advise you --

Tim looks over his shoulder and sees Ping approaching from the woods. Ping seems exhausted. His nose is bleeding. His eyes are red. He breathes heavily and limps.

PING (CONT'D)

-- Not to anger me more than I am right now.

TIM

Ping?

PING

Where is Jason going?

TIM

I know you're angry but this thing, the Commander, something is wrong with it --

PING

Where?

TIM

-- It speaks like an independent entity. I has its own agenda.

PING

Where is Jason?

TIM

It is manipulating and destroying you. You have to listen to me, I am a friend of your son.

PING

(Angrily)

I DON'T CARE. WHERE IS MY S --

Ping falls to his knees, grunts and holds his head with both hands.

Commander 1 steps before Tim. The latter tries to fight it off but can do very little as the robot lifts and holds him up by the neck with its right arm. A 30-inch long blade extends from the robot's left forearm. Commander 1 directs the blade slowly and closely to Tim's left eye.

COMMANDER 1

This is your last chance.

Tim starts breathing heavily and tries to break the robot's grip on his neck with both hands. VIBRATIONS IN COMMANDER'S ARMS -- The robotic arm with the blade is blocked on its course by an invisible force. It shakes gradually faster.

Commander 1 looks at the blade, intensify its effort. Yet, the blade is slightly pushed back away by the force.

Commander 1 looks in Tim's eyes.

COMMANDER 1  
How do you do this?

TIM  
Let's find out!

Tim raises up his right forearm and strikes with all his strength the robot left forearm that breaks apart from the rest of the body. Tim falls on the ground. Commander 1 takes 2 steps back.

Commander 1's interface displays a message "WARNING ERROR 777 WEAPONRY XX CRITICAL STRUCTURAL DAMAGE" and a blueprint of the robot indicates damages in the torso and right arm.

Tim holds his right forearm and SCREAMS --

TIM  
God, that hurts!

COMMANDER 1  
I SHALL KILL YOU.

Commander 1 runs towards Tim and tries to slice him up. Tim rolls back and avoids the blow from the blade. Commander 1 throws another blow to cut off Tim's head. Tim hides back to a nearby large pine tree and the blade lands in the trunk an inch next to Tim's neck.

Jack faces the Extractor --

He attacks the robot with bar and, 3 times, the machine blocks the blows with its left arms.

Tim runs away --

Commander 1 pursues Tim through the woods. It jumps towards him and slices his back. Tim rolls to the ground but gets up fast to face Commander 1 standing 20 feet in front of him.

COMMANDER 1  
Come and meet the unavoidable end.

Tim frowns, runs towards Commander 1. The robot lifts up its blade. Tim lowers his head and slides on his knees between

the legs of the robot. It MISSES him and strikes to the ground.

Tim rolls down and gets fast up. Commander 1 is turning around its right leg. Tim kicks Commander 1 in the leg joint. A BREAK --

Commander 1 tumbles. Its torso rotates around its waist and it aims its blade at Tim.

The blade is projected out of the robot's forearm -- Tim is hit in the chest, pushed back by the impact of the blade that plants him into a tree behind him.

Tim SCREAMS --

Tim tries to pull out the blade but is stuck. Commander 1 stands up. It limps as it approaches Tim.

TIM

FUCK! I swear to GOD, I will --

Commander 1 pushes the blade further along and Tim SCREAMS.

The robot walks past Tim and reaches the broken Destroyer.

Commander 1's visual interface scans the abdomen of the Destroyer with the message "SEARCHING FOR COMPATIBLE WEAPONRY" and all forms and components in the abdomen are highlighted by color lines.

One spherical object is tagged within the structure as "FRAGMENTATION GRENADE - COMPATIBLE".

TIM (CONT'D)

Ping? PING? You have to stop this.

Commander 1 retrieves the sphere from a pack containing 20 grenades, each of 3 inches of diameter and a button encrusted in each of them.

Jack attacks the Extractor --

But the robot stops and grabs the metallic bar with its right upper arm and punches Jack in the left leg with another arm.

Jack SCREAMS. He lets go of the bar and falls on his knees.

Tim, stuck in the tree, sees a few feet away Ping who moans, grunts, in pain on the ground, and holds his head.

TIM  
PING, PLEASE!

Commander 1 walks past Tim.

COMMANDER 1  
He cannot help you. He will soon  
die. As will you. Which I can  
guarantee you will not stop us from  
completing our mission.

The machine stops 30 feet ahead of Tim, turns to face him,  
looks at the grenade it holds and then stares at Tim.

COMMANDER 1 (CONT'D)  
You are different. Stronger.  
Inhabited by an unknown energy.  
Yet, (Pause) you are as worthless  
as all the rest of mankind. You are  
corrupted Data.

Jack looks angrily at the robot.

JACK  
Damn robot!

Jack spits at the feet of the Extractor.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Do it.

The Extractor lifts up its 2 left arms to smash Jack. Jack  
HEARS a single shot. The head of robot is pierced by a  
bullet. It falls on its lateral side. In the distance, Jack  
perceives Spencer, with superficial burns, standing and  
holding up his sidearm.

Commander 1 notices Spencer. It pushes the button on the  
grenade it holds and throws it in Tim's direction.

COMMANDER 1  
Die.

Tim SCREAMS. The blade starts VIBRATING. The grenade  
explodes 30 inches in front of him. The blast wave is  
blocked by an invisible wall 3 inches around Tim's body. The  
blade is telekinetically pulled out his shoulder.

Commander 1 sees the explosion dissipate. The dissipation of  
the explosion reveals --

Tim standing. The blade rotates highly fast around itself and levitates in front of Tim.

COMMANDER 1

Impossible!

The blade flies in direction of the robot at high speed and transpierces the robot from the neck to the chest. Commander 1 falls on its back to the ground.

Tim approaches the robot.

Commander 1's head is almost detached from the torso and its red eyes look at him.

COMMANDER 1

Impossible! Imp-Impossible! Imp--

TIM

I said, go to hell!

Tim smashes the head of the robot by trampling it.

Tim gets close to Ping and puts a knee down.

PING

You said that you are his friend?

TIM

I am.

PING

(Looking in Tim's eyes)

Then don't let Petersen destroy him like he destroyed us.

Tim, with a stern face, nods. Ping pushes the button on his implant, and unplugs a spherical element from the circuits in his back-neck. He hands it to Tim who takes it.

PING (CONT'D)

He deserves to know the truth.

(With difficulty)

He deserves to know that I -- I loved -- him.

Ping gives his last breath. Tim stares at him for a second.

50 feet away, Spencer and Jack observe Tim. Jack has his left arm around Spencer's neck in order to stay up.

Tim stands up. The wound on his back closes up entirely before their eyes.

SPENCER

You know Captain, before today, I actually thought I had seen it all.  
(Pause) So, what do we do now?

Jack sighs.

JACK

We keep going.

Jack and Spencer walk in direction of Tim.

EXT. CRIPPLE CREEK VICTOR HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Civilians converge to Cripple Creek Victor high school --

The main entrance is busy with people. The parking spots are busy with military and emergency vehicles. There are 4 heavy transport choppers landing on the football field as 3 stealth helicopters patrol the area around the school.

200 people walk towards the main entrance, families and individuals, while 20 armed soldiers guard the façade.

INT. CRIPPLE CREEK VICTOR HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The basketball field is busy with people as it is covered by rows of light hospital beds.

Hundreds of people fill the place as injured and sick people rest on the beds; nurse, doctors, volunteers, family and friends of the patients discuss and are busy around them.

On a bed in the center of the room, Joshua is laid. And next to him KATE who seems disgruntled --

KATE

And what happened then?

Joshua sees the entrance behind Kate -- At the entrance, there is a desk where 12 volunteers and nurses assist the people entering. There is a TV and computers on the desk. Medical kits and supplies like crutches, wheelchairs, are stored on benches behind the desk.

JOSHUA

It was a massacre. I don't even  
know how I was able to make it out  
alive --

Tim, Spencer and Jack walk through the entrance; Spencer  
helps Jack to walk.

Joshua notices Tim, Spencer and Jack.

His face gets filled with JOY as his eyes open up wide.

JOSHUA

Jesus-Christ, It's them! They made  
it. They fucking made it.

KATE

WHERE?

Kate turns around and looks anxiously toward the entrance.

A **HELPFUL NURSE** extends a collapsed wheelchair and places it  
behind Jack. Jack sits on it with Spencer and Tim's help.

Kate notices Tim --

KATE

TIM!

Tim sees Kate. She runs towards him.

The helpful nurse arrives in front of Tim and looks at him  
from head to toes.

HELPFUL NURSE

(Examining Tim)

Do you need any help?

TIM

I'm fine, I'm ok.

Tim advances past the nurse. Kate jumps in his arms.

KATE

I love you so much. I feared I  
wasn't going to see you again.

TIM

What are you doing here?

Kate frowns slightly and looks him in the eyes.

KATE

I wanted to surprise you so I flew here then freaking robots attacked the town. So, the military evacuated us here. (Pause) Are you not happy to see me?

Tim sighs.

Jack rolls his wheelchair towards the small TV on the desk.

JACK

Please turn the volume up!

A **VOLUNTEER** who is close and holds a remote control points it at the TV and pushes the volume up.

Jack sees the CSCN TV news set with Carson and Emily.

EMILY

The Bright robotics systems suddenly stopped malfunctioning. The robots stopped attacking, everything is slowly getting back to normal even though for security reasons people are still being evacuated to Cripple Creek.

CARSON

Yes, this pandemonium seems to be over and we expect the President to waive the state of emergency soon. Although several questions remain unanswered about why this happened. Of course, we will be closely following the development of the investigations on today's attacks.

INT. CRIPPLE CREEK VICTOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM 1 - NIGHT

Alfred holds a cellphone to his ear. He paces around in the classroom.

ALFRED

(Angrily)

What do you mean seized?

Tim, wearing a T-shirt and jeans, enters the classroom. Alfred doesn't notice him.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

(Angrily)

They can't do that me, I founded this company. You better find a way to -- Hello? HELLO?

Alfred angrily throws the phone to the ground. He then grunts, grimaces and puts a hand on his belly.

Alfred notices Tim --

ALFRED

I'd be damned. You survived!  
(Pause) And Ping?

TIM

Dead. His brain was consumed by what he did as you predicted.

ALFRED

Good, he was demented.

TIM

He died trying to find the son you stole from him.

ALFRED

I didn't steal any --

TIM

Please. You can't fool me anymore. I don't even need any proof. All the questions I secretly asked myself all these years were answered today. You got rid of our parents and you exploited us to make your fortune.

ALFRED

I gave you a great life.

TIM

(Angrily)

YOU --

Tim, with anger, telekinetically lifts Alfred up into the wall and projects him against the wall --

TIM (CONT'D)  
-- GAVE US NOTHING.

Alfred suspended against the wall seems terrified and breathes heavily.

TIM (CONT'D)  
You're scared, aren't you? How does it feel? Tell me, how does helplessness feel?

ALFRED  
I'm sor --

TIM  
Shut up! (Pause) You made that virus. Didn't you?

ALFRED  
It - I - It was an accident.

Tim shakes his head and lets Alfred fall to the ground on his knees. Alfred looks terrified.

ALFRED (CONT'D)  
We weren't building a deadly virus. We wanted to change the world.

TIM  
You did. (Pause) You know, I thought about ripping your heart out, to make you feel the way you've made so many people feel. But then I thought of Ping. How he ended. (Pause) I'm better than that. Jason, Tanya, Me, we all are. Plus, Ping has done the worst thing that could ever be done to you. I'm sure you don't fear anything as much as the fact that your reputation was ruined and your greatest achievement was discredited. As you already know, the government is seizing all Bright's properties. They're throwing you under the bus. They will take everything from you, even your shiny Nobel Prize and you will be left with all the blame.

Tim heads for the exit.

TIM (CONT'D)

We all quit by the way.

Tim walks out as Alfred is left on his knees, still shocked.

INT. CRIPPLE CREEK VICTOR HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tim advances in the hallway and sees a few feet ahead JASON, waiting for him.

JASON

How did it go?

Tim shakes his shoulders.

TIM

I think I got my point across.

JASON

Did you do the Dark Vader move like  
I told you to?

Tim reaches Jason. They advance together in the hallway.

TIM

He's going to need major therapy.

Jason smiles.

JASON

As do all of us. (Pause) Well,  
we're unemployed now so we have to  
find something to do with your new  
formidable abilities. Maybe a magic  
show.

Tim puts a hand on Jason's shoulder and stops him --

TIM

(With a serious tone)  
Jason, I have to tell you  
something. (Pause) It's --  
complicated -- That man, the hacker  
was really damaged --

JASON

I know it was my father.

TIM  
 (Surprised)  
 Hm -- How?

JASON  
 Tanya told me. And I won't lie, I was furious at first. But then I recalled today's events and all the innocent people who died. Melissa, Ashley, Cech, (Pause) and --

Jason and Tim's eyes get watery.

TIM  
 Oliver.

Tim nods.

JASON  
 My father was a kind man and he loved me. That monster Petersen created wasn't the person I knew. I'm glad I didn't see him like that.

TIM  
 He gave me something for you.

Tim pulls the device Ping gave him from a pocket and hands it to Jason. Jason stares at it for a moment -- then he takes it.

JASON  
 Ok.

TIM  
 So (Pause) we're good?

JASON  
 Absolutely. (Pause) Thanks for protecting me!

Jason hugs Tim as they are nearly in tears. They stop hugging, wipe their tears and clear their throats.

TIM  
 Wow!

JASON  
 Manly tears.

TIM

Yup --

INT. CRIPPLE CREEK VICTOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM 2 - NIGHT

12 occupied medical beds in this classroom turned into a post-operating room. The place is silent as most people in their beds sleep and rest --

Tanya and Jessica, in hospital gowns, with bandages, are on the same bed, next to a window with closed blinds.

Tanya is laid on her right side and looks at Jessica who is sleeping. Tanya is awake.

She hums Cech's song and passes her left hand that has a perfusion in Jessica's hair.

TIM

Tanya?

Tanya looks behind and sees Tim in the middle of the room. She gasps. Tim walks up to her as she sits up with difficulty and extends her arms towards him. He hugs her.

TANYA

I don't want to let you go but it really hurts.

Tim looks intensely in Tanya's eyes and smiles.

TIM

There's so many things I need to tell you.

TANYA

Did you see Kate? I think she's in the gym --

TIM

I left Kate. I saw her and I broke up with her. I - (Pause) I had to. You have a place in my heart that nobody else could ever fill. (Pause) You're special.

Tanya's emotions are transparent in her watery eyes. Tim kisses Tanya passionately.

INT. CRIPPLE CREEK VICTOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM 3 - NIGHT

Jason sits on the ground in the corner of a classroom with poor lighting. He holds a tablet, in which, he plugs the device Tim passed to him.

A window opens with a single file titled "JASON". Jason taps on the file and a picture APPEARS -- The earlier picture of Ping and the 5-years-old Chinese boy, Jason. There is A SUBSCRIPT in Chinese.

Jason puts a hand on his mouth and sobs as he stares it.

Jason composes himself. He READS the subscript.

JASON

(In Chinese)

My son, the world is full of greedy people.

JASON (CONT'D) AND PING

(In Chinese)

Their greed is contagious. And I fear that someday, it might corrupt me as well.

EXT. END OF COLORADO ROAD 28 - NIGHT

The mountainous landscape is peaceful and the sky is full of stars.

PING

(In Chinese)

Whether it does or not, I want you to know that you were hope when there was none. A spark of light in the darkest times.

We overfly the destroyed machines and choppers at the end of road 28.

PING (CONT'D)

(In Chinese)

So no matter what happens, no matter the fall, even if it is the end of the Road --

Between the trees, a large figure is laid. A red dot -- The left eye of Commander 1's crushed head flashes.

PING (CONT'D)  
(In Chinese)  
Take an extra step and walk on.

We get closer to the eye.

PING (CONT'D)  
(In Chinese)  
Walk on my son --

Through the visual interface of Commander 1, we see the starry sky -- GLITCHES and A MESSAGE on top of the screen says "ALERT - RUNNING ON EMERGENCY BACK-UP ENERGY". A complete loading bar flashes in the middle of the screen with the caption "DATA TRANSFER TO RELAY SATELLITE 100%".

PING (CONT'D)  
(In Chinese)  
-- And know that I will always,  
always --

The screen turns blue and a message appears --

"CRITICAL FAILURE..."

PING (CONT'D)  
(In Chinese)  
-- Always be with you.

FADE OUT