

SILVER SHOCK

Episode #1

"Salvum's Core"

**by
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**THIRD DRAFT
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XETRA STUDIOS

FADE IN:

We peer over the vast SALVUM CITY, a city of lights and glamor, embedded within a domed force field. A void surrounds the city, as if its the last place on Earth...

EXT. ALLEY WAY A - NIGHT

A storm brews. The once seemingly opulent atmosphere ceases to exist - the area is a wasteland.

A FIGURE surreptitiously darts across the drenched ground of a dark alley.

He looks over his shoulder. The LYNX CRAFT is still after him, spewing water beneath. He faces forward again as he nearly runs smack into a wall. But his quick reflexes evades the hit.

He glances back one more time before running onto a street.

He stumbles on the curb, stopping short at the sight of the partially flooded street. As the LYNX Craft SWOOSHES by, blasting him with a fusion of wind and water, he steps out onto the street - there's no going back now.

An incandescent light FLASHES on him as he comes to a SLIPPING halt. His black hoodie conceals his face within the shadow - only a silhouette of his head remains.

He glances around, spies a deteriorated building up ahead.

The light tracks him. He continues running, breathing heavily - he won't be able to run much longer. LYNX Craft #2 suddenly SHOOTs down. It SWERVES to avoid him.

LYNX MARAUDER (O.S.)
(through speaker)
We're going to give you one last
chance! Surrender now and we can
negotiate the terms of your arrest.
If not, we *will* make use of our
ammunition.

The Figure GASPS. He glances back at LYNX-Craft #1.

The Craft closes in. The Figure, displaying his natural speed of thought and impulsiveness, DARTS towards LYNX-Craft #2 --

LYNX MARAUDER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
What the!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- and SLIDES under in *slow-mo*.

Safely exiting to the opposite side, he kicks off the ground, continues sprinting - knowing well that if he stopped, they would *definitely* catch him.

He hops on the curb opposite to the alley way, enters a dilapidated building.

INT. LYNX CRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Spacious. Well lit. Buttons, handles, flashing lights, and high-tech gear all around.

Two LYNX MARAUDERS, the new and improved law enforcers for the city, sit side by side. They're in modified S.W.A.T. attire. Black and white camouflage. The label doesn't read "S.W.A.T.", it reads "LYNX".

The Marauders on the communication system. On the other line is NICK STERLING.

LYNX MARAUDER #1
Target acquired.

LYNX MARAUDER #2
Just give us the order and we'll engage fire, Mr. Sterling.

NICK (O.S.)
Slow down, soldier. We need to be certain that the suspect is a threat.
(beat)
Is he a threat?

LYNX MARAUDER #2
Yes, sir.

NICK (O.S.)
(to Marauder #1)
Marauder, can you confirm that?

LYNX MARAUDER #1
Affirmative.

NICK (O.S.)
Very well then. Request approved.
Fire at will.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

RATATATA! Bullets RICOCHET.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Caught, the Figure dashes out. He turns the corner, all while simultaneously dodging those bullets. He's skilled.

He springs onto another curb, runs into the next alley way.

The Craft follows.

EXT. ALLEY WAY B

AMELIA STERLING, 16, a bundle of beauty and energy, with strawberry blond hair, suddenly bursts from the shadows. She darts towards the Figure.

The Figure takes out a shimmering WHITE SHARD from his pocket. He FLINGS it into the air as Amelia quickly catches it while running. She continues on in the opposite direction.

INT. LYNX CRAFT #1

A miniature HOLOGRAPHIC SCREEN pops up. It's focused on Amelia.

LYNX Marauder #1 drags the screen over to the holographic screen focused on the Figure - comparing them side by side.

LYNX MARAUDER #1
He has an accomplice.

LYNX Marauder #2 contacts LYNX-Craft #2 via communication system.

LYNX MARAUDER #2
Come in Marauders.

LYNX MARAUDER #3 (O.S.)
We read you. What's the situation?

LYNX MARAUDER #2
Our suspect has an accomplice heading your way. Possibly a female.
(beat)
We'll take the main suspect.

LYNX MARAUDER #3 (O.S.)
Copy that. We'll pursue the accomplice.

EXT. ALLEY WAY B - MOMENTS LATER

The Figure comes to face another dilapidated building. A beat, he thinks, but is abruptly interrupted by the WHIRRING of a Craft closing in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He frantically glances back and forth between the Craft and the building - what is he to do now?

The Craft dives towards him. His reflexes force him to break in through a window above him. As he jumps through, the Craft comes to an immediate halt - a WHIRRING echo of its rotators BLASTING its surroundings with water.

The Craft steadily ascends to the roof. As it reaches the top, its sides opens up to reveal --

-- ARTILLERY BARRELS. One on each side. They begin firing in *slow-mo*.

INT. DILAPIDATED BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

The Figure suddenly dives onto the unstable floor without a moment's notice. The floor collapses, bringing down everything with it!

The SWOOSHING bullets shoot over him and SLAPS into a wall. Not a single bullet managed to pierce him... He's really skilled.

INT. LYNX CRAFT

The Marauders' jaws are dropped with astonishment. This is clearly something that they have never seen nor experienced before - could this have been just a coincidence?

They shake off their thoughts, now humiliated and furious. They're not going to let a "simple" teenager escape - they've come this close; might as well finish the job; all bets are off.

LYNX MARAUDER #1
Let's bring this place down!

LYNX Marauder #1 FLIPS the cover on the tip of a handle to reveal a RED BUTTON. He THUMBS it.

EXT. LYNX CRAFT - CONTINUOUS

An ARTILLERY BARREL slides out from the hood of the Craft. But its a different type. It illuminates a RED GLOW from within as it starts to spin rapidly until finally --

-- A RED SPHERE SHOOTS OUT. It CLAWS into the roof of the dilapidated building.

INT. LYNX CRAFT

A steady BEEPING echoes in the LYNX Craft, its speed momentarily increasing. Seated, the Marauders peer over something we do not see. They half salute: "Good riddance" and it is then that we see --

-- A TIMER ON A SCREEN. Counting down from 30 seconds. Fast.

INT. DILAPIDATED BUILDING - LOWER LEVEL - CONTINUOUS

The Figure crashes down into the lower level, but he amazingly lands on his feet - a dramatic pose.

Safe, he glances around, spies a GIANT GAP in the wall ahead. He stumbles at the edge to look down. He firmly stands his ground, a little shaken, but nevertheless, he looks ahead for the jump.

At the window of the opposite building stands JONAH HENDERSON. He's loyal to his friends and has a kind heart. He is willing to give a helping-hand to anyone who needs it.

Jonah reaches his hand out the window, aimed at the Figure, to encourage the giant leap.

So, this is no coincidence. This whole chase has been premeditated.

The storm rages on.

JONAH

Jump!

KYLE

I can't! It's too far!

JONAH

You have to!

The Figure swallows hard - it's now or never. It's time to take the leap of faith. He nervously takes several steps back, as well as a few deep breaths, until he ultimately DASHES towards the gap.

EXT. DILAPIDATED BUILDING - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

The timer starts to count down from five.

INT. DILAPIDATED BUILDING - LOWER LEVEL

The Figure reaches the gap. He takes the LEAP!

EXT. DILAPIDATED BUILDING - ROOF

The timer reaches ZERO.

INT. DILAPIDATED BUILDING - LOWER LEVEL

In the midrift of the Figure's leap, the building EXPLODES! A cloud of dust and debris remains.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Rain falls into the cloud of smoke. The scene is serene. But only for a split-second. Suddenly, a --

-- HAND PUSHES OUT OF THE DEBRIS.

It's the Figure. Still alive and breathing, he rises into the rain, his hood down, and we finally see his face.

He is KYLE ZY. An instantly attractive young man with a rebellious look that goes hand-in-hand with his erratic and impulsive nature.

He has several cuts and bruises on his face.

Several lights suddenly FLASH on him. He winces, squinting.

LYNX MARAUDER (O.S.)
This is LYNX! Put your hands up
now!

Kyle averts his eyes from the LIGHTS as he slowly raises his hands.

We see that he's completely surrounded by LYNX Marauders.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE**INT. LYNX HQ - INTERROGATION ROOM**

Just like any other interrogation room: A cold, heartless area where the police constantly grill their suspects. But in this case, it's a worried father lecturing his son.

A BOOMING slam on the metal table. Kyle attempts to move his hands, but it's useless - his hands are cuffed behind his back.

RICHARD

Look at me when I'm talking to you!

Kyle still avoids eye contact with DR. RICHARD ZY, early-fifties, a man married to his job, which makes him short-tempered. His profession is clearly marked by his lab coat that reads "A.T.L.A.S. CORP." on the back. He paces around the room.

Richard exhales in disappointment.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

What the hell were you thinking?
You knew you were breaking the law
when you snuck out of the city!
(beat)

LYNX has stressed on the law that
the outside area is a *restricted*
area.

Kyle doesn't know what to say. But he holds a look of guilt.

KYLE

Nothing, I wasn't thinking.

RICHARD

See, now there's your problem!
That's *exactly* your problem! You
don't think!

Richard notices Kyle's sulk. He exhales. He knows he's being too hard on the boy.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Look, I know I don't deserve--

KYLE

--You don't get it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A beat, Richard takes in Kyle's comment.

RICHARD

Get what?

KYLE

Why are you caring about me all of a sudden after all these years?

RICHARD

Because I'm your father, Kyle, and I care about you. I may have not been there for you physically, but I've always worried about you.

KYLE

That's nice. Maybe you should've said that a decade ago.

RICHARD

Kyle, I--

KYLE

--What? You care about me?

(beat)

Well, "dad", the thing is, I don't believe you.

RICHARD

Kyle--

KYLE

(furious)

--Tell me one thing that you've done to prove it!

Richard doesn't know how to respond.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Exactly. You don't know anything about me.

(beat)

When's my birthday?

RICHARD

December twenty-first.

(beat)

When's mine?

Kyle freezes, he doesn't know the answer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Exhausted, Richard takes a seat. He knows it's time for a "father-son" talk...

RICHARD (CONT'D)
What would your mother think of
this?

... But Kyle does not comply.

KYLE
You don't know anything about her!

RICHARD
Don't you dare say that!

Kyle returns to sulking - while holding a look of contempt.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
I loved your mother.

KYLE
Really? What day is it tomorrow?

RICHARD
December twelve.
(beat)
The twelfth anniversary of her
death.

Richard comprehends Kyle's eyes, trying to capture his thoughts.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Look, I know that I haven't been
there for you most of the time--

Kyle furiously faces Richard in a blink of an eye. This is the statement that ticks him off the most.

KYLE
--Most of the time?! You've rarely
been there! You missed mom's
funeral! Your own wife! You missed
all my birthdays!

He stops.

Richard glares sternly at Kyle, concealing his true emotions. His hands are trembling with fear (or is it guilt?)

Kyle continues to stare Richard down. He continues:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE (CONT'D)
You missed my childhood.

RICHARD
Kyle--

KYLE
--You're not my dad!
(beat)
I hate you!

Richard is speechless at Kyle's assertion. He nods, silently exists the room.

Kyle faces the security camera, attempting to restrain his anger from escalating any further.

INT. LYNX HQ/EXT. INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Welcome to LYNX HQ, the only headquarters in Salvum City for LYNX Marauders, as well as the control center for the whole dome. The building is well lit and meticulously cleaned. Everyone is dressed professionally - the occasional suit and tie. The atmosphere of LYNX HQ provides the warm feeling of being in a haven.

Richard rubs his forehead as he walks out. He approaches Nick Sterling, late-forties, the CEO and Founder of LYNX CORPORATIONS, the vital moderator of the city - a corporate government. Nick is a man with authority and style, which complements the way he dresses - Armani. He is also Amelia's father.

Seated, Nick gazes at a HOLOGRAPHIC SCREEN of the interrogation room's security feed.

RICHARD
Did you hear all that?

Nick WHIRLS his chair around to Richard.

NICK
Yeah...

Richard stares down at the screen.

RICHARD
He was once an acquiescent child, and now, he's grown up to be a rebellious teenager. It's hard to talk to him now...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK

I know exactly how you feel, except I also have a 16-year-old daughter, Amelia, who was apparently with Kyle during his apprehension.

RICHARD

Where's Amelia now?

NICK

I gave her a free pass.

Nick's answer forces Richard to take a beat.

RICHARD

You gave her a free pass?

(beat)

How about Kyle?!

NICK

Look, JACK is about Kyle's age and I've taken him in plenty of times. He grew up to hate me, but at least he's disciplined. And Amy, this is her first time, so I decided to give her a free pass. Just this first time.

(beat)

You know, your son is a bad influence on my daughter. He's been taken in several times beforehand for picayune infractions of the law, but this time, he broke a law that LYNX-- That I have stressed repeatedly!

(beat)

Let this be a warning, Dr. Richard. Kyle's actions are impeding his judgement; the boy acts before he thinks!

RICHARD

Nick, don't--

NICK

--Forget it, Richard. I've already done a handful of favors for you.

RICHARD

But, Nick! I know that my son has caused some trouble--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK

--Some trouble?! Kyle broke a total
of three laws in one night!

(beat)

One night, Richard. One. Night.

RICHARD

Can't you at least--

NICK

--I've already said no, I can't
help you. Process that in your
head.

(beat)

Now, I can't be late for a meeting
with the Executives.

Richard exhales. Nick walks away, but Richard's arm SHOOTS
out to grab Nick's shoulder.

NICK (CONT'D)

(impatient)

What?

RICHARD

You have to understand that
tomorrow marks the twelfth
anniversary of my wife's death.

(beat)

My wife that you--

NICK

--I know. You can spare the
details.

(beat)

Are you that desperate to use the
guilt card on me?

RICHARD

I have to find a way to appease
Kyle's anger...

NICK

It's simple, Richard. It doesn't
take a rocket scientist to figure
it out.

Richard takes in Nick's words, comprehending what it could
mean, but his expression shifts. Now he looks awkward.
Confused. He clearly doesn't understand what Nick is trying
to say.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK (CONT'D)

Poetic.

RICHARD

What?

NICK

You're a scientist for the most
advanced research facility in the
city and you can't figure this out?

Richard does not know how to respond. Nick forces a smile.

NICK (CONT'D)

Don't worry, you'll figure it out.
You always do.

Nick leaves just as--

RICHARD

Wait!

Frustrated, Nick immediately stops. He neglects to face
Richard.

NICK

What is it now?

Richard does not reply.

NICK (CONT'D)

You're just wasting my time.

Nick steps forward...

RICHARD

It's the Core.

...and he backtracks. Suddenly interested, he spins around to
Richard.

NICK

What about it?

Richard hesitates to tell the rest.

NICK (CONT'D)

(insistent)
Tell me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RICHARD

Its going unstable... I estimate we have fewer than 24 hours until it...

(beat)

It eradicates everything.

NICK

That's impossible! The Core is generated deep beneath this building. I'm sure as hell that we would know if it was going unstable.

(beat)

You're just wasting my time, Richard. I'm a very busy man and I have places to be. I have no time to listen to your trivial stories just to free your son from custody.

RICHARD

Don't let your ego blind you, Nick! The reason why you're not feeling anything or why your employees aren't detecting it is because CHARLES and I have been restlessly trying to keep it undetectable!

(beat)

And we're doing a damn good job of it if you haven't noticed-- which I'm sure you haven't!

NICK

Okay, let's say it was going unstable.

(beat)

What do you need?

RICHARD

Kyle's help. It was his idea to generate an algorithm to maintain the Core so that it could run the whole city. Maybe he can help me develop a new algorithm to stabilize the Core or find the source of errors that could be disrupting it.

Nick thinks: "What am I to do?"

NICK

No, no, I can't do that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RICHARD

Just help me on this! Let's get on the same page!

NICK

Same page? We're not even in the same book!

RICHARD

Nicholas. If we do not stabilize the Core, everyone will die. You're not just the CEO & Founder of LYNX. You are LYNX.

(beat)

Do your job and protect lives!

Nick swaggers towards Richard. He sternly GLEAMS into Richard's eyes.

NICK

You are in no obligation to tell me what to do.

(beat)

But, this one last time, I'll release Kyle.

Richard lets out a sigh of relief.

NICK (CONT'D)

But only because he can assist you in repairing the Core.

RICHARD

Thank you...

Nick spies TRISHA NOE, early-thirties, dressed like an assistant, with her hair tied back and holding a packet of papers. Too stereotypical. But in a way, it's sexy.

NICK

(to Richard)

Try not to blow us up.

TRISHA

Mr. Sterling, the Executives are waiting for you.

NICK

My apologies. Dr. Richard and I were discussing about an impediment for the city.

(beat)

I was just leaving.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nick and Richard exchange one last glance until Trisha escorts Nick away.

EXT. ZY'S HOUSE - LATER

The storm continues.

From the distance comes a set of LONE LIGHTS. A CAR speeds through the puddles until it comes to a SCREECHING HALT along a sidewalk. The driver is clearly agitated.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Seated, Richard stares out at the road. Kyle too avoids eye contact with his dad. He only looks outside the window.

RICHARD

Look...

(beat)

I think you've been through a lot today, so I won't even talk about punishment, but--

KYLE

--Really dad? All you're thinking of right now is punishment?!

RICHARD

Kyle, please, I--

KYLE

--Whatever! Like I said earlier,
(turning to Richard)
I hate you.

Kyle steps out of the car. Furious, he SLAMS the door shut.

Richard watches Kyle walk away. His phone suddenly RINGS. It's Charles.

RICHARD

Hello?

CHARLES (O.S.)

Richard, where the hell are you?!
We need you in A.T.L.A.S. CORP.
now!

RICHARD

I'm sorry, it's just... Kyle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLES (O.S.)

Sorry to ruin the father-son moment, but the Core's activity is escalating quickly! If we don't find a way to reverse this--

RICHARD

--I know. Kyle can help us, but this is not the best of times to ask...

CHARLES (O.S.)

Why not?

RICHARD

Because he won't care if I die.
(beat)
I'm already dead to him.

The thought of that forces Richard to take a deep breath.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

But, I'm on my way, Charles.

He hangs up. He glances at Kyle walking through the front door. There's still a chance for him to talk with Kyle. But he decides to leave...

INT. KYLE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A typical boy's room: Dirty clothes in every step. Unkempt bed. Table next to the bed with a laptop and a lava lamp. Different gadgets and gizmos on his desk, near the window, next to various screwdrivers and what appears to be a blowtorch. He's been busy...

Kyle walks in, FLICKS the light switch. He SLAMS down on the bed. A beat to take a deep breath...

... And he rolls towards his lava lamp. He retrieves a --

-- PICTURE FRAME OF HIS MOTHER. Its right beside the lava lamp.

He gazes at the picture.

KYLE

Why don't I remember you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In *slow-mo*, Kyle BLINKS --

INT. ZY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - STAIRCASE (TWELVE YEARS AGO)

-- and he's suddenly on a staircase.

EVERYTHING'S FUZZY, but he can still make out the contents of his surroundings: He's peeping at the living room while gripping onto his TEDDY BEAR.

An argument ensues in the living room. Two FIGURES are in deep conversation - too deep to analyze what they're saying.

But suddenly, BANG! A bullet echoes throughout the room.

FLASH of ANGELA ZY, early-thirties, Kyle's mother, collapsing to the ground.

Kyle winces. His eyes TREMBLE with fear --

INT. KYLE'S ROOM (PRESENT)

-- until he BLINKS away the image.

KYLE
What was that?

A SHRILL RING suddenly emits from his phone. Frightened, Kyle reacts--

KYLE (CONT'D)
Jesus!

He HOPS off the bed, quickly retrieves it. A quick glance down. It's Jonah. He answers with haste.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Jonah?

INT. HENDERSON'S HOUSE - JONAH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A nerd's realm: Full of computers, cables, and comic books. Although, there is one .

Seated, Jonah gazes into his laptop. He wears a HEADSET.

JONAH
Kyle, you made it out?

KYLE (O.S.)
Yeah, thanks for absconding the scene and leaving me with LYNX. Friends don't...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kyle continues talking.

Jonah TWIRLS his chair around, half-a-second too fast, and a tad too slow. His chair JAMS on one of his cables, throwing him off. He face-plants the carpet.

His headset UNPLUGS from the laptop. It MIXES in the sea of cables. Jonah swallows hard. He dives in for the cumbersome search.

KYLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 ...even Amelia stayed behind with me! You know Jonah, I thought we were bros! But apparently not. What do you have to say to that, Jonah?

Jonah untangles the wire. He finds the one that belongs to the headset. He takes a step forward, TRIPS on a cable. He falls face-flat.

INT. ZY'S HOUSE - KYLE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kyle paces around the room.

KYLE
 Jonah?

No reply.

KYLE (CONT'D)
 (awkward)
 Jonah?

Silence.

KYLE (CONT'D)
 Jonah!

INT. JONAH'S ROOM

Jonah scrambles to his feet. Constricted, he untangles the cables wrapped around his feet.

KYLE (O.S.)
 I am about to hang up, Jonah!

He frees himself from the constraint. He rushes towards his computer, JABS in the wire. He hastily wears his headset.

JONAH
 Sorry, sorry! Headset got disconnected!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE (O.S.)

I don't understand why you're so old-fashioned.

JONAH

Hey! It may be outdated but old tech is sometimes better than the new tech!

INT. KYLE'S ROOM

Kyle returns to his bed. He glances down at his --

-- MOM'S PICTURE. She smiles happily in front of A.T.L.A.S. CORPORATIONS (Advanced Technological Laboratories and Alternate Systems Corporations) building.

KYLE

Whatever floats your boat.

JONAH (O.S.)

How did you even survive the blast back outside the dome?

KYLE

I dunno... I guess luck?

JONAH (O.S.)

Some luck! Next time that happens, you come to me first, okay?

KYLE

Next time? One time was already enough.

INT. JONAH'S ROOM

Jonah rapidly types. The keyboard CLATTERS with activity as a SCREEN OF DATA runs down the computer monitor.

JONAH

Hey, get on your laptop. I'm sending you some files.

KYLE

I hope they're the right kind...

INT. KYLE'S ROOM

Kyle hops on his chair. He flips open his laptop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONAH (O.S.)

When you and Amelia split during the chase earlier, I managed to get the shard from her. I scanned it and you're not going to believe what I found.

KYLE

What did you find?

JONAH (O.S.)

You're about to see.

Seated, Kyle peers at the screen.

JONAH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You were right... LYNX *is* hiding something outside the dome.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. LYNX HQ - MEETING ROOM - LATE NIGHT**

A cleared OBSIDIAN OVAL TABLE in the center. Five chairs on each side, one on each end. Nick Sterling, displaying his superiority, stands rather than sit like everyone else in the room. He paces around in front, but offers eye contact to the EXECUTIVES.

NICK

Ladies and gentlemen, I have called this meeting to present LYNX's most advanced, and powerful, weapon. A weapon of pure destruction that will strike fear into our enemies and guarantee victory in any war.

EXECUTIVE #1

I'm going to stop you there, Sterling. "A weapon of pure destruction"? What if this tech gets in the wrong hands?

EXECUTIVE #1 interrupts Nick. He faces Executive #1, clearly taking offense at the intrusion. But he shakes off the thought and forces a smile.

NICK

It won't.

EXECUTIVE #1

Are you certain of that?

NICK

Yes. This weapon requires DNA-Recognition to properly work.

EXECUTIVE #2

And how is this different from the other weapons you have previously distributed for LYNX?

NICK

LYNX is the corporate power running this city and we distribute our latest innovations in weaponry to our Marauders. These weapons *will* ensure safety for the public.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EXECUTIVE #2

Sterling, don't you think you're going the wrong direction with this?

NICK

Wrong direction? I'm leading this company to success!

EXECUTIVE #1

With weapons. Weapons start wars.

NICK

And weapons end war.

Nick TAPS the table as HOLOGRAPHIC SCREENS scatter across to each person. Some are charts. Some are blueprints of a gun.

NICK (CONT'D)

This is LYNX's latest product: The NS-1.

The Executives murmur among themselves.

EXECUTIVE #1

Sterling--

NICK

--Just hear me out!

(beat)

The NS-1 makes up for its size with its blast. Although containing only three bullets, each bullet contains millions of explosive Nanoids, pressurized and packed together. When the shell is released, the Nanoids will immediately detach and attach to the closest object. Upon doing so, they will self-destruct in any given time limit.

EXECUTIVE #3

You're crazy! Nano technology has not been fully explored yet!

NICK

(insistent)

But it has been.

A BOOMING knock on the door. Trisha enters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRISHA

Mr. Sterling, there's something you
have to see.

NICK

Can it wait, Trisha?

TRISHA

No. It can't.

Trisha wordlessly signals Nick. He picks up something's
wrong...

He turns to the Executives with a forced smile.

NICK

I'm afraid we're going to have to
reschedule.

EXECUTIVE #1

Forget it, Sterling! We will not
let you create this weapon!

EXECUTIVE #2

We want you to expunge all records
of it!

NICK

What--

TRISHA

Mr. Sterling!

Nick glances at Trisha. And back to the Executives.

NICK

(to Executives)
It will be done...

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Nick and Trisha frantically walk through the hallway. Trisha
holds a TABLET.

NICK

All my years of designing the
ultimate weapon for our Marauders!
Down the drain!
(beat)
This better be important, Trisha!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRISHA

I was going through the security feed from the LYNX Crafts and I found this.

Trisha hands Nick her tablet.

ON TABLET -- The alley scene from earlier. Kyle runs through the rain. Amelia runs out. Kyle FLINGS the shard.

Trisha quickly pauses the video. She zooms in on the shard.

NICK

This is...

TRISHA

Dr. Zy lied to you, Mr. Sterling. He didn't eradicate the element. If he did, not all of it.

NICK

That bastard hid it in the one place he knew I wouldn't look... outside the city.

INT. A.T.L.A.S. CORPORATIONS - SECTOR ZERO - CONTINUOUS

Richard bursts in through the door of Sector Zero inside A.T.L.A.S. Corporations, the most advanced scientific research facility in the city.

He approaches Dr. Charles DIMNEX, wise looks, gray hairlines, early-fifties, the Founder & CEO of A.T.L.A.S. Corp.

RICHARD

Hey Charles, what's the situation?

Richard and Charles hastily walk along a hallway.

CHARLES

In the past couple hours, the Core has exceeded its normal containment level by 83 percent and counting. Ever since then, its been spurting flares.

RICHARD

83 percent? That's odd. It increased three times as much from yesterday... And flares? Like solar flares?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLES
Exactly like solar flares.

A beat, Richard and Charles come to a halt at a gate. Richard smiles.

RICHARD
I have an idea we can try...

INT. ZY'S HOUSE - KYLE'S ROOM

Kyle browses through the different files opened in his laptop. More files suddenly POP UP, stacking over each other. At this point, we know that Kyle is no longer controlling his laptop. Jonah is.

All the files have one thing in common: They're all related to LYNX and A.T.L.A.S. Corporations.

He continues browsing. An article zooms past. Kyle backtracks to it. He zooms in on the headline: "DR. RICHARD ZY DISCOVERS NEW ELEMENT"

KYLE
Hey, Jonah. Why are you sending me articles of my dad?

JONAH (O.S.)
It's a moment of history. The day your dad discovered a new element.

KYLE
Yeah, and? He promised everyone that the element was able to generate everlasting energy.
(beat)
He wasn't completely wrong. The element produced too much energy, and here we are in a glassed globe.

JONAH (O.S.)
And when the element began emitting too much radiation, your dad managed to dispose it.

KYLE
How do you dispose an element?

JONAH (O.S.)
No idea, but he managed to do it, and you're not going to believe this... This shard we found...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kyle pulls up an image of a --

-- CRYSTAL. Its properties are similar to the shard. He stares in amazement: "Whoa"

KYLE

Is part of the element.

He leans back on his chair.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. A.T.L.A.S. CORPORATIONS - SECTOR ZERO - LATE NIGHT**

Cautious, Richard, wearing a RADIATION SUIT retrieves a --
-- BEAKER. It contains a wave of energy that constantly
FLUCTUATES like fog. It emits a BRIGHT GOLDEN glow.

He takes careful steps - one step at a time. Charles, also
wearing a radiation suit, comes in to help.

RICHARD

Okay, let's initiate the
experiment.

CHARLES

I still have to object to this
idea. Using *it* is too dangerous!
Where did you acquire that?! I
thought you destroyed it!

RICHARD

I did... But I kept a few
fragments.

CHARLES

What?

RICHARD

They're innocuous fragments!
Practically harmless, but can still
provide energy.

CHARLES

If they're innocuous, why are we
wearing radiation suits?

Richard evades Charles' question. He swiftly TYPES an
algorithm into a holographic screen.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Okay, well you do know that doing
this could mean no power for the
entire dome!

RICHARD

I'm aware of that, but would you
rather have the whole dome
incinerated?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLES

We'll be sending humanity back into
the dark ages!

RICHARD

Don't worry--

CHARLES

--No! Richard, just admit that
we're getting too old and weary for
this. We're not going to...

Richard exhales.

RICHARD

Dammit Charles! We *can* do this! We
will stabilize the Core before all
the power runs out!

Charles gives Richard an unsettling look.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

We are possibly the only ones who
may understand about the Core
enough to try to save the dome!

CHARLES

Okay... Do what you must.

Richard types in the last code of the algorithm.

RICHARD

Done! Bring out the Zyluxrium!

Charles retrieves the ZYLUXRIUM, an element synthesized by
Richard twelve years ago to generate everlasting energy. It
gives off a luminous SILVER-BLUE glow.

INT. JONAH'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jonah leans back on his chair, his arms nonchalantly crossed
behind his head.

JONAH

So what are you going to do?

KYLE (O.S.)

Meet me at Amelia's house.

JONAH

Dude, are you crazy?! Her dad hates
you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE (O.S.)
Relax, I have a plan. Just be there
in half an hour. Oh, and bring the
shard...

EXT. STERLING'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - LATER

A figure dressed in black surreptitiously darts across the front yard. He uses a nearby tree as a boost to the window.

INT. STERLING'S HOUSE - AMELIA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amelia lays on her bed. She peers at the ceiling, deep in thought.

EXT. FRONT YARD

The figure cautiously lifts up the window with one hand. He shakes the tree to gain more distance, until finally, he leaps onto the window.

But he barely makes it. He hangs on to the edge, attempting to keep his fingertips on the edge.

INT. AMELIA'S ROOM

A TAPPING from the window. Amelia spies the window to see a SHADOW move. She proceeds to investigate with a BAT.

She suddenly HOPS in front of the window. The figure looks up with a SCREAM. It's Kyle.

AMELIA
Kyle?!

KYLE
(struggling to stay
elevated)
Hi, Amy!

AMELIA
What are you doing here?!

KYLE
I--

AMELIA
--My father would kill you if he
were home!

KYLE
Cool, cool, cool. Can you help me
up first?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMELIA

Oh my God...

She gives him a hand as he dives through, rolls into Amelia's room, panting.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

So. What do you want? I already got caught by my dad.

KYLE

Well, I was in your neighborhood and I noticed you had some very fine pine cones on
(pointing to the tree)
That tree over there, so I tried to pick some. There was one that was on a fragile branch that just so happens to be close to your window and--

AMELIA

--Please stop. Having you explain yourself is lowering the IQ of the whole neighborhood.

(beat)

Why are you really here?

Sprawled on the carpet, Kyle sits up.

KYLE

Okay, the reason I'm here is... We need to talk about what we found outside the city.

AMELIA

The shard?

KYLE

Yes! Jonah's on his way with it as we speak.

AMELIA

He scanned it?

KYLE

Yes, very thoroughly, and we discovered that the shard is part of the element my dad synthesized.

AMELIA

That's impossible! Your dad destroyed it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE
I thought so...

Kyle gazes into space. He blinks --

INT. ZY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM (TWELVE YEARS AGO)

-- and he's suddenly staring at his dad holding a BLACK SPHERE. Big enough to fit in his palm. It's composed of six different slices, like an orange.

The blurry image lingers as Amelia's voice calls out "Kyle. Kyle!!!"

INT. AMELIA'S ROOM (PRESENT)

Kyle winces back into reality to find Amelia shaking him.

AMELIA
Kyle!

KYLE
I'm here! I'm here! What happened?

As Kyle rises to his feet, the door suddenly swings open, forcing him to drop to the carpet with a SHRIEK.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Holy--

Jonah enters.

JONAH
--Kyle?

KYLE
Jonah! Don't scare me like that!

JONAH
How did you get in here.

AMELIA
Through my window. And you, Jonah?

JONAH
Through the front door.

Kyle shakes off his whimsical attitude.

KYLE
Whatever. Did you bring the shard?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jonah unveils the shard from his jacket.

INT. LYNX HQ - CORE CONTAINMENT AREA - CONTINUOUS

The CORE, a mini version of the sun, glows an ORANGE color as it whirls around rapidly. It spurts waves of immense energy that almost appear to look like a dense fog.

INT. AMELIA'S ROOM

The lights in the house FLICKER on and off. As Kyle, Jonah, and Amelia glances around, a small shock wave comes RUMBLING their way, forcing the trio to the floor.

Furniture scatter across the room. Jonah drops the shard.

The shaking ceases. Kyle spots the shard in front of him. He grabs it.

KYLE

An earthquake? LYNX regulates the whole dome; they don't implement natural disasters!

AMELIA

Maybe a malfunction?

JONAH

I'll check the news!

Jonah turns on the T.V. He channel surfs until he lands on a News Channel.

EXT. A.T.L.A.S. CORPORATIONS - CONTINUOUS

The surrounding perimeter buzzes with activity. NEWS REPORTERS are already lined up in front of what *was* A.T.L.A.S. CORPORATIONS. The building is nothing more than a pile of ash now.

LYNX Cruisers BLARE sirens as LYNX MARAUDERS secure the area.

A NEWS REPORTER prepares to speak, but he cannot resist the urge to repeatedly glance back at something we cannot see.

NEWS REPORTER

We are live here at A.T.L.A.S. Corporations where witnesses claim to have seen the renowned building go up in flames and vanish within a matter of seconds! All there is left is--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NEWS REPORTER #2 stands a distance away on the left.

NEWS REPORTER #2

--We just got a report from some LYNX Marauders that LYNX and A.T.L.A.S. Corporations has been hiding an energy source that has been powering this dome, and, according to them, this source, this Core, is starting to have a build up of energy, which will ultimately be released all at once, resulting in incineration of everything in its path.

NEWS REPORTER

There has been no word on survivors in the building.

(beat)

At this point, LYNX is trying to prevent the Core from incinerating the dome. They claim to have a final solution, but at this rate, death is inevitable. My advice to everyone watching this is to run. Just run. Get out of the dome!

INT. AMELIA'S ROOM

Kyle gazes into the T.V. screen, oblivious to his surroundings.

AMELIA

Kyle?

Kyle snaps out of trance.

KYLE

A.T.L.A.S. Corporations... Oh my God, dad!

EXT. A.T.L.A.S. CORPORATIONS - LATER

A nonplussed crowd scrambles on the scene as the storm continues. A perfect combination for chaos.

Kyle's motorcycle TAILSPINS to a screeching halt to avoid crashing into the crowd. He analyzes the scene.

He hurries to join the back of the crowd, navigates his way towards the front. But LYNX MARAUDERS try to prevent him from entering. This doesn't stop him. He forces his way in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LYNX MARAUDER

Hey! Hey! You can't go in there!

Kyle proceeds to approach the epicenter of the scene.

LYNX MARAUDER (CONT'D)

Hey!

All the clamor surrounding Kyle slowly fades away. He's no longer mindful of his surrounding. A LYNX Marauder grabs Kyle's shoulder. But Kyle swiftly parries. He twists the Marauder's arm behind his back. We may hear a crack.

Kyle pushes the Marauder to the side, then slowly retreats away from the scene. We register his shock until we finally share his P.O.V. on a --

-- GRAY, IMPENETRABLE, TOWER OF SMOKE. It ascends from a GIGANTIC CRATER where A.T.L.A.S. Corporations once stood.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**EXT. A.T.L.A.S. CORPORATIONS - POLICE LINE - LATE NIGHT**

The ominous storm continues. Kyle meticulously scans the smoke for survivors. No luck. He falls to his knees.

Several LYNX MARAUDERS approach Kyle, but he savagely fights them off.

KYLE

No! No! Get away from me!

A LYNX Marauder suddenly jumps on him and attempts to cuff him. Kyle struggles. He aims a punch at the Marauder. The Marauder collapses, but jumps right up.

LYNX MARAUDER

Son of a--

CHARLES

--Wait!

The Marauder averts his attention to Charles, taking offense at the intrusion.

LYNX MARAUDER

This is a potentially dangerous--

CHARLES

--He's not dangerous. Just lost, confused, and ultimately scared.

LYNX MARAUDER

This is for public safety.

CHARLES

Is that what you all say now?

The Marauder doesn't reply.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Just leave us alone.

LYNX MARAUDER

Sir--

CHARLES

Go!

(beat)

Before I splash acid all over that ugly face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Marauder SCOFFS. But he's not willing to test Charles' bluff.

Kyle glances over at the rising smoke. He turns to Charles, and as he sees him, we see one last glimmer of hope in his eyes.

KYLE
Dr. Charles! Please... Tell me that
he's with you!

CHARLES
Kyle--

KYLE
--He's always by your side! So if
you're alive then...

Charles wordlessly apologizes. To Kyle, this can only mean one thing...

KYLE (CONT'D)
My dad is... Dead?

Kyle chokes on the last word, resisting the urge to burst into tears. Charles quickly gives Kyle the hug he deserves.

CHARLES
I'm sorry...

Kyle pushes Charles away.

KYLE
What were you doing outside?! You
were supposed to be by his side!

CHARLES
Kyle--

KYLE
--You're his friend!

He swallows hard. There's nothing else he can do...

KYLE (CONT'D)
You were supposed to be by his
side...

Charles is speechless. Kyle inhales a deep breath.

KYLE (CONT'D)
What happened?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLES

Your father and I were experimenting with the Core's energy.

KYLE

The Core?

CHARLES

An energy source located in a secure location deep beneath LYNX HQ. It regulates, and controls, everything in the entire dome. Unfortunately, it's starting to go unstable, and in a matter of hours... The Core will explode.

KYLE

(wanting him to repeat)
What?

Charles hesitates to repeat, but Kyle's glare insists on it.

CHARLES

The Core will explode, and eradicate everything in its path.

Kyle grabs Charles by the coat collar.

KYLE

What the hell was A.T.L.A.S. and LYNX working on?!

CHARLES

Kyle, can you please just--

KYLE

--What? Calm down?! I'll calm down when I get some God damn answers!

Charles stares at the conjured beast within Kyle.

CHARLES

Your father was a good man.

(beat)

He was my best friend! If I had known that this was going to happen, I would have gladly stayed by his side and die with him!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

You could've. But you didn't.

Charles freezes at Kyle's words.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I'll never forgive you.

Kyle walks away.

CHARLES

When I last saw him...

Kyle stops. He neglects to face Charles, but he listens.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

... He was beginning to experiment with the last fragment of the element he synthesized years ago. He fused it with a small portion of the Core's energy.

KYLE

The element... Zyluxrium?

CHARLES

Yes.

Kyle thinks. Suddenly, Jonah and Amelia arrive at the scene. They spot Kyle from a distance, quickly rushes over.

AMELIA

Kyle!

CHARLES

Your friends are here. I'll leave you alone.

Charles steps to the side as Amelia comes to face the crater behind Kyle.

AMELIA

Oh my God... What happened?

KYLE

My dad died trying to find a way to save the dome...

JONAH

Aw man...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jonah pats Kyle on the shoulder. Amelia hugs Kyle. But they are not able to solace the heartbroken Kyle. He turns to watch the smoke rise.

KYLE

My last words to him was...

(beat)

"I hate you".

AMELIA

You didn't mean it.

Kyle lightly shakes his head.

KYLE

But I did!

JONAH

Don't feel guilty, man. It happens to all of us. It's just one of those days.

KYLE

Except this day ended with my dad dying!

Jonah does not know how to respond.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I should've reconciliated with him. I should've talked with him. But I didn't.

(beat)

I neglected him. I hated him. And now, I understand.

(beat)

He needed to constantly work every day and night in order to keep this dome running. It's because of him that we're living in the luxury of life. And all this time, I've been blaming him for everything that has been happening to me... It's funny. You don't realize how important someone can be to you until they're dead...

Jonah and Amelia analyzes Kyle's words.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kyle closes his eyes. And they snap open with confidence.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I need to do something about the dome. My dad was working on stabilizing the Core to save the dome, and now, I'm making it my duty to do just that.

Kyle hastily spins around. He inadvertently runs smack into JASON FANG, 17, a devilishly handsome young man. He has an original take on grunge punk, mixing it up with gentleman attire.

The shard falls out of Kyle's jacket. It jabs the dirt.

JASON

Sorry, my bad.

KYLE

It's fine.

Jason spots the shard. He retrieves it, offers it to Kyle. Kyle hesitates, mesmerized by Jason's presence.

JASON

Here. This is yours, right?

Kyle snaps back into reality.

KYLE

Yes... Yes! Thank you.

Kyle storms off. Jason's eyes narrow on Kyle. He turns to view to scene.

Jonah, Amelia, and Charles remain where they were.

AMELIA

Where is he going?

CHARLES

He's headed to LYNX HQ to stop the Core.

JONAH

The Core?

CHARLES

I'll explain later. But the point is he has no way of stopping it!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLES (CONT'D)

His dad's theory was by jump-starting the Core with a fragment Zyluxrium, it would stabilize it, but Kyle doesn't have the element! It's practically extinct!

Jonah and Amelia exchange an unsettling look. Charles take notice.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

What? What is it?

The duo hesitates.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

(insistent)

Tell me.

AMELIA

When we went outside the city, we found a white shard...

JONAH

Upon researching, I discovered that the shard was actually a fragment of the element Zyluxrium.

(beat)

But no worries! I have it!

Jonah reaches into his pocket. His hand exits empty. He reaches into his other pocket. Nothing. He thoroughly examines all his pockets - inverting it. Nothing.

CHARLES

No, no, no! We experimented with just a small portion of the Core's energy fusing with the element, and that incinerated A.T.L.A.S.! If Kyle fuses the shard with the actual Core...

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATER

The rain causes a traffic jam on the highway. Kyle speeds through cars on his motorcycle.

EXT. HIGHWAY - FARTHER BEHIND - CONTINUOUS

The traffic forestalls Charles, Jonah, and Amelia. Charles slams his fists onto the steering wheel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLES

Dammit!

(beat)

Okay. We need to get out of this car; we'll get no where in this God forsaken traffic jam!

EXT. HIGHWAY - FATHER DOWN - LATER

Kyle speeds past a limo on the opposite lane.

INT. LIMO - CONTINUOUS

Nick Sterling inside. He notices Kyle speed by.

NICK

That's him! Kyle! The kid with the element.

TRISHA

He's headed towards LYNX HQ.

NICK

Dammit! We were just there.

TRISHA

Do you think he's gong for the Core?

NICK

We'll find out.

(to Driver)

Hey! How fast can you get us back to LYNX HQ?

The DRIVER faces Nick.

DRIVER

In this traffic jam? Not too soon. Maybe an hour?

Nick glances back through the windshield to observe Kyle speeding away. He glares sternly at Trisha.

NICK

Get a LYNX-Craft down here. Now!

EXT. LYNX HQ - LATER

A LYNX MARAUDERS runs towards Kyle as Kyle's motorcycle tailspins to a screeching halt, splashing water to the side.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LYNX MARAUDER

Hey--

KYLE

--No time for this. I am Dr.
Richard Zy's son: Kyle Zy! I know
about the Core, so show me where it
is and I can help you. Don't show
me, and I hope you haven't
committed any sins!

LYNX MARAUDER

The Core Containment Area is
restricted. The only people who has
access are Dr. Charles Dimnex, Dr.
Richard Zy--

KYLE

Are you deaf?! I just said I'm
Richard Zy's son!

LYNX MARAUDER

You don't have clearance.

KYLE

And you don't have a brain! But do
you see me complaining?

LYNX MARAUDER

It's restricted!

KYLE

Un-restrict it! The contract
between LYNX and A.T.L.A.S.
Corporations state that in a time
of a national crisis, for example,
NOW, everything will be under
A.T.L.A.S.' orders, so Nick
Sterling is no longer your
superior.

(beat)

I am. Effective immediately! So
show me the God damn Core, or I
swear, if it goes off, you will be
shitting enough bricks to make a
pyramid!

The Marauder is stunned at Kyle's attitude. He makes the
right call...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LYNX MARAUDER
Of course, Mr. Zy.

KYLE
Call me Kyle. Mr. Zy was my father.

The Marauder nods. He leads the way.

EXT. LYNX - ROOF - LATER

A THUNDEROUS ROAR of the rotators of a LYNX-CRAFT landing on the roof's helicopter pad. All the LYNX MARAUDERS clear a path and form an aisle. The wind picks up. The storm rages on.

A DARK AND OPPRESSIVE force is approaching. Unbelievably, it's --

-- NICK STERLING! But something's different about him...

The Marauders salute him with absolute commitment, yet most of them TREMBLE. This side of Nick strikes fear to into their hearts.

Nick walks down the aisle. He stops short in front of a nervous LYNX Marauder. A lesson must be taught...

He retrieves the Marauder's gun and holy smokes! He fires.

BANG! The bullet ricochets.

A SPLASH of a body slamming onto the roof.

NICK
LYNX isn't for cowards.

He sternly glares at us. At this point, we know that this is Nick's dark side. The side that we should all fear...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. LYNX HQ - UNDERGROUND LAB - CONTINUOUS**

Kyle and the LYNX Marauder enter the lab that regulates the Core. Kyle glances through the window to see --

-- THE CORE. A magnificent ball of fire being held by FOUR ANTI-GRAVITY MANIPULATORS, in the shape of large claws, outside the lab. Its bright golden flare endows a warm glow into the scene.

KYLE

My dad created this?

LYNX MARAUDER

LYNX invested most of its money into the project in order to preserve the city and its inhabitants.

Kyle brings out the --

-- SHARD. It glows rapidly.

He scrutinizes the lab: Various equipment, gadgets, and gizmos of all sorts, at every turn. A HOLOGRAPHIC MONITOR of data is hinged on the wall.

His focus turns to the monitor. He extracts TWO SEPARATE HOLOGRAPHIC SCREENS from it. The left screen shows an analysis of the Core. The right screen shows an algorithm. He expands the right screen.

KYLE

An algorithm.
(beat)
Of the Core?

Kyle scrolls down the screen. He pulls up another screen out of thin air. He presses the shard against it. A red laser quickly scans it as data floods the screen.

The screen with the algorithm blinks green with the word: "MATCHED"

KYLE (CONT'D)

An algorithm of the element.
(beat)
Marauder, I need you to guard the entrance while I modify the shard's properties.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LYNX MARAUDER

Yes, sir.

The Marauder exits the room. Kyle takes a seat. He begins developing a new algorithm. He glances back and forth between all the screens.

KYLE

Basic stuff...

He slides the chair over to a nearby machine. He gently places the shard on it as a green laser scans it. The scan finishes. The machine embeds the shard within a shell.

Seated, Kyle implements the new algorithm into the shard. A WHIRRING emits from the machine. The shard itself is being modified.

KYLE (CONT'D)

My dad wasn't completely wrong on jump-starting the Core... He just needed to alter the element's composition to match the Core's level.

A beat, Kyle exhales.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Great, Kyle. You're talking to yourself now.

A SHRILL beep emits from the machine.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Done! Now all I have to do is fuse this with the Core and... Hope it works.

Kyle's attention suddenly averts to a THUD O.S.

He closes all the screens, retrieves the shard - leave no trace behind.

He tiptoes towards the entrance. He slams his back against the wall. He listens closely. It's quiet... Too quiet...

Kyle turns to the door, but suddenly, the door FLINGS out and pins him to the floor. The shard goes flying across the room. Grunting, Kyle pushes the door off. He glances up to see Nick approaching him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK
Hello, Kyle.

KYLE
Nick?! What are you doing?

NICK
My last hope.

KYLE
What?

Dazed, Kyle scrambles to his feet. As he regains his balance, he checks his pockets. Something's wrong. He spots the --

-- SHARD. It lays near the entrance.

KYLE (CONT'D)
The shard?
(beat)
No! That's the last hope for the dome! I won't let you get it! I'm warning you! I'm a top notch student at LYNX Academy.

Nick scoffs.

NICK
Militarily or academically?

KYLE
Both!

He suddenly drops down, retrieves the shard, and darts out the entrance. Nick remains motionless. He takes his time to turn around and watch Kyle run into the Core Containment Area.

INT. CORE CONTAINMENT AREA - CONTINUOUS

A pathway leads to a circular platform. Ahead is the Core.

Kyle stands in the center. Nick slowly walks towards him. The two stop for a beat to marvel at the Core.

EXT. LYNX HQ

A car stops in front. Charles, Jonah, and Amelia immediately exit the vehicle. Charles and Amelia rushes into the building while Jonah stays behind to talk with the DRIVER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JONAH

So sorry this has to happen! It's just that my best friend's dad just died and now he's going--

CHARLES (O.S.)

--Jonah!

JONAH

(to Charles)

Coming!

(to Driver)

Again, we are really, really--

CHARLES (O.S.)

--JONAH!!

JONAH

(to Driver)

Gotta go!

INT. LYNX HQ - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Lights FLICKER as thunder RUMBLES O.S.

CHARLES

The storm's escalating. Come on, we have to get to Kyle!

INT. CORE CONTAINMENT AREA

Nick and Kyle stand on opposite sides of the platform. The light from the Core creates a silhouette of the two.

KYLE

Why do you want the shard?

NICK

I have my reasons.

KYLE

Might as well tell me.

(beat)

This shard may be our last hope of stabilizing the Core. If we can't stabilize it, then everything will be gone in a blink of an eye. You're Nick Sterling, the corporate power leading this city! You're supposed to care. Not to be selfish.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK

That is possibly the last fragment
of Zyluxrium.

KYLE

What if it is? My dad died trying
to find a way to stop the Core. The
least I can do is help him achieve
that! I'm trying to save lives
here! If I give it to you, everyone
dies!

NICK

Trust me, Kyle, I know more about
your dad than you think you know.

KYLE

You don't say! He's been working
with you for his entire life while
neglecting me!

NICK

What do you have to prove by doing
this, Kyle?

KYLE

Everything...

Nick approaches Kyle. Kyle retreats.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Stay back! I swear, if you try
anything, I will use all my
training against you. And when I'm
done...

(beat)

You're not going to like the way
you look. I guarantee it.

NICK

Are you afraid?

Kyle hesitates to answer.

CHARLES (O.S.)

Kyle!

Kyle twirls around to see Charles, Jonah, and Amelia run onto
the pathway. They stop at the step to the platform - they
dare not intervene any farther.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

Dr. Charles? Jonah? Amy? What are you doing here?!

AMELIA

To stop you!

NICK

Hello Charles, how have you been?

Nick uncovers a PISTOL from his coat. But its only the handle. Where's the rest? Nick grips the handle, gently presses his index finger against the trigger, and the rest of the gun systematically extends from the handle. A HOLOGRAPHIC SCOPE suddenly pops up near the tip. The transition is complete.

He aims the gun at Charles. But suddenly, Kyle tackles Nick.

BANG! A bullet escapes. It pierces Charles in the arm, forcing him to let out a scream.

CHARLES

(to Jonah and Amelia)
Get inside the lab!

JONAH

How about Kyle?!

AMELIA

We can't leave him!

CHARLES

It's too dangerous out here! We can figure out something from the lab! Let's go!

The trio retreat into the lab in the B.G. as Kyle and Nick prepare for a life or death face-off.

Kyle aims a punch at Nick but Nick swiftly parries and twists Kyle's arm up behind him. Kyle loses grip of the --

-- SHARD. It tumbles to the floor.

NICK

You really shouldn't have went outside the dome.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE

Yeah? Well, the thing about being under corporate dominion is that one day, people are going to stand up for themselves. If you couldn't even reinforce me, the rebel, then imagine what would happen if everyone in the city decided to rise up.

NICK

I'll just have to teach them all a lesson then.

(beat)

On your knees!

Nick kicks Kyle on the back of his legs, Kyle crumples to his knees and, before he can backtrack, Nick elbows Kyle in the face and kicks him away, leaving the shard vulnerable.

As Nick scrutinizes the shard's unique properties, Kyle regains his balance in the B.G.

Kyle suddenly dives into battle again. He slams his head against Nick's, dazing both of them for a moment, but Nick still has the shard. Kyle, out of breath, makes his final attempt to retrieve the shard...

He deceives Nick by aiming his hand for the shard, but quickly drops down, steals Nick's gun away, and rolls behind Nick. He jumps right up and aims the gun at Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)

You know it's funny. Your father and I were in a situation similar to this about a decade ago.

KYLE

Yeah? Were you trying to steal something from him back then?

NICK

No, the exact opposite. He was stealing something from me, while pointing a gun at my face, just like you are right now.

(beat)

Well, you know what they say: "Like father, like son".

KYLE

You're lying!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK

Am I?

Kyle swallows hard. He shakes off the thought.

KYLE

If you're going to use the shard for your own selfish needs, and if we're going to fight over it, to the death, then I'll make sure that none of us will get it.

NICK

Kyle--

KYLE

--Get your head straight, Nick! What if you do get the shard? Then what?! You can't escape death! Not when you're already so close to it; right at the center.

(pointing at the Core)

Do you see that Core?! That is going to destroy this city! And there is no way you'll escape it in time for you to even use the shard for whatever voodoo you plan on doing!

NICK

Haven't you ever had the feeling that you had the responsibility to finish something that wasn't even yours to begin with? You're doing it right now. This was your dad's work! And you're trying to finish what he started. Well, why is my case be any different? I'm trying to finish something that was started over a decade ago! And I have waited this long to find

(emphasizing the shard)

This shard! I'm not going to give it up after just finding it!

KYLE

None of us is going to get the shard then.

(beat)

Let's see if my dad told you everything about this building.

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - CONTINUOUS

Charles, Jonah, and Amelia watch the situation unfold on the holographic monitor hinged against the wall.

KYLE (O.S.)
 (to Charles)
 Dr. Charles, activate the EXE Protocol.

CHARLES
 I'm afraid I can't do that, Kyle...

KYLE (O.S.)
 No! The shield should hold the blast long enough for you to exit the lab! From there, run. Just run. And don't look back...

Charles ponders the idea.

AMELIA
 Dr. Charles, what's the EXE Protocol?

CHARLES
 The Execution Protocol. In case of an emergency of someone gaining access into the Core Containment Area and tampering with the controls, Richard and I have created a lock down system.
 (beat)
 An indestructible plasma shield will trap anything inside the Core Containment Area. No one gets in... And no one gets out.

JONAH
 No, no, no! Does he have a death wish?!

INT. CORE CONTAINMENT AREA

Nick tries to move, but Kyle continues to aim the gun at him. Nick smirks.

KYLE
 Jonah, you're my best friend, and you'll always be my right hand man.
 (beat)
 I'm going to have to take a rain check on our CTF rematch game.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMELIA (O.S.)

Kyle! I'm not going to let you--

KYLE

--But you have to. This is a lose/lose situation, and it's only to make it fair. If Nick wins, he'll have nowhere else to go. If I win, I might have a chance at stabilizing the Core, but that's as far as I'll get.

NICK

Are you sure Kyle? This is a big sacrifice you're doing here!

KYLE

Are you afraid?

Nick does not know how to respond.

KYLE (CONT'D)

(to Charles)

Do it, Charles. Please.

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB

Everyone's eyes are glued to the screen. The tension grows as Charles is stuck in the dilemma.

KYLE (O.S.)

Activate the EXE--

CHARLES

--Shut up, Kyle! You are throwing away your life here! The Core may be ready to blow, but that does not give you an excuse to just sacrifice yourself!

(beat)

You're acting upon your guilt for your father's death! You think that it's because of you that's he's dead and that you have to do something to make up for it. Well, you don't! You still have a family here to support you! You have me! You have Amelia! You have Jonah!

KYLE (O.S.)

But I don't have a life anymore.

Kyle's assertion stuns Charles. He has no reply.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
So? Are you going to do it?

A beat, Jonah and Amelia turn to Charles. Charles pulls up a holographic screen and begins typing in a code. He hesitates on the last key.

AMELIA
You're going to do it?! You can't!

Charles ignores Amelia. As he forces himself to press the last code, Jonah's hand shoots out to stop Charles.

JONAH
Dr. Charles. You can't...

CHARLES
(to Kyle)
You're a good kid, Kyle.

JONAH
Dr. Charles!

Charles breaks free from Jonah's grasp and taps the last code. Suddenly, alarms BLARE in every corner as a PLASMA SHIELD slams down at the entry to the Core Containment Area.

INT. CORE CONTAINMENT AREA - CONTINUOUS

Kyle firmly stands his ground, nervous, but he still aims the gun at Nick.

Nick slowly approaches Kyle.

NICK
Come on, Kyle. You got what you wanted. It's no good if we both keep fighting when we both know there can be no winner.

KYLE
I don't trust you...

Nick smirks. He suddenly bolts forward, steals the gun away from Kyle, and smack him on the head with it. Kyle kneels down, enduring the pain.

Kyle, his face bleeding, sees the shard laying in front of him. He reaches for it, but Nick kicks him over, and retrieves the shard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICK
Override the emergency protocol.

KYLE
You can't. My dad created it, only
he know how to stop it. Dr. Charles
only know the activation code.

NICK
Dammit!

Kyle sits up. He chuckles lightly. Nick glances around, analyzing the whole area for an escape. There is none. He furiously strides towards Kyle and points the gun at him - execution style.

The danger escalates as Kyle pushes the gun away and struggles with Nick for the gun. He fails, but he manages to get his hands on the shard again. In his last attempt for the gun, he refers to street methods - stepping on Nick's foot and delivering a right hook.

He retreats a distance away from Nick.

KYLE
You want the element?

Kyle examines the shard one last time. He's planning something...

KYLE (CONT'D)
You got it!

He suddenly tosses the shard as Nick pulls the trigger. As the shard enters the Core, the bullet pierces Kyle's chest, pinning him to the floor.

The Core begins to spin rapidly. It continues to emit a bright orange glow - burning hot with energy. But upon a closer look, we notice its size is slowly expanding.

Nick slowly steps back...

NICK
What did you do?

The Core abruptly diminishes. Its orange glow turns a dark blue. It appears calm...

KYLE
I saved the dome...

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB

Jonah and Amelia smile with relief.

 AMELIA
He did it!

 JONAH
He saved the city!

INT. CORE CONTAINMENT AREA

The Core's dark blue color fades away. It suddenly REIGNITES and begins to expand rapidly!

Kyle, weak and out of breath, can only stare at the Core. The Core's light reflects off his eyes...

 KYLE
Maybe it didn't work... Well,
 (to Nick)
See you in hell...

 AMELIA (O.S.)
Kyle!!!

As Amelia yells out, the Core EXPLODES in a BURST OF FLAMES, incinerating everything in its path. We go into the inferno...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. MOLECULAR SCALE OF KYLE'S BODY

Pitch black. But then, there's a WHITE SPARK. Then two. Then three. Then several...

Molecules suddenly light up, beginning to fill with life once more as a WHITE WAVE OF ENERGY intersperses. We follow one of its streams as molecules fuse, synthesizing various colors.

We zoom through as tissues begin to form. Red blood cells rush through us.

Sparks SURGE. The spectacle nears its end as we blast forward at maximum speed!

A swift wave of ENERGY PULSES greet us until we --

-- DIVE INTO A WHITE FLASH.

INT. CORE CONTAINMENT AREA - CONTINUOUS

A pair of AGHAST eyes snap open.

It's Kyle! His body begins to slowly form out of thin air - THE REGENERATION PROCESS. Sparks surround him. He seemingly appears to be exiting from a RIFT in the air...

The process finishes. He attempts to walk, his steps faltering momentarily, until finally, he crumples to the floor.

He breathes heavily, but then, he realizes: He's breathing.

He suddenly sits up--

KYLE

Holy--

FADE OUT:

THE END