

STRANDED

"Welcome to Deimos"

Christopher Michaels

Christopherandre25@gmail.com  
(847)707-3073

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTER SPACE

A broken, metallic hull HURLS through space. The word SURVIVOR etched on its side.

Engines SPUTTER to a stop; blown out. The rest of the ship's engulfed in a fireball.

INT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT

ALARMS blare.

JAIME PROTCHKE (late 20s), beautiful and the leader helps MICHAEL (27) to his feet. He quickly stands and it's obvious there's something 'different' about him.

Together they exit the cockpit and seal the door behind them.

INT. SPACESHIP - MID DECK - NIGHT

Jaime gasps!

BILLY PLUMMER (late 20's), independent and angry stares at a control panel in shock, but somehow doesn't have a bruise on him. His force-field helmet has deployed.

Smoke fills the air and fire burns toward the back. Control panels SNAP, CRACKLE and threaten to overload.

Through a window, the rear of the shuttle can be seen - part of it is missing.

JAIME

Damage report?

Michael's human appearance gives way and he interfaces briefly with the ship computers via a flash-drive built into his index finger.

MICHAEL

Jinx Corporate's crew are lucky you tricked 'em into staying on Earth because part of the ship has been destroyed. They'd be dead.

JAIME

Sounds like you care, Michael.  
Didn't know androids had feelings.

MICHAEL

Surprise, but if we don't move  
fast, we're next.

He points out the window where Jaime spots the fire. At the same time, a control panel erupts into flames that shoot through the compartment.

JAIME

Extinguishers!

Billy rebounds from the shock and flips a switch, which extinguishes the hull fire with a blast of foam. He quickly gets up and puts out the panel fire with an extinguisher.

Michael and Jaime choke back the smoke. Michael checks a monitor.

JAIME

Status of deck one?

MICHAEL

Can't tell. I'm not getting a  
reading, but we need to get out of  
here. Last I heard, smoke  
inhalation and humans don't mix.

Smoke continues to fill the compartment.

JAIME

Shit, Billy go and check.

Billy doesn't blink and heads down to the level below. As he hits the stairs he grabs hold of a rail a second before stepping into the abyss of empty space.

BILLY

It's gone!

Jaime and Michael glance down the staircase and help Billy back into the compartment. Billy resumes his post. Jaime checks instruments. Michael brings up a solar system schematic.

JAIME

Where'd that come from?

MICHAEL

It's a planet, but it shouldn't be  
there.

Jaime & Michael look out the window and see an orange planet.

MICHAEL

The engines are gone.

JAIME

If I transfer cockpit controls, I  
might be able to glide us in.

Jaime moves to a panel, takes a seat and begins making the adjustments.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - NIGHT

The spaceship slowly turns on its new course, sparking and smoking.

INT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT

Michael stares at the orange planet through the window.

MICHAEL

But what is it?

JAIME

No time to speculate. Give me a  
life sign reading.

MICHAEL'S POV

A sonar forms in Michael's retinas and the image of the planet appears and a scan begins. He checks the planet for life signs.

BACK TO SCENE

MICHAEL

No life signs, but the planet's  
atmosphere could be blocking my  
sonar. I'd caution against an  
approach. We need more information.

JAIME

We can't wait! We're landing!

Jaime takes the controls and the spaceship hits the atmosphere.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT

Billy bursts into the room, scaring everyone.

BILLY  
You got to see this.

JAIME  
Kinda busy right now --

BILLY  
Come on!

She grudgingly gets up.

JAIME  
(to Michael)  
Keep her under control.

MICHAEL  
Yes, ma'am.

INT. SPACESHIP - MID-DECK - NIGHT

Billy and Jaime head down the broken stairs. Jaime adjusts headphones and taps the microphone. Billy does the same.

BILLY  
Hold on to the railing.

JAIME  
I know, the lower deck's gone!

Billy leads Jaime to the bottom of the stairs where the stars shine. A shimmering blue force-field is visible below.

The ship rockets through space at great speed.

BILLY  
The force field should hold, but  
we're going too fast. We're going  
to miss the planet.

Explosions rock the ship. Michael's voice rings through the intercom:

MICHAEL (V.O.)  
Ten minutes before she blows.

JAIME  
(into headset)  
How close are we?

MICHAEL (V.O.)  
Not close enough.

JAIME  
(into headset)  
Reduce speed and fire thrusters.

Billy looks back in shock at Jaime.

MICHAEL (V.O.)  
Are you sure that's a good idea?  
(reminds her)  
We have no engines.

JAIME  
(into headset)  
Yes, I'm positive. We don't have  
much choice.

Billy points to the force field.

BILLY  
Once those thrusters go on, we're  
probably going to have to jump. The  
force field won't hold with the  
hull breach.

JAIME  
Are you sure?

Billy nods.

BILLY  
The ship is coming apart. Once the  
field's gone, we're toast.

MICHAEL (V.O.)  
Once I start these thrusters hold  
onto something tight.

JAIME  
(into headset)  
And get down here, fast!

Jaime and Billy secure helmets and breathing gear.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

The thrusters fire up and the shuttle breaks into pieces.

Michael makes a superhuman LEAP from his area and joins Billy and Jaime.

Jaime and Billy start to drift off. Michael is able to hold onto both of them. The planet approaches fast.

BILLY  
(into headset)  
This is gonna hurt.

MICHAEL  
(into headset)  
That's a distinct possibility.

A small piece of debris hits them and they go spinning down out of the sky toward the planet.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. ARIZONA DESERT - DAY

TITLE: ARIZONA 2130

A barren wasteland drops off to a canyon. A tent's erected overlooking the site. SCIENTIST-LOOKING TYPES sit in the crowd listening to a JINX CORP SPEAKER (50s) wearing a uniformed, blue top with the logo patch: JINX CORP overlapping a spaceship.

JINX CORP SPEAKER  
The hot, barren terrain provides protection while we await the Mars shuttle's confirmation that it's a go for evacuation to the red planet.

Jaime sits among the Scientists when DON JACKSON (42) approaches her.

DON  
Excuse ma'am, you can't be here.  
Jinx personnel only.

JAIME  
I'm a pilot...

Jaime suddenly stops mid-sentence and smiles.

JAIME

Don. What the hell are you doing here?

He motions for her to follow him. She slips out of the crowd and walks with Don down a sandy aisle.

DON

Let's talk.

EXT. ARIZONA DESERT - DUSK

Don and Jaime stand behind an empty, dusty field. The wind picks up and forms mini sand tornadoes that quickly fade into the distance.

DON

We lost contact with the Exodus two days ago.

Jaime glances over at the crowd where the Jinx Corp Speaker continues to speak enthusiastically about the lost shuttle.

JAIME

You're joking?

DON

Jinx needs to send up a new shuttle as soon as possible. We want you to take command.

Jaime steps back, unprepared for this revelation.

JAIME

A rescue mission? That's a bit out of my league, wouldn't you say? Surely, you have more qualified astronauts?

Don shakes his head. He's clearly not getting his point across.

DON

The Exodus has been declared lost in space. You'd be starting over. A new mission to secure the red planet for earth's evacuation.

Jaime shakes her head. Don takes her roughly by the arm.

DON

Surely you understand by now that earth has less than two hundred days?

Jaime pulls away from him.

JAIME

Then you can't afford to waste another minute finding a qualified pilot.

DON

I'm afraid I wasn't asking, Jaime.

JAIME

Find someone else.

DON

You'd risk your spouse and your lovely daughter?

JAIME

They're not infected.

Don smirks at her.

JAIME

What have you done?

DON

What I had to do. Secure the red planet and your family goes to the top of the list. They'd be cured. You have my word.

JAIME

If you have an antidote, then you use it! Why risk the entire population on a far fetched mass exodus to another world?

Don lowers his voice and becomes dead serious.

DON

We can't reproduce the formula and there's only enough for a select few. They'll join those uninfected and we'll start a new world. Don't let your family miss out on this opportunity -- you have limited days, Ms. Protchke, I suggest you use them wisely.

She's stone-faced as she watches him walk off.

EXT. GARAGE OUTPOST - NIGHT

SUPER: EARTH'S FINAL OUTPOST - ARIZONA

A warehouse-sized garage sits in the middle of a huge dusty field. The wind HOWLS. Tumbleweeds roll past.

A Humvee approaches at high speed kicking up dust and dirt before coming to a stop. Jaime steps out. Don's right behind her.

INT. GARAGE OUTPOST - NIGHT

Six JINX SCIENTISTS in blue jumpsuits work along side six CONVICTS in orange jumpsuits wearing ankle monitors.

They are building android robots -- just as lifelike as humans. One stands out - a completed model sealed in gel.

They all look up as Jaime and Don enter the room, then quickly return to work.

JAIME

(to Don)

Prisoners? Are you getting desperate or running out of qualified people?

DON

White collar tech geniuses. Most should've been working for the government. Greed has no limits. This is their chance for redemption and a clean slate.

JAIME

Good to know they weren't in the slammer for violent crimes.

DON

I didn't say that.

Jaime stops a beat and stares at Don.

JAIME

No way I'm working with--

DON  
(pointing)  
Jinx's scientists will accompany  
you along with a high-end android  
on the Survivor mission.

A prisoner catches Jaime's eye. She walks over to him.

JAIME  
Billy Plummer? Jaime Protchke, I  
don't know if you remember me from  
Professor Goldstein's class at  
M.I.T.? He called you the best  
propulsion engineer he'd ever  
trained.

Billy stares at her dumbfounded. Jaime pulls Don aside.

JAIME  
He's perfect for the mission. He  
knows rocket schematics inside and  
out. He could show NASA how to run  
things.

Don shakes his head.

DON  
He's a wild card.

JAIME  
Plummer could run circles around  
Jinx's so-called scientists.  
(awkward beat)  
If you want me to save the world,  
then I'm doing it my way.

Don removes a tool from his pocket and unsnaps Billy's ankle  
monitor.

DON  
(to Billy)  
She's your boss. I hear of the  
slightest hint of insubordination  
and I'll have you shipped to Gitmo.

BILLY  
That's a one-way ticket to infected  
hell.

DON  
Glad we understand one another.  
(to Jaime)  
I hope you know what you're doing.  
(MORE)

DON (CONT'D)

This mission leaves no margin for error.

Don walks off.

Jaime glances over at Michael encased in the gel. He's a fully-formed android.

BILLY

(confirming)

Michael - no last name - a.k.a.,  
Android 1002, an artificial  
intelligence model upgraded from  
the Stephen Hawkings' era.

JAIME

Good, we'll need all the help we  
can muster.

Billy laughs.

BILLY

Now I remember you. You prefer to  
work with a small one-to-three men  
team and you don't trust  
scientists.

Jaime glances over at the Jinx Corp Scientists busy at work.

JAIME

Any chance we could--?

BILLY

Ditch 'em?

(grinning)

Next week's daylight's savings  
time. Who says we have to arrive an  
hour later?

JAIME

What 'bout Houston's override  
controls?

Billy shakes his head and whispers to her:

BILLY

Dismantled five months ago and I  
can -- let's say 'interfere' with  
the systems they have in place  
here.

Jaime smiles and gives him a nod to go for it.

BILLY

You don't mind? Have you read my  
case file? I'm in for--

JAIME

Doesn't matter -- right now we need  
to stay focused on the mission. One  
day you can tell me, okay?

He nods, but seems concerned. Her smile gives him comfort.

JAIME

(glances at Michael)  
We're going to make a great team.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. REMOTE PLANET - DAY

The sun sits high in the red sky. Jaime, Michael and Billy are lying in the sand face up. Perfectly untouched.

Billy opens his eyes and jerks up, he is shaking and is looking around. His and Jaime's helmets have disappeared. He takes a deep breath of fresh air.

BILLY

Damn. The sweet release of death.

Michael's eyes pop open. He jolts to life and sits straight up.

MICHAEL

A.I.'s can't die, so you are wrong.

Billy looks over at Michael, who then looks at Jaime. She is not moving or responding. Billy attempts to stand up but can't... he falls back down.

BILLY

Is she? Oh shit is she...?

MICHAEL

Do not try to form full sentences.  
Human brains aren't hard wired for  
traumatic injuries.

Michael quickly gets to his feet and looks around. Sand Dunes surround them on each side. Hills with no trees. Each dune leads to some kind of world.

A true sand world. Yet a hint of life - birds CHIRP in the distance.

Michael gently lifts Jaime and checks for a pulse.

MICHAEL

She has survived.

Billy slowly gets up, completely drenched in sweat.

BILLY

Great. How the hell did we survive?

MICHAEL

It would seem your suits were quite efficient.

Michael glances around and spots a concrete platform. An orange snake camouflaged in the sand slithers by them.

Jaime slowly starts to fidget and opens her eyes.

JAIME

Shit. That's the worst hangover I've ever had.

Jaime attempts to sit up. It takes her three tries, but she finally succeeds. She looks around.

MICHAEL

Look who decided to join us.

Jaime is drenched in sweat. She is very pale.

JAIME

Water?

BILLY

Guess there wasn't time to bring supplies, huh?

Billy and Jaime glance around at the smoldering hot terrain. Things don't look good for them.

MICHAEL

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to hell.

Jaime suddenly jumps back. A trail of fire ants with 'actual fire', carrying bits of metal, stream past her and disappear into an ant hole.

JAIME

Wreckage! From our ship?

BILLY

Couldn't be. It disintegrated in space. Any debris making it into the atmosphere would've burnt up.

MICHAEL

The metal was tarnished. We're not the first to crash land here.

JAIME

The Exodus?

BILLY  
Could they have survived?

JAIME  
I'm not sure, but at least we know  
what happened to the missing  
shuttle.

MICHAEL  
Do we?

BILLY  
They might have made it down like  
we did.

Michael walks over and examines the concrete slab. He takes a few readings when the slab begins to make a SCREECHING sound.

JAIME  
What is it?

MICHAEL  
My sensors are a bit hazy from the  
crash, but it might be the cover to  
a well.

JAIME  
Water?!

The concrete platform raises and makes a LOUDER NOISE. Water flows out.

BILLY  
Well, all right, Mr. Android. You  
made it happen!

Michael puts out his arm to stop Billy.

MICHAEL  
Wait! It could be contaminated!

Jaime and Billy ignore the warning and jump in letting the water shower them. They drink it in while Michael rolls his eyes in disgust.

MICHAEL  
No wonder your species is in danger  
of becoming extinct.

Michael, Billy and Jaime spot more of the fire ants. These ones look fiercer -- like Army ants.

BILLY

That's one hell of a stinger,  
they've got there. I wonder what it  
would be like to be stung by one of  
those bastards?

A funny-looking gecko crawls by them. -- and laps up some  
fire ants with its long tongue.

Michael walks over to the water shower.

The gecko BURPS fire.

JAIME

Look out!

Michael jumps out of the way. The concrete platform sinks  
into the ground and leaves Jaime and Billy standing in a  
muddy pool of wet sand.

Michael's index finger begins to BEEP.

JAIME

What is it?

MICHAEL

I'm getting a strange reading.

The ground beneath the three of them SHAKES.

JAIME

An earthquake?

MICHAEL

That's strange -- I'm not  
registering any tectonic plates on  
this planet.

The concrete platform makes another CREAKING noise.

The ground beneath the three of them shakes even harder and  
louder threatening to knock them off their feet.

BILLY

This isn't a good sign at all. We  
need to find shelter.

JAIME

Where?

The bright red sun disappears behind a massive, ominous  
SHADOW.

MICHAEL  
(looking up)  
Run!

A giant bird approaches from the sky. Its wing span covers a third of the known sky.

It SWOOPS down to the concrete platform.

BILLY  
Holy crap!  
(realizing)  
It's a giant bird bath!

The Bird splashes around.

JAIME  
(whispers)  
Let's get the hell out of here,  
follow me.

The three of them get up very slowly. They move out of the shadow and into the sun.

BILLY  
And I was just starting to like  
this place.

MICHAEL  
Beats an orange jumpsuit and a  
grizzly bear-of-a-man who thinks  
you're arm candy, huh?

BILLY  
At least I'm human.

JAIME  
Knock if off you two.  
(reminds them)  
We're on the same team.

MICHAEL  
Are we? How'd we lose the ship,  
huh?

BILLY  
(defensive)  
How would I know? You two were in  
the cockpit.

MICHAEL  
You had control of the engines we  
lost.

JAIME  
(low, but stern)  
Knock it off. Something drew us in,  
guttled our ship.

The Bird stops splashing around. The Bird makes a loud SCREECH that sounds like a T-Rex from Jurassic park.

MICHAEL  
Shit, it's spotted us.

The Bird flies over to the three of them. It lets out another mighty ROAR.

It lifts its wings leaving no where to run, then it squats and drops a giant, white egg.

The Bird repeats the process until Michael, Jaime and Billy each have an egg in front of them.

BILLY  
You can take me back to jail now.

MICHAEL  
What 'bout the guy who thinks  
you're arm candy?

JAIME  
That's enough! We have to get to  
Mars!

BILLY  
Mars? We'll be lucky to ever see  
Earth again -- odds are we're going  
to be eaten by a giant bird and its  
offspring.

Jaime gives Billy an annoyed look.

JAIME  
I didn't bring you two with me to  
fly the ship. I want options. Now!

Billy and Michael exchange incredulous looks. Is she serious?

The Bird flies away and the red sun comes back out. They breathe a sigh of relief.

BILLY  
Well, if we eat the eggs, we'd have  
enough sustenance for a week or  
more.

MICHAEL

You do realize there are beings in these eggs? They could very well eat us instead.

JAIME

I meant options for getting off this planet.

BILLY

(stern)

We have to survive this planet first.

MICHAEL

(pointing)

Look!

The eggs turn from white to grey, and each egg lets out a loud WHISTLE like an alarm.

It forces Jaime and Billy to cover their ears. Billy tries to holler, but the WHISTLING drowns him out.

Billy bends down into the sand and finds a rock.

JAIME

What the hell are you going to do?

Billy turns towards one of the big eggs and bashes the rock into it. The rock bounces off just missing Jaime's face.

JAIME

Hey, watch it!

BILLY

I thought that would work.

MICHAEL

I believe you need something stronger than a single rock.

Michael picks up ten rocks.

BILLY

Hang on Mike, lets not do anything rash.

Mike throws the rocks as hard as he can. They all go flying in different directions like bullets from a gun. Both Jaime and Billy duck.

MICHAEL

This is a strange strong substance.

Jaime and Billy both exchange worried expressions.

The eggs transform from white to clear. They CRACK from the top.

JAIME

They are going to be quite hungry  
when they come out. Lets get out of  
here!

The first egg hatches and a huge naked baby bird lets out a SCREAM.

MICHAEL

The odds are in the favor of there  
being more than one bird.

Billy grabs Jaime and hollers to Michael:

BILLY

Agreed -- Run!

The red sun disappears and it becomes very dark.

There are three giant birds in the sky. They spot Michael, Jaime and Billy running.

The bird dive bomb inches from Billy and Jaime when Michael disconnects his arm and throws it at the bird. The arm projectile KILLS the bird. It lands on top of them!

BILLY (O.S.)

This thing smells like cotton  
candy.

JAIME (O.S.)

Michael! Get this damn thing off of  
us.

Michael watches the two bird circling, ready to dive.

MICHAEL

That would be a bad idea. Consider  
it a safe haven.

Michael runs over, grabs his arm and quickly reattaches it.

MICHAEL

Stay put a few more minutes.

The remaining eggs CRACK and hatch.

MICHAEL

Oh shit!

A baby bird leaps on top of Michael. He SLAMS to the ground knocking him unconscious.

BILLY (O.S.)

That didn't sound good. We need to get this thing off of us.

The dead bird seems to be removing. The baby bird comes over to the dead bird and starts pecking away removing the skin.

The other baby bird joins in.

JAIME (O.S.)

What the hell is that noise?

BILLY (O.S.)

When I tell you, move out of the way. On the count of three...one, two...

A baby bird pecks through the dead bird's flesh revealing Jaime's head. She SCREAMS and turns a second before the beak rips the dead bird's flesh next to her.

JAIME

Shit!

Jaime rolls out from under the dead bird, gets up and runs towards Michael. Two birds give chase.

Jaime looks for rocks, but can't find any. A bird jumps up ready to pounce when a rock HITS its head and it wobbles off in pain.

Billy stands in the distance.

JAIME

Thanks.

BILLY

Hey, I'm just the engineer. We need you to fly us out of here.

JAIME

I only fly rocket ships, not birds.

They both laugh sharing a moment.

They start to head toward Michael when Billy's knocked to the ground by a bird.

JAIME

No!

Jaime races to his rescue when she's cut off by the two baby birds. They circle her while the adult birds fly overhead.

Billy's bird opens its beak and he can see a row of sharp teeth.

BILLY

Okay.

Billy covers his face waiting for the worst.

Jaime eases past the baby birds and bends down to look at Michael. The baby birds both jump her at the same time.

Billy runs over, as the birds hit each other in the air, angry they get back up, but Billy is not having it. He picks out a sharp stick from under a rock pile and uses it like a baseball bat.

Suddenly, a bloody and bruised muscle man, JAY CARTWRIGHT (46), comes out of nowhere and drops a bird with a single boulder!

JAY

Hey! Hey! I'm over here you sons-of-bitches!

JAIME

Jay!?

The baby bird that is still alive rushes Jay. Jay waits patiently until it draws closer, then uses his fist and knocks the bird down with one punch. Jay looks up at the sky.

JAY

(to birds in sky)  
Come on, you ass-holes!

The birds circle in the sky. They let out a mighty ROAR, like fingernails across a chalkboard.

This gives Billy a chance to make a run for...

BILLY

Michael!

Billy sits Michael up. He opens his chest and resets a mechanism.

The birds fly away and the red sun shines lower in the sky.

A circuit breaker KICKS in and Michael opens his eyes.

MICHAEL  
(looking at Jay)  
Who are you?

JAIME  
The Exodus pilot.

JAY  
(to Michael)  
Name's Jay Cartwright.  
(to Jaime)  
What the hell took you so long?

JAIME  
Jay, we were headed to Mars.

JAY  
Then you're not the rescue party?

Jaime shakes her head.

JAIME  
We crash landed, I'm assuming like you did.

JAY  
The Exodus was on schedule when we veered off course. Next thing I know we're here. Should've known that bastard Jackson wouldn't send help.

MICHAEL  
Where are we? What is this place?  
It wasn't on the star maps.

JAY  
Sure it is...or was. Welcome to Deimos.

MICHAEL  
Deimos...  
(struggling to bring up  
the data)  
...that's impossible. The planet Deimos blew up between Earth and Mars millions of millenniums ago.

JAIME  
Are you talking 'bout the asteroid belt? How can that be? We're on a solid planet.

Jay ignores her question and watches Michael shake sand from his chest cavity.

JAY

Better watch your android. Once they get sand in 'em they tend to go haywire.

Jaime and Billy exchange glances. Michael gives Jay a dirty look.

Jay looks past them like he's trying to spot something.

JAY

Where's your ship?

BILLY

Disintegrated in orbit.

Jay takes a closer look at Billy.

JAY

Do I know you, boy?

BILLY

Billy Plummer.

JAIME

He's a rocket engineer.

Jay picks up a rock and before anyone can stop him, he bashes Billy in the head with it. Billy's down for the count.

JAIME

What are you doing!?

JAY

Rocket engineer, my ass. Do you know what this man did to my son?

Jay raises the rock to hit Billy again. Jaime stops him. Michael tries to help, but he can't stand upright.

JAIME

What do you think you're doing? These are my people.

JAY

Not anymore. The Exodus was first out in space. That means I'm in charge!

JAIME  
The hell you are!

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. DEIMOS - DUSK

The sun sinks beyond the horizon. The dunes seem to have large, looming shadows cascading out of them.

Jay moves to strike Billy when Michael gains control of his torso and blocks him.

MICHAEL

As annoying as he may be, Billy knows his stuff.

JAIME

We can't spare anyone.

Jay yanks his arm back and turns a few shades of red.

JAY

He murdered my son in cold blood.

Jaime clears her throat and forces herself to remind him of the factual pain of the situation:

JAIME

Your son was patient zero when the outbreak hit. If Billy didn't do, someone else would have.

Jay face drops, disappointed in what he is hearing.

JAY

He was still my son. I...I never had a chance to stay good-bye.

JAIME

Billy's done his time. If we're going to survive, we have to move on. Work together to get off this planet.

JAY

After we get off this rock. I want him gone.

JAIME

He's earned the right to survive. Lucky for you Mars is a big planet...

Jay glares at her like he doesn't know what she's talking about.

JAIME  
(explaining)  
...you two can avoid each other.

EXT. DEMIOS - NIGHT

Jaime, Michael, Jay and Billy sit around a roaring fire.

JAIME  
No one survived?

Jay shakes his head.

JAY  
I'm the only one.

MICHAEL  
Are you sure? My sensors seemed to pick up--

JAY  
No doubt. A few survived, but the birds got 'em. Your sensors probably picked up their residual energy, that's all.

Michael nods, but seems suspicious.

JAIME  
We saw parts of your shuttle being carried off.

JAY  
(confirming)  
The ants.

JAIME  
Any chance we can salvage the wreckage and use it to get out of here?

JAY  
Now that I have help, it's possible. Depends on how much is left.

Jay stares at Billy.

JAY  
He's not coming. Not on my ship.

JAIME

We go together.

JAY

You might be running the team, but I'm the Captain of the Exodus and I say who boards.

BILLY

(cocky)

Fine, but when you get to Mars they'll have your commission. NASA's motto is leave no man behind.

Jay laughs at this and shrugs.

JAY

Yeah? Jaime said it herself, you weren't sent on a rescue mission. They left my whole team behind. Think they'll give a shit if I forget to bring you along?

Jaime warns Billy to stay quiet. They all stare into the fire.

EXT. DUNE - DAY

Jay leads the way as Jaime, Billy and Michael climb over the dune. The wind blows ever so slightly.

JAY

Keep up. We've got to move quickly.

But the going's rough as the team sinks ankle deep in sand with each step.

JAIME

Can't we take another route?

JAY

This is the only path to the shuttle unless you want to traverse mile-deep canyons?

JAIME

Michael, how are your sensors working? Maybe there's another way around?

MICHAEL

The main planetary sensor's still  
down, but the local sensor seems to  
be working just fine.

Jay reaches the top of the dune, followed quickly by Jaime.

Jay laughs and spits toward Billy, just missing his feet.  
Billy looks down as the spit sinks into the sand and is gone  
within seconds.

JAIME

This place is a trap!

BILLY

We've got to move!

JAY

It only takes those who deserve it.

Jay tries to push Billy backwards into a sand wall, but  
Michael intervenes.

JAIME

Enough! Stay focused on the ship.

The team moves ahead, but sinks up to their knees. Jaime's  
shorter than the men and quickly disappears up to her waist.

Jay hoists her to the top of his shoulders and carries her.  
Billy and Michael lag behind, but keep Jay in sight as they  
head over a secondary dune.

EXT. CANYON - DAY

Jaime gets put down, Michael and Billy rush over to see a  
canyon full of bones.

JAY

I think this is where I last saw  
the ship.

Jaime shoots Jay an incredulous look.

BILLY

None of those bones look human.

JAIME

I don't like this one bit.

The four of them walk very slowly into the canyon. A brief  
shadow crosses in front of the sun.

EXT. VALLEY OF THE DEAD - DAY

Rotting carcasses litter the area. A breeze rattles the bones.

MICHAEL

Glad I can turn off my smell  
receptors.

BILLY

Lucky you.

Jaime grimaces, but Jay shrugs his shoulders and brushes past Michael.

BILLY

The smell of death. Thought I left  
that odor back on earth.

In the distance, yellow birds fly overhead. They make an ominous CAW. Jaime keenly watches their every move.

MICHAEL

It's the planet's graveyard.

They move into a field of nothing but rock and bones. Jay looks around. Billy picks up a bone.

JAY

Do you have no respect for the  
dead?

BILLY

You don't see it do you? They're  
sharp. We can use the bones as weapons.

Jaime slowly approaches the bone field. She bends down, hesitant to pick up a piece of bone. Michael stands back, sensing danger, but not wanting to spoil the fun.

JAIME

What kind of creatures were these?

BILLY

I don't want to find out.

JAY

More of the birds, I'd guess.

JAIME

Billy's right. We all saw what  
happened back there and...

(to Jay)

...your team might be alive if they  
could defend themselves.

Jay looks around and grows concerned.

JAY

Does any of this matter? What makes you think Mars will be taking anymore stragglers when we arrive?

JAIME

It's the mission.  
(reminds him)  
To move survivors to the new world.

Jay raises an eyebrow - this is news to him. Jaime's about to question him when...

MICHAEL

I'm getting a read on something, but I don't know if it's human.

Jaime walks over from the bone field. She surveys some huge bones sticking up from the ground -- stuck in the hard rock.

JAIME

These must be millions of years old. Could they have had some kind of dinosaurs?

BILLY

They went extinct on earth, but may have survived here.

Michael nervously paces and scans the perimeter.

MICHAEL

Look at the size. I wouldn't recommend we stay for long.

Jaime touches a bone and she jumps back.

JAIME

They're warm.

A large bird dive bombs between Jay and Jaime who both leap out of the way.

JAIME

Gather the weapons and let's get out of here!

The bird lands on a rock next to Michael. Its feet BURN INTO the rock.

MICHAEL

They're full of acid!

They gather sharp pieces of bone, which irritates the bird. It leers at them with a fierce hunger that sends its beak pecking toward their flesh.

BILLY

Looks like it's dinner time!

Jaime leads the way, gathering up sharp bones as she runs.

JAIME

This will have to do.

Suddenly, the bird flies away. All is silent. The three of them look around, wondering what the hell is going on.

JAIME

Run!

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Jaime, Jay, Michael and Billy run into a big sandy field. The red sun is up high in the sky and the wind picks up speed.

JAIME

(to Jay)

Where's the Exodus?

JAY

I don't know! The dunes look the same. We must have passed it.

JAIME

Michael, scan for metallic readings.

MICHAEL

I am sensing a metal object somewhere out in the field.

Billy squints to see it.

BILLY

There's nothing out here.

At that exact moment, the wind picks up speed.

JAIME

What's happening?

MICHAEL

A storm. A big one!

The sun disappears. Lightning STRIKES.

JAIME

Michael, get us out of here!

JAY

Leave him behind. He'll draw the electromagnetic energy.

Lightning STRIKES a few feet in front of Michael. The wind HOWLS.

MICHAEL

We need to go back through the graveyard!

JAY

Are you insane?  
(to Jaime)  
He'll get us all killed!

JAIME

He's programmed to help us!

JAY

(shaking his head)  
He's artificial intelligence. He'll help himself if it means survival.

Multiple bolts of lightning STRIKE igniting a fire around them. Michael forms a force field that surrounds them in a safe cocoon.

MICHAEL

(shouting)  
I don't know how long I can hold it!

JAIME

Get ready to run!

The force field drops and Michael collapses.

JAIME

Run!

BILLY

I'm not leaving him behind.

Billy tries to pick up an unconscious Michael, but he's too heavy. To his surprise, Jay helps and together they carry Michael from the field.

EXT. LOST CITY - DAY

There are buildings that are completely submerged in sand.  
The four of them come upon the city.

JAY  
(to Billy)  
Can you get the android working?

Jay and Billy drop Michael in the sand. Billy bends down to work on Michael. Suddenly, the ground beneath their feet turns to QUICKSAND.

Jay jumps atop a dune to safety and watches the others sink. He laughs at their peril.

JAIME  
Jay!

JAY  
This planet's only big enough for  
one of us, Captain.

Jay starts to walk away as Jaime, Billy and Michael sink into the dune.

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. LOST CITY - DAY

Michael wakes up and enacts the force field. He uses its energy to form a vortex that WHIRLS and removes the sand enough to set them free.

JAIME

Hurry or we'll lose him.

Suddenly, a sand storm overtakes them and they disappear from view.

INT. UNDERGROUND CITY - DAY

Jaime, Michael and Billy lay face down in the sand.

Next to them lies Jay and COLIN SIN (48), an African American of average build.

Above them the sand comes through the ceiling.

Billy is the first to wake up when he takes a deep breath and inhales sand that he coughs up.

BILLY

Shit!

Billy moves over to Jaime and nudges her. She looks around. It's an entire city, but instead of roads there is sand. Its like the buildings were made in the sand. The buildings shine like they haven't been touch.

BILLY

(points to Colin)

Who's that?

Jaime crawls over and checks Colin for a pulse. She sees he's wearing a crew uniform with a tag that reads: COLIN SIN

JAIME

One of Jay's men.

BILLY

I thought they were dead?

Jaime nudges Jay. He stirs.

JAIME

Lying...

Billy looks around.

BILLY

There was a civilization here. What was this place?

Michael stirs and answers for Jaime as he scans the area:

MICHAEL

I'm getting life sign readings all over the place, but I think it's residual.

JAIME

Then the civilization is gone? Extinct?

Michael nods and stands up. Jaime motions for him to help Colin and he begins trying to revive him.

Jay regains consciousness. He isn't happy to see Jaime and her men still alive.

JAIME

(to Jay)

Seems your crew survived, Jay?

JAY

Yeah, I just found Colin before the storm hit.

BILLY

Sure you did. Maybe you tried to kill him like you did us. You seem to like having the place to yourself.

JAY

(to Jaime)

Since when does NASA run a three-man shuttle, Captain? You're the one who needs to explain what happened to your crew, huh?

Jaime and Billy exchange nervous glances. Jay notices.

JAY

Ah, so I'm right. You ditched 'em, didn't you? Figured you'd command things your way.

JAIME

The circumstances are none of your business.

Michael lifts Colin's up and carries him.

MICHAEL

This man needs medical attention. I think the building down the road was once a hospital.

Billy reminds Jaime:

BILLY

We don't need him...  
(nodding toward Jay)  
...Michael can locate the shuttle.

Jay remains steadfast, but looks ready to pounce.

JAIME

We do this together, understood?

They all exit -- together.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

The floors are all gone and sand is covering everything. Darkness everywhere. An EYEBALL watches them from the sand.

Jaime, Billy and Jay walk behind Michael who's still carrying Colin. They make their way to the front desk, which is computer and desk covered in sand.

Michael nods toward a set of metal doors at the far end of the room.

MICHAEL

Looks like there might have been a trauma center in there. Best place to find supplies, if any survived.

JAY

Hurry up and do it quickly or we have to leave him behind.

Jaime shoots him a look. The metal door swings open and a shark's fin surfaces in the sand, then disappears.

BILLY

What the hell was that?

Jay turns in time to see two more fins appear from beneath the sand and begin to circle them.

JAIME

Hurry, find the medical supplies.

Jay quickly locates a room with syringes and other supplies.

MICHAEL

We have company!

The two metal fins break the sandy surface revealing the heads of METAL SHARKS.

BILLY

Metallic sand sharks? No way!

JAY

They messed with Mother Nature and she got her revenge.

The metal sharks BUMP into Michael causing him to drop Colin's body into a sand pile.

The sharks swarm -- biting Colin in half. He bleeds out. Jay watches in horror, but makes no move to help his crew mate.

JAIME

NO! Fall back.

The team eases back through the metal doors and Billy SLAMS them shut behind them leaving a frenzy of sharks devouring Colin's lifeless body.

MICHAEL

We should take supplies!

JAIME

There's no time. Move out!

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Jaime, Michael, Jay and Billy rush out with two fins hot on their tails.

JAY

Wait! Stop, don't move.

Jay stops and allows the sharks to swim past him.

BILLY

What the hell are you doing?

JAIME  
(guessing)  
They're set for motion detection.

Jay nods.

The metal fins stop circling and all go underground.

JAY  
Alright, I admit. I lost it.

They stop and stare at him.

JAY  
The Endeavor. I'm not sure which  
direction. The dunes look the same  
and shift daily.

JAIME  
Michael, can you locate the  
wreckage?

MICHAEL  
(to Jay)  
If I'm going to get a fix, we need  
to be at the highest point around  
here.

Jay nods.

JAY  
The skyscraper.

They follow Jay out.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER - DAY

Jaime, Jay, Michael and Billy approach a skyscraper. It's covered on one side with enough sand to allow them to walk straight to the top floor via the dune.

BILLY  
I don't like this. Last time he  
lead us into a trap.

Jaime stops and considers Billy's words.

JAIME  
Try to get cute again, Jay and  
we'll take the Endeavor and leave  
you here.

JAY

May want to reconsider, Captain.  
Mars might not be what you're  
expecting. You might need a man  
like me around if you plan to  
survive.

Jay grins at her and enters the building first. Billy  
reluctantly follows and the others do the same.

INT. SKYSCRAPER - DAY

Jaime stops Jay near an elevator shaft.

JAIME

Let's just walk up the side.

Jay shakes his head.

JAY

Quick sand.

Billy presses the up button and it lights up. Michael scans  
the area.

MICHAEL

I'm getting some very strange  
interference.

The elevator doors open and an entire field of electricity is  
blocking the entrance.

BILLY

I guess we are taking the stairs.

INT. SKYSCRAPER STAIRWELL - DAY

Sand barely leaves the stairwell passable. Jaime follows  
close behind Jay, while Billy and Michael hang back a bit and  
watch for trouble.

JAIME

(to Jay)  
Why didn't they do it, Jay?

JAY

What?

JAIME

Send us to rescue you? You had a  
point. NASA never leaves an  
astronaut behind.

Jay laughs.

JAY

Look in the mirror lately? We're not astronauts. We're expendables.

Jaime stops Jay roughly by the arm.

JAIME

What was your mission?

JAY

To place the Mars station in lock down. No more survivors would be welcomed. A smaller number assures better odds of long-term survival of the species.

JAIME

(shocked)

You're lying! We were to prepare the station for a mass exodus from Earth -- there were tens of thousands waiting...my family.

Jay shakes his head. Jaime looks into his eyes -- she believes him.

JAY

Jinx executives would be the last to arrive. They're probably there already.

Jaime fumes and marches ahead of Jay, determined to get off this planet!

A MINUTE LATER

They reach the top of the stairs and Billy grabs the doorknob when a VOLT of electricity surges through his body and knocks him out.

Michael grabs him and slowly lowers him to the sandy floor.

JAIME

Electrified.  
(to Jay)  
Did you know?

JAY

No, I swear. It wasn't like this before.

MICHAEL

Opening the trauma center might  
have triggered some kind of  
intruder alarm in the surrounding  
buildings.

JAIME

(to Michael)

Can you...?

Michael takes a deep breath and touches the doorknob,  
absorbing the electricity.

BILLY (O.S.)

Way to go, Michael!

Michael glances down at Billy still lying on the sandy floor.  
He helps him up.

JAIME

You okay?

BILLY

(rubbing his hand)

Yeah, I think so.

(to Michael)

Glad you're with us.

MICHAEL

Hey, being an android isn't human,  
but it has its advantages.

They keep moving.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER - ROOFTOP - DAY

Jaime, Michael, Jay and Billy stand on the sandy roof  
overlooking a sea of sand.

JAIME

See anything?

BILLY

Nothing.

JAY

Told you. She's lost.

JAIME

Michael?

MICHAEL

I'm not sure. The sand's  
crystallized. It's giving off false  
readings.

JAY

Shit, now what do we do?

JAIME

(to Michael)

You nullified the electricity.  
Reverse polarity.

MICHAEL

(hesitant)

But?

JAIME

Would you rather stay here?

Michael does as ordered by turning on a switch in his arm.  
His arm SHOOTS up and MAGNIFIES. It drags him off in one  
direction.

JAY

The shuttle!

JAIME

Or a whole shitload of metal  
sharks.

They take off across the sand following the magnetic force to  
an unknown metallic destination.

FADE OUT:

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. VALLEY OF THE DEAD - DAY

Jaime, Billy and Jay race to keep up with Michael as the magnetic arm leads them to their destination.

A dune of bones glimmers in the light.

BILLY

Bones? This can't be good.

A RUMBLING that starts out quiet and slowly gets louder and louder. Michael's arm suddenly stops and drops to his side.

MICHAEL

Listen!

The RUMBLING gets super loud. They all stop and listen.

A shadow crosses over them. Blink and you'd miss it.

JAIME

Another storm?

Jay shakes his head.

JAY

Run, just Run!

The ground QUAKES bringing everyone to their knees.

The rumbling stops, but they remain kneeling, frozen in fear. FOOTSTEPS now come from many different directions. Sounds like a beat box.

Then all around a loud MOANING and GROANING is heard. It gets progressively louder.

JAIME

Michael, any sign of the shuttle?  
We need to get out of here!

All Michael can do is shake his head and rub his arm.

MICHAEL

It appears that we have awakened something.

BILLY

What?

The sand CHURNS and the bones CREATE LIFE FORMS. PEOPLE without skin and they look pissed.

BILLY

If this is the afterlife, I want to go back to jail.

Jaime grabs one of the bones to uses it as a weapon and is about to throw it -- but a skeleton hand GRABS her.

JAIME

Son of a bitch!

The undead begin to surround the group in a circle. Michael breaks off the hand. The undead GROWLS and jumps on Michael.

BILLY

Killed by zombie things isn't on my to do list!

JAIME

(to Jay)  
Why didn't you tell us?!

JAY

I've never seen these things before, I swear!

Billy jumps on top of the undead atop of Michael. He slams it with a bone -- the thing turns on him and jumps on him instead.

Jay fights back and tries to keep the undead from jumping him.

It starts strangling Billy with skeleton fingers. The rest of the undead watch eagerly.

JAY

I have an idea but I need....

Michael slowly rises to his feet and grabs the undead off of Billy -- BODY SLAMS it into the ground.

BILLY

(coughing)  
Holy shit.

A seething ARMY of the undead advances quickly towards them. THUNDER CLAPS above them drawing Michael's attention.

MICHAEL

This may seem like an inopportune time, it looks like it might rain.

The clouds have taken over in the sky.

The undead close in rapidly from all sides. They back into each other -- trapped.

JAY

It's no use. If we fight one more will come.

Michael suddenly spots something glistens along the horizon.

MICHAEL

(pointing)

The shuttle!

JAIME

We can make a run for it.

JAY

Not happening. They'd be on us in two seconds.

JAIME

It's your call, Jay! Get us out of here! We'll make it to Mars and take over the damn station -- show 'em who's really in charge.

Jay smiles - - he likes this idea.

JAY

I have an idea, but it's risky.

JAIME

Do it!

JAY

(to Michael)

A.I. - form a bridge.

BILLY

Say what?

Michael nods and begins lifting the undead, hurling them over his head and SLAMMING them into a pile that forms a bridge.

JAY

Holy crap it's working.

Jaime jumps up and down.

BILLY

Wherever we go. Whatever we do. This android's going with us.

JAIME  
You bet your ass he is.

Michael smiles.

JAIME  
(to Michael)  
Which way to the shuttle?

More undead rise up from the ground -- twice as many as before!

BILLY  
Run!

Michael points the way and they run across the undead bridge. Bony arms try to stop them. They dodge the onslaught!

The ground rumbles again, but they make it to safety at the top of the dune.

EXT. DUNE - DUSK

The sun begins to set in the distance. A valley of undead awaits behind them. In front of them a sea of sand.

No way out!

BILLY  
Where's the ship?

JAIME  
It was here. We all saw it.

JAY  
It's here, but we could spend years looking for it.

The ground RUMBLES again.

Michael focuses in on something.

MICHAEL'S SONAR POV

A schematic of the planet pops up and information feeds into a display.

BACK TO SCENE

JAIME  
Michael?

BILLY  
(guessing)  
He got his full sensors back.

MICHAEL  
Fully functioning.

JAIME  
What do you see?

MICHAEL  
I don't know.

JAY  
What the hell do you mean, 'you  
don't know?' Tell us what you see!

MICHAEL  
This is the planet that broke up  
into the astroid belt.

JAY  
Yeah, so?

JAIME  
We've travelled back in time?

Michael nods. Billy suddenly realizes.

BILLY  
Even if we get off this dead  
planet, we're millions of years in  
the past.

MICHAEL  
It's worse than that.

JAIME  
What?

MICHAEL  
I'd estimate we have a month before  
the planet breaks up. And I'm not  
even sure it is Deimos.

JAY  
What the hell does that mean?

MICHAEL  
It's too big.

A screen pops up from Michael's forehead revealing the  
schematic to the group.

ON SCREEN

A huge desert planet three times the size of earth glimmers the only light in dark space.

BACK TO SCENE

Jaime, Billy and Jay stare at it, dumbfounded.

JAY  
What the hell is that?

MICHAEL  
Ground zero.

BILLY  
I don't think that's Deimos.

JAY  
And it isn't earth.

JAIME  
Oh my God...it's Mars.

JAY  
The two crash landing must've changed it's trajectory.

JAIME  
And unless we get back to the present, the survivors of earth will have no where to go because Mars won't be there.

They stare at each other as fate sinks in.

JAIME  
Gentlemen...we can longer afford to be stranded.

They all nod in agreement.

FADE OUT.

