

EDGE OF HUMANITY

Parallel Narrative Action Thriller

Written by

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EXT. JUNGLE - DAY - 2140

Leaves dance in the wind, high in the canopy. A DEAD LEAF breaks free and flutters down.

MINING SITE

Packed with Ore processing plants and mining equipment. WORKMEN in high-viz operate machines.

SUPER: "Katoomba, Australia - 2140"

ALARMS SOUND. The workmen freeze, drop tools, and run.

The giant doors of an underground bunker swing open. The workmen run inside. EAGER WORKER checks names.

MOMENTS LATER

SUPERVISOR closes the first door. Eager Worker checks the list - there's a name missing. He dashes out.

SUPERVISOR

I have to shut the door!

Supervisor peers upward ominously.

Eager Worker vaults over equipment and dodges around machinery to a small hut.

INT. SMALL HUT - CONTINUOUS

ROTUND WORKER slouches. Music blares from his earphones.

Eager Worker bursts in and hauls him out.

EAGER WORKER

Come on!

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS

They sprint into the bunker. The door slams behind them.

They wait in silence.

OUTSIDE

The DEAD LEAF falls and smashes into the mining buildings and equipment. The leaf is the size of a football field.

MOMENTS LATER

Supervisor opens the door and peers out. Eager Worker pushes past them and scans upward for more falling leaves.

The sky is crisscrossed with boughs of enormous 'Colossus' trees, thousands of feet above them. One tree is half dead.

EXT. KATOOMBA COLONY - DAY

The colony sits in the shade of another Colossus tree. Beyond the protective shade, barren land shimmers in the scorching sun.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - SAME

Eager Worker kneels by a car, helping SON (8) with his boots.

SON

Why are all the leaves falling like that?

EAGER WORKER

Well, some of the tree's roots got hurt by the mining.

SON

(pensive)

In school, they said we need the Colossus trees, to eat up all the greenhouse gases our colony makes and to give shade to the jungle.

EAGER WORKER

Yeah, that's true...

SON

So, why didn't you stop mining?

EAGER WORKER

We need the metals, son - to make things.

Son twists to peer at the tree.

SON

What's gonna happen to it?

He smiles and musses his son's hair.

EAGER WORKER

Don't worry. Someone will fix it. Everything'll be fine.

BLINDING FLASH. A huge cloud bursts up into the atmosphere.

A massive shock wave hits the field and surrounding buildings. The entire colony is destroyed.

INT. GN HEADQUARTERS (GENEVA) - DAY

SABINA AUBERT (50) stares at a satellite feed of Katoomba colony on a screen. She can't breathe.

SUPER: "Global Nations Headquarters, Geneva"

The office is a hive of activity around her. GN ADMINS squabble over reports as they appear on screens. Others rifle through papers on a table. She's fixated on her screen.

ADMIN #1 approaches Sabina's desk.

ADMIN #1
Secretary General...?

Sabina is quiet, but terrifying - like a ticking bomb:

SABINA
Get out. All of you, get out.

ADMIN #1
(to others)
Let's take this to the meeting room.

Admins scoop up papers and hastily exit.

Sabina closes her eyes. A tear splatters on the desk.

EXT. SPACE

Earth. Clouds slowly swirl over its surface.

SUPER: "2025"

Earth spins and the clouds accelerate. The year counts up as news articles and TV news reports appear:

INSERT - VARIOUS NEWS SNIPPETS

HEADLINE: "Global temperature hits record high."

NEWS ANCHOR #1
- economies collapse after demand
for oil plummets -

HEADLINE: "Lithium shortage holds back electric cars."

HEADLINE: "Famine in Middle East as deserts expand."

NEWS ANCHOR #2

- this is the twelfth species to go
extinct this year due to the
effects of climate change -

2050 - Earth's deserts expand as lush green areas shrink and
pale. Seas eat into the continents.

HEADLINE: "Record deaths among pensioners in hottest Summer."

NEWS ANCHOR #3

- scientists predict a cascade
collapse of vital ecosystems -

HEADLINE: "Mass migration as flood barriers overwhelmed."

HEADLINE: "Food shortage a world-wide crisis."

HEADLINE: "Gun crime soars."

NEWS ANCHOR #4

- as the population drops below
half a billion people, the UN says
human extinction is a possibility -

2070 - The continents are an unfamiliar shape due to sea-
level rises. Isolated patches of green fleck the yellow land.

HEADLINE: "War on four continents - UN disbands."

2075 - Bright flashes and circular clouds mar the Earth's
surface - nukes as seen from space.

The flashes stop.

HEADLINE: "Global cease-fire."

Earth keeps spinning.

NEWS ANCHOR #5

- scientists plant the first 'super
tree', expected to grow to over
five-thousand feet and genetically
modified to increase CO2
consumption -

HEADLINE: "Super fast super trees reach 1,000ft in five
years."

HEADLINE: "Global Nations formed to 'Save Humanity'."

NEWS ANCHOR #6

- after the success of the first tree, new larger variants have been designed -

2100 - Dense, dark green spots are visible from space, clustered tightly in the pale green patches.

HEADLINE: "500 more 'Colossus' trees planted worldwide."

HEADLINE: "Global temperature stabilizes."

NEWS ANCHOR #7

- the Global Nations insist we are still dangerously close to extinction 'tipping point' -

2120. More dark green spots on Earth.

HEADLINE: "Proposed Colossus tree sites 'not viable'."

HEADLINE: "GN creates military to protect trees."

HEADLINE: "Scientists say Earth is one degree from disaster."

NEWS ANCHOR #8

- the GN implements new harsh birth restrictions, saying 'the balance between population and Colossus trees is critical' -

HEADLINE: "Colonies vote against new GN emergency powers."

2140. Earth slows. We zoom in on a green dot in South Eastern Australia. It turns brown. A bright flash and circular cloud engulf a colony nearby. Katoomba.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

Speeds away from GN Headquarters. A reality show on the TV.

Sabina kicks off her shoes and closes her eyes. A breaking news story interrupts:

INSERT - LIMO NEWS REPORT

NEWS ANCHOR #8

- we've just received news of a catastrophic explosion at a nuclear power station in Australia, which has destroyed a nearby colony -

BACK TO LIMOUSINE

Sabina's eyes slowly open. She stares at the TV.

NEWS ANCHOR #8 (V.O.)
 - just last month, the same region
 was rocked by the devastating news
 of the death of a Colossus tree.

SABINA
 (to Driver)
 Can you turn that off, please?

LIMO DRIVER
 Yes ma'am.

The TV goes blank. Sabina stifles a whimper.

INT. GN COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Hundreds of REPRESENTATIVES sit in banked seats. Each has a colony name in front. Sabina stands at a podium, resolute.

SABINA
 We could have prevented this.

Her gaze locks onto the empty "Katoomba" seat.

SABINA (CONT'D)
 Remember that.

She leaves the podium. Some reps stand in solidarity, while others bang rudely on their desks.

DIEGO ZASTRUS watches her leave with a smirk.

INT. GN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Sabina carries a box to the door and takes one last look at her bare office. She sighs and closes the door.

She stops at ASSISTANT'S desk.

ASSISTANT
 A GN without Sabi Aubert. It won't
 be the same.

SABINA
 It's always the same around here...
 (wistful)
 I really thought I was going to be
 different. Help people. But I was
 just *their* puppet.

Sabina takes a deep breath and slowly exhales.

SABINA (CONT'D)
Never again.

EXT. POCATELLO COLONY (IDAHO) - EVENING

A utopian colony stretches out beneath a Colossus tree.

SUPER: "Idaho - one year later"

INT. COLONY MUSEUM - SAME

A Charity gala. Smartly-dressed GUESTS mingle by exhibits.
CAIRO and DEACON descend stairs into an exhibit hall.

Cairo (34) gazes into the room, quivering with anticipation.
His suit fits like a glove and not a hair out of place.

Deacon (36) is a physicist and Cairo's partner. He squirms in
his suit like a straitjacket as he saunters next to Cairo.

CAIRO
Can you be on your best behavior
tonight?

DEACON
I'm always on my best behavior at
these things.

CAIRO
No, Deak. You aren't.

He scans the room.

CAIRO (CONT'D)
It's not like I can go gallivanting
around the jungle like you - this
is all I've got.

DEACON
That's my work. And you know I'd
much rather be back here.

Deacon tugs at his jacket like he's trapped in a net.

DEACON (CONT'D)
I always bring you back a
souvenir...

CAIRO
A broken old bottle and a creepy
doll aren't souvenirs.

DEACON
I thought you liked them!

Cairo turns to look at him.

CAIRO
Just... Behave.

He looks down at Deacon's novelty tie with planets on it.

CAIRO (CONT'D)
Ugh, that tie. I'm burning it as
soon as we get home.

They take drinks and head to a floating hologram of Earth.
It's barren and yellow, except for a few small patches of
lush green.

Across the room, Sabina chats with guests.

GUEST #1
- Then our speaker cancelled last
minute. Sabina, you must have some
great stories from the GN.

SABINA
Loads, but all the best bits would
be redacted.

GUEST #1
Oh, please?

SABINA
Sorry, I've just spotted someone I
must speak to.

She excuses herself and squeezes through the crowd to Cairo.

SABINA (CONT'D)
Cairo, you made it.
(to Deacon)
This must be Deacon. What a fun tie
- I love it!

CAIRO
Me too - isn't it great?

Floating info panels pop up around the hologram. A RECORDED
VOICE interrupts:

RECORDED VOICE (V.O.)
 The tallest Colossus tree is
 Tankachan in Saskatchewan, Canada.
 It's over thirteen thousand feet
 tall and took fifty years to grow.

Next one:

RECORDED VOICE (V.O.)
 Each genetically-modified tree
 consumes enough CO2 to support half
 a million people.

SABINA
 They're still trying to get me to
 speak at one of their dinners.

CAIRO
 They won't stop until you do...

SABINA
 (shakes head)
 The story I'd tell isn't one they'd
 want to hear.

Deacon watches the floating world rotate. Pictures of jungle
 and Colossus trees orbit the exhibit.

CAIRO
 They're sending him back in.

SABINA
 (to Deacon)
 Have they found another one?

DEACON
 I'm not allowed to say. But why
 else send a nuclear physicist into
 green hell.

SABINA
 I envy you, being able to get so
 close to them.

DEACON
 It's dark, it's wet and it stinks.
 It's like spending a week in a
 giant sweaty arm pit.

Behind Deacon, big red dots indicate the dead tree and
 Katoomba colony. Graphic images appear. Sabina gasps.

CAIRO
(embarrassed)
Deak!

SABINA
I must go and mingle. See you
tomorrow.

CAIRO
I'm so sorry, Sabina.

Sabina strides off. Grabs a glass of wine from a WAITER'S
tray and knocks it back.

Cairo stares daggers at Deacon.

DEACON
What?

CAIRO
My boss...
(points at her leaving)
Giant sweaty arm pit!?

INT. DEACON'S HOUSE - MORNING

Deacon and Cairo's home is a picture from an interior
decorating magazine: Ornaments placed artfully on shelves;
toys packed tidily in baskets.

Cairo sits for breakfast with ROSE (8) and ARK (6).

Deacon descends the stairs with travel bags.

ROSE
Will you be back for my party?

DEACON
I've planned everything out. Get
in, take measurements, then be back
here in plenty of time.
(checks watch)
Two minutes to get to the car.

He kisses his kids goodbye.

Cairo is still pissed off. Deacon pecks him on cheek.

ARK
Can we have chocolate cereal?

DEACON
No - that's only for weekends.

Deacon rushes out. Cairo fetches the chocolate cereal.

CAIRO
Don't tell Daddy Deak.

The kids giggle.

EXT. DEACON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Deacon strides to the car with his bags.

He spots a straggly weed between two manicured bushes. He can't let it go. He reaches in and plucks it out.

INT. LEONA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

A one-bed unit in Old Town. Clothes are scattered across the bedroom floor, every surface is cluttered.

ALARM SOUNDS. A loud GROAN follows.

LEONA (37) flops out of bed and plods to the bathroom. There's an old burn scar on her forearm.

LEONA
Time for you to go.

ONE-NIGHT STAND emerges from the bed. He follows his clothes like a trail of breadcrumbs out of her apartment.

LATER

Leona dumps out clothes from a travel bag. She rummages on the floor for different clothes, gives each a cursory sniff, then shoves them into the bag.

LIVING ROOM

As she passes through, AUTO-HOME system talks at her:

AUTO-HOME
Reminder: your apartment has not
been cleaned in -

LEONA
OK! Book cleaner.

AUTO-HOME
Your score is too low, no cleaners
are a match.

She GROANS and slams the door as she leaves.

AUTO-HOME (CONT'D)
Try improving your score by
cleaning your apartment.

INT. TRAIN STATION - MORNING

Deacon patiently crosses the busy concourse.

CLUMSY WOMAN drops her purse, sending its contents tumbling across the floor. Others stop to help. Deacon diverts.

DEACON
(to self)
Nope.

A MILITARY GUARD slouches over a desk. Deacon blips his ID card on a machine and passes through a gate.

He lugs his bags along a platform and boards the train.

EXT. BUSY STREET - MORNING

Leona swerves through traffic, frustrated and late. She grips a breakfast burger in her mouth, using both hands to drive.

A Frothy Coffee truck switches lane in front of her. She slams on the brakes, forced to crawl along behind.

A giant, cheerful logo on the truck smiles down at her. She glares back.

INT. TRAIN STATION - LATER

Leona barges past passengers and fumbles for her ID.

She heads to the same desk, not even slowing down as she dangles her ID over the machine and jogs through the gate.

TRAIN CAR

Leona drops into a seat opposite Deacon. She collapses onto the table as the train pulls away.

DEACON
Morning, Leona.

LEONA
Ugh. Wake me when we get there.

INT. GN COUNCIL CHAMBER (GENEVA) - DAY

Sabina's former Assistant sits at the back taking notes. The session has devolved into a row between the Representatives.

SECRETARY GENERAL
Order! Please restrict comments to
the Canadian threat.

REP #1
We must find a way to bring the
Dissidents back to the table.

Zastrus discreetly nods at AGGRESSIVE REP across the chamber.
The rep stands.

AGGRESSIVE REP
They denounced the GN and closed
their borders, which was a clear
act of aggression!

SECRETARY GENERAL
Calm down!

REP #1
(aggravated)
They denounced the GN because of
what we did in Katoomba.

AGGRESSIVE REP
That was unavoidable, and you know
it. We must take a firm stance
against these defectors.

JEERING and SHOUTING. Zastrus stands and booms over them:

ZASTRUS
(smug)
Our Secretary General clearly
cannot lead this council to a
resolution on this threat. I call
for a vote of no confidence.

The council erupts. Assistant shakes her head.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - MORNING

A broad avenue stretches from the main gate, through the
military base, to the Colossus tree.

At the end, two tall towers reach up into the tree. Between
them at the bottom sits the enormous ORANGUTAN machine.

The ten-story machine has mechanical devices protruding from its surface. Smaller machines load it with supplies.

Deacon and Leona stop off at the

BETTER BEANS COFFEE KIOSK

CASSIDY (25) leans lazily on the counter. She has brightly colored hair and piercings. She looks up at Deacon.

CASSIDY
Tall latte?

DEACON
That's the one.

She drags herself from the counter and makes the coffee. He takes it and compulsively lines-up the lid with the logo.

CASSIDY
Hey, Leona. One large americano coming right up.

Leona gives a thumbs-up.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)
Didn't see you at the Tow Bar last night...

LEONA
Nah - I went home to clean my apartment.

Cassidy smirks. Leona takes a long sip.

LEONA (CONT'D)
So much better than Frothy Coffee.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Deacon, Leona and OTHERS sit. CAPTAIN HAMILTON (50) at front.

HAMILTON
Leona Danes will pilot, with Dr. Deacon Santez as specialist.

He points out NICK (27), a cocky lieutenant in the back row.

HAMILTON (CONT'D)
Lt. Nick Martin will be joining for security. He's a bit green, but I'm sure he'll manage.

NICK
Don't you worry, Cap'. I'll keep
'em safe.

Leona discreetly checks Nick out.

LEONA
(whisper)
You think he's single?

DEACON
You don't even know the guy.

LEONA
There's only one part of him I need
to get to know.

At front:

HAMILTON
We suspect Colossus roots have
already compromised the old ICBM
missile silo. We need to ascertain
the condition of the warhead
inside. Any questions?

DEACON
Radio contact?

Hamilton sucks through his teeth.

HAMILTON
Patchy. We'll rotate in a comms
drone every eight hours.

No more questions.

HAMILTON (CONT'D)
OK. Well...
(mechanical)
I am obligated by the GN to remind
you that -

Leona and others join in.

HAMILTON AND OTHERS
- Protecting the tree is our
primary objective.

INT./EXT. ORANGUTAN - DAY

Leona, Deacon and Nick cross a gangway to the Orangutan main
access door. Nick stares up in wonderment.

DEACON
(to Nick)
Let me show you around.

LEONA
That's OK Deak, I'll do it.

Deacon gives her a sideways look.

DEACON
Uh huh. OK.

She leads Nick inside. He's fascinated by every nut, bolt and bulkhead.

WINCH ROOM

Leona leans on a railing.

LEONA
Down here we have the -

NICK
Descent capsule, winch assembly and lead-lined storage.

LEONA
I thought this was your first 'Tan mission...

NICK
Yeah, but I've read all the files.

LEONA
Uh huh. You read my file?

NICK
(smiles)
Yep.

ENGINE ROOM

They ascend stairs through a multi-level room, past a huge engine and hydrogen tanks.

LEONA
So... You got family back home? A partner?

NICK
Nah, it's just me.

LEONA
(to self)
Jackpot.

NICK
Huh?

LEONA
I said: it can be hard to leave
people behind for a trip like this.

NICK
Oh, yeah. I guess so.

LAB AND CARTOGRAPHICS

They pass two rooms with equipment bolted to the floor.
Deacon is in one, checking data on a screen.

LEONA
Lab and cartographics.

LIVING QUARTERS

Leona and Nick enter a communal living space with doors
leading to sleeping quarters.

LEONA (CONT'D)
And this is where we have fun.

Nick steps to a large window and gazes out.

NICK
Nice.

LEONA
And over there -
(points)
- Are my quarters - if you wanted
some late-night fun...

Nick raises his eyebrows.

NICK
Thanks, but I don't really do that.

LEONA
You don't have sex?

NICK
No - I just don't... sleep around.

LEONA
 Why not? Think of it as a fun
 activity for two people to enjoy.

NICK
 There's lots of activities for two
 people to enjoy...

Deacon comes up the stairs.

DEACON
 (to Leona)
 We're leaving in twelve minutes -
 don't you have some checks to do?

Leona rolls her eyes and swaggers off.

LEONA
 (to Nick)
 You'll come around.

COCKPIT

Leona runs diagnostics from her pilot seat. Nick waits
 anxiously in a seat behind.

Deacon drops into his seat. He passes a wad of sick bags to
 Nick. Nick scoffs and stuffs them beside his leg.

LEONA (CONT'D)
 OK. Let's get this party started.

EXT. ORANGUTAN - DAY

We see the whole machine, cockpit at the very top. On its
 sides are three GRAPPLE launchers.

BEAMS protrude from the two towers at alternating intervals.

A launcher fires a grapple with a LOUD WHINE, trailing a
 cable. It closes around the lowest beam on tower 1.

A second grapple fires and closes around a beam on tower 2.
 The cables reel-in and the Orangutan lifts from the ground.

The Orangutan climbs, alternating its three grapples between
 the two towers.

INT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

Nick jumps each time a grapple fires. Leona grins.

INT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - DAY

A bland office. Cairo strides to a side office. OFFICE WORKERS give him the stink eye as he passes. WORKER #1 grabs a file and makes for the door.

Cairo speeds up and reaches the door first. He knocks. A sign reads: "Sabina Aubert, Executive Director."

He quickly checks his hair, then enters.

CAIRO

Sabina?

She's staring through a window at the Orangutan ascending.

SABINA

Yes, come in.

CAIRO

Oh, it's going up. I almost forgot.

Cairo joins her by the window. They stare out, mesmerized by the activity of the machine.

CAIRO (CONT'D)

The latest water recovery numbers are in.

SABINA

He's done this lots of times before, hasn't he?

CAIRO

Phil? He's been working at the water facility since forever.

SABINA

No, Deacon.

CAIRO

Deacon?

SABINA

(nods at tree)
The mission.

CAIRO

Oh, yeah. Loads.

(beat)

I'm so sorry about Deak the other night.

SABINA

No, it wasn't Deacon - I just remembered something.

They continue staring out.

SABINA (CONT'D)

I've been thinking about that guest speaker thing. Maybe it's time people heard the truth about Katoomba. Would you mind coming along - I hate going to those things on my own.

Cairo looks at Sabina, shocked.

CAIRO

Me? Of course. Perhaps afterwards we could talk about my proposal for water recovery...?

SABINA

(distracted)

Uh huh.

EXT. ORANGUTAN - DAY

At the top of the towers, swaying in the wind. The third grapple fires at a Colossus tree bough. It grabs on.

INT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

Deacon pulls the sick bag from under his arm and places it on his lap. Nick notices, but remains cockily confident.

A smile creeps across Leona's face.

LEONA

You ready?

Before Nick can answer:

LEONA (CONT'D)

Wooh!

EXT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

The grapples disengage from the two beams and return to their launchers. Held only by a single cable, the Orangutan swings from the Colossus branch, high above the jungle below.

INT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

Their faces sag under G-forces. Nick scrambles for a sick bag and vomits.

LEONA

Chunder alert! Must be a record, eh
Deak?

Deacon gags and taps nervously on his own bag.

Leona's screen shows Colossus trees rendered in ghostly blue, with branches highlighted in green, orange and red. She taps a green branch as they swing up.

LEONA (CONT'D)

What goes up...

EXT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

A launcher repositions and fires a grapple at a distant branch. The first grapple disengages and they swing again.

INT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

Deacon is struggling.

DEACON

Leona, my music?

Leona presses a button. Upbeat POP MUSIC blares out.

DEACON (CONT'D)

Leona!

LEONA

OK, OK.

MUSIC CHANGES to a soothing CLASSICAL WALTZ.

EXT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

Swings away as the MUSIC FADES OUT.

EXT. ORANGUTAN - EVENING

Suspended by all three grapples, high in a Colossus tree in the middle of the jungle.

INT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

Deacon unpacks. He puts a framed photo of his family on a desk. Magnets snap it down. He secures his bag under the bed.

He passes Leona's quarters. The contents of her bags are dumped on the floor.

DEACON

Ugh.

He walks through the living area. Leona waits in a towel, wet from a shower. She attempts to cover her scar with the towel.

DEACON (CONT'D)

I'm going to set up the lab.

LEONA

Have you seen Nick?

DEACON

In his room I guess.

She glances at his room and poses.

LEONA

OK.

Deacon rolls his eyes and disappears down the stairs.

Nick strolls from his room. Leona waits until he's heading in her direction, then drops her shower gel and bends to pick it up.

NICK

Wow! What a view.

Leona smiles to herself and stands up. She turns around as Nick strides over to the panoramic window.

NICK (CONT'D)

You can see so much from up here.

Leona huffs and storms down the stairs. Nick smirks as he watches her reflection in the window.

LAB

Leona bursts in and poses.

LEONA

Deak, am I losing it?

DEACON
Not sure I'm the best judge...

He continues setting up equipment.

DEACON (CONT'D)
Maybe he just wants a more
meaningful relationship.

LEONA
You know I don't *do* relationships.

She unconsciously rubs her scar.

DEACON
They have their advantages; making
a connection with someone,
enriching each other's lives,
support...

LEONA
Bleugh. Pass me a sick bag.

She trudges out.

INT. ORANGUTAN - MORNING

Deacon and Nick lug their packs into the descent capsule and sit. It's dark. Deacon presses a glowing button.

DEACON
We're all strapped in.

LEONA (V.O.)
Hey, it's Leona. I can't come to
the comms right now. Please leave a
message after the...

ALARM SOUNDS.

Nick jumps out of his skin. Deacon takes a breath.

LEONA (V.O.)
J.K. guys. You all set to go?

DEACON
Yes.

LEONA (V.O.)
Cool beans.

LOUD CLUNK. WHIRRING of a winch. A flash of light engulfs the capsule as it descends from the Orangutan.

EXT. JUNGLE - LATER

The capsule descends to the dark, dank jungle floor. Lights illuminate plants as they pass.

It stops centimeters above the ground and the doors slide open. Deacon holds a sleeve to his face. Nick gags.

DEACON

The smell won't hurt you.
Everything else down here might.

LATER

They move through remains of a building, torn apart by years of attrition from thick jungle undergrowth.

Nick creeps forward; rifle in one hand, machete in the other. Deacon plods behind, frustrated at the slow progress.

DEACON (CONT'D)

Who exactly are you expecting to
shoot down here?

NICK

It's protocol.

DEACON

Not down here it's not. Come on.

Deacon grabs the machete and forges ahead.

NICK

What idiot decided to plant
Colossus trees near these nukes
anyway?

DEACON

It was pretty desperate back then.
Governments were falling apart and
the world was dying, fast.

NICK

Couldn't they take the nukes out
first though?

DEACON

Back then, it was safer they stay
buried in the jungle.

Something flashes in Deacon's torch light, tangled high in vines - an old imitation Tiffany lampshade with hanging plastic crystals.

NICK
What's up?

DEACON
I always bring back a souvenir for my partner. He would have loved that.

Nick drops his pack and clambers up a large root.

DEACON (CONT'D)
Come back. Nick? It's too dangerous!

NICK
What do you think they've been training me for?

Nick puts his arms out and edges along a branch. He jumps, grabs another branch and pulls himself up.

Nick tugs the lampshade. It's stuck. He pulls hard. The shade comes free, the branch snaps, and he plummets to the ground.

DEACON
Nick?

Deacon fights through foliage to Nick. He's lying on the ground, holding his wrist in pain.

DEACON (CONT'D)
Some training...

Deacon glances to the silo with a pained look, then back to the capsule. He huffs and takes the lampshade.

DEACON (CONT'D)
Come on, we'd better get you back.

INT. ORANGUTAN - DAY

Deacon helps Nick from the capsule as Leona enters.

DEACON
Can you get his wrist scanned? I'll sort all the gear out.

LAB

Leona scans Nick's wrist.

LEONA
You're lucky - it's just a sprain.

She presses a button on the medical station. A 3D printer prints a wrist brace.

LEONA (CONT'D)
So, what are these other fun activities then?

NICK
I dunno. Maybe cooking a meal together.

LEONA
The only thing I can cook is mac and cheese - and it always turns out slimy.

NICK
Go on a hike... Play a game...

LEONA
Play a game. Let's do that. If I win - we have fun my way.

NICK
I didn't say that.

WINCH ROOM

Deacon exits the capsule with the lampshade. He looks for a place to stow it and opens the lead-lined storage. It's full of beer crates.

DEACON
(to self)
So that's where she's hiding it.

He secures the shade, then looks into a crate, huffs, and rearranges the bottles into a neat rectangle.

INT. ORANGUTAN - MORNING

Nick and Leona play video games. Nick's wrist is in the brace. A BEER FRIDGE is set up with crates of beer inside.

Deacon enters and sees the fridge.

DEACON
Where'd that come from?

LEONA
Don't panic Deak, I've got it secured.

She twangs a bungee cord that's securing it under the table. Deacon huffs and grabs his pack.

DEACON
Well, if it's not too much of an inconvenience, we should head back down.

LEONA
Wait! I'm winning...

Nick annihilates Leona's character in their game.

LEONA (CONT'D)
Oh, come on!

NICK
I guess you play like you cook...

LEONA
Jackass.

Nick grins, then jogs to catch Deacon. She watches him leave.

EXT. JUNGLE - LATER

Nick clears vines from a rusty escape hatch. Deacon takes radiation readings and checks his watch.

Nick heaves the hatch wheel. It won't budge. He tries a pry bar, but it just rips off chunks of rusted metal.

DEACON
Gimme.

Deacon takes the bar and whacks the hatch around the edge. Rust CRACKS and CLATTERS inside. He uses the bar as a lever to turn the wheel. The hatch CREAKS open.

INT. MISSILE SILO COMPLEX

They squeeze into a control room. The walls and equipment are torn apart by roots.

They put on radiation suits and assess the damage. Deacon examines SHINY SCRATCHES around a missing control unit.

DECONTAMINATION ROOM

DEACON
I'll check the missile for radiation.

Nick notices sawed-off roots around a doorway.

NICK

Uh, Doc?

SOUND OF MOVEMENT. Nick looks up to see a Canadian DISSIDENT SOLDIER, gun raised.

He drags Deacon behind a console as the soldier opens fire.

DISSIDENT SOLDIER

We've got company in the de'tam room.

DEACON

Who the hell's that?

NICK

Get ready to move.

Nick picks his moment and shoves Deacon back to the

CONTROL ROOM

DEACON

Who was that?

NICK

Canadian Dissidents.

DEACON

What are they -

NICK

Go, now!

He pushes Deacon to the ladder as a grenade explodes behind them.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

They scramble through the jungle. Deacon fumbles with his radio in panic. Nick snatches it from him.

NICK

Leona, come in?

INT. ORANGUTAN - LATER

Leona paces as the capsule docks. They head up the stairs.

LEONA
There's no contact with base, but
we're good to go.

NICK
Wait! We can't leave.

Deacon and Leona spin around.

NICK (CONT'D)
We need to find out what they're up
to.

LEONA
We're not equipped for that, Nick.

NICK
I am.

Nick checks his rifle and climbs past them.

DEACON'S QUARTERS

Deacon paces back and forth. He stops and peers through a
window, searching for soldiers below.

Nick appears at the door, booted-up and ready to descend.

NICK (CONT'D)
If I can get inside, what should I
look for on the missile?

Deacon marches to a cupboard and retrieves a stack of physics
books. He pushes them into Nick's chest.

DEACON
You can start with those.

NICK
(sighs)
I guess I'll work it out when I'm
down there.

Nick leaves and walks across the living area.

DEACON (O.S.)
Wait!

Nick returns to Deacon's room, ready to be chastised. Deacon
is resentfully putting on his boots.

NICK
You can't come, Doc.

DEACON

You don't understand half the dangers in that place.

NICK

I'll take a Geiger-whatever. I'm sure I can work it out.

DEACON

I'm not.

Deacon touches his family photo, then barges past Nick.

INT. TYPO'S APARTMENT - EVENING

POLICE OFFICER #1 bangs on the door.

POLICE OFFICER #1

Tamara Hansen?

TYPO (22), inside her one-bed flat, surrounded by racks of computers and a tangle of cables. A cool, confident hacker, caught completely off-guard.

She pops a fresh sucker in her mouth and dashes to a fire escape. She grabs her phone and taps a mushroom-cloud icon.

Loud POPS and BANGS fill the apartment. Wisps of smoke drift from fried computers.

Outside, the officers back away from the door.

Typo descends the fire escape. She spots more officers closing on the street below.

STREET OFFICER

Stop! Hands up and don't move!

Typo taps a skull and crossbones icon on her phone. The screen glitches and goes blank.

Officers breach the door and scurry down the escape.

POLICE OFFICER #1

Tamara Hansen, you're under arrest.

TYPO

(cocky)

Looks like it. By the way, I go by "Typo".

INT. DEACON'S HOUSE - EVENING

Cairo fusses with his hair in the bathroom. Rose appears.

ROSE
(sheepishly)
Do you have to go?

CAIRO
Sorry, it's important.

ROSE
More important than me?

CAIRO
Of course not! It's... It's for my
job.

He picks her up and hugs her.

CAIRO (CONT'D)
I'm sure you'll have lots of fun
with -

DOORBELL RINGS. Ark thunders past the bathroom, yelling:

ARK
Jenna!

CAIRO
- Jenna. See - Ark's excited. I'll
be back in no time.

EXT. SABINA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Sabina leans on a porch column and stares at the stars.

A taxi drives up the driveway. Cairo in the back, nervous.
Sabina approaches the TAXI DRIVER'S window.

SABINA
Can you switch the TV off?

Driver nods. Sabina gets in.

CAIRO
Sorry, it was just the news...

SABINA
Trust me, what they do tell you is
probably a lie, and what they don't
tell you - you don't want to know.

Cairo smirks and peers through the window.

CAIRO
(joking)
I guess you had your fair share of
scandals and cover-ups back when
you were at the GN.

SABINA
(not joking)
Yeah.

EXT. FANCY HOTEL - NIGHT

Cairo escorts Sabina to the elegant hotel entrance.

SABINA
Thanks for coming. It'll be good to
see a familiar face out there.

CAIRO
No problem. My son likes the sitter
better than me anyway.

Awkward silence.

CAIRO (CONT'D)
I brought my proposal - for after.

SABINA
Proposal?

CAIRO
Yes, for water recovery - you said
we could go over it...

SABINA
Oh. If there's time.

INT. FANCY HOTEL - LATER

An ostentatious ballroom filled with DINNER GUESTS at tables.
Cairo's table is near the back.

The clinking of cutlery and drone of conversation subside as
Sabina approaches a podium.

SABINA
If Earth's temperature increases by
one more degree, it will start a
cascade collapse of our ecosystems.
(MORE)

SABINA (CONT'D)

If that happens, all life perishes -
all life on Earth. Colossus trees
 consume ninety-five percent of our
 greenhouse gasses and are critical
 to keeping global temperature
 stable. That's a fact.

(sighs)

You want the real truth about the
 GN? We -

A WATER BOMB hits a table, explodes and splatters guests with
 blue dye. PROTESTERS with 'Freedom League' logos on their
 clothes and placards burst through a door as more bombs drop.

PROTESTER #1

Sabina Aubert is a murderer!

PROTESTER #2

Don't listen to the GN lies!

Guests scatter in panic. Some confront protesters.

Sabina gasps and backs away. She searches for the nearest
 exit. Cairo tries to make his way through to her.

CAIRO

Sabina? Sabina!

EXT. FANCY HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Sabina bursts through a fire exit into an alley. A SHADY
 FIGURE blocks her path.

SABINA

What do you want?

SHADY FIGURE

We know you lied about the power
 plant explosion in Katoomba.

SABINA

(contempt)

Do you?

The figure projects a video from her phone onto a wall.

INSERT - KATOOMBA FOOTAGE

The colony from a distance. A squadron of planes flies over.

WHISTLES of bombs dropping. Blinding white flashes. Multiple
 mushroom clouds stretch into the sky.

The WITNESS SCREAMS and WAILS, then runs to a car.

SHAKY FOOTAGE as the car enters the colony.

LATER

GN TROOPS in radiation suits. They shoot pleading survivors that emerge from rubble.

The Witness hides in a closet. The SOUND OF THE SOLDIERS' BOOTS gets louder. The video cuts out.

BACK TO SCENE

Sabina checks up and down the alley.

SABINA (CONT'D)
What do you want?

SHADY FIGURE
Arrange the release of Typo Hansen.
We know you still have connections
who can make it happen.

Sabina looks at the projection. She squints.

SABINA
No.

SHADY FIGURE
If you don't, we'll release the
footage.

SABINA
You can't release the footage,
otherwise you'd have done it
already.

She smirks cynically.

SABINA (CONT'D)
No one would believe you - that's
your problem. They'd refuse to
believe they live in a world where
that could happen.

She steps closer.

SABINA (CONT'D)
You know my problem with idealists
like you? You don't understand
consequences.
(points at video)
(MORE)

SABINA (CONT'D)

They lost a tree, and I had to
balance out that loss.

SHADY FIGURE

That's not balancing out a loss -
it's genocide.

SABINA

Yes, it is. Genocide of the colony
responsible - to prevent the
extinction of the human race.

Sabina steps past the figure and strides off.

SHADY FIGURE

The truth will come out...

SABINA

People have been ignoring truths
for a long time. That's how we got
here in the first place.

The Figure steps from the shadows. It's Cassidy from the
coffee kiosk.

EXT. JUNGLE - EVENING

A huge tunneling machine, the MOLE, rests in flattened
undergrowth. It has a giant drill at the front and
caterpillar tracks along the sides.

Behind it, a vast tunnel extends into the ground. In front,
vines have been cleared from a door.

Nick and Deacon hide, watching DISSIDENT SOLDIERS patrol.

DEACON

That's the silo main entrance.

NICK

There's a chance they haven't found
the escape hatch.

INT. MISSILE SILO COMPLEX

Nick descends the ladder. He signals Deacon to be quiet.
Dissident Soldier is inside guarding the control room.

MOLE COMMANDER (O.S.)

Let's move out.

Dissident Soldier backs out.

Nick squeezes inside and watches Dissident Soldiers evacuate up the stair well. He strains to hear and follows at a distance, Deacon behind.

A metal stair SQUEAKS under Deacon's foot.

DISSIDENT SOLDIER
Hey, there's someone down there.

The Soldiers open fire. Nick shields Deacon and returns fire.

MOLE COMMANDER
Come on, we don't have time.

The Soldiers rush up and slam the door. Nick races up and tries it, but it's locked. He presses his ear to it.

MOLE COMMANDER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Send up a comms drone - let them
know we're on our way to Omicron.

The Mole ROARS into life and moves away.

Nick returns to Deacon.

DEACON
You OK?

NICK
Yeah, they missed.

DEACON
How'd you know they'd miss?

Nick glares at him: "I didn't", then stalks off.

NICK
Come on, we need to check the
missile.

Deacon watches him, trembling.

MISSILE SILO

An enormous ICBM missile towers over them. Deacon edges around to inspect it. Nick checks the room.

DEACON
The warhead's still there at least.

NICK
That's good, right?

Deacon spots something at the top of the missile: modern electronics rigged-up to an old control panel.

DEACON
No. No it's not!

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

They scramble from the hatch. Deacon has the radio:

DEACON
Leona?

LEONA (V.O.)
I'm here.

DEACON
Get ready to leave.

INT. ORANGUTAN - NIGHT

The capsule docks. Deacon smashes the comms button.

DEACON
Go now - don't wait for us.

EXT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

Two grapples release and the Orangutan swings.

INT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

Deacon and Nick are thrown into a wall.

DEACON
Move on the up swing.

Nick nods.

Orangutan swings up and they scramble onto a gantry.

Orangutan swings down and they strain to hold on.

They climb past the THUNDERING engine.

They reach the living quarters and wait for their moment to cross. Leona's clothes are tossed around the room.

Orangutan swings up and they run. Leona's sweatshirt wraps itself around Deacon's foot and he drops to the floor.

Orangutan swings down. Deacon slides toward the engine stairs. He bumps the beer fridge and the door swings open.

Nick slides after him as crate of beer slides from the fridge. Nick shoves Deacon away from the stairs.

The beer flies past them into the engine room. It crashes into a pipe, severing it and releasing a jet of gas.

COCKPIT

They scramble into their seats.

LEONA
I'm losing power.

EXT. ORANGUTAN - SAME (NIGHT)

A BLINDING FLASH and SHOCKWAVE. Deafening CRUNCHES and CRACKS. The tree is falling.

The branch they are grappled-to dips down. A grapple fires at another branch, but that is struck by the falling tree.

INT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

On Leona's screen the algorithm attempts to identify viable branches. Green branches flash red as they are hit. Leona picks a low orange branch and launches a grapple.

Nick struggles with his seat harness. His wrist brace gets in the way and he can't engage the clasp.

EXT. ORANGUTAN - SAME

Swings fast and low. The grapple twitches and loses power.

The Orangutan CRASHES DOWN.

INT. SABINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sabina is asleep. Her phone BUZZES. She jerks awake and rolls over. It buzzes more.

SABINA
Ugh.

She scrolls through notifications - news of an explosion in the jungle.

SABINA (CONT'D)
 (to self)
 What!?

She calls her former Assistant. It's early morning in Geneva, and Assistant is commuting through the city.

INTERCUT - SABINA'S HOUSE/GENEVA STREET

SABINA (CONT'D)
 What are they going to do?

ASSISTANT
 I don't know yet, we've all been called in early to work that out.

SABINA
 What about Zastrus?

ASSISTANT
 He's the front-runner now.

SABINA
 He'll wipe us from the face of the Earth without a second thought.

ASSISTANT
 Well, none of your successors have been able to stand up to him like you did.

SABINA
 There must be someone.

ASSISTANT
 Nobody good enough, apparently.

Sabina stares through a window at the colony.

ASSISTANT (CONT'D)
 Sabi?
 (looks at phone)
 Ugh, damn signal.

SABINA
 No, I'm here.
 (sighs)
 Tell them...

Her eyes glaze over.

SABINA (CONT'D)
 Tell them I'll run against him.

ASSISTANT

Sabi, they'll just manipulate you like before.

SABINA

No. Not this time. I will not allow another Katoomba.

INT. ORANGUTAN - NIGHT

Blinking instruments illuminate the cockpit. Nick hangs from his unfastened harness.

Leona stirs.

LEONA

Deak. Deak!

Deacon wakes, confused.

LEONA (CONT'D)

Help me get him down.

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS

Leona and Deacon carry Nick through a smashed window.

LEONA

Does anything hurt?

NICK

No, I'm just a little fuzzy.

LATER

They sit by a fire. Deacon checks his watch - it's broken.

A vine creeps toward the flames and grazes Deacon's shoulder. He lurches away.

DEACON

What the hell's that?

LEONA

(chuckles)

They're just reaching for the light. It's probably the most light these plants have ever seen.

Deacon grabs a machete and hacks the plants back.

NICK

They're going to think we did this!
We have to get back.

DEACON

No arguments here.

INT. DEACON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cairo stares at a cabinet containing souvenirs from the jungle. Old beer bottle, small ice cream sign, plastic doll.

Candid photos show Deacon, furious, in the jungle scrubbing mud from his pants. Cairo smiles.

Rose slowly descends the stairs and hugs him.

ROSE

Is Daddy Deak OK?

CAIRO

Yeah. If there's one thing I know -
it's that he's doing everything he
can to get back home.

EXT. JUNGLE - EARLY MORNING

Deacon lugs a battery from the Orangutan. He sets it down beside a radio console and connects them.

DEACON

Mayday, mayday. Come in?

Static.

DEACON (CONT'D)

Mayday, mayday. This is the
Orangutan. Anyone there?

More static. He switches it off and looks around.

DEACON (CONT'D)

I'm going to find a higher spot.

LEONA

I'll come with you.

She gets up, grabbing a backpack. She takes a portable radio and points to the radio console.

LEONA (CONT'D)

Switch that on, we won't go far.

Nick nods. Deacon and Leona leave.

Nick moves to the radio, but is overcome with dizziness. He steadies himself and switches the radio on.

INT. GN COUNCIL CHAMBER (GENEVA) - DAY

Zastrus stands at the podium.

ZASTRUS

Do we really want someone who's
going to quit when things don't go
her way?

GRUMBLES from reps.

Sabina is on a screen, streaming from Pocatello.

SABINA

I quit because of what we did in
Katoomba. I'm back to ensure we
never do it again.

Zastrus booms incredulously:

ZASTRUS

And what will you do instead? This
tree didn't die slowly like in
Katoomba, action must be taken
against Pocatello immediately.

SABINA

I'll start with the options we
discounted last time.

ZASTRUS

All discounted for good reasons.
You're just wasting time.

More GRUMBLES. Reps shake their heads.

EXT. JUNGLE - MORNING

Deacon and Leona tramp through jungle. Deacon hacks through plants, loses his footing and slips down a muddy crater into a stagnant pool. He wades to the side, furious.

LEONA

(laughs)

I don't think you'll get a good
signal down there, Deak.

A LOW RUMBLE escalates to THUNDEROUS DRUMMING.

Leona looks at Deacon, then up at the sky, terrified. She jumps into the crater and hauls Deacon up the slope.

CANOPY

Torrential rain strikes an enormous Colossus leaf. Water gathers into streams in its veins and gushes from the tip.

CRATER

Leona drags Deacon out as a falling stream crashes into the crater. They're drenched by spray and hurry to their feet.

LEONA (CONT'D)
(shouts)
We need to find shelter!

They push through the jungle as streams crash down and shelter under a giant Colossus root. Leona grabs her radio:

LEONA (CONT'D)
Nick? You OK?

No response.

LEONA (CONT'D)
Nick!

CAMPFIRE

Nick rushes to move gear into the Orangutan. He's still dizzy. He ducks under a jacket sheltering the radio.

NICK
I'm here. Just trying to drag everything out of the rain.

ROOT

Leona leans back, relieved.

LEONA
We'll come back when this lets up.

NICK (V.O.)
OK. I'm gonna disconnect the radio to move it inside.

Deacon pokes around in the hollow. He moves some vines.

DEACON
Uh, Leona?

He pulls away a clump of vines and reveals: a door.

EXT. EMPTY SHOP - MORNING

A shop with frosted windows and faded "For Lease" signs. Cassidy walks down a small alley beside it.

INT. EMPTY SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Cassidy descends to a basement. There are stacks of anti-GN flyers on the floor and photos of GN buildings on the walls.

SETH (22) and FREEDOM LEAGUE PROTESTERS sit at a table. Many wear Better Beans Coffee uniforms.

SETH

We need to get out of Pocatello before the GN strike.

CASSIDY

No, first we need to get proof. With Typo in jail we can't decrypt their reports, but now we don't need to - we can record events first hand.

SETH

What good is proof if people won't listen?

CASSIDY

The Dissidents will listen.

She glances from face to face.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Record the movements of everyone on our list and listen for any chatter at the counter.

INT. BETTER BEANS COFFEE KIOSK (MALL) - DAY

Identical to the kiosk in the base, right down to the scuffs on the faux wood counter and quirky mismatched apron hooks.

Seth makes a coffee. Two middle-aged CUSTOMERS chat.

CUSTOMER #1

(panicked)

- I've gotta get out. Now.

Seth's ears prick up.

CUSTOMER #1 (CONT'D)
I overheard them saying things
about what they're gonna do to us.

CUSTOMER #2
Jack, you're not gonna quit your
job over the company's new medical
policy. It's just a prostate exam.

Seth smirks and shakes his head.

INT. ABANDONED GAS STATION - DAY

Deacon and Leona stand in the doorway, silhouettes. The shop
has been twisted and contorted by Colossus roots.

LEONA
I think it's an old fuel station.

Leona spots some plastic ponchos.

LEONA (CONT'D)
These could come in handy.

DEACON
(looks at one)
How many you got there?

LEONA
Loads.

He thinks, eyes flitting as he does the math.

DEACON
Grab them all.

Leona gives him a sideways look.

DEACON (CONT'D)
The Orangutan's fuel is hydrogen.
We can make a balloon and fly the
radio up.

Deacon's stomach grumbles. He inspects a BEEF JERKY packet on
a stand and stuffs it in his pocket.

EXT. JUNGLE - LATER

Deacon and Leona return to the Orangutan. Nick's not there.

LEONA

Nick?

NICK (O.S.)

I'm in here.

INSIDE

Leona rushes in. He's on the floor, propped up against a bulkhead, holding his head.

LEONA

What happened?

NICK

I was carrying the radio inside and then my head... This stabbing pain.

Leona shines a torch in his eyes.

NICK (CONT'D)

Sorry, Doc. I got as many of the bits inside as I could.

LEONA

Nick, you're concussed.

NICK

(to Deacon)

Can you fix it?

LEONA

Nick! Why didn't you say?

Deacon picks over broken pieces of radio. The main board is snapped in half. He closes his eyes, huffs and steps outside.

NICK

Is it OK? Doc?

LEONA

It'll be OK. Don't move!

OUTSIDE

Deacon hacks plants with the machete. Leona approaches.

LEONA (CONT'D)

Deak, it's not his fault.

DEACON

I know.

She pulls out the portable radio.

LEONA
Look, send this radio up instead -
it'll be lighter anyway.

DEACON
We needed two. One up there as a
relay and one down here.

Deacon drops the machete.

DEACON (CONT'D)
This wasn't the plan. Get in, get
out, get back to my family.

LEONA
I know.

DEACON
They have no idea where we are, and
now we have no way of telling them.

LEONA
We can still send the balloon up.
They must be looking for us.

DEACON
The chances of them spotting that -

LEONA
Are still much bigger than them
spotting us way down here.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Cassidy descends the steps. Seth meets her and they walk.

CASSIDY
Anything?

SETH
It's been a day, Cass.

CASSIDY
Days is all we have. I need to
think. You got cans on you?

SETH
Always.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY

Cassidy and Seth spray anti-GN graffiti on a wall.

SETH

One more warning that people will completely ignore.

CASSIDY

We're planting seeds of doubt.

She finishes a letter and steps back.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Someone will see or hear something. Then they'll remember these and those seeds will start to grow.

Seth steps back to admire his work.

SETH

So, what's the plan?

CASSIDY

If Sabina Aubert's talking to the GN again, we need to intercept her comms.

SETH

Those comms will be encrypted...

CASSIDY

Then we gotta get Typo out.

Cairo walks out of a bakery with Rose's birthday cake. He enters the alley and recognizes their logos from the Fancy Hotel.

CAIRO

Hey, stop that!

Cassidy and Seth bolt. Cairo gives chase. He fumbles with his phone, trying to take a photo. Seth throws a spray-paint can.

The can strikes Cairo in the head. He stumbles and falls into a pile of garbage bags. He gets up as their car speeds away.

The cake is ruined. Cairo snatches the paint can and throws it angrily at a dumpster.

EXT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - AFTERNOON

Sabina exits the building and walks along a quiet path. Cassidy and Seth appear from bushes.

SABINA
(sighs)
Not this again.

CASSIDY
Release Typo or we release the
video.

SABINA
No.

Sabina goes to push past them. Cassidy stops her.

Cairo exits the building and sees them. He ducks out of sight and watches, too far to hear.

SABINA (CONT'D)
Nobody wants to believe your video.

CASSIDY
You willing to bet your re-election
on that?

Sabina glares at her.

SABINA
If Zastrus gets elected, you know
what he'll do.

CASSIDY
Then release Typo.

SABINA
(thinks)
On one condition: I want a copy.

Cassidy gets out her phone and flicks a finger at Sabina. The video appears on Sabina's screen.

SABINA (CONT'D)
For what it's worth - I spent six
months trying to convince them not
to mine so close to that damn tree.

Cassidy and Seth spot Cairo and disappear into the bushes.
Cairo jogs over.

CAIRO
What did they want?

Sabina spins around.

SABINA

Nothing. How long have you been there?

CAIRO

They're the people that attacked me at lunch.

Cairo ducks through the bushes in pursuit, but he can't see them. A thought occurs and he jogs away.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - LATER

Cairo enters the alley where he was attacked. He retrieves the paint can from under the dumpster and inspects its label.

EXT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

Typo steps outside, a free woman. She pulls a fresh sucker from her pocket and strolls away.

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - EARLY EVENING

Cairo is parked across the street. He fiddles with the spray-paint can, watching everyone who leaves.

Seth leaves carrying a bag of cans.

CAIRO

(to self)

Gotcha.

He follows Seth at a distance. Seth disappears into the alley by the empty shop. Cairo waits. Seth returns empty-handed.

EXT. EMPTY SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Cairo sneaks into the alley and scans around. Locked doors lead to a basement.

He inspects the area. He spots a Better Beans loyalty card on the floor and picks it up. On the back is a time and letters.

He looks up, contemplating, and spots the blinking light of a security camera. He covers his face and hastily exits.

INT. GN COUNCIL CHAMBER (GENEVA) - DAY

Zastrus and Sabina are before the council for another debate.

ZASTRUS

All the other options would lead to chaos in the colony.

SABINA

You don't know that...

ZASTRUS

(scoffs)

A nuclear attack is swift and effective. No suffering.

SABINA

No suffering?

Sabina glares from the screen. Her Assistant projects the Katoomba footage behind Zastrus.

Reps gasp at the witness wailing and survivors being shot.

SABINA (CONT'D)

I will find another way.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - AFTERNOON

The Anchor is reporting live.

NEWS ANCHOR #8

In Geneva today, the GN re-elected Sabina Aubert as acting Secretary General in an emergency vote.

GN Admins stand by a teleprompter, following the script.

A picture of the sun appears. The Admins shift nervously.

NEWS ANCHOR #8 (CONT'D)

In other news, GN scientists have reported a massive solar flare approaching Earth. While not harmful to people, they anticipate damage to the satellite communication network over North America.

ADMIN #1 phones Sabina.

INTERCUT - NEWS STUDIO/DEPT. OF UTILITIES

SABINA

Good. Make arrangements for Pocatello District 1.

ADMIN #1 nods.

A display on Sabina's wall shows global temperature at 98.1 Degrees. A red line marks 99.1. The temperature ticks up to 98.2 and a warning flashes: "Global Temperature Increasing"

EXT. JUNGLE - EARLY MORNING

Deacon munches beef jerky while making the balloon. Leona watches Nick sleep. She feels his temperature and adjusts his blanket.

He stirs.

NICK

Wha... Where am I?

LEONA

Still stuck in the jungle. Looks like Deak's almost done with the balloon though.

NICK

Who's Deak?

Leona chuckles, then realizes he isn't joking. She helps him sip some water, then goes to Deacon.

LEONA

Nick's getting worse.

DEACON

I've finished the balloon -

He looks up at the web of vines above them.

DEACON (CONT'D)

- but we need to...

LEONA

What?

DEACON

Shh - can you hear that?

FAINT SOUND OF ENGINES ABOVE.

DEACON (CONT'D)

They're flying over. Help me clear these vines.

LEONA

No, we don't have time.

DEACON

What!?

LEONA

Trust me, and get ready.

Leona rushes into the Orangutan.

INT. ORANGUTAN - CONTINUOUS

Leona scrambles through the living quarters. She trips on a pair of her sweatpants and faceplants onto the floor. She tosses them away and continues to the cockpit.

She pulls out electrics and connects them with a spark.

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS

Deacon holds the inflated balloon, waiting anxiously as the
ENGINE SOUNDS GET LOUDER.

The Orangutan's search light blinks on and pivots upward. Nearby vines creep toward it, creating a hole.

Deacon lines-up the balloon and releases. It scrapes past the vines and rises to the canopy.

EXT. SKY - MORNING

A colony quadcopter flies over Colossus trees.

COLONY PILOT notices flashes in the sky and veers to intercept. The Tiffany shade is hanging from the balloon and scatters bright sunlight in colored flashes as it spins.

EXT. JUNGLE - MORNING

The quadcopter hovers above the crash site. No space to land. Deacon speaks into the portable radio:

DEACON

OK, we'll meet you there.

INT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - MORNING

Cairo crosses reception to a security gate. He blips his ID badge on the scanner. A red "X" appears.

RECEPTIONIST

The GN have requisitioned the building for the Secretary General.

CAIRO

What?

RECEPTIONIST

They're moving you over to the Department of Sanitation, but it might take a few days.

EXT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - LATER

Cairo's in his car, going through his phone calendar. He cancels a few meetings, then hovers over a reminder: "Try proposal again - Sabina."

He sighs and deletes the reminder. He drags a file labeled "Proposal 6" to the trash bin.

He reaches to start the car and spots the coffee loyalty card lodged in the dash. He pulls it out and leans back.

EXT. BETTER BEANS COFFEE KIOSK (STREET) - DAY

Cairo waits in his car. He watches SERVER #1 intently.

He scrolls through Freedom League articles on his phone and stops on an image. One Protester's face is covered, but Server #1 has an identical eyebrow piercing.

He adds the kiosk location to a list.

EXT. PUBLIC SQUARE - DAY

Families have picnics and play games on the lawn. Cassidy, Seth and Typo watch a news broadcast on an information panel.

INSERT - NEWS REPORT

The video is slightly corrupted.

NEWS ANCHOR #8

Citizens of Pocatello are being warned to stay home if they feel ill, due to an outbreak of the SARS-139 virus in the colony -

The feed chops out for a moment.

NEWS ANCHOR #8 (CONT'D)
- As the solar flare reaches Earth,
many colonies are reporting
disruption of communications.
Citizens should remain calm and -

The video becomes distorted and completely unintelligible.

BACK TO SQUARE

SETH
A virus too? This must be the GN.

CASSIDY
(to Typo)
Get back to the shop. Seth and me
are gonna visit the back wall of
the Department of Utilities.

Typo nods and switches her sucker to the other side.

SETH
You take me to all the nicest
places...

EXT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - DAY

Cassidy and Seth sneak through bushes behind the building.
They locate a communication box on the wall.

SETH
Not very well protected...

INTERCUT - DEPT. OF UTILITIES/EMPTY SHOP

Typo's on a computer in the basement.

TYPO
Doesn't need to be if your
encryption's good enough.

SETH
What if theirs is?

TYPO
(chuckles)
It's not.

BACK TO SCENE

Seth attaches a device to the electronics.

SETH

The transmitter's set up. You got a connection?

TYPO (V.O.)

Shit. Gotta go.

SHUFFLING, then her phone cuts out.

CASSIDY

What? Typo, what's going on?

SERIES OF SHOTS - FREEDOM LEAGUE ROUNDED UP

- A) Police surround the street kiosk and arrest Server #1.
- B) Police rush down the alley by the empty shop.
- C) Police arrest another coffee kiosk server.
- D) Police breach into the empty shop basement.

BACK TO SCENE

Cassidy receives a slew of messages:

INSERT - MESSAGES

"Cops, I'm burned"

"Don't go back to shop"

BACK TO SCENE

She slams the communication box shut and tugs Seth away.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

We gotta get outta here.

INT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - DAY

Cairo waits patiently in reception with a bouquet.

Sabina comes out through the security gate.

SABINA

Cairo, I'm so sorry - it's been a mess around here.

CAIRO

That's OK.

Cairo hands over the flowers.

CAIRO (CONT'D)
 Congratulations, Secretary General.

SABINA
 Thank you, these are gorgeous.

CAIRO
 Well, that's not the only gift.
 Remember the protesters that were
 harassing you outside?

SABINA
 Yes...?

CAIRO
 I tracked a bunch of them down and
 reported them.

SABINA
 What?

CAIRO
 Figured you could do without all
 that -

SABINA
 (panicked)
 Cairo, I can't afford to provoke
 them right now!

Sabina dumps the bouquet on the reception desk and rushes through the security gate. She barks into the room:

SABINA (CONT'D)
 Get everyone into my office. We
 need to revisit security for
 today's public address.

The temperature ticks up another 0.1 on Sabina's display.

EXT. PUBLIC SQUARE - AFTERNOON

Packed with people facing the steps of a large building, where Sabina stands at a podium.

SABINA
 It will take a couple of weeks to
 fully repair the satellites. In the
 meantime we have shut down the cell
 network to use it for emergency
 communications.

GRUMBLES from the crowd.

CONCERNED CITIZEN #1
What about the virus? Are we
getting vaccines?

SABINA
We are monitoring the situation and
have locked down District 1 to
prevent further spread. Please stay
away until further notice.

CONCERNED CITIZEN #1
But what about vaccines? -

GN SECURITY GUARDS patrol the crowd. They have photos of
Freedom League protesters on their phones.

Cassidy and Seth keep their distance from the guards. They've
completely changed their hair and clothes.

SETH
We shouldn't be here, we're too
exposed.

CASSIDY
This is where we agreed to meet if
anything happened.

Typo pushes through the crowd.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)
Typo? We thought they got you!

TYPO
Nah. I got eyes everywhere.

Seth nods at a guard coming toward them.

SETH
Look out.

TYPO
Ah, don't worry about them. I
replaced their photos with old
movie stars.

She smirks.

CASSIDY
What's going on?

TYPO

I don't know, but I looked through the security cameras at the shop...

CASSIDY

And?

TYPO

I don't think it was the GN that found us. Some guy was snooping around.

CASSIDY

Find out who, and see if you can find a new base of ops.

Typo nods and repositions her sucker.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

I'm going to District 1.

EXT. DISTRICT 1 - EARLY EVENING

Cassidy slows down as she approaches a substantial GN roadblock in the road. Cars are turned around by a GUARD.

She turns around and tries another road. Same situation. She peers past the roadblock at GN vehicles patrolling inside.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Leona helps Nick put his radiation suit on.

LEONA

You've got to keep this on. The only place they can land is near the silo.

NICK

Silo?

LEONA

Remember the explosion?

NICK

(guilty)

I don't know where I am.

LEONA

(caring)

You hit your head. We're getting you back so they can help you.

NICK

OK.

LATER

They trek through jungle. They see signs of the fallen Colossus tree and climb up a root for a better view.

Strange plants from the canopy wilt on the jungle floor. Dead animals litter the ground.

LATER

They're evacuated in a quadcopter transport.

INT. RESEARCH BASE INFIRMARY - NIGHT

Leona's on a gurney while a NURSE runs tests.

There's a commotion in the corridor as Cairo, Rose and Ark pile into Deacon's room opposite. They're laden with cards and get-well-soon gifts.

Leona scans around her bare room.

NURSE

Is there anyone you want us to call?

LEONA

(sighs)

No.

Nurse inspects her scar while taking her blood pressure.

NURSE

I've seen scars like this before.
Are you... safe?

LEONA

Yeah. I got out.

Nurse nods and packs away the blood pressure cuff.

NURSE

The young man you came in with seems nice... Nick?

LEONA

Is he gonna be OK?

NURSE

Yeah. He'll be fine.

Leona smiles.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - NIGHT

Leona passes a workshop for ground vehicles. THUMPING MUSIC comes from the basement. A sign reads: "Tow Bar"

OFF-DUTY PILOTS approach from another direction.

OFF-DUTY PILOT #1
Hey Leona, they named a drink after
you! First round's on me.

LEONA
Thanks, but I gotta head home to
clean my apartment.

OFF-DUTY PILOT #1
Oh - we all know what that's code
for!

One pilot gestures lewdly while two others have exaggerated, pretend sex up against a wall.

LEONA
Have fun guys!

INT. LEONA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Leona dumps her bag onto the bed. She places clothes into a hamper, picks up clothes from the floor and tidies the room.

LATER

She wipes the kitchenette table and stares at the solitary coaster. She fetches a second coaster from a drawer and places it opposite. She rubs her scar and winces.

She snatches the coaster and returns to the drawer. LAUGHING from the street below interrupts her. She peers outside.

DRUNK MAN supports DRUNK WIFE as she changes out of her heels and puts on comfortable flats. They walk off hand in hand, the man swinging her shoes.

Leona looks at the drawer and then the table, still rubbing her arm. She places the coaster on a window sill halfway between the two.

INT. GN HEADQUARTERS (GENEVA) - DAY

Zastrus and CONSPIRING REPRESENTATIVES sit at a table. Sabina glares from a screen floating above an empty chair. The temperature graphic on another screen reads 98.3 Degrees.

ZASTRUS

You must stop immediately,
Pocatello can't be punished for
this Dissident attack.

SABINA

This isn't about punishment - it's
about survival.

ZASTRUS

Try telling that to the innocent
people in your colony.

SABINA

You want me to ask the Dissidents
if they'll let us carry out our
plans in one of their colonies?

ZASTRUS

The time for talking with them is
over. We can get two birds with one
stone -

SABINA

If I nuke the Canadian Dissidents
it will start a war, Diego.

Silence.

SABINA (CONT'D)

My plan is already underway, and I
will not start a war!

Sabina's screen disappears. The Reps stand up to leave.

ZASTRUS

Wait.

They turn back.

ZASTRUS (CONT'D)

If this Dissident situation
escalates, Sabina has neither the
military experience or objectivity
to direct our forces.

CONSPIRING REP #1

Sure, but what can we do?

ZASTRUS

The council has authority to
appoint a commander-in-chief to
handle military matters.

The Reps look at each other and nod.

CONSPIRING REP #1

She'd still control the nukes...

ZASTRUS

(sighs)

Yeah. But we'd control the rest.

INT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - EARLY MORNING

Sabina on her phone, head in hands.

SABINA

Am I making a huge mistake?

ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Neither option is a good one, Sabi.

Sabina stares blankly and nods.

INT. LEONA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Spotless. She unwraps a breakfast burger and places it on a
paper plate. She takes it to the table and tucks in.

AUTO-HOME

The calorie content of that burger
exceeds the recommended amount.
Should I schedule some exercise?

LEONA

No.

AUTO-HOME

A brisk 20-minute walk could burn
up to 100 calories.

LEONA

How many calories would I burn
ripping my Auto-Home system from
the walls?

AUTO-HOME

- Insufficient data.

PHONE RINGS.

LEONA

Yello?

HAMILTON (V.O.)

Leona, could you still pilot a Gibbon?

LEONA

Gibbon? They went out of service years ago.

HAMILTON (V.O.)

Yes or no, Danes?

LEONA

Sure, I think so.

HAMILTON (V.O.)

Good. Tomorrow morning, oh-nine-hundred. Bring a bag.

INT. RESEARCH BASE INFIRMARY - DAY

Cairo on the gurney with Deacon.

CAIRO

- And then there's this whole business with this Freedom League. I tracked down fifteen members, and was Sabina happy? No, she -

Captain Hamilton KNOCKS on the open door.

HAMILTON

Can I have a moment with Dr. Santez please?

DEACON

Can it wait?

HAMILTON

No, it's important.

DEACON

So is this!

Hamilton huffs.

HAMILTON

Nick's memory is coming back. He said the tunneling machine was heading to another site. We think we've found it. It's another silo.

DEACON

I gave you my report...

HAMILTON

You did, yes. We're going to intercept them and will need a specialist for the warhead...

DEACON

Sorry Captain, but no. I need to recover. At home.

HAMILTON

No one else will get here in time.

DEACON

Not my problem Captain.

HAMILTON

(huffs)

We leave tomorrow morning, with or without you.

He turns and marches out.

CAIRO

Can they handle it without you?

DEACON

If the warhead's still sealed and everything's in good condition... Sure.

CAIRO

(worried)

OK.

INT. RESEARCH BASE INFIRMARY - MORNING

It's early. Deacon is awake when Nurse walks in with a food cart. She flicks on the light and the sudden flash triggers:

QUICK FLASHBACK of the warhead exploding at the silo.

Deacon shakes it off. Nurse places a plate in front of him: Baked beans spill out from under a sausage and a sprig of parsley wilts on the side of the plate. Triggers another:

QUICK FLASHBACK of dead animals and wilting plants under the fallen tree.

DEACON
 (to self)
 Dammit.
 (to Nurse)
 Can you get Captain Hamilton for
 me, please?

Nurse nods.

DEACON (CONT'D)
 Also, can I make a phone call?

NURSE
 We're restricted to emergencies
 only.

DEACON
 It's important.

INTERCUT - BASE INFIRMARY/DEACON'S HOUSE

CAIRO
 Just be careful, OK?

DEACON
 You know me...

INT. DEACON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Cairo ends the call. Rose draws pictures at the dining table.
 Cairo settles next to her.

CAIRO
 Can I join in?

ROSE
 No. You're too busy. With work.

CAIRO
 Not today I'm not.

EXT. GN TREATMENT CENTER - MORNING

GN ENGINEERS construct a large building in a parking lot. A
 sign reads: "District 1 SARS-139 Treatment Center"

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - MORNING

Deacon, Captain Hamilton and COLONY SOLDIERS jog to
 quadcopter transports. Nearby, the GIBBON machine sits
 between the two towers. It's much smaller than the Orangutan.

INT. GIBBON - SAME

Leona wipes dust from the controls and starts the machine. She selects the first beam on her screen.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - SAME

The Gibbon only has two grapples and winches itself up to each beam before firing the next grapple. It's a slow ascent.

BETTER BEANS COFFEE KIOSK

Typo's behind the counter with Cassidy, watching the Gibbon.

CASSIDY

We got a new place set up?

TYP0

Yep. Our friends at Frothy Coffee are helping us out.

Cassidy raises an eyebrow.

TYP0 (CONT'D)

They don't know they're helping us out, but they are.

CASSIDY

What about that guy outside the shop?

TYP0

(shakes head)

Not in the usual databases.

Cassidy turns and leans against the counter.

CASSIDY

OK, so let's say there is no solar flare. How would the GN cut the external comms?

TYP0

Well, the sat-link is critical infrastructure, so it's guarded here in the base.

CASSIDY

Where?

Typo nods at a satellite dish on the research building.

TYP0

Whole top floor is dedicated to servers and uplink.

CASSIDY

Can you hack it?

TYP0

Nah - I'd have to be plugged in.

CASSIDY

Hmm. We'll need some help.

EXT. JUNGLE (SITE OMICRON) - DAY

The Gibbon descends on a cable like a spider and drops into a clearing. Captain Hamilton directs Leona to the silo.

HAMILTON

Tell Dr. Santez to hurry up!

Over his radio:

COLONY PILOT #1 (V.O.)

We've engaged Dissident fighters two clicks North.

INT. OMICRON SILO

Deacon stares up at the missile. The silo has been wrecked by roots. Water drips into a pool at the base.

DEACON

Shit.

COLONY SOLDIER #1

We'll scout a way up.

Two COLONY SOLDIERS climb vines and broken gantries. Deacon watches with dread as Leona arrives.

LEONA

You want me to come up?

DEACON

No - we're going to take it out the top, so you'll need to reposition the Gibbon.

The Soldiers return and attach a rope around Deacon's waist. They climb. Deacon is terrified.

LEONA
You can do it, Deak!

They reach the top. The gantry is wrecked, but a precarious root stretches to the missile.

DEACON
Nope. Nope nope nope.

COLONY SOLDIER #1
I'll go across - just tell me what to do.

Soldier edges along the root.

COLONY SOLDIER #1 (CONT'D)
Doc?

Deacon stares down at the pool.

COLONY SOLDIER #1 (CONT'D)
Doc!

DEACON
Release the panel in front of you.
Slowly.

Soldier removes the panel.

DEACON (CONT'D)
Is anything wet inside?

COLONY SOLDIER #1
Yeah, and there's green and orange gunk everywhere.

DEACON
Corrosion.

COLONY SOLDIER #1
I'll see if I can move some wires to get a better look.

DEACON
Don't!

Soldier freezes.

DEACON (CONT'D)
The corroded connectors at the end of those wires could detach and short the electronics.

COLONY SOLDIER #1
Tell me what to do, Doc.

DEACON
Just... Get out of the way.

Deacon approaches the root. Leona sees Deacon freaking out and hums the SOOTHING WALTZ from the Orangutan. It echoes in the silo. Deacon joins in and edges along the root.

The Soldiers look at each other and shrug.

Deacon reaches the missile and holds on for dear life.

LEONA
Good work, Deak.

He sprays expanding foam onto the connectors. The foam hardens, and Deacon carefully moves the wires.

A CRASH shakes the silo. The Soldiers ready their rifles.

COLONY SOLDIER #1
What the hell was that?

DEACON
It... Wasn't... Me...

LEONA
I'll check it out.

Leona jogs up the stair well. Captain Hamilton and soldiers carry Dissident INJURED PILOT down. Leona steps to one side as they pass, then follows.

Captain Hamilton interrogates the pilot.

HAMILTON
Tell me why the Dissidents are destroying Colossus trees.

INJURED PILOT
We have a right to protect ourselves.

HAMILTON
Protect yourselves? How does blowing-up a tree protect you?

INJURED PILOT
By preventing *you* from delivering another nuclear weapon into the hands of the GN.

(MORE)

INJURED PILOT (CONT'D)
 If we could have, we'd have taken
 that nuke to defend ourselves.

HAMILTON
 Defend yourselves from what?

INJURED PILOT
 From the GN, and what they did in
 Katoomba.

Over Leona's radio:

DEACON (V.O.)
 Leona, we're ready for you to move
 the Gibbon.

LEONA
 I'm on it.

INT./EXT. OMICRON SILO - DAY

The Gibbon hangs over the silo. The cover slab is cranked
 open a crack and the warhead is winched into the Gibbon.

ENGINE SOUNDS from above.

Two Dissident fighters swoop down and pepper the ground with
 bullets. Colony quadcopters chase them away.

INSIDE

COLONY SOLDIER #1
 You should go with the warhead,
 Doc.

DEACON
 In that thing? No chance!

COLONY SOLDIER #1
 Either that, or climb back down
 with us.

Deacon peers down.

DEACON
 Nope.

He clambers out and into the Gibbon.

The Gibbon zips up the cable.

EXT. JUNGLE (SITE OMICRON) - DAY

Colony soldiers rush into transports. They take off.

The ground RUMBLES and SHAKES, then the Dissident Mole bursts through the ground beneath them.

Dissident Soldiers get out and shoot at the transports. The Mole Commander spots the Gibbon escaping and dispatches six drones.

INT. GIBBON - SAME

Leona watches six dots on her radar screen. On her radio:

LEONA
I've got half-a-dozen pings heading
straight for me.

DEACON
(to self)
I should have climbed down...

EXT. GIBBON - SAME

The Gibbon swings around a branch. A drone collides with the branch and explodes. Two colony quadcopters redirect to the Gibbon and shoot down two more drones.

INT. GIBBON - SAME

COLONY PILOT #1 (V.O.)
There are three left, but they're
right on your tail. We can't shoot
without hitting you.

LEONA
Let me try something.

EXT. GIBBON - SAME

The Gibbon swings high into the canopy. There are more branches here, but the drones swerve around them.

The Gibbon swings directly at a huge branch - collision course. At the last moment, it fires a grapple at a branch beneath and disengages the other.

The Gibbon dips sharply downward, grazing the branch. Two drones smash into the branch and explode. One left.

INT. GIBBON - SAME (DAY)

LEONA
(to Deacon)
I've got one trick left, but you're
not gonna like it.

Deacon closes his eyes and grips his seat. He hums the waltz.

EXT. GIBBON - SAME

The Gibbon disengages its grapple and free falls down through branches. The drone dips down in pursuit.

INT. GIBBON - SAME

Leona focuses on her screen. Branches flash from red, to orange, to green as they come into range. They quickly turn red when they get too close.

She watches one red branch, right down low, finger hovering over it. It turns orange and she presses, just as it flickers momentarily to green.

Deacon hums louder.

EXT. GIBBON - SAME

A grapple launches and grabs the branch. It CREAKS under the strain. The Gibbon swings low, plowing through topmost jungle foliage.

INT. GIBBON - SAME

Deacon yells the tune.

EXT. GIBBON - SAME

The drone can't make the tight turn. It crashes down and explodes.

The Gibbon flies up and launches a grapple at a high branch. It grabs on and they swing away.

INT. LEONA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

DOORBELL RINGS.

AUTO-HOME

There is a man at your door. Should
I start playlist: "Sex Music"?

LEONA

No! Shh. Off.

She opens the door to Nick. He's holding groceries.

NICK

I figured I owed you one for saving
me in the jungle - so I'm going to
teach you to cook mac and cheese.

She leads him inside and moves the second coaster to the
table.

LEONA

You know, if we do that, we'll have
played a game together, gone on a
hike through the jungle, and cooked
a meal together...

Nick ponders and nods.

INT. LEONA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Leona's curled up next to Nick in bed. She traces shapes on
his chest pensively.

NICK

What's up?

LEONA

It's been bugging me what that
Dissident pilot said about
Katoomba.

NICK

The nuclear power plant explosion?
Jeez, if only we knew a nuclear
physics expert.

LEONA

You think smart-ass is a good look
on you?

NICK

I dunno - is it working?

She rolls on top of him.

LEONA

Yeah.

INT. RESEARCH BUILDING - AFTERNOON

KNOCK ON DOOR. Deacon answers to Leona and Nick. The lab is divided by a strip of yellow duct tape on the floor. Deacon's half is pristine and organized. The other half is a mess.

LEONA

You got a minute?

Deacon huffs.

LATER

Deacon reads Katoomba news reports on a screen. He pulls up a photo and frowns.

DEACON

These buildings have been completely destroyed.

LEONA

Well, a nuclear power plant did explode...

DEACON

That's the thing. Nuclear power plants don't explode - they melt down.

Nick and Leona shrug.

DEACON (CONT'D)

They get super hot and throw out a lot of radiation, but they don't normally blow up.

He scrolls through reports.

DEACON (CONT'D)

These buildings were hit by a tremendous force.

LEONA

Like a nuke?

DEACON

Like several.

INSERT - REPORT

"... no communication due to a solar flare..."

BACK TO SCENE

NICK

I remember that flare - last year.

DEACON

(nods)

Just after they killed that tree.

NICK

They could nuke us...

LEONA

No. Not a nuke... A virus.

DEACON

You're jumping to conclusions.

LEONA

Really? Have you seen or heard from anyone in District 1?

Deacon shrugs: "No"

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - AFTERNOON

Cassidy closes the kiosk as Nick heads to the main gate. Cassidy's sporting her new disguise.

CASSIDY

You're in a hurry.

NICK

Oh, sorry Cass, I barely recognized you. Something's going on here and I need to find out what.

Her eyebrow twitches. She hands him a Better Beans loyalty card with an address scrawled on it.

CASSIDY

We're trying to find out too. We could use your help...

NICK

No offense, but this is gonna take a bit more than graffiti and flyers.

CASSIDY

Maybe, but we've got numbers. What are you gonna do all on your own?

Nick flicks the loyalty card across his fingers. He looks back at the base.

NICK

I'll catch you later, Cass.

He marches back into the base.

INT. MILITARY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Captain Hamilton reads a report at his desk. Nick opposite.

HAMILTON

Dr. Santez has a few...
constructive criticisms about the
Orangutan mission...

NICK

I came to ask about Katoomba, sir.

HAMILTON

Katoomba?
(sighs)
Leona.

Hamilton puts down the report.

HAMILTON (CONT'D)

Lieutenant, after this last mission
you've got a lot of prospects,
despite Dr. Santez' feedback. Don't
get mixed up in all this conspiracy
nonsense.

NICK

But, it was a blast, not a meltdown
sir.

HAMILTON

You've been through a lot. Take a
weeks leave to recover properly.
That's an order.

Nick marches out.

INT. TRAIN CAR - EVENING

Nick stares through the window, deep in thought. GN military aircraft fly over the colony.

He unclips his tie and military insignia, then retrieves the Better Beans card and reads the address.

EXT. DISTRICT 2 - SAME

GN military aircraft fly overhead.

GN vehicles block off an arterial road. GN SOLDIERS place down signs: "District 2 locked down. SARS-139 outbreak."

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Nick pushes through a gap in the fence. He sneaks to a warehouse side door and KNOCKS. Cassidy answers.

NICK

I just want to find out what's
going on - I'm not joining your
revolution.

INT. WAREHOUSE - SAME

A loading area in an automated warehouse. Stacks of shelves packed with palettes stretch as far as the eye can see.

Cassidy sits on a palette and invites Nick to join. He sits warily. She taps a button on her phone.

A STACKING ROBOT zips from the shelves and speeds at them.

Nick stumbles to his feet. Cassidy drags him back down.

The robot slows and picks up the palette with absolute precision. It raises them and whisks them to a shelf stack.

The robot slows and stops. Stabilizers extend. It raises the palette past boxes with the Frothy Coffee logo.

The robot slides them onto shelf and zips away.

This shelf doesn't contain goods - it's set up with desks, computers and a map of the colony.

NICK

Whoa, Cass. Who are you?

LATER

Nick scrolls through GN reports on a screen.

Cassidy makes notes on a map. She approaches Typo.

CASSIDY

Have you verified the GN's patrol schedules around District 1?

TYPO

Their times are randomized, but I think I've identified the seed.

CASSIDY

Let's make sure.

Nick watches Cassidy.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

What?

NICK

Nothing - I just never saw you as a plotting-and-scheming type.

CASSIDY

(thinks)

You know anything about the GN's patrol routes?

NICK

I can take a look...

LATER

Nick checks phone: 2 A.M.

NICK (CONT'D)

Wow, you really lose track of time in here. I gotta go.

CASSIDY

Sorry, the robots are on charging cycle 'til morning.

She nods at a beat-up couch.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)

You might want to grab that before someone else takes it.

INT. LEONA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

A mess once more. Drawers and closets hang open. Leona rushes between them, stuffing things in bags.

A hammer is embedded in the smashed Auto-Home panel.

KNOCK AT DOOR. Leona answers it and Nick enters.

LEONA
Where have you been?

NICK
I've been with the Freedom League.
Listen Leona -

LEONA
The Freedom League!? Nick, we gotta
get out of here.

She peers through the window as GN aircraft fly over, then returns to packing.

NICK
They can help, Leona. They've got
all these reports -

LEONA
Oh, well. Reports. We're saved!

NICK
Leona...

LEONA
They. Are. Going. To. Kill.
Everyone in Pocatello. Nick. That
includes us.

NICK
Exactly - we have to stop them!

LEONA
No, we don't. We can't. We have to
leave.

NICK
I can't believe you'd just abandon
everyone like that.

LEONA
Believe it. It's what I do. I'm
very good at it.

NICK
Yeah, looks like it.

Leona continues packing.

NICK (CONT'D)
See ya, Leona.

Nick leaves.

LEONA
Nick? Where are you going?

EXT. DEACON'S HOUSE - DAY

Rose's birthday party in the back yard. Bounce houses, balloons and party games. Deacon and Cairo sit on a bench.

Yellow tape cordons off the flower beds. Kids burst through the tape playing with a ball. Deacon doesn't bat an eyelid.

CAIRO
It's probably just a virus, like they said.

A balloon POPS and Deacon jumps out of his seat. Everyone else continues having fun.

INT. DEACON'S HOUSE - LATER

Rose tugs Leona's arm.

ROSE
Come on, I haven't seen you in ages!

LEONA
Sorry Rose, I've got to speak to your dads.

Rose stomps outside. Deacon and Cairo enter and perch on the couch. Leona peers through the window at the street.

LEONA (CONT'D)
The train stations are closed for 'routine maintenance', but I reckon I can squeeze five into the Gibbon.

DEACON
Gibbon? And go where?

LEONA

Canada.

DEACON

Canada!? They blew up the tree in the first place.

LEONA

Yeah, but they're not being killed off with some virus.

A GN vehicle cruises down the street.

DEACON

We don't know that for sure.

LEONA

Well, I'm not waiting to find out. I'll be outside the base at midnight if you come to your senses.

EXT. DEACON'S HOUSE - LATER

Deacon and Cairo return to the yard as PHIL (50's) walks in through the side gate.

CAIRO

Phil, you made it.

PHIL

Sorry I'm late.

CAIRO

No worries.

(to Deacon)

Deak, this is Phil from the water facility.

PHIL

Yeah, these GN tankers turned up to put something in the water, so I had to get them set up.

CAIRO

What? I didn't know about that.

PHIL

(shrugs)

They had all the paperwork, signed by the Secretary General herself.

CAIRO

What were they putting in the water?

PHIL

Something to stop the virus spreading, apparently.

CAIRO

You think you could get a sample?

DEACON

Cairo, please can we let someone else deal with this?

CAIRO

This could be our only chance to find out for sure. We have to go.

ROSE

You're leaving? You're always leaving!

Rose storms off.

CAIRO

Rose, I'm sorry. I have to do this.

EXT. WATER FACILITY - DAY

Cairo's in his car outside. There are GN tankers inside and GN SOLDIERS patrolling.

Phil strolls from the facility and passes a sample to Cairo.

A WATER FACILITY SOLDIER watches Cairo suspiciously. She takes a photo and ZOOMS IN ON CAIRO'S LICENSE PLATE.

INT. RESEARCH BUILDING - DAY

Deacon and Cairo in Deacon's lab. A screen shows a progress bar counting up: "57%... 58%..."

Cairo nudges some equipment beside his seat. Deacon gets up and repositions it.

CAIRO

Really, now?

DEACON

Sorry, I...

Cairo gets up and paces.

DEACON (CONT'D)
Are you OK?

CAIRO
I just... I can't believe I spent
so much time sucking up to her.

DEACON
You had no way to know what Sabina
had done in Katoomba.

CAIRO
How is that? How the hell did they
cover that up?

DEACON
Well, what do you really know about
the world except what you're told
by the media? They control the
media; they control what you know.

The progress bar continues: "98%... 99%... 100%"

DEACON (CONT'D)
OK, let's see what we've got.

Deacon scans through chemical components.

DEACON (CONT'D)
These minerals seem normal...
(scrolls down)
Hmm, what's this?

He selects a chemical to show an info sheet.

DEACON (CONT'D)
It's...

CAIRO
A sedative?

They lean back.

DEACON
That makes no sense.

CAIRO
We have to tell someone.

DEACON
Who'd believe us?

Cairo grabs his jacket and heads for the door.

CAIRO
I know who. Get the kids packed and
ready to leave.

CORRIDOR

Cairo flicks through photos of protesters on his phone. He stops and zooms in. In the background; a protester whose face is hidden. They're wearing a distinctive wristband.

EXT. ANOTHER COFFEE KIOSK - AFTERNOON

Cairo watches from the car. SERVER #2 has the same wristband.

He gets out and joins the line. At the counter, he hands over a Better Beans loyalty card.

CAIRO
Cappuccino, please. This one's
free.

Server #2 checks the card. Written on it: "FL, I KNOW GN PLAN." Server #2 hands Cairo the coffee and a new card.

INT. WAREHOUSE - EVENING

Nick and Cassidy look at the map. Cassidy checks her watch.

CASSIDY
The robots will power down soon.
You should leave now if there's
somewhere you need to be...

NICK
(sighs)
No, there isn't.

He scans the map of the research base.

NICK (CONT'D)
If Hamilton found out I was helping
you... Well, I might be applying
for job in your kiosk.

CASSIDY
After you got out of prison...

The robot slides a palette onto the shelf. Cairo is on it with a FREEDOM LEAGUE ESCORT.

Typo looks up from her screen. Her eyes go wide as she points to a security photo of Cairo snooping at the empty shop.

TYPO

It's him!

Nick grabs Cairo.

CAIRO

Wait, I can explain.

Cassidy checks the photo.

CASSIDY

Everyone out, now! We're burned.

The Freedom League scramble to get equipment onto palettes.

CAIRO

That was before I knew.

Cassidy pauses for a moment, considering. She walks to Cairo.

TYPO

Uh, Cass. We've got company.

Typo turns a security monitor showing the parking lot: GN vehicles arrive.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - EVENING

Water Facility Soldier inspects the license plate of Cairo's car. She directs soldiers to the warehouse.

INT. WAREHOUSE - SAME

Cassidy shakes her head and helps load equipment.

CAIRO

Listen! They're at the water facility. They're putting a sedative in the water.

They ignore him.

CAIRO (CONT'D)

They're going to kill us off like in Katoomba.

CASSIDY

How?

CAIRO
I... I don't know.

Cassidy scoffs and continues packing.

Palettes are whisked away by robots. Nick throws Cairo down and gets onto the last palette with Cassidy.

CAIRO (CONT'D)
Wait. You can't leave me here. I've got to get back to my kids.

He crawls and stumbles to the palette as it moves away.

CASSIDY
Sure you do.

The palette jolts and Cassidy loses her balance. Nick steadies her.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)
(coyly)
Thanks.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - EVENING

Cassidy, Nick and Typo scramble into a van. Seth and other Freedom League Protesters pile into another.

GN soldiers spot them and pursue.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Typo in the back of the van. A GN vehicle is gaining on them. She frantically types on her phone, then peers through the back window. The GN vehicle screeches to a halt.

The confused GN soldiers look around, then DEAFENING POP MUSIC blares from their speakers. They run from the vehicle, covering their ears.

Typo smiles smugly. She unwraps a new sucker.

LATER

TYPO
Whoever that guy was, he definitely wasn't working with the GN.

Typo shows her phone to Cassidy: a camera feed from the warehouse. Cairo is arrested and hauled away at gunpoint.

CASSIDY
 Dammit. Who is that guy?

On the radio:

CASSIDY (CONT'D)
 Seth?

SETH (V.O.)
 Yep.

CASSIDY
 Go check out the water facility.
 We're going into District 1.

INT. LEONA'S CAR - NIGHT

Leona drives through the colony. She watches people on the sidewalk enjoying their evening and shakes her head.

EXT. DEACON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Deacon in his car with Rose and Ark. He checks the time.

DEACON
 (to self)
 Come on Cai. She's going to leave
 without us.

He starts the engine.

DEACON (CONT'D)
 You'll have to make your own way
 there. I'll tell her to wait.

He checks on the kids.

DEACON (CONT'D)
 You all belted up?

ROSE AND ARK
 Yep!

Deacon looks down at the empty seat beside him. He can't stop staring at it. He switches off the engine.

DEACON
 Sorry kids, we're not going on our
 trip tonight.

ARK
 Aw.

ROSE
I bet Daddy Cai's gone to another party.

DEACON
Actually, tonight he's trying to help some people. A lot of people.

INT. DEACON'S HOUSE - LATER

Deacon hugs his kids on the couch as they sleep.

EXT. DISTRICT 1 - NIGHT

Nick, Cassidy and Typo crouch in bushes near the District 1 perimeter road. A GN vehicle approaches.

TYPO
Right on time.

The vehicle passes.

TYPO (CONT'D)
Quick, we've only got a few minutes.

They clamber over a fence and jog into the district.

LATER

They jog down an empty suburban street, peering into houses. All empty. Some still have meals laid out.

Nick scans around. A building in the distance glows brightly.

EXT. GN TREATMENT CENTER - NIGHT

They approach a large temporary building lit with floodlights. Signs read: "SARS-139 Treatment Center"

TREATMENT CENTER GUARD
Fore!

Two TREATMENT CENTRE GUARDS use the street as a driving range to pass time. They swing golf clubs and send two more balls bouncing down the street.

Nick, Cassidy and Typo slip into the building.

INT. GN TREATMENT CENTER - SAME

They pass through an antechamber, then through a pair of thick doors. Before them is a huge room, freezing cold. It's full of shelves of frozen bodies.

NICK

There must be thousands of people here.

Typo examines an electronic device on a body.

TYPO

They're not dead. They're in some sort of cryo stasis.

NICK

Stasis?

CASSIDY

(thinks)

Frozen people don't produce greenhouse gases.

NICK

Then what? They can't keep them frozen forever.

CASSIDY

They planted a new tree in Katoomba... They're putting us on ice until it's fully grown.

NICK

That's fifty years!

TYPO

It's also, not a nuke...

NICK

(to Typo)

You can't be serious!

Nick appeals to Cassidy, but she's lost in thought.

CASSIDY

(to self)

She's trying to save them...

NICK

Cass!

CASSIDY
 (snaps out of it)
 Whatever they're doing, they can't
 lie to us like this.
 (to Typo)
 Find a way to hijack the cell
 network.

TYPO
 Done.

INT. SABINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sabina's asleep. Her phone RINGS, waking her.

ADMIN #2 (V.O.)
 We have a problem.

SABINA
 What?

ADMIN #2 (V.O.)
 The Freedom League are streaming
 over the cell network.

A live-stream notification blinks on her phone. She taps it:

INSERT - FREEZER FOOTAGE

Inside the GN freezer.

CASSIDY (O.S.)
 We're inside one of the GN's
 'treatment centers' in District 1,
 and this is what we found.

Frozen bodies.

CASSIDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 There is no virus. They're sedating
 people with chemicals in the water,
 then putting everyone on ice.

Cassidy looks into the camera.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)
 Do not drink the water!

BACK TO SCENE

SABINA
 Shut that down and get everyone to
 the office.

EXT. GN TREATMENT CENTER - NIGHT

Nick, Cassidy and Typo escape. The Treatment Centre Guards throw down their clubs and give chase.

EXT. DISTRICT 1 - NIGHT

Nick, Cassidy and Typo hide in a minivan on a driveway.

NICK

Can't you stop them like before?

TYPO

No. They've locked down the vehicle data links already.

Typo watches the end of the street. A GN vehicle passes.

TYPO (CONT'D)

Go, now! We've got two minutes to reach the perimeter road.

Nick reverses onto the street and floors it.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - NIGHT

Leona is parked in truck stop outside the base. The dash clock reads: "12:31 AM"

LEONA

(to self)

Dammit, Deak.

She drives onto the road and stares wistfully at the colony. She grits her teeth and speeds to the base.

LATER

The base is quiet. The Gibbon sits between the towers.

A grapple launches with a LOUD WHINE and attaches to a beam. The Gibbon hauls itself up, swinging across the tower.

It swings back, releases the grapple and flies up toward the other tower, launching another grapple.

Unlike the previous slow ascent, this is fast and reckless.

ALARMS SOUND. Spotlights pivot toward the towers. The Gibbon flashes in and out of the light. It fires a grapple at a low bough and swings into the jungle.

EXT. POCATELLO - MORNING - MONTAGE

- Citizens riot in the streets.
- An angry mob forces its way into District 1.
- Protesters throw bottles and other missiles at the Department of Utilities.
- Citizens bang on the water facility fence.

EXT. DEACON'S HOUSE - MORNING

Rose and Ark stand in the doorway with Jenna.

DEACON

Wherever Daddy Cai is, I'll find
him.

Deacon jogs to the car, determined. The car is blocked-in by an overturned trash can. He kicks it away, spraying trash, then gets in the car and speeds off.

INT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - MORNING

Sabina speaks to Zastrus on a screen. The temperature graphic reads 98.7 Degrees.

ZASTRUS

The council have appointed me
commander-in-chief, to use military
force to take back control.

SABINA

What? That'll just make everything
worse. We need to make them
understand.

ZASTRUS

Understand? They're rioting in the
streets, Sabina - they're hardly
going to be sweet-talked into fifty
years on ice.

SABINA

So you're going to force them at
gunpoint?

ZASTRUS

Yes! If that's what it takes.

Sabina slumps into her chair.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Deacon barges past ANGRY CITIZENS to the main desk. The SERGEANT is completely unfazed by the crowd.

DEACON

I'm trying to find my partner. He went missing last night.

SERGEANT

Name?

DEACON

Cairo Santez.

SERGEANT

(checks computer)

Arrested last night for inciting civil unrest.

DEACON

What? I want to speak to him.

SERGEANT

He's not here. GN prisoners are at the base.

INT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - EVENING

Sabina, slumped in her chair. She stares through the window.

ADMIN #2 steps in.

ADMIN #2

They're denying us access to the base while a tribunal is convened.

SABINA

(defeated)

Not my problem now. It's all in Zastrus' hands.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - EVENING

Deacon approaches the main gate. The area is flooded with RIOTING CITIZENS and the gates are locked shut.

He moves around the crowd to look through the fence. GN aircraft are cordoned-off on the tarmac.

He spots another crowd closer to the GN aircraft and heads over. At the back; Nick with Cassidy and Typo.

DEACON
Nick, what are you doing here?

NICK
What are you doing here?

DEACON
My partner and I found the sedative
in the water. He went to tell the
Freedom League and got arrested.

Freedom League Protesters turn to look at Deacon.

NICK
He's *your* partner?

DEACON
Yes - and now they've got him in
there.

NICK
Look, we didn't realize he was
trying to help - the GN turned up
right after he arrived.

DEACON
We?

INT. GN HEADQUARTERS (GENEVA) - NIGHT

Zastrus at his desk, CONSPIRING REP #1 opposite.

ZASTRUS
Time to take back control.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - EVENING

GN fighters take off and fly over the base.

The crowd gets louder and bangs on the fence. GN SOLDIERS
inside fire warning shots.

GN fighters open fire on colony quadcopters.

NICK
They're taking over the base!

CASSIDY
I guess it's now then.

Cassidy and Nick exchange a nod, then Cassidy whistles to the crowd. A dozen people peel off and follow Nick. Cassidy follows behind. Deacon tags along.

INT. MILITARY OFFICE - SAME

Explosions outside light up the office. Captain Hamilton cautiously peers through a window.

He dashes down a corridor, yelling:

HAMILTON

Two minutes. Back door. We need to secure the armory.

COLONY SOLDIERS respond: "Aye, sir."

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - SAME

Nick and FREEDOM LEAGUE SQUAD move along the fence using vehicles and stored materials as cover.

Cassidy checks her phone. It's counting down: "3... 2..."

It hits zero and the crowd at the fence erupts. Bottles are thrown and the fence is shaken violently. GN soldiers call for reinforcements.

The GN soldiers near Nick and Cassidy leave to help out. Nick and the squad cut a hole in the fence and sneak through.

CASSIDY

(to Deacon)

Stay behind me, Tall Latte.

Deacon suddenly recognizes her.

DEACON

You're from the coffee kiosk.

CASSIDY

I've been moonlighting as a rebel.
Shhh - don't tell anyone.

EXT. RESEARCH BUILDING - LATER

GN soldiers engage with colony soldiers nearby.

Nick leads the squad to the research building.

NICK
 (to Deacon)
 We need to get a message to the
 Dissidents. Then we'll find your
 partner.

INT. RESEARCH BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Nick and the squad move along a corridor to the stairs.
 Deacon lags behind at the rear. The squad turns off a
 corridor as GN soldiers appear at the end.

They open fire, separating Deacon.

NICK
 Go back. Find somewhere to hide.

DEACON
 Wait! Use this to get to the top
 floor.

He tosses his ID badge to Nick. Nick moves away.

DEACON (CONT'D)
 Nick!

NICK
 What?

DEACON
 Bring it back when you're done.

SPRAY OF GUNFIRE. Deacon ducks and scurries into his lab. He
 gets down to hide under his desk and spots a photo of his
 family. He stands up and touches the photo.

SOUNDS OF LAB SOLDIER #1 searching rooms nearby.

Deacon spots a thick textbook on a shelf - "Applied Physics".
 He picks it up and looks at it thoughtfully.

The door bursts open and Deacon smashes the book into the
 soldier's face. The soldier drops to the floor, unconscious.
 Deacon takes his gun and jogs down the corridor.

DEACON (CONT'D)
 (to self)
 I guess I'm rescuing you on my
 own...

A gun appears at Deacon's head from a side-room. It's held by
 LAB SOLDIER #2.

LAB SOLDIER #2

Drop it.

Deacon drops the gun and raises his hands.

DEACON

I'm a physicist... I work here.

LAB SOLDIER #2

Why do you have a gun then?

DEACON

I don't know... You've got a gun,
why shouldn't I have one?

The soldier marches Deacon outside.

TOP FLOOR

Cassidy leads the squad to the server room. She steps into an adjoining corridor. Nick hauls her back as spray of gunfire is let loose across her path.

CASSIDY

I'm so stupid.

NICK

Yeah. Good job you got me...

He winks, then glances down the corridor.

NICK (CONT'D)

Stay here and keep them busy.

The squad take up positions and return fire. Nick takes a large bag and jogs back to the stairs.

FLOOR BELOW

Nick runs along corridors below and locates the GN soldiers from the sound of their gunfire. He retrieves IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVES from a bag.

TOP FLOOR

CRASH. The GN soldiers disappear into the floor below.

CASSIDY

Go!

EXT. ARMORY - SAME (EVENING)

Captain Hamilton hides a behind wall with colony soldiers.

HAMILTON

Take cover!

GN fighters swoop past and shoot at their position.

INT. RESEARCH BUILDING - SAME

Nick races up the stairs. He sees Deacon being escorted from the building through a window.

NICK

(to self)

Deak!

He spots GN soldiers jogging to the research building.

NICK (CONT'D)

Oh, crap.

SERVER ROOM

Cassidy looks down the corridor anxiously. She glances at the hole in the floor. Nick appears at her side.

NICK (CONT'D)

Hey, were you worried about me?

CASSIDY

Sure, you're a good customer.

NICK

Uh huh... Well, the GN are sending you some more customers right now.

He drags Cassidy inside and shuts the door. He points at positions for the squad to stand, ready for the GN soldiers.

Typo frantically hacks a computer terminal.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - SAME

Lab Soldier #2 escorts Deacon to a group of GN transport aircraft. Between them is a makeshift command center.

Deacon overhears GN OFFICER:

GN OFFICER

... We've secured buildings 7, 4 and 6, and are surrounding 5. The fighters are coming around for another pass on the armory.

INT. GN TRANSPORT - CONTINUOUS

Lab Soldier #2 hustles Deacon up a ramp and shoves him into a seat. He cuffs him to a bulkhead next to other PRISONERS.

CAIRO

Deak?

Cairo is further along the transport.

DEACON

Cairo!

CAIRO

Why didn't you get out with Leona?

DEACON

I... just couldn't go without you.

EXPLOSIONS outside.

CAIRO

So, you came into a warzone to get me?

DEACON

I just want things to go back to normal - and normal isn't normal without you, me and the kids all together.

Cairo shakes his head.

INT. RESEARCH BUILDING - SAME

GN soldiers advance to the server room.

SERVER ROOM

TYPO

Cass, we're in! Wow, all the GN files are here. This is enough to sink them once and for all.

CASSIDY

Get me a link to the Dissidents.

TYPO

Done.

Into a headset:

CASSIDY

This is Cass from Pocatello Freedom League with important information for the Canadian Dissidents.

DISSIDENTS (V.O.)

This is Canada, we should be with you any minute.

CASSIDY

Any minute? What do you mean?

DISSIDENTS (V.O.)

We had a visit from one of your colonists this morning. She told us all about it.

EXT. ARMORY - SAME (EVENING)

Captain Hamilton and colony soldiers fight for their lives.

ARMORY SOLDIER #1 emerges from the armory with a grenade launcher. He fires a grenade at the advancing GN troops.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - SAME

CANADIAN DISSIDENT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BURST FROM JUNGLE, spilling bombs onto the tarmac.

EXT. ARMORY - SAME

The grenade explodes amidst the GN troops. Moments later, the tarmac is lit-up by the Dissident bombs.

Armory Soldier #1 falls back in surprise.

Captain Hamilton leads colony soldiers onto the tarmac.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - SAME

The Gibbon swings from the jungle and grapples to the towers. Drones fly from a hatch and head for the GN fighters.

INT. RESEARCH BUILDING - SAME

GN soldiers reach the server room door. Inside, Nick and the squad wait, guns pointed at the door.

Over GN soldier's radio:

GN OFFICER (V.O.)
 All units! Regroup at the command
 center.

The soldiers back off. The squad breathe a sigh of relief.

CASSIDY
 (to Typo)
 Send the GN files to the
 Dissidents, quickly.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - SAME (EVENING)

GN Officer barks orders from the makeshift command center.

Ground RUMBLES and SHAKES. Soldiers scatter as the Dissident
 Mole pierces the tarmac in the middle of the command center.

The Mole surfaces, toppling nearby aircraft, including:

INT./EXT. GN TRANSPORT - CONTINUOUS

Prisoners are jostled inside the transport as it rolls.
 Bulkheads buckle under the strain.

Prisoners work themselves free and escape down the ramp.
 Cairo rushes over to Deacon, who can't get free.

DEACON
 Find a pry bar or something.

OUTSIDE

Six drones launch from the Mole.

INSIDE

Deacon hears the BUZZ of the drones.

DEACON (CONT'D)
 Cairo, you've got to get out. Now!

Cairo sees the drones take off through a window.

CAIRO
 No. My normal's not normal without
 you either.

Cairo grabs a broken arm rest and wedges it between Deacon's
 cuffs and the bulkhead. He levers it and the cuffs break
 apart.

OUTSIDE

They sprint from the transport as a drone impacts and explodes. They're thrown to the ground.

EXT. RESEARCH BUILDING - SAME (EVENING)

Nick, Cassidy and the squad emerge. They gaze in amazement at the carnage. Captain Hamilton appears.

HAMILTON
Drop your weapons!

CASSIDY
We're on your side, Grande Mocha.

HAMILTON
Coffee girl?

CASSIDY
Cassidy.

Hamilton spots Nick.

HAMILTON
Lieutenant, are you helping these people?

NICK
They were right, sir. And you wouldn't listen.

HAMILTON
You'll be court marshalled for this. I warned you not to get involved in conspiracy theories.

NICK
Does this look like theory to you!?

Hamilton surveys the war zone around them.

NICK (CONT'D)
This proves it's not, and the Freedom League have more evidence.

They glare at each other. A gas canister explodes on a flaming GN transport.

HAMILTON
Oh-nine-hundred Monday. I want to see it.

Cassidy sees Deacon and Cairo on the ground.

CASSIDY
Over here, quick.

SERIES OF SHOTS - GN ROUNDED UP

- A) Dissident drones escort GN fighters into land.
- B) Colony soldiers round up GN soldiers.
- C) Colony soldiers, Dissidents and Freedom League celebrate.

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - SUNRISE

Deacon and Cairo exit the infirmary, disheveled and bandaged. They stroll past debris from the fight to watch the sunrise.

CAIRO
I think I need a new job.

DEACON
You'd make a pretty good P.I.

CAIRO
I was thinking I might try my hand at... Being a better dad.

Deacon smiles sympathetically.

DEACON
I dunno, I hear your two new bosses can be a bit of a handful.

Cairo elbows Deacon in the ribs.

DEACON (CONT'D)
I almost forgot...

He retrieves an empty beef jerky packet from his pocket.

DEACON (CONT'D)
Sorry it's not much, but I did bring you back a souvenir.

CAIRO
(smiles)
You know my favorite thing about your souvenirs?

Deacon shrugs.

CAIRO (CONT'D)
 When I get one, it means you're
 home.

They hug.

HORN HONKS. They turn as Leona pulls up.

LEONA
 You need a ride?

Leona drives them to the main gate. They stop next to the coffee kiosk due to the chaos of debris and people.

DEACON
 Back so soon?

LEONA
 Well, they filled the Gibbon with
 exploding drones, so I had to see
 how that was gonna play out.

She smiles at Deacon, then looks down.

LEONA (CONT'D)
 I saw my bag when I got into the
 Gibbon. That's it - one bag - my
 whole life. There was a time when
 escape was my only option. Now,
 it's my default setting.

She scans the crowd as she talks.

LEONA (CONT'D)
 I think now I might have something
 to stay for -

She looks toward the kiosk. Nick and Cassidy are kissing up against the wall. Her heart breaks.

Deacon follows her gaze and sees she's upset.

DEACON
 Sorry.

LEONA
 Yeah.

DEACON
 (sighs)
 Why don't you come over for dinner
 tonight...

LEONA

Nah. I think I need to clean my apartment.

DEACON

Sure? Rose was pretty upset she didn't get to play with you at the party. I'm sure she'd love a visit from her Auntie Leona.

LEONA

When did I become *Auntie* Leona?

DEACON

Few hours back, when you saved all our asses.

LEONA

(smirks)

OK.

CAIRO

And, since Deacon's a bit of a neat freak, maybe he can help you clean your apartment tomorrow.

Deacon and Leona look at each other and burst into laughter.

CAIRO (CONT'D)

What?

INT. GN HEADQUARTERS (GENEVA) - DAY

Zastrus watches reports from Pocatello. CONSPIRING REP #1 walks in.

CONSPIRING REP #1

The entire GN force has been rounded up.

ZASTRUS

(flippant)

Ah well, it was a bit of a long shot anyway.

CONSPIRING REP #1

What? Then why did we attack?

A sinister smile slides across his face.

ZASTRUS

To force her hand.

INT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - SUNRISE

It's quiet. Admin #2 approaches Sabina.

ADMIN #2
(carefully)
We need a decision Secretary
General.

SABINA
What choice do I have? He's left me
with no other option.

Admin #2 waits a moment.

ADMIN #2
I need a direct answer ma'am.

She looks at the temperature graphic - almost at the 99.1
Degree limit. She closes her eyes.

SABINA
Do it.

Admin #2 leaves.

She stares blankly through the window for a moment, then
looks at her phone.

INTERCUT - DEPT. OF UTILITIES/GN HEADQUARTERS

SABINA (CONT'D)
I have one last favor to ask.

ASSISTANT
What is it?

SABINA
Have you still got that video?

EXT. RESEARCH BASE - MORNING

Leona's car is still stuck behind the debris and people.

LOUD RUMBLE and GROUND SHAKES. People in the crowd turn to
look back at the base.

Leona checks her mirror and sees a plume of dust erupting
from the tunnel by the Mole. She turns the car and drives
over.

HAMILTON

Can you go up and survey the area,
just in case?

LEONA

Sure.

Deacon and Cairo get out. Leona speeds to a hangar.

She straps herself into a quadcopter and flies up. She scans around the base and colony.

When she's high enough, she sees it; through a gap between the upper branches of two Colossus trees: a mushroom cloud stretches into the atmosphere.

LEONA (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

HAMILTON (V.O.)

Leona? What is it?

LEONA

There's a mushroom cloud... Over
the Canadian colony.

Captain Hamilton drops the radio receiver. DISSIDENT PILOTS run to their fighters and take off.

INT. DEPT. OF UTILITIES - MORNING

A message flashes on the temperature graphic: "Temperature Stable." Sabina glares at Zastrus on a screen.

SABINA

You've just started a war. A war we
could have avoided.

ZASTRUS

This war was inevitable. The GN is
humanity's last chance, and it can
only function if every colony
cooperates.

SABINA

You mean, if every colony submits.

ZASTRUS

I mean, if every colony accepts the
truth that unless we act as one we
can't survive.

SABINA

Accepts the truth...

(scoffs)

Everybody on this planet needs to accept the truth, but in order to do that, they need to know it.

Sabina taps a button on her desk. Her screens start playing the Katoomba footage. The screens behind Zastrus start showing the footage too.

ZASTRUS

What are you doing?

Around the world, every screen echoes with the blasts and screams from the footage, while people watch in shock.

SABINA (V.O.)

I am Secretary General Sabina Aubert, and this is the truth about Katoomba...

THE END