

Uncommon Ground

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A cross hangs on the wall above the hospital bed. A heart monitor BEEPS as the line goes up and down every few seconds. KIM kneels at her MOTHER'S bedside holding the woman's withered hand and sobbing.

KIM

I...couldn't do anything...to save you.

Her mother looks at her lovingly and smiles. She speaks slow and quietly.

MOTHER

Don't worry about it baby. I'm so proud of you. The strong black woman that you've become.

Kim is shocked but regains some composure.

KIM

Why? I'm a high school drop-out. I work part-time as a stock girl. We don't have any insurance and the only reason you're even in a bed is because the cancer is so bad that you can't even walk.

MOTHER

Child, I've lived and I've always done the best that I could with you. You're pretty, smart. You're not pregnant or on drugs. You've a job. You've a good head on your shoulders and a kind heart. I couldn't ask the good lord for more.

Her mother goes into a wheezing fit that quickly subsides.

MOTHER

Stay strong and good things will happen to you. You're special.

KIM

There's nothing special about me.

Her mother frowns and Kim looks confused.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER

No. That's where you're wrong.
Promise me. Promise me that you'll
make your life better.

KIM

I can't promise that. I don't know
how to. Or what'll happen.

Her mother smiles again and speaks even softer.

MOTHER

No. You don't.

The machine's BEEP turns into a steady TONE as the line goes
flat. Kim throws her arms across her mother's body and sobs
uncontrollably.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. LARGE STORE - NIGHT

Kim, wearing a shirt with the store logo, is stocking
shelves when her MANAGER comes by.

MANAGER

Kim. I need some garbage taken out.

Kim looks at him with disgust.

KIM

Wasn't Rodney on garbage detail
tonight?

MANAGER

Yeah but he's not here, so I'm
asking you. It's just some boxes.

She pushes the stock aside.

KIM

Al'right.

EXT. LARGE STORE REAR - NIGHT

Kim wrestles a shopping cart full of cardboard boxes out of
the rear entrance. She stops and sticks a folded box in the
handleless door then continues towards the dumpster. She
looks up at the cloudless sky and sees a shooting star. She

(CONTINUED)

looks down to start dumping the cardboard and misses three additional shooting stars. Finishing the job, she turns as a bolt of lightning strikes nearby with a loud BOOM, blowing trash and debris. Kim throws her hands up to protect herself but is thrown off her feet.

Picking herself up, Kim wipes her tearing eyes and blinks several times to clear her vision. The shopping cart is on its side and the boxes lay scattered a few feet away. She staggers to the rear entrance only to find the cardboard has fallen out and the door is closed.

KIM

Shit.

She turns and starts walking towards the front of the store, when a PERSON stepped in shadow, steps from around the building. The person keeps one hand on the wall as they stagger forward. Kim stops mid-stride and looks around as if weighting her options.

KIM

Hey! Are you alright?

The person moves forward practically dragging a leg behind while keeping a steadying hand on the wall. The person stops and gestures with the free hand. Kim looks around nervously.

KIM

I said, are you alright?

The person starts moving forward again and she can see that its a very dark-skinned man. Kim takes a few steps back. The man falls to his knees. His hand on the wall keeping him from falling face forward. He speaks with a strange accent.

UNKNOWN MAN

Help me.

Kim strides forward and stops a few feet from the man. He doesn't look up.

UNKNOWN MAN

Help me. Need supplies.

KIM

Like medical supplies?

UNKNOWN MAN

Yes. Medical supplies.

She steps closer to take a better look. The man's chest and stomach look like he was shot with a shotgun. His shirt is in tatters and he is bleeding profusely.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
You're bleeding.

UNKNOWN MAN
Yes.

KIM
I'll go call 911.

UNKNOWN MAN
No. Tell no one. Need supplies.

KIM
Man, you need a doctor!

UNKNOWN MAN
No. Bring supplies. I pay.

Kim considers this for only a moment.

KIM
Whatcha need?

The man reaches in his pocket and pulls out a note and a very large wad of money. As he holds them out to her, he looks up and she sees that he has very deep blue eyes that almost seem to glow. She is captivated for a moment.

UNKNOWN MAN
Bring to me. Tell no one.

Kim stuffs the money in her pocket and reads the list.

KIM
Water, sugar, ammonia, potting soil, copper wire, batteries. Okay. How much of each? It doesn't say what size of anything.

UNKNOWN MAN
Much can carry. Last item, very important. Must have most.

Kim quickly retrieves her cart and rolls past the man.

KIM
Be right back.

INT. LARGE STORE - NIGHT

Kim stares at the list as she moves down aisles. She stops in front of the shelves containing different sized bags of sugar and throws a five pound bag in the cart.

KIM

I wonder how much he needs. How much did he give me anyway?

Kim reaches in her pocket and pulls out a wad of hundred dollar bills. Her eyes go wide. She looks at the sugar in her cart, then to the shelf, then to the cart again.

ANOTHER AISLE

Kim rolls down an aisle with two twenty-five pound bags in her cart. The manager stops her.

MANAGER

What are you doing?

KIM

I took out the garbage so now I'm on break.

MANAGER

What are you doing with those?

KIM

Buying them.

Kim angles the cart and moves past him quickly with her nose in the air. The manager looks on, surprised and frowning.

BATTERY DISPLAY

Kim pulls up to the battery display with her basket already full. She looks around and sees another empty cart. Pulling it over, she proceeds to throw batteries into it. She empties the whole display but frowns at the still almost empty cart. She thinks for a moment then spots the sign for the 'automotive department'.

EXT. LARGE STORE - NIGHT

The unknown man is sitting against the wall when Kim returns with two shopping carts. One filled with car batteries.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

I hope this is alright. They were really looking at me strange when I bought all this stuff.

The man looks up and gives her a half smile.

UNKNOWN MAN

Fine. Almost enough.

Kim looks a bit surprised but remembers and reaches in her pocket.

KIM

Got your change. Something like five thousand dollars left.

UNKNOWN MAN

You keep.

The man struggles to rise. He grabs his abdomen in pain as he steps forward. He places a bloody hand on the cart.

UNKNOWN MAN

Go. Leave supplies. Forget me.

KIM

But what are you going to do with all this stuff?

UNKNOWN MAN

Magic.

The man laughs long and loud, sending a chill up Kim's spine. She turns and half runs back to the store, looking back over her shoulder repeatedly.

INT. LARGE STORE - NIGHT

Kim is met at the door by the manager.

MANAGER

Are you off break yet?

KIM

Uh...yeah.

MANAGER

Good. Because those shelves are not gonna stock themselves.

Kim gives him a look.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
Yeah. Whatever.

Kim walks past the manager and gives him another look.

EXT. ARCTIC - DAY

On a glacier, a smoking crater sits alone. A ball of fire strikes near it, then a second and a third. From each hole a HUNTER wearing red and black armor from head to toe crawls up from steam. They each approach the first crater. Blue beams shoot from the first ones eyes and surveys the crater.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
A probe. Cleverly disguised with
his energy signature as a decoy.
We've been tricked.

HUNTER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
I'm sure that we sufficiently
damaged him enough to prevent him
from leaving the system.

HUNTER 3
(Subtitled alien language)
He'll not be able to elude us for
long. If he's on this rock.

Hunter 1 looks at his companions.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Define 'for long'. He's clever.
Cleverer than most of his kind.
That's how he was able to escape
our allies in the first place.
That's why we're here.

HUNTER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
Eventually we'll catch him.

HUNTER 3
(Subtitled alien language)
No doubt.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
No doubt, indeed, but until then we
may have to stay on this primitive
piece of rock for a while.

(CONTINUED)

Hunter 1 looks at the frozen tundra.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Come, we'll head for a warmer
climate and prepare.

Hunter 1 looks skyward and takes off like rocket. His companions look at each other and follow suit.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Colonel SEIVER stands behind the console next to the seated SERGEANT. They watch a screen with three dots moving across it slowly. The dots disappear and Seiver looks confused.

SEIVER
What happened?

SERGEANT
It appears they've landed, sir.

SEIVER
Landed? Where?

SERGEANT
The Artic Circle. They're somewhere
above Greenland.

SEIVER
What the hell did they land up
there for? They looking for Santa's
workshop or something?

SERGEANT
Santa Clause isn't--

Seiver gives the Sergeant a stern look.

SEIVER
Up until a few weeks ago, neither
were aliens. Now we got three of
em' having a picnic at the fucking
top of the world.

Seiver thinks for minute.

SEIVER
Sergeant, scramble an investigative
team and some drones. I want a
closer look at these aliens.

(CONTINUED)

A red light appears on the screen then three dots appear and start moving down the screen.

SERGEANT

Colonel! They're moving! Heading south.

SEIVER

We got any assets in the area? Anything close?

SERGEANT

No sir. Everything is hours away. The best we could do is remote satellite surveillance, if they'd ever stop moving.

SEIVER

Get me as much information as possible. Forget investigation, we need containment and capture. Get Washington on the line, we're gonna need backup.

SERGEANT

Yes sir!

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. POOR BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Kim awakens with a smile. She gets out of bed and heads for the nearby bathroom.

TINY BATHROOM

Kim brushes her teeth then checks herself in the mirror.

SMALL KITCHEN

Kim looks in the refrigerator and takes out a half of a sandwich and a soda. She frowns at the food but shrugs and closes the refrigerator with her foot.

SMALL LIVING ROOM

Kim, carrying a small box, sits on a worn out couch while a small, very old TV plays. She sets the box on the coffee table and opens it. Inside is money. Kim starts counting and stacking the cash. On the table next to one stack is a bill.

INT. RUNDOWN HALLWAY - MORNING

Kim walks down the stairs. As she comes to a landing, she looks at the door to an apartment with a frown, then continues down more stairs.

EXT. RUNDOWN BUILDING - MORNING

Kim exits the building and starts walking down the street.

INT/EXT. BUS - MORNING

Kim gets on the bus and takes an empty seat.

INT. CASHIER WINDOW - LATE MORNING

ISABELLA looks up to see Kim at the window.

ISABELLA

Hey girl. Making another payment?
You know the deadline for the whole
thing is coming up and that even if
you pass, you can't get your
certificate till the bill is paid.

KIM

They can have it.

Kim pulls out a stack of money with a rubber band around it and a bill and hands it through the window.

ISABELLA

Girl! What bank you rob?

KIM

Nunya.

ISABELLA

You ain't gotta be like that. If
you don't want me in yo' business--

(CONTINUED)

KIM

Right! Gettin' in other people's
business is yo' business.

Isabella says something in Spanish.

KIM

English. Or I'mma call immigration
on yo' high yellow ass.

ISABELLA

Call em'. I got my green card.

KIM

Bus passes don't count.

Both women burst out laughing.

ISABELLA

Where did you really get all this
money?

Isabella quickly counts the money and stamps the bill
'Paid'.

KIM

Some guy I did a favor for.

ISABELLA

Uhhnn. Yo' fast tail. Was it good?

Kim gets defensive.

KIM

You know I don't go there.

ISABELLA

A man who hands you cash is only
interested in one thing.

KIM

Its not like that. I was out back
at work. When this guy came up. He
was hurt bad. He gave me a bunch of
money to buy some groceries for
him. I did and he said I could keep
the change. It was over five grand.
I didn't know what else to do.

ISABELLA

What? Where he at? What's his name?
I'll do his grocery shopping for
five grand. If he's cute I might
even let him touch the merchandise.

(CONTINUED)

Isabella adjusts her bra.

KIM

I don't know who he is. I never got a name and he was gone by the time I got off. I didn't get a really good look at him but the brother had the bluest eyes I've ever seen.

ISABELLA

You mean contacts. Brothers don't have blue eyes.

KIM

No. I think this guy really had blue eyes. He was darker than me but his eyes were so blue that they almost seemed to glow in the dark. It was freaky yet captivating at the same time.

Isabella hands back the stamped bill and types on a keyboard.

ISABELLA

You're all set. You sure he didn't slip you something and take advantage while you were out?

Kim gives her a look.

KIM

I finished my shift and went home. I was up half the night deciding what to do with the money.

ISABELLA

Well, if you see mister moneybags again, tell him you have a friend who's a single, attractive, Latin beauty and doesn't mind shopping for a man.

Kim rolls her eyes.

KIM

Girl please. Yo' lazy butt. And what would Byron say?

ISABELLA

Don't even. He's history with a capitol 'H'. Speaking of being single, wanna hit the club this weekend since you got money?

(CONTINUED)

KIM

Since when have you ever needed
money to hit the club?

ISABELLA

Since my girl got cash.

Kim steps away quickly while smiling and putting the bill in
her purse.

KIM

Bye girl.

ISABELLA

Bye.

INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Kim opens a locker and pulls out a couple of text books. She
closes it as FELICIA walks past. They look at each other
with hate filled eyes. Giving each other the once over, Kim
turns away angrily while Felicia grins an evil grin.

INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY

The TEACHER at the head of the class goes over the lesson as
the STUDENTS take notes. Kim, sitting in front, looks
confused but writes in her notebook. Felicia sits in the
back barely paying attention. The teacher writes an equation
on the board then turns to the class.

TEACHER

Can anyone give the solution?

No one speaks up.

TEACHER

Anyone? A best guess?

Kim completes writing and looks up. She reluctantly raises
her hand and is immediately acknowledged.

KIM

I have seven?

TEACHER

Are you asking me or telling me?

KIM

I have seven.

(CONTINUED)

TEACHER

That is correct. Very good.

The teacher turns and starts explaining the equation while Kim sits smiling. One MALE STUDENT, a couple of seats down, turns and smiles at Kim. She ignores him and turns her attention back to the board. Felicia, sits back and rolls her eyes at the back of Kim's head.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Kim sits by herself at a large table studying. The table is littered with several books, each one having something to do with passing the G.E.D. exam. She looks around quickly, then pulls a sandwich half from her purse and starts nibbling.

INT/EXT. BUS - DAY

Kim gets on the crowded bus and has to stand. She looks uncomfortable and annoyed while holding onto her purse and a bag of fast food.

INT. RUNDOWN HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING

Kim climbs the stairs. When she gets to the landing, the door she looked at earlier opens. Her LANDLORD, a balding man in his underwear, steps out.

LANDLORD

Ms. Robinson. You know its past the first and you still owe for last month. If you wanna step inside, we might could work something out.

Kim frowns in disgust and pulls out a stack of bills. The landlord's eyes get big as she begins counting.

KIM

Last month...this month...and next month. And I want a receipt!

LANDLORD

Sure, sure. Anything you want. You wanna step inside while I--?

KIM

I'll pass. Just put the receipt in my mailbox.

Kim moves quickly past the man, who turns to lustfully watch her going up the steps.

INT. POOR BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

Kim changes her clothes and puts on a fresh pair of jeans and her work shirt. She glances out the window and sees a black Cadillac with huge rims and tinted windows. Kim curses to herself.

KIM
Oh shit. Not today.

Kim grabs her purse and leaves quickly.

EXT. BUILDING REAR - EVENING

Kim peeks out of the doorway. Looking both ways, she exits quickly. She makes it to the corner when she sees the Cadillac coming down the street. She takes cover behind a parked car as the bus appears down the street.

BUS STOP

Several bored looking people wait for the bus. The Cadillac drives very slowly past the bus stop. As the bus pulls up the Cadillac turns a corner. When the car has vanished from view Kim makes a mad dash for the bus, barely making it.

INT/EXT. BUS - EVENING

Kim gets on the bus and ducks behind a few of the PASSENGERS as she finds a seat in the middle. She keeps her head low and her face as hidden as possible.

INT. LARGE STORE - NIGHT

Kim absently refills a magazine rack. She picks up a stack of travel magazines with Australia on the cover. She drops the top copy. It falls and opens to an article about the Aborigines. She puts the pile down to retrieve the fallen magazine as JUDITH walks by.

KIM
Judith.

Judith stops and looks at Kim.

JUDITH
What can I do for you?

(CONTINUED)

KIM

I just wanted to ask you about the lightning strike last night.

JUDITH

What lightning strike?

KIM

Yesterday. Right outside the store.

Judith looks at Kim oddly.

JUDITH

I don't know what you're talking about. Last night was just as clear as tonight. No rain, no clouds.

Judith walks off shaking her head as Kim looks on, confused.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. SMALL LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Kim grabs her purse and heads for the door.

EXT. RUNDOWN BUILDING - MORNING

Kim walks towards the bus stop unconcerned when the black Cadillac rolls up from behind. She sees it too late to run as the doors open and RAGE and SHELLS exit the car.

RAGE

Yo Kimmie! Been lookin' fo' ya'.
How ya' been baby?

KIM

What do you want Wallace?

Rage gets an instant attitude. He and Shells approach.

RAGE

Da' name is Rage. I done told you befo'. And this is m'boy Shells, as in shotgun.

KIM

When we were three, you were Wallace. When my mother was giving you cookies after gym class, you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIM (cont'd)
were Wallace. Now you in the game.
Now you hard. Now you ain't
Wallace. Please.

Shells get a bit upset at her attitude.

SHELLS
You need to start showin' m'boy
some respect.

KIM
And you need to mind your business.

As Shells steps forward Rage puts up his arm to stop him.

RAGE
I'mma let that go right now. It's
early. I'm feeling good. You're
lookin' good. So how bout takin' a
ride with me and my homeboy. Got
some stuff that will get you lit.

Kim takes a step back.

KIM
I don't think so. You know I don't
do that. Haven't for a long time. I
got school.

RAGE
For what? To finish high school?
You still ain't gonna get no good
job with just a G.E.D.

KIM
You don't know that. Things could
change. Yo' girl Felicia is in the
same class.

RAGE
She's only in the class as part of
her community service. She told me.

KIM
See how much you know.

Rage makes a face and takes a step towards Kim.

RAGE
I know one thing, you betta change
yo' mind about gettin' in this car.

Kim looks at the car with fear in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
What about Felicia?

RAGE
What about her? I'm telling you one
mo' time. Get in the car.

Rage pulls up his shirt and shows a pistol. Kim is shocked.

KIM
No.

Coming up the street dressed in a dirty trench coat and wide
brimmed hat is the unknown man.

SHELLS
Yo' Rage. I don't think she wants
to party with us.

Rage and Shells both lunge at Kim grabbing her arms. Kim
starts shouting. Across the street, two PEOPLE waiting for
the bus watch silently.

KIM
STOP! HELP!

RAGE
SHUT UP!

Rage smacks Kim across the face. He looks over at the bus
stop and the two people turn away.

RAGE
I didn't think so.

Rage and Shells attempt to force Kim into the Cadillac as
the unknown man walks past. Ice suddenly forms under Rage's
and Shell's feet and they fall hard during which Rage's gun
comes out, hits the ice and goes flying beneath the car.
Kim, still standing, quickly turns and runs from the car for
the relative safety of a doorway.

DOORWAY

Kim makes it to the doorway and sees the unknown man at the
corner of the block. He looks back and she looks into his
deep blue eyes just before he disappears around a building.
She gives chase but upon turning the same corner, the
unknown man has vanished. She sees the bus coming.

CADILLAC

Rage and Shells have trouble getting to their feet as the bus appears. They watch Kim dart for the bus stop.

BUS

Kim gets on the bus and quickly takes a seat. She watches as Rage and Shells make it to their feet. They both look in her direction with anger. As the bus pulls away, Kim breaths a sigh of relief then shakes her head and starts crying.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

A bonfire burns as several aboriginal MEN in loincloths dance about to unseen DRUMS. An ancient SHAMAN sitting on a log looks skyward and frowns. He looks down and the drums stop. The men stop dancing and everyone turns to him. He looks to the trees and the men quickly fade into the darkness.

In the night sky above three extra bright stars appear. The Shaman watches the sky as the three stars become brighter and brighter. With a BOOM, the three stars disappear and the three hunters appear at the bonfire.

HUNTER 1

(Subtitled alien language)
This is much better. This place resonates with a low level of raw physic energy.

HUNTER 2

(Subtitled alien language)
Yes. Its almost comforting.

HUNTER 3

(Subtitled alien language)
Are we in danger from the indigenous wildlife?

Hunter 1 looks at the Shaman.

HUNTER 1

(Subtitled alien language)
Not likely. It should be safe enough to deploy the trackers.

(CONTINUED)

HUNTER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
We should rest and feed first.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
No! The trackers first then rest.

Hunter 3 turns to the Shaman.

HUNTER 3
(Subtitled alien language)
What of the primates on this world?

All three hunters look at the Shaman who only grimaces back.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
They're harmless but should they
choose to grow fangs, we would
simply remove those fangs.

The hunters sits cross-legged around the bonfire and remove their helmets, revealing almost human features. Their overly large black pupils gleam in the moonlight. Their hairless skin is a pale gray. Small tattoos dot their heads randomly. Hunter 3 sniffs the air and frowns.

HUNTER 3
(Subtitled alien language)
The air may be breathable but it
sure smells.

Hunter 1 turns to him.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
It makes no difference to the
mission.

The hunters remove their armor to the waist. Tattoos run down their backs and arms. Hunter 2 glances at the Shaman.

HUNTER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
They resemble us on the surface.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Yes. Yes, they do. Like deaf, dumb
and mute lost cousins.

Hunter 1 laughs heartily.

HUNTER 3
(Subtitled alien language)
Could you imagine having to eat one
of them to survive? Disgusting!

HUNTER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
Disgusting, but they probably taste
like chicken.

Hunters 2 and 3 laugh loudly.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Enough. Now. Summon the trackers.

Each hunter closes his eyes and doesn't move as if
meditating.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Seiver goes to a map of the world on the wall. He traces a
line from the Arctic Circle to Australia.

SEIVER
What are they looking for? The most
remote vacation spots on Earth?

Seiver turns to the Sergeant.

SEIVER
What's the status of our teams?

SERGEANT
Hours out sir. Whatever these
things are, sir, they seem to be
able to traverse intercontinental
distances in seconds.

SEIVER
Meaning that if they move again,
our people won't be able to keep
up.

SERGEANT
Correct sir.

Seiver runs a hand down his face.

SEIVER
Fine! Just get our men there as
soon as possible.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

The tattoos on the hunters backs start moving and joining together and form humanoid shapes that step off the hunters backs. The shapes continue to grow and form into six man-like shapes. The hunters open their eyes, they look at the TRACKERS and smile.

HUNTER 1
 (Subtitled alien language)
 The prey is somewhere on this
 world. Find it and bring it to me.

The trackers fly off in different directions. Hunter 1 turns to his companions.

HUNTER 1
 (Subtitled alien language)
 If it left any kind of significant
 energy signature, they'll trace it.

HUNTER 2
 (Subtitled alien language)
 I don't think that they'll be able
 to handle the prey.

HUNTER 1
 (Subtitled alien language)
 Doesn't matter. They'll force it
 into the open and we'll pounce.

HUNTER 3
 (Subtitled alien language)
 Now can we eat? I'm so hungry that
 even the smell of this world can't
 ruin my appetite.

HUNTER 2
 (Subtitled alien language)
 Bringing the trackers drains. I'm
 almost too weak to eat. I don't
 like being in such a weakened state
 out in the open.

HUNTER 1
 (Subtitled alien language)
 Neither do I.

Hunter 1 glances at the Shaman.

HUNTER 1
 (Subtitled alien language)
 But we have nothing to fear.

EXT. RUNDOWN BUILDING - EVENING

Kim approaches her building only to see the unknown man, in trench coat and hat, sitting on the steps. She stops and pauses until he looks up at her with his blue eyes.

KIM

It's you.

Kim approaches warily.

KIM

What are you doing here?

UNKNOWN MAN

Waiting for you.

She comes a bit closer.

KIM

That thing with Rage...that was you?

UNKNOWN MAN

Yes. Males looked to hurt you.

Kim looks a bit sad.

UNKNOWN MAN

You not at fault. They not return.

KIM

Did you do something to them.

The unknown man taps his temple and smiles.

UNKNOWN MAN

Interest gone. Not look again.

Kim looks confused but approaches. She is about to sit but looks at him.

KIM

You aren't going to try anything are you?

The unknown man looks at her confused, so she sits.

KIM

You're not from around here are you?

(CONTINUED)

UNKNOWN MAN

No. Far away.

Kim looks around.

KIM

You from Africa? Nigeria or something?

He looks at her even more confused.

KIM

Never mind. So why are you waiting on me?

The man pulls out a wad of cash and holds it up to Kim.

UNKNOWN MAN

I want you--

She scoots away.

KIM

Uhh, no. It aint that kind of party.

UNKNOWN MAN

Want you help.

KIM

Put that away.

The man puts away the money.

KIM

Why do you want my help? You've got wads of cash growing out of your pockets.

UNKNOWN MAN

Teach me.

KIM

Teach you what?

UNKNOWN MAN

Everything. Must fit in.

KIM

I get it. You're an alien in hiding and you need to blend in.

Kim looks around again as the man pulls the money again.

(CONTINUED)

UNKNOWN MAN

I pay.

Kim quickly puts a hand over the money and pushes it back towards him.

KIM

The first thing you gotta know when in the hood is not to go around flashing a bank roll. It can attract too much of the wrong attention very quickly.

UNKNOWN MAN

You teach, I pay?

Kim frowns but looks into his eyes.

KIM

Okay. I'll teach you but no funny business. And if immigration shows up I don't know you. Got it?

Kim gets to her feet. The man does the same.

KIM

I teach you and we'll figure out a fair salary later. This is business. I am not your friend, girlfriend, boo or none of that.

Kim takes a step up, followed by the man. She stops him.

KIM

Uh no. You go that way.

Kim points to the street. His eyes follow.

KIM

Just because you know where I live doesn't mean you get to come up.

Kim looks him up and down.

KIM

Tell you what. Meet me here tomorrow at sunrise and bring your wad. We'll get you some new clothes and a shower.

The man looks confused again.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
Do you know how to read?

UNKNOWN MAN
Many things.

KIM
Can you read English?

UNKNOWN MAN
Some.

KIM
Fine I'll take you to the library
and you can stay there while I'm in
class.

The man looks at her brightly.

KIM
By the way, I don't even know your
name. What do they call you?

He looks at her oddly. Kim puts her hands on her hips.

KIM
Money and no name. I should be so
lucky.

Kim throws her hands down in disgust.

KIM
Okay. Guess I'll have to name you.

Kim looks at him and thinks a moment.

KIM
You look like a Fred. So from now
on I'll just call you Fred.

Fred smiles at her.

FRED
I Fred.

KIM
Just remember, be here at sunrise.

Kim turns and climbs the last steps and grabs the door
handle. She turns back to say something else.

KIM
And one more thing--

Fred is gone. She looks around but he's nowhere to be seen.
She quickly enters the building.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. TINY BATHROOM - EARLY MORNING

Kim lumbers into the bathroom sleepily. She turns on the tap, grabs her toothbrush and adds toothpaste. She starts brushing her teeth when she becomes distracted. Kim takes a look out the window and standing in front of the building is Fred. She almost chokes on her toothbrush.

EXT. RUNDOWN BUILDING - EARLY MORNING

Fred waits patiently as Kim comes out of the building quickly carrying a shopping bag. She appears upset.

KIM
What are you doing?

FRED
Waiting on you.

Kim looks around.

KIM
How long have you been out here?

FRED
Don't know.

KIM
Never mind. Follow me.

They walk towards the corner.

CORNER

At the corner, Kim looks back and forth warily. She slowly starts across the street with Fred following casually.

FRED
Not come back.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
Who?

FRED
Rage and other.

BUS STOP

Reaching the bus stop, Kim turns to Fred.

KIM
How do you know?

Fred touches his temple.

FRED
They simple. Make no interest.

Kim grabs his arm as two PEOPLE approach. She lowers his arm and her voice.

KIM
Stop drawing attention to yourself.

The bus appears in the distance.

KIM
Got any money?

Fred pulls out a wad of money but puts it away with a look from Kim.

KIM
I meant change for the bus.

Fred shrugs.

KIM
Looks like I'll have to pay for both of us.

She pulls out a few dollars.

KIM
This is going on your tab.

Rage's Cadillac turns the corner. Kim grabs Fred's arm with both hands in terror. They both watch the as car passes by without stopping. Fred smiles.

FRED
Not interested again.

Kim looks up at Fred, speechless. She lets go as the bus pulls up.

INT. SCHOOL HALL - MORNING

Kim and Fred walk down a nearly empty hall. Stopping in front of a door marked 'gym'. She hands him the bag.

KIM
First thing you need is a shower. The locker rooms have them. Here are some clothes from an ex-boyfriend and a towel. You're lucky. Those were in the laundry when I burned up all his other ones. Long story. Don't ask.

Fred looks confused.

KIM
Don't worry about it. Just go take a shower and put your old clothes in the bag.

Fred still looks confused.

KIM
Don't they have showers where you come from? Look, it's like this.

Kim pantomimes washing under her arms. A look of understanding crosses Fred's face.

KIM
The gym is usually empty this early, so you shouldn't run into anyone. But if you do, just tell them you're a foreign exchange student.

Fred shakes his head in a non-understanding way.

KIM
You still don't understand do you? Look, I'll walk you in. You'd probably wind up in the wrong one.

INT. GYM - MORNING

Kim and Fred cross the large empty gym. They stop at the doorway to the locker rooms. Kim points to the signs.

KIM

On the left are the womens', on the right is where you're going.

Fred walks forward hesitantly.

KIM

I'll be out here waiting.

Fred looks back one last time then enters the darkened corridor. Kim takes a seat and wonders to herself.

KIM

Girl, what have you gotten yourself into now? He barely speaks English. What would mom say about this?

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. GYM - MORNING

Kim sits on the bleacher reading something on her phone when Fred comes out with the shopping bag in hand. He looks much cleaner and neater in the newer clothes.

FRED

Done.

Kim looks him up and down.

KIM

You clean up real good.

Kim rises while putting her phone away.

KIM

C'mon, I got class.

INT. LIBRARY - MORNING

Kim leads Fred to a table in the library.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

This is the library. Its small but you should be able to find enough to keep you busy for a while.

Kim points to a corner.

KIM

You may want to start over there in the kid's section. I think they have 'Hooked on Phonics'. And boy do you need it.

Fred looks at Kim puzzled. Kim looks at her watch.

KIM

I gotta fly. Good luck.

Kim dashes off.

CHILDREN'S SECTION

Fred wanders around around, puzzled at the children's drawings and toys. The LIBRARIAN comes up to him.

LIBRARIAN

Can I help you?

Fred looks at her and smiles.

FRED

Need book. 'Hooked on Phonics'.

The woman looks at Fred's eyes in surprise.

LIBRARIAN

Oh. You have the most unusually blue eyes. Are you a student here?

FRED

Foreign exchange.

LIBRARIAN

Oh. I understand. Actually 'Hooked on Phonics' is a set of CDs. I believe we have an old copy in our audio-video section.

AUDIO-VISUAL SECTION

The librarian leads Fred to a row of old computers. She sits him down and puts a set of headphones over his ears. She inserts the first CD and starts the program.

LIBRARIAN

If you need anything else just call me. I'm Betty, and you are?

FRED

Fred.

Fred smiles at her and starts the lesson. The librarian reluctantly wanders off.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Kim is at her locker when Felicia shows up.

FELICIA

What did you do to Rage?

KIM

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

FELICIA

Rage told me that he and his boy were going to take you for a ride. Now he don't want nothing to do with you. After all I did--

KIM

It was you! You put them up to it! I should kill you where you stand!

Felicia backs up and raises her fists in a fighting stance.

FELICIA

Just try it bitch! C'mon!

Kim slams her locker shut and Felicia jumps.

KIM

You aint worth it. I aint going to jail for you. But know this. From now on you betta watch yo' back. Cause when you least expect it!

Felicia backs away before turning to run.

INT. CLASS ROOM - MORNING

Kim enters the classroom and looks over the class. Felicia's seat is empty. Kim sits down and the male student, a couple of seats down, smiles at her. She gives him an angry look and he quickly turns to his notebook. She taps her pen on her notebook angrily.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Kim enter the library and Fred is not at the table where she left him. She finds him in the center of the library at the biggest table surrounded by piles and piles of books. He flips the pages of one book very quickly until he reaches the end. He looks up at Kim.

FRED

Hello Kim. Finished your classes?

Kim looks at him coldly.

KIM

We're leaving.

FRED

Where to?

An evil grin flashes across her face.

KIM

Shopping.

The librarian steps up with an arm full of books.

LIBRARIAN

Done for the day Fred?

Fred glances at Kim.

FRED

I believe so. Thank you for your time Betty.

Betty sets the books down.

LIBRARIAN

If you need anything--

The librarians words are cut off by a look from Kim. Fred stands and walks over to Kim. She starts walking towards the door. Fred looks back to see disappointment on the librarian's face.

INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Kim walks quickly and Fred does his best to keep up.

KIM
Who was that?

FRED
That was Betty, the librarian.

KIM
You two seemed awful close.

FRED
It was nothing. Not that it matters. I recall someone saying, 'I am not your friend, girlfriend, boo or none of that'.

She stops and turns to him with an angry glare.

FRED
What? We have a business arrangement. If you don't want to continue.

KIM
Fine. If I didn't need the money.

Kim stomps off with Fred casually following.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Kim still looks angry but walks with Fred.

KIM
How come you talk so good now?

FRED
When I arrived I had a very limited understanding of your language. Once I learned the rules, I figured out that the rules are really just a bunch of generalizations that contradict themselves when convenient. Probably due to most of your language being borrowed from older languages then mashed together and mispronounced.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

You got all that from 'Hooked on Phonics'?

FRED

No. Actually once I learned to really read your language, I read most of the library. The books on English grammar were most confusing until I began to treat them like quantum physics.

MALL ENTRANCE

They reach the entrance to the mall and stop outside several thick glass doors.

FRED

Betty was most helpful in that regard. I think she likes me. If I'm correctly interpreting the romance novels I read.

Kim makes a face and Fred looks amused.

FRED

Interesting how you've decided that we're not together but you've some form of exclusivity over me. I believe that's called jealousy.

Kim gets red in the face and opens one of the doors.

KIM

Oh! I can't stand you.

Fred follows even more amused.

INT. MALL - DAY

Kim leads a fascinated Fred through the mall. Fred looks from shop to shop as they pass.

KIM

This is one of the bigger malls. Has pretty much anything you could want. Food, clothes, sporting goods. As long as you have money.

They pass a window full of monitors. Kim and Fred appear on most of the monitors as they pass. Fred stops to look.

(CONTINUED)

FRED
Kim. What's this?

Kim returns.

KIM
Don't tell me they don't have TVs
where you come from.

FRED
T.V...?

KIM
A form of entertainment, unless you
count the news. Some people don't
do nothin' but watch it all day
long. Couch potatoes. C'mon, we
gotta go.

Kim drags Fred away.

INT. MENS STORE - DAY

Kim and Fred look over several racks of clothes as a
SALESMAN approaches.

SALESMAN
What can I do for ya'll today?

KIM
He needs a wardrobe.

The salesman circles Fred looking him up and down. Fred
looks back at him oddly.

FRED
I need to blend in.

SALESMAN
Yo, I got just what you need. I can
make you blend and stand out, all
at the same time. Especially with
those contacts.

Fred looks at Kim who only giggles a bit. The salesman moves
from rack to rack picking out clothes.

DRESSING ROOM

The salesman hands Fred a stack of clothes and holds open the dressing room door. Fred gives Kim a fearful look then steps in.

A minute later Fred steps out and Kim bursts out laughing.

FRED

What?

KIM

You look like MC Hammer dipped in a bag of skittles.

FRED

Who?

Fred gives the salesman an angry look and steps back into the dressing room. A few more changes that cause Kim amusement make Fred frustrated. He steps out again in a blazer and brightly colored clothes.

KIM

You look like a reject from Miami Vice.

FRED

It was on TV before we came in here.

Fred looks dejected. Kim looks at him and starts picking up clothes. She hands him a pile and he goes back into the changing room. He comes out a moment later in a black jacket, dress shirt and slacks.

SALESMAN

That's pretty square. You might as well put him in a suit. He looks so corporate.

FRED

Perfect.

KIM

Get him a few more outfits and put it on his tab. And hurry up, I'm getting hungry.

INT. MALL - DAY

Kim and Fred pass an optical store. Fred stops to look.

FRED
What are those?

KIM
What? They don't have glasses where
you're from?

Fred looks confused.

KIM
They're for correcting peoples
eyesight. You can wear those or
contacts.

FRED
Contacts?

KIM
Lenses that you put in your eyes.
By the way, that reminds me. You
need a pair.

FRED
I see just fine.

KIM
They can also be used to change
your eye color. Lets face it, dark
skinned brothers don't have blue
eyes. It just looks weird.

Fred glances around the mall at other people and frowns. He looks at an advertisement for color contacts then in a nearby mirror.

FRED
Ok. How's this?

KIM
How's what?

Kim looks at Fred and is shocked. His eyes are brown.

KIM
How'd you do that? Never mind. At
least you don't stand out now.
C'mon, you're treating for lunch.

INT. FOOD COURT - DAY

Kim and Fred are exiting the food court when Isabella appears out of nowhere and grabs Kim by the arm.

ISABELLA

Hey girl!

Isabella turns to Fred as she pulls Kim to the side.

ISABELLA

Isabella. Nice meeting you. Would you excuse us for a moment?

Fred stands around, unsure what to do.

ISABELLA

Is that the mystery man? He doesn't have blue eyes. Told you girl. He just took the contacts out. He is cute. Can I have him?

KIM

He's not a puppy. I can't just give him to you.

ISABELLA

I see. So, you just wanna keep him for yourself.

KIM

I do not!

ISABELLA

That's alright. You saw him first. But if you change your mind, just remember to give him my number. And if you're coming to the club this weekend, bring him.

Isabella walks off. Kim looks at Fred angrily. She approaches and Fred looks extremely confused.

FRED

I--

Kim holds up her hand to stop him mid-sentence.

KIM

I don't wanna hear it.

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE - DAY

A ring-tailed lemur runs across Tracker 1's path. The tracker stops and looks back and forth.

SUPERIMPOSE: Tsaranoro Valley, Madagascar

Tracker 1 walks into a village. The brown skinned PEOPLE don't seem to notice him at first, then one WOMAN screams. The rest of the people look at him blankly.

TRACKER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
No trace energy readings detected
on this island. Moving to the next.

The tracker flies straight up, leaving the people and one lemur in awe.

EXT. PYRAMID - DAY

Tracker 2 walks up to a pyramid and looks around.

SUPERIMPOSE: Caral Pyramid Complex, Peru

TRACKER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
Residual high energy signatures
detected. Incompatible waveform.
None belong to subject. Resuming
search.

The tracker begins walking into the desert.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

A proboscis monkey sits in a tree eating fruit.

SUPERIMPOSE: Taman Negara, Malaysia

Tracker 3 walks beneath the tree and past it. Stepping out of the jungle, he sees a road. A car zooms past.

TRACKER 3
(Subtitled alien language)
Scattered low energy signatures.
Incompatible waveform. None belong
to subject. Native life forms using
primitive transportation detected.
Unimportant. Resuming search.

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

Two HIKERS round a bend and stop for a rest.

SUPERIMPOSE: Near Carmanah Lighthouse, Canada

Tracker 4 walks out of the treeline, surprising the hikers. The tracker looks at the hikers, who promptly run off.

TRACKER 4

No trace energy signatures
detected. Beginning sweep.

EXT. FROZEN TUNDRA - DARK

Tracker 5 looks around at snow, snow, and more snow.

SUPERIMPOSE: South Pole, Antartica

TRACKER 5

(Subtitled alien language)
Multiple high energy signatures
detected below the surface. Varying
incompatible waveform. None belong
to subject. Resuming search.

EXT. RUNDOWN RESIDENTIAL - DAY

Several THUGS stand around on the corner.

SUPERIMPOSE: Compton, California

A large car approaches slowly. By the time one of the thugs notices the car, windows are coming down and several guns are coming out. The thugs scatter in different directions. GUNFIRE erupts as the car speeds up. TRACKER 6 steps onto the road and the car swerves to miss. The car speeds up even faster as a few of the thugs begin to return fire. A few bullets PING off the tracker.

TRACKER 6

(Subtitled alien language)
Multiple low and high level energy
signatures detected. Incompatible
waveforms. None belong to subject.
Unit is under attack by hostile
native lifeforms using projectile
type weapons. No damage, shields
holding. Requesting orders.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

Hunter 1 looks up from his meditations.

HUNTER 1
Report received. Destroy all
hostile lifeforms.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Kim and Fred walk towards a bus stop in downtown. Fred still wears his new clothes.

FRED
Didn't you have to go to work?

KIM
The good thing about being
part-time is that I don't work
every night. The bad is I don't get
paid for the nights I don't work.

FRED
Are you sure it was alright for me
to have the store send all the rest
of those clothes to your place
until I get one. I mean, heaven
forbid, I might have to actually
come up and get them one day.

Kim looks away while smiling.

FRED
Oh! Was that a smile?

Kim looks at him with a frown that turns into a smirk.

FRED
Oh! Yes it was! I saw a smile.

Kim's smirk turns into a full smile.

FRED
I knew it. I knew it. You do smile
on occasion.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
Okay. For buying me a couple of new outfits, I guess you've earned one.

FRED
When I was a General, I--

KIM
General? You've gotta be kidding me. You don't look like you could whip cream much less lead an army.

BUS STOP

SIRENS blare as three police cars zoom past, disappearing down the street. Fred looks a bit worried and Kim notices.

KIM
It's fine. Crime hits downtown too. Only difference is that the cops around here actually show up. Hope the bus comes soon.

Fred grabs Kim and shoves her against the building.

KIM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

The bus comes flying down the street, on its side and on fire. Kim looks at Fred.

FRED
I think we better go this way.

Fred indicates a nearby alley. Kim answers in shock.

KIM
Uh, yeah. I think so too.

EXT. ALLEY - EVENING

Fred and Kim dash down the alley.

KIM
Why do I get the feeling you know what's going on?

FRED
Remember when I mentioned that I was a General. Well my planet is at war with--

(CONTINUED)

KIM

Planet? You mean like outer space?

FRED

Yeah. Well, my planet was suddenly attacked by this other planet. I was one of the few people to lead a successful counter-attack, so I was drafted and made a general. The war went on for a long time and then suddenly it wasn't going in our favor, so it was decided that a bunch of us would take all of our top secrets and evacuate to insure that the enemy would never get their hands on them.

KIM

And you came here?

FRED

Actually, three of them tracked me during my escape. They caught up to me when I entered your system. We had a fire fight in space and I was critically wounded. I threw them off my scent while practically crash landing here.

Fred and Kim stop at the mouth of the alley.

FRED

I didn't have a choice.

KIM

You're either crazy or delusional.

FRED

Neither. Now hurry! I have an idea!

EXT. MALL - NIGHT

Fred walks up to the mall entrance and reaches for the door.

KIM

Wait. The mall's closed.

Fred opens the door.

FRED

Fortunately I don't need a key.

Kim looks surprised.

(CONTINUED)

FRED
Telekinesis. Your people may evolve
enough to develop it one day.

Fred holds the door and lets Kim through.

FRED
But I doubt it.

INT. MALL - NIGHT

Fred and Kim run through the mall. Fred appears searching for something. He spots a sporting goods store and heads inside. Kim follows.

PAINTBALL ISLE

Fred snatches the fatigues off a mannequin and dashes into a dressing room. Kim continues to follow.

DRESSING ROOM

Fred starts taking off his pants.

KIM
What are you doing?

FRED
Keep your voice down!

KIM
I am not about to--

FRED
Please! Don't flatter yourself
Earth girl. I'm just getting ready
for battle.

Kim looks a bit disappointed but shakes it off.

KIM
Can't you just use some advanced
technology to--?

FRED
To what? It'd be like sending up a
flare. They'd detect it the moment
I did. And I'm certainly not ready
for them just yet.

Fred finishes dressing.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

Stay here. I'll be back in a sec.

Fred exits. Kim rubs her arms and looks around.

SPORTING GOODS STORE

Fred roams through the store looking high and low. He comes to the paintball section and picks up a mask and the largest weapon on the shelf. He stuffs packs of paintballs and CO2 containers into his fatigue pockets.

CAMPING ISLE

Fred grabs different bottles and cans off the shelves and an emergency a medical kit. He grabs a bucket and pours the cans and bottles into it. Stirring the mixture, he carefully pours in liquid from the medical kit. He takes the paintball mask and removes the goggles. He then dips the mask into the bucket and sets it aside. He pulls the paintballs from his pockets and dumps them into the bucket. He takes out a pocket knife and carves symbols into the mask. He reattaches the goggles and puts the mask on.

FRED

I knew you wouldn't stay where I told you.

Fred turns to Kim.

KIM

What are you wearing? What are those symbols?

FRED

Protection. The symbols are a type of circuit for conducting energy.

KIM

A type of force field?

FRED

Funny. Its to prevent them from identifying me. The hunters don't know what I look like.

Fred picks up some netting and another bucket. Laying the netting across the second bucket, he dumps the contents of the first bucket into it. Gathering the the edges of the netting, he ties them together.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

This is what we're going to do. I'm going out to fight whatever they've sent against me. You're going to go call for help. Police, firemen, a cab, anything that'll get you home. I'll meet you there when I'm done.

KIM

Fight, fight with what?

Fred picks up the paintball gun with one hand and holds up the dripping paintballs with the other. Kim throws up her hands in frustration.

KIM

What are you gonna do with that?

FRED

Hopefully prevent more of your people dying. I can win but I can't protect you and fight at the same time. If you want to live, go home. Be safe. I'll see you tomorrow.

Fred runs out of the store at top speed. Kim pulls out her cell phone and dials '9-1-1'.

EXT. ROOF TOP - NIGHT

Fred loads up the paintball gun and looks through the gun scope, waiting.

FRED

Show yourself.

Down on the street Tracker 6 steps into view. Fred adjusts the sights. When the tracker comes into range Fred opens fire. Most of the shots miss but a couple strike Tracker 6 in the head. Fred turns around as Tracker 6 lands on the roof. Fred unleashes a few more shots that seem to strike the tracker harmlessly. Tracker 6 raises its arm and a blast of energy lances out, barely missing Fred.

FRED

(Subtitled alien language)
Hmmm...A little chemistry and your targeting system is all messed up.

Fred drops the gun as the tracker examines its arm.

(CONTINUED)

FRED
(Subtitled alien language)
Now that I've leveled the playing
field, lets dance.

Fred reaches in his pocket and pulls out a metal rod.

FRED
(Subtitled alien language)
Your masters were over confident to
just send one of you.

Tracker 6 charges Fred.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Kim stands by a street light outside the mall when Fred
lands with a BOOM, leaving a path in the concrete.

KIM
OH SHIT!

Fred rises slowly and shakes the dust off. In the distance
Fred sees Tracker 6 coming again. Fred looks down and around
his feet for something.

FRED
Oh shit!

Fred makes a fist and an armored gauntlet appears over his
hand. Fred charges the tracker, who only picks up speed. As
the two are about to collide Fred goes into a baseball
slide, striking Tracker 6 in the foot. The trackers momentum
sending it flying, to partially embeds into the concrete
upon impact. Fred leaps to his feet, jumps on the tracker
and a large spike extends from the gauntlet.

FRED
Die you bastard!

Before Tracker 6 can extricate itself from the pavement,
Fred stabs the spike into the tracker's back. A piercing
WAIL sounds and Fred rolls and covers his head. Tracker 6
vanishes in a flash of light.

NEARBY

Kim looks down and sees a metal rod. Picking it up, she
examines it then puts it in her purse. As Fred approaches
the gauntlet disappears. Pulls off the mask, he tosses it
aside.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

Kim. I thought you went home.

KIM

I...I...was waiting on a cab.

FRED

Oh good. Never rode in a cab before. Be here soon?

KIM

Yeah.

EXT. WILDERNESS - MORNING

Hunter 1 looks angry.

HUNTER 1

(Subtitled alien language)
Tracker 6 is dead. The prey has killed it somehow.

HUNTER 2

(Subtitled alien language)
Are you sure?

HUNTER 1

(Subtitled alien language)
None of the primitives could have done it.

The hunters rise from the barely smoking bonfire.

HUNTER 3

(Subtitled alien language)
We should gather the rest and go after it.

HUNTER 1

(Subtitled alien language)
Agreed.

The hunters walk past a pike with the Shaman's head on it. The sounds of multiple helicopter ROTORS fill the air as the wind kicks up. Hunter 1 smiles.

HUNTER 1

(Subtitled alien language)
I suddenly feel that the hunt will have to wait a little while longer.

Apache helicopters top the rise and open fire.

EXT. RUNDOWN BUILDING - NIGHT

Kim exits the cab as Fred pays. He quickly exits and follows her to the steps.

FRED
You haven't said a word since we left the mall.

Kim turns to him.

KIM
You're an alien. An alien alien.

FRED
Look, I know that this is a lot to take in and if you don't want to continue our arrangement I totally understand. But don't be too hasty things may look different in the morning. Here, for your troubles.

Fred pulls out a wad of cash and hands Kim a few bills.

FRED
Right now I have to go look for something that I lost during the fight. A metal rod.

Kim puts the cash into her purse and pulls out a metal rod.

FRED
Oh good. You've saved me some time.

She hands over the rod and turns to go up the steps.

FRED
Thank you. Get some rest. I have to prepare just in case they come back, so I won't be here tomorrow. You can let me know your decision when I see you again.

Kim disappears into the building.

INT. POOR BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kim sits in bed with the covers pulled up to her chest. A blank stare on her face. She whispers to the empty room.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

Momma, tell me what to do. I don't know what to do. What should I do?

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY

Kim sits nervously among the other students. The teacher walks into class with a cardboard box. He sets the box down on the desk, reaches in and pulls out a workbook. Holding it up, he addresses the class.

TEACHER

Here are your official G.E.D. test booklets. Do not open them until I say so. You will each have one hour to complete the tests. When you are done you may leave.

The teacher points to the male student.

TEACHER

Can you pass these out?

The student takes a stack and begins handing them out.

TEACHER

Cheating will not be tolerated. If you're caught cheating its an automatic fail. Results will be back tomorrow. Good luck people.

The teacher looks at the clock as Kim says a silent prayer.

TEACHER

And...begin.

The students rip open the test and start writing.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

Time has passed and at the forty minute mark Kim looks around to see that everyone else is still working. She stands and brings her test up front. The teacher looks at her surprised. He speaks quietly to her.

(CONTINUED)

TEACHER

You sure? Don't you want the rest
of your time?

KIM

No. I don't want to second guess
myself. Either I pass or I don't.

Kim looks back and notices Felicia cheating off the student
next to her. She smirks evilly, turns to the teacher and
whispers quietly in his ear.

KIM

If I were you, I'd watch that one
in the back.

The teacher glances over Kim's shoulder at Felicia then back
to Kim and nods. Kim walks out smiling.

INT. LARGE STORE - NIGHT

Kim walks into the store and the manager is waiting.

MANAGER

Kim. Can I talk to you?

KIM

Uh...sure.

Kim follows the manager towards the back.

INT. SHABBY OFFICE - NIGHT

The manager enters and holds the door for Kim.

MANAGER

Have a seat.

Kim sits down and the manager sits across from her.

MANAGER

I hate to do this.

Kim's face tightens as she stares at him.

MANAGER

Have you heard of the Deeptap?

KIM

Deep tap?

The manager pulls out a folder and tosses it on the desk.

(CONTINUED)

MANAGER

D.E.E.P.T.A.P., disadvantaged employee empowerment, placement, training and advancement program. The corporate office started this new program in order to comply with new federal regulations. The government has mandated that at least one part-time employee from each district is to be given the opportunity to not only become full time but an assistant manager in training.

Kim snatches the folder and looks through the paperwork. Her eyes widen with excitement.

KIM

And I've been chosen?

MANAGER

I was going to give it to Rodney but he didn't show up tonight. So, do you want the job?

Kim looks at him.

KIM

Yes! I'll take it.

MANAGER

Now the program requires that you have a high school diploma. I reviewed your file and didn't see where you had graduated anywhere.

KIM

I'm about to get my G.E.D., a high school equivalency certificate.

MANAGER

Good enough. When will you have it?

KIM

I'll know by tomorrow.

The manager looks at her and frowns.

MANAGER

Okay. You have one week to get me that certificate to go with your application or the job goes to someone else.

INT. LARGE STORE - NIGHT

Kim exits the manager's office with the biggest smile on her face. She jumps up and down.

KIM
YES! Finally things are turning
around.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. POOR BEDROOM - MORNING

Kim awakens to the CHIMES of her cell phone. She opens it and sees a text message from Isabella. She opens the message and it has just two words, 'You passed'. Kim wipes her eyes with a free hand then the meaning hits her. She leaps out of bed while dialing her cell. Putting it to her ear she practically yells in the phone.

KIM
Hello! Girl are you serious?

ISABELLA (O.S.)
I just got here and they were
printing out the results to post on
the boards when I saw your name!

KIM
Really!

ISABELLA (O.S.)
Really!

Both women scream excitedly.

KIM
I'll throw on some clothes and be
right there. I'm on the way.

Kim ends the call and rushes to her dresser.

TINY BATHROOM

Kim turns on the water and starts brushing her teeth. She looks at the window but goes back to brushing her teeth. She finishes brushing and looks at the window. She turns back to the mirror then back to the window.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

Dammit!

She looks out the window and throws up her hands in disgust. On the street below, Fred stands in front of her building waiting patiently.

EXT. RUNDOWN BUILDING - MORNING

Fred watches as Kim comes down the stairs. She stops in front of him and looks him up and down.

KIM

I don't know what's going on so I can't make a fair decision. Things are just beginning to go good for the first time in my life--

FRED

I understand but we need to talk. I need to explain myself. Come with me and then you can decide. You don't have class today, do you?

Kim sighs and shakes her head frowning.

KIM

Okay. This evening? I'm off.

FRED

No, now. I promise that nothing will happen to you but we have a long way to go and a short time to get there. And I have to get the vehicle back before nightfall.

KIM

What vehicle?

Kim notices an SUV parked nearby and is shocked.

KIM

Where did you get that? Did you steal it?

FRED

Rental car.

KIM

You don't have a license.

Fred whips out a driver's license with the name 'Fred Smith' and her address on it.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

How the hell? And why does it have my address on it?

FRED

As far as why, since we used your address to ship my clothes I took the liberty. As far as how, that's part of what I have to explain to you. The more time we spend here talking the less time I have to explain what's going on.

KIM

Let's go.

Fred and Kim head for the SUV.

KIM

You can drive?

FRED

I've traveled light years in the blink of an eye. I learned your entire language in a matter of hours. And you think I couldn't figure out how to operate your primitive vehicles? Woman please.

INT/EXT. SUV - MORNING

Kim looks as Fred drives down the empty highway.

KIM

So tell me what's going on.

FRED

As I mentioned before, my people are at war with another less advanced race. They have better weapons but we have better defenses. It was a war of attrition for a very long time until they were finally able to figure out enough of our technology to turn the tide.

KIM

If your people are so advanced--

(CONTINUED)

FRED

We were long past using weapons on each other so we didn't have any, at first.

KIM

But I saw you use one to kill that guy that disappeared.

FRED

That was a gauntlet. Originally a training weapon. At one time it was only used for sports, like your martial arts. After the invaders came we modified them to be real hand-to-hand weapons.

Fred pulls the truck up to an abandoned farmhouse. They both exit the vehicle and walk towards the house.

FRED

We're here.

KIM

This is where you live?

FRED

Basically. Just in case the hunters find, me I'd be able to see them coming, plus none of you indigenous lifeforms to get in the way. Its also remote enough to where I can work on leaving undisturbed.

Kim looks at him oddly as he opens the door.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Kim walks in and the house is neat, clean and even modern looking. They pass a staircase and at the top, mounted on the wall is the paintball gun from the sporting goods store.

FRED

Want something to drink?

She turns back to Fred.

KIM

Wait! From the outside this place looks like a wreck.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

I know. My technology allows me to fabricate basically anything I want, as long as I have enough base materials to work from. That's why, outside, old and abandoned, inside, clean and comfortable. Camouflage.

Fred holds up a hand, flicks his wrist and he is holding a deck of cards. He flicks his wrist again and they're gone.

FRED

To your people my technology looks like magic. To us its simple wave manipulation. Energy travels in waves. Those waves can be manipulated. That manipulation can affect, change and even rearrange ions, quarks, atoms, all the way to solid matter and energy.

Fred leads Kim to a table and chairs. She takes a seat.

KIM

So you can create anything you want?

FRED

Where'd you think I got the money.

Fred sits down across from her.

KIM

You created it?

FRED

Child's play. No scientist on this planet could tell the difference between your bills and the ones I created. I could create a credit card too but then I'd have to figure out how to really use and manipulate your technology. Create an account, transfer money into it and I really don't need that kind of headache. It was easier to bribe the guy at the car rental place.

KIM

How are you able to do all this?

(CONTINUED)

FRED

My people learned many of the universes secrets a long time ago. We can do many things with just our minds and bodies. Our technology allows us to do so much more. The people we're fighting are on that brink but they are too warlike to realize it. They're trying to rush it and even if they win the war, without proper restraint they will blow up both planets by accident.

KIM

What about us? Aren't you worried about my people getting hold of your secrets?

FRED

Your finest scientific minds would go insane trying to figure out what my people have already discovered. Their heads would literally blow off from the sheer amount of information. My father used to have a saying. Roughly translated means, cavemen can't do calculus.

Kim's mouth drops. Fred gets up.

FRED

C'mon outside, I want to show you something. It's safer to show you out there.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Fred and Kim stand out in a field near a fence. Fred pulls a copper bracelet from his pocket and puts it on.

FRED

This is what you saw the other night.

He makes a fist and an armored gauntlet appears.

FRED

It acts as basic body armor, like your bullet proof vests. It'll take care of most physical damage.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

That's how you survived being put through the pavement.

Fred ignores the comment. A spike appears from the gauntlet.

FRED

We developed the spike to counter their armor and shields. It will go through anything they have. That's how I defended myself.

KIM

Could a caveman, like myself, use something like that?

FRED

Sure. I could make you one but I'd have to train you or you'd never be able to use it.

KIM

Make me one.

Fred pulls a feminine looking bracelet from his pocket.

FRED

I already did. I was going to give it to you as a gift anyway. I'd been wrestling with whether or not to train you. If the hunters show up while I'm with you, you'd be in danger and I've become somewhat fond of you. So I have to ask. Knowing what you know. Do you want to continue our arrangement? If you leave now they won't have a reason to look for you. Put this on and you're a potential target.

KIM

I get a weapon? I'm in.

Fred hands her the bracelet, which she puts on immediately.

FRED

If I train you to use it you have to remember, its not a toy. If someone saw you and reported it and your government found out, they'd take you and it from you.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
Yeah, I kinda know that already.
Advanced alien technology, duh.

Kim stares at him expectantly. Fred looks at her oddly and sighs.

FRED
Alright. I'll train you. Only
because my conscious couldn't take
you dying on me if you got caught
in the crossfire.

Fred pulls a metal rod from his pocket.

KIM
Isn't that the rod I found in the
parking lot.

Energy springs from both ends, forming a staff. Kim's eye's light up.

KIM
Cool. A double bladed light saber.

Fred looks confused.

KIM
More Earth entertainment. There was
this movie where they had swords
made of light that could slice
through anything.

FRED
People on this planet sure have
huge imaginations. No, this is a
barrier. The energy you see is just
a concentration of the field that
is being projected. It deflects
matter, energy and most waves. It's
practically impenetrable. It can be
just a shield or a whole sphere.
Short battery life but its self
recharging. It also interferes with
some of my other equipment while
its active. Which is why I can't
play with it in the house.

KIM
Do I get one of those?

Fred looks at her and smiles.

INT/EXT. SUV - DAY

Kim looks at her bracelet while Fred drives them back.

FRED

I'm sorry I took up your whole day
but it wouldn't have been fair for
me to do otherwise.

KIM

So what's your plan?

FRED

What plan?

KIM

You know. Rallying the troops and
going on the offensive. Taking back
your world.

FRED

That's another reason I'm on the
run. Until my people get off their
collective asses and really fight
back, I have to stay away to keep
our secrets safe.

KIM

That sucks. What about your family?

FRED

Killed during the initial attack.

KIM

I'm sorry.

FRED

It was a long time ago.

Kim looks at Fred but doesn't say anything.

FRED

Something on your mind?

Kim looks a bit nervous.

KIM

There's...I...I'm graduating. I
passed my G.E.D. exams. Me and my
best friend are going to a club
tomorrow to celebrate. Would you
like to go? It wouldn't be like a
date or anything.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

Yes I would. You can tell a lot about a people by how they like to spend time relaxing.

Kim looks at him oddly then relaxes.

INT/EXT. SUV - EVENING

Fred pulls up in front of Kim's building. She get's out and comes around to the drivers side. She looks at him oddly.

KIM

If you're gonna live way out there and you have to return the SUV. How are you getting back and forth?

FRED

It's magic.

Fred laughs evilly and drives off. She looks at the departing SUV, shrugs then goes inside.

INT. POOR BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kim lays in bed with her cell phone up to her ear.

ISABELLA (O.S.)

Girl what happened to you? Thought you were on your way this morning. I called all day but kept getting your voice-mail.

KIM

I was but something came up. I was out and couldn't get a signal.

ISABELLA (O.S.)

What could be more important? Where were you? You were with him! Weren't you?

KIM

Yeah. We had things to discuss.

Isabella starts talking quickly in Spanish.

KIM

English, girl, English.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (O.S.)
I want to know all the details!
Tell me everything!

KIM
Sorry, that's classified. But I'll
tell you this. He's like no other
man on this planet. And 'No' he
doesn't have a brother.

ISABELLA (O.S.)
Damn. You so lucky. You bringing
him to the club tomorrow?

Kim smiles and looks at a new dress hanging on the outside
of her closet.

KIM
I think so.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. RUNDOWN HALLWAY - MORNING

Kim is dressed in an old baggy t-shirt, worn jeans with a
hole in one knee, ratty gym shoes and scarf on her head,
carrying a load of laundry down the stairs. As she passes
the door to her landlords apartment, she sticks her tongue
out at it. But when the door handle start to turn she
hurries down the stairs.

INT. SMALL LIVING ROOM - NOON

Kim is cleaning and straitening things up. She pauses to
look at her phone. She frowns when she sees no calls and no
text messages. She resumes cleaning.

TINY BATHROOM

Kim cleans the mirror but looks over at the window. She puts
the rag down and looks out but there's no one on the street.
She hears CHIMES and grabs her cell phone. The text message
says 'Pick you up at seven, Fred'. Kim beams with pleasure
as she puts away the phone.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Kim walks with determination in each step. She comes to a window that says 'Maxine's Beauty and Nail Salon'. She smiles as she enters the doorway next to the window.

INT. TINY BATHROOM - EARLY EVENING

Kim has a large towel wrapped around her head as she takes a shower. She finishes and steps out wrapping another towel around herself. She wipes the steam from the mirror and smiles at her reflection.

KIM

He'll never know what hit him.

INT. RUNDOWN HALLWAY - EVENING

Fred, wearing a suit, knocks on Kim's door.

KIM (O.S.)

Who is it?

FRED

Fred. Did you get my message? I told you I'd be here at seven.

KIM (O.S.)

How did you know what apartment?

FRED

Its on my drivers license, remember.

KIM

Just a minute.

Fred waits patiently. Kim opens the door wearing the new dress with matching shoes and a bit of jewelry. Her nails, hair and makeup are done to perfection.

FRED

You look great.

KIM

Just great?

Kim looks angry and Fred looks confused. Kim stares at him for a moment longer.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
Great is fine. I have to remember
that you're not from around here.
Wait here while I get my purse.

Fred sighs as she closes the door.

EXT. RUNDOWN BUILDING - EVENING

As Kim and Fred exit the building arm in arm, Kim sees a red sports car parked in front of the building.

KIM
It would be sweet to pull up to the
club in that.

FRED
Wanna drive?

Fred holds up the keys and Kim squeals in delight.

FRED
The rental agent swore that this
was the perfect date car. Obviously
its more than that judging by your
reaction.

Kim snatches the keys.

KIM
This is not a date. We're just
blending.

EXT. CLUB - NIGHT

A BOUNCER keeps order over the long line of PEOPLE trying to get into the club. Isabella, waiting in the line, is about to use her cell when the red sports car pulls up. Fred exits the passenger side and comes around to the drivers side. He opens the door and helps Kim out. Isabella almost breaks a heel dashing to the car.

ISABELLA
Girl! Where did you get this car?

KIM
Like it?

FRED
It's a rental.

Kim glances at Fred then smiles at Isabella.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
Just don't tell anybody.

ISABELLA
Girl! You are it! That dress is to
die for! Where did you get your
hair done?

Isabella looks Fred up and down.

ISABELLA
Boy, you do clean up good.

Fred looks at her.

FRED
Thanks. I think.

Isabella looks back regretfully at the line which is getting
longer by the moment.

ISABELLA
I was saving us a spot in line.

KIM
Don't worry about it. C'mon, this
is my night.

Kim leads them to the front of the line as people complain.
The bouncer looks at them angrily.

BOUNCER
May I help you?

KIM
V.I.P's.

Kim winks at the bouncer. The bouncer looks at them.

BOUNCER
There's no guest list tonight.

KIM
Oh no.

Kim looks at Fred.

INT. VIP SECTION - NIGHT

The music is jumping and the club is crowded with PEOPLE. Fred, Kim and Isabella sit at a table marked 'Reserved'.

FRED

Did we really have to give that man a hundred dollars to get in?

KIM

Now you're worried about money?

FRED

After some study, I now know the value of your currency and see just how unstable your economy is. My introduction of additional currency that cannot be accounted for could eventually pose a problem.

KIM

Yeah and?

FRED

He charged an additional fifty to park the car. That can't be legal.

ISABELLA

We'll we couldn't leave it out front. It was a no parking zone.

A WAITRESS comes over. She barely glances at the women but smiles broadly at Fred.

WAITRESS

Can I take your order? We have V.I.P. bottle service if you like.

Kim steps in.

KIM

He's driving so bring him a Shirley Temple and bring us a couple of Tequila Sunrises.

ISABELLA

And we want the top shelf stuff!

Kim glances at Isabella and smiles. The waitress looks at Fred. Fred pulls out a hundred dollar bill and hands it to the waitress, who brightens visibly.

(CONTINUED)

WAITRESS

Will there be anything else sir?

ISABELLA

No there ain't nothing else. He has all that he needs right here.

The waitress throws a fake smile and walks away.

ISABELLA

If she ain't careful she could catch a beat down.

KIM

Know that's right.

FRED

She was just taking our order.

KIM

That heffa tried to dis' us. And was flirting with you to get you to spend more money.

FRED

Isn't that what you just did to me outside?

ISABELLA

Not even the same thing. We wouldn't take advantage of you, we're your friends. Now what did you say your name was again?

Kim answers for him.

KIM

His name is Fred.

ISABELLA

Ah. Federico. Si.

KIM

English, girl, English.

Kim looks up from the table strait into Rage's eyes. He flashes her a smile as he walks past with his arm around Felicia. Felicia is also dressed up but she has on a loud dress with blond hair and blue contacts. Kim and Felicia look at each other in anger before the couple disappears into the crowd.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

I'll cut her for you! I got my knife! We can take her when she goes to the bathroom! I got yo back!

Isabella starts rambling in Spanish.

KIM

No. She'll get hers one day. Besides she got caught cheating on the G.E.D. I made sure of it.

A new song comes on and Kim turns to Fred.

KIM

Right now we have to teach him how to blend. Would you like to dance?

FRED

I don't dance. At least not on this planet. I've seen your videos.

Kim pulls Fred out of the booth.

KIM

It's mandatory. Part of your blend training.

Kim turns to Isabella.

KIM

Watch my purse. And if the waitress comes back--

ISABELLA

Go.

Kim takes Fred out onto the dance floor. Kim starts dancing but Fred is stiff and uncoordinated. She gives him a couple of pointers and soon they are dancing joyfully together. Isabella hands Kim her purse and joins them.

KIM

Couldn't find your own dance partner?

ISABELLA

Just decided to save him from your tired dance moves.

ABOVE THE BAR

The window shatters inward as Tracker 1 lands on the bar.

OPPOSITE WINDOW

Tracker 2 crashes through the opposite window.

DANCE FLOOR

The music stops and some people start quietly heading for the exit. Kim and Fred turn to each other.

ISABELLA

Who are those guys?

FRED

Not who but what. They're complex machines, built for tracking. They're looking for me. They're just not sure what I look like.

Isabella pulls a large knife from her purse and Fred grabs her arm.

FRED

That won't help.

Fred releases Isabella. She puts away the blade.

FRED

Besides, I just figured out how they tracked me.

KIM

How?

FRED

Your bracelet. Give it to me.

Kim covertly removes the bracelet and slips it to Fred.

FRED

When I made your bracelet I wasn't able to purify the materials as well as they should have been. The ultrasonic bombardment in this place has been causing the bracelet to leak, causing a traceable low level energy signature.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

We've got to get out of here.

BACK OF CLUB

Six big guys from SECURITY appear from the back and split into two groups moving quickly through the crowd towards the trackers.

ISABELLA

No need. Looks like security is about to take them down.

BAR

Tracker 1 leaps down from the bar and addresses the crowd in English as Security reaches him.

TRACKER 1

We have tracked our prey to this place. It is hiding among you. You will know it by its blue eyes. Give it to us.

SECURITY 1

You're in the wrong place. No blue eyes here. The country western bar is across town.

Security 1 reaches for the hunter and his arm is slapped away so hard that it breaks. The tracker punches the man in the chest so hard that it causes him to fly across the room.

BACK OF CLUB

When he lands in a heap the club erupts into chaos.

KIM

Lets go!

Kim grabs Fred's hand but is met with resistance.

FRED

No go! There are three more outside! Both of you don't move! Just stand where you are.

A loud piercing SOUND reverberates through the room. Some of the crowd, including the trio, hold their ears to shut it out. Other people stop and fall to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
What was that?

FRED
Sonic-neuro disruptor. Makes it
hard to run or fight. Doesn't do
much if you're not in motion when
it's fired.

CROWD

Tracker 2 walks through the crowd looking into peoples eyes.
As FELICIA attempts to rise Tracker 2 snatches her to her
feet and looks.

TRACKER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
This one has blue eyes.

Tracker 2 turns to Tracker 1.

TRACKER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Kill it. We will return with the
corpse.

Tracker 2 raises a hand.

FELICIA
Please! I'll do whatever you want!
Just let me go!

Felicia glances around quickly and spots Rage. Rage only
shrinks back behind a chair trying to make himself look
smaller. A beam of energy lances through Felicia's chest.
Tracker 2 lets her drop. When she hits the floor one of her
contacts comes out. The tracker sees it.

TRACKER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
Artificial lenses cloaking beings
true eye color. Adding additional
search parameters. Resuming search.

FRED

nudges Kim and Isabella.

FRED
I've got a plan. When I move you
two run for the bathroom like
you're on fire and don't look back.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA

What about you?

KIM

The man can take care of himself.
Just do what he says.

TRACKER 2

continues to move through the crowd and approaches the trio. The tracker looks at a nervous Kim. It looks at Isabella who turns away in defiance. It then looks at Fred. Tracker 2 turns to Tracker 1 again.

TRACKER 2

(Subtitled alien language)

This one wears lenses. It---

As Fred draws his hand back, the gauntlet appears over it with the spike extended. Fred stabs Tracker 2 in the chest and both women take off running.

FRED

withdraws the spike, runs and leaps through the nearest window.

TRACKER 1

gives chase. When the tracker leaps through the window, it is impaled on Fred's spike.

FRED

I knew you'd do that.

EXT. CLUB - NIGHT

The two trackers who were blocking the club exit immediately give chase as Fred darts across the street. A third leaps from the roof to add to the pursuit.

INT. WASHROOM - NIGHT

Kim and Isabella hide in a stall, waiting and listening.

ISABELLA

I think they're gone.

Kim looks at Isabella and starts crying.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA
Its okay, its okay. He'll be
alright.

Kim blubbers something incoherently.

ISABELLA
English, girl, English. You want
them to deport your ass to Africa?
Or worse, Compton?

Kim sniffs then laughs and buries her face in Isabella's
shoulder. Isabella hugs Kim in response.

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

Various wrecks of jeeps, trucks and helicopters dot the
landscape. Dead uniformed personnel and weapons lay strewn
about. Hunter 1 removes his helmet.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Damage report. Are either of you
impaired?

HUNTER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
Minimal damage. Shields down to
thirty-six percent.

HUNTER 3
(Subtitled alien language)
Repairs required. Shields down to
twenty-eight percent.

Hunters 2 and 3 remove their helmets.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
No damage but my shields are down
to forty-one percent.

Hunter 1 scans a crashed attack helicopter with blue beams.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
It appears that some tribes on this
rock have bigger fangs than others.
How quaint.

(CONTINUED)

HUNTER 2

(Subtitled alien language)

I suggest we recalibrate our shields for maximum physical protection in case the indigenous attack again.

HUNTER 3

(Subtitled alien language)

I concur. They couldn't kill us but this skirmish has diminished our battle effectiveness.

HUNTER 1

(Subtitled alien language)

Agreed. We cannot afford to be weak. This prey is powerful. Four, no five, of our trackers have been destroyed by it. We shall recharge and go after it at full strength.

INT. SMALL LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Kim sits on the couch staring blankly at the TV. A KNOCK on the door surprises her. She jumps up to answer it. Behind the door stands Fred looking a bit haggard and worn.

KIM

FRED!

She hugs him then practically drags him to the couch.

KIM

What happened? I was so worried about you?

FRED

After I left the club, the other three followed me. I led them into a trap. A type of minefield that I had ready. Unfortunately they were tougher than I thought. I had to fight. It cost me.

Fred leans back and relaxes.

FRED

Metaphorically, I've busted my stitches and can't do too much. It's delaying my healing. Looks like I won't be leaving this planet any time soon but I am leaving.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

Leaving?

FRED

I'm too much of a risk. I could barely handle those trackers. What do you think their masters will be like? I just came by to pay you what I owe for all your help.

Fred looks at the door and makes a shushing motion to Kim. A KNOCK on the door surprises Kim again. She looks at Fred who only shrugs. She indicates to the bathroom. Fred rises silently and goes in the bathroom, carefully closing the door behind him. Kim rises and opens the door. Two AGENTS in suits are behind it.

AGENT 1

Kimberly Robinson?

KIM

Yes. And you are?

Agent 1 flashes a badge from the 'FBI'.

AGENT 1

Special Agent McGinness and my partner Special Agent Daniels, F.B.I. Can we ask you a couple of questions?

KIM

Now is not a good time. I'm tired and shaken after the weird shit that went down last night.

AGENT 1

I take it you were at a nightclub?

KIM

Yes I was. I was celebrating passing my G.E.D. exam with my girlfriend when two psychos in costumes crashed through the windows and started attacking. Me and my friend ran and hid in the restroom until after it was over.

Kim hugs herself and starts shivering.

KIM

We could have been next!

(CONTINUED)

AGENT 1

We understand. Most of the people we've spoken with have given us similar stories.

AGENT 2

Do you remember anything else? It's important. Two people were killed by those psychos last night.

KIM

No. The cops came and that's when me and my friend came out. The officers ushered us and everyone else out of the club so fast that nobody saw anything.

Agent 1 pulls out a card and holds it out to Kim.

AGENT 1

Ms. Robinson if you can think of anything else, please, just give us a call. Thank you for your time.

Kim takes the card. The agents turn to leave and she shuts the door. Fred exits the bathroom.

FRED

They didn't seem too shocked.

KIM

No they didn't. And why would the F.B.I. be investigating a couple of murders in this neighborhood?

FRED

The hunters aren't trying to hide their presence and obviously your government has found out about them. I imagine that your people have already approached them and been destroyed. Probably why they haven't already shown up.

KIM

What can we do?

FRED

Nothing.

Fred crosses to the couch. He pulls Kim's bracelet from his pocket and hands it to her.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

I fixed the energy leak. Now you can't be tracked by the hunters. And as a precaution I added a safety lock so that you can't activate it unless there's a hunter nearby. So no one would ever suspect that its anything more than a piece of jewelry.

Fred kisses her on the head and starts for the door.

KIM

Where are you gonna' go?

FRED

Far away. As far away from your people as I can get. I'm going to pack up my lab and disappear. For what its worth its been fun.

At the door, Fred turns and reaches in his pocket. He tosses a stack of banded bills onto her coffee table.

FRED

Here's ten large. Outta' take care of my bill. Since we never really worked out a price.

KIM

Where'd you learn to talk like that?

FRED

Miami Vice.

KIM

What'll happen to you?

FRED

I won't lie. If I can't hide until I heal, I'll have to do whatever it takes to protect our secrets.

KIM

You mean die.

FRED

No. Just dying isn't enough. They could still extract what they need from my corpse. I've implanted a device in my body that will incinerate my remains if I die. It will be as if I never existed.

(CONTINUED)

Fred reaches for the door.

FRED
This is goodbye Kimberly.

Kim looks down at the money and when she looks up again, Fred is gone.

EXT. WILDERNESS - EVENING

The hunters sleep in a large futuristic tent with over-sized see-through panels. Naked from the waist up, they no longer have tattoos on their backs. They awaken and sit up.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Before it was destroyed, our last tracker relayed that our prey is injured. Take time to eat your fill then prepare your weapons and gear. The hunt will continue after that.

HUNTER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
It will be ready for us, like it was for the trackers.

Hunter 1 turns to Hunter 2 in anger.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
YOU FEAR IT! A creature that has technology even more advanced than ours but too cowardly use it! How dare you fear it!

HUNTER 3
(Subtitled alien language)
He will overcome it. He only fears that if we fail, our whole way of life may come to an end. If we cannot take their technologies and make them our own then our world will again fall into civil war.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
I know. I was there when the treaty was brokered. When the peace was brought about by the proposition of a greater enemy. If not for that, our faction wars would have surely doomed our species to extinction.

(CONTINUED)

Hunter 1 gets to his feet.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
In any case. We cannot go home
until the beast's corpse has been
captured and returns with us.

Hunter 1 opens the tent and leaves.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Fred comes out of the farmhouse and closes the door. He is a little surprised to see a pickup truck rolling up the road. The truck comes to a stop and Kim exits.

FRED
In case you didn't get the memo, I
was telling you to stay away from
me. You know. Dead man walking.

Kim smiles as she approaches.

KIM
I know. But I just can't let my
good luck charm commit suicide.

FRED
Good luck charm?

KIM
If I hadn't met you and gone
shopping for you, I wouldn't have
been able to pay my school tuition
on time. If you hadn't paid me so
much I wouldn't have been able to
pay my rent and have had enough
peace of mind to study. If you
hadn't come to my rescue when Rage
grabbed me, I might never have made
it to class to even take the test.

Kim walks right up to Fred and puts her arms around him.

KIM
You're my good luck charm.

FRED
And now you want to repay me?

(CONTINUED)

KIM

Did I tell you that I've been offered a promotion at work? That if I wasn't getting my G.E.D. someone else would have got it?

FRED

Congratulations. But none of that matters if you die.

KIM

Its not the dying that I'm worried about. Its the fact that I've always been too poor to really live. And I want to make sure that you're around to help me do that.

FRED

Why Ms. Robinson, I do think that you've developed feelings for me.

Kim releases him and takes a step back.

KIM

I may have but you're still an ass.

Fred bursts out laughing and Kim joins him.

FRED

Are you planning on being here when they show up?

KIM

Yep.

Fred reaches in his pocket.

FRED

In that case, you're gonna need one of these.

Fred tosses her a silver rod. She catches it and looks it over.

FRED

Personally, I plan to be long gone by the time they get here. But feel free.

Fred smiles at Kim and she smiles back.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. FARMHOUSE - EVENING

Fred and Kim exit the farmhouse carrying boxes and sweating. They carry the boxes to Kim's truck which is already filled.

FRED

That's the last of them. We just have to find room. Then I can get out of town. Thanks again for loaning me your truck. I'll get it back to you as soon as I've located a new place for my lab.

KIM

Explain to me how I'm supposed to get home again.

Fred squeezes the last box into the truck.

FRED

I'm heading in the opposite direction so I'll drop you at a bus station along the way. It saves me a bunch of time and keeps you safe.

KIM

I'd like to stay with you. Just to see where you move to.

Kim blushes and tries not to look at Fred.

FRED

Too dangerous. Even with your new toys. If a real hunter showed up, at best you might be able to hold on till the charge on the barrier is gone. That's if you aren't disarmed before then.

KIM

I know but--

Fred looks up suddenly.

FRED

Kim! Get in the truck and drive away!

KIM

What?

Fred grabs Kim's shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

FRED
NOW! Get in the truck and drive for
all your worth! Get as far as you
can as fast as you can!

Kim looks up.

KIM
They're coming. Aren't they?

FRED
I thought we'd have more time. I'll
hold them off. Run while you can.

Three fireballs streak out of the sky and strike in the field. Kim and Fred look at each other then back to the smoking holes in the field.

KIM
I think its too late for that.

Out of the smoke arises the three hunters. They walk towards the pair but stop some yards away. Hunter 1 scans the pair with the blue beams.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Greetings beast. Give up now and
your death shall be painless.

Fred turns to Kim.

FRED
I cant fight them and protect you.
Get to cover. When they're
distracted take the truck. Leave
me, like in the club.

KIM
I didn't like running then and I
don't like it now.

Fred reaches in his pocket as Hunter 1 raises his arm. Fred pulls his metal rod and ignites both ends. A beam of energy lances out from the hunter's hand and dissipates on contact with the invisible shield. Fred gets into a defensive stance as Kim attempts to cover herself.

FRED
(Subtitled alien language)
I though you three were hunters.
That was a cowards attack.

Hunter 1 laughs a bit.

(CONTINUED)

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Just testing your defenses animal.

FRED
(Subtitled alien language)
Why do you insist on calling us
animals when our technology far
exceeds yours.

HUNTER 1
(Subtitled alien language)
Because only a stupid animal can
possess such advanced tools and not
know how to use them.

FRED
(Subtitled alien language)
We know how to use them. We just
choose not to. Unlike your people
who don't care about the dangers.

KIM
What's going on? What are you
saying to them?

The hunters laugh.

HUNTER 2
(Subtitled alien language)
It seems that the beast has a pet.
I didn't know that one animal could
own another.

All three hunters laugh heartily which angers Fred.

FRED
(Subtitled alien language)
She's not my pet. She's a friend.

HUNTER 1
Then I'll speak so that your pet
can understand too. You have
secrets that belong to us. Turn
them over and I may let you live.

FRED
Even if I gave you what you wanted,
you'd blow yourselves up. Not that
I'm worried about that. I'm worried
about you taking us with you when
you go.

Hunter 1 takes a step forward as his eyes begin to glow.

(CONTINUED)

HUNTER 1

That technology should be ours by right! We have fought long and hard for it. We need it!

FRED

No, you don't. Once you got your hands on it, your people would begin to fight over it amongst yourselves and that's what would cause the disaster. That's what would kill us all.

KIM

Fred. Your toys must be so much better than theirs or these bullies wouldn't be trying to take them.

All eyes turn to Kim. Hunter 1 points a finger at her.

FRED

KIM!

Kim dives for the ground as a pencil thin beam barely misses her and incinerates a nearby tree in a shower of sparks.

HUNTER 1

The monkey shall only speak when spoken to.

Fred moves to protect Kim.

HUNTER 2

Look. It cares for her.

HUNTER 3

It probably shares her nest.

All three hunters burst out laughing again which enrages Fred. The gauntlet appears on his hand.

HUNTER 1

I see that the beast has finally chosen to do things the way they should be.

HUNTER 2

I think we've angered it.

HUNTER 3

I think it'll be more fun this way.

(CONTINUED)

The hunters walk forward and Fred extends the spike. The hunters each extend spikes of their own. Kim picks herself up off the ground as Fred turns to her.

FRED

Run.

Fred charges at the hunters, who do so in return but before the hunters can cover the distance buried land mines leap up in front of them and explode, showering them with fragments. The hunters skid to a halt and attempt to shield themselves from the shrapnel which harmlessly bounces off. The hunters recover and look at themselves.

HUNTER 1

No damage. Our shields held.

The hunters notice that Fred has disappeared.

HUNTER 2

Cloaking technology? I didn't think they had that.

HUNTER 1

They don't. He's hiding.

A baseball sized sphere lands near the hunters. Hunter 1 leaps away as he yells.

HUNTER 1

GRENADE!

The other two hunters are caught in the blast and hurled in different directions. Hunter 1 lands and scans the area with the blue beams.

HUNTER 1

Very clever but I still stand.

Hunter 1 continues to scan until he notices something. He fires almost randomly until he hits a patch of landscape that shatters, revealing Fred.

HUNTER 1

Gotcha!

Fred brushes debris off himself, then gets into a defensive position.

FRED

Just remember, you asked for this.

Fred leaps off the ground and flies at Hunter 1.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

This is between you and--

Fred is about the catch Hunter 1 in a clothes line maneuver when Hunter 2 intercepts him with a clothes line of his own. Fred is knocked away and lands tumbling end over end.

HUNTER 1

Damage report.

HUNTER 2

Fully functional. It was a modified EMP device. My power functions were temporarily suppressed. Had we not been at full power I would not have been able to resist and recover.

Fred rises and reignites his metal rod.

FRED

No wonder it took you so long to show up. Three hunters in battle armor at full power against a single injured man. Real brave.

HUNTER 1

It just shows our resolve. Now give us what we seek.

FRED

Sure. Here's a sample.

Fred raises both hands and a sand storm rises and engulfs the hunters. The sand storm ends as Hunter 1 makes a downward motion with both hands.

FRED

Ionized particles gathered and refracted at the right frequency and viola.

A bolt of lightning strikes the hunters, driving them to their knees.

HUNTER 1

You'll pay for that beast!

Hunter 1 points his hand at Fred and a bolt of energy lances out. Fred deflects with his shield but is pushed back as the beam becomes a continuous stream. Fred grits his teeth and digs in, pushing back with all his might. He begins to gain ground until Hunter 2 joins in with a beam of his own.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

Even if you beat me I won't allow
you to destroy two worlds!

Fred is knocked off his feet.

HUNTER 1

They are our worlds to destroy!

Fred reaches out and a water pipe breaks through the ground and sprays the hunters with the force of a fire hose. They fight the pressure and begin to lose until Hunter 3 lands on top of the pipe, crushing it closed. Fred makes an angry face and gets to his feet.

HUNTER 1

Damage report.

HUNTER 3

Fully functional. Damage minimal.
Auto-repair and system reboot
required after EMP pulse.

All three hunters turn to Fred.

HUNTER 1

It seems that once again the odds
are in our favor.

Fred launches himself skyward. The three hunters follow. As he passes a cloud, a swarm of little metal diamonds fly out and cover him. Fred blindly trashes his shield back and forth, destroying some and knocking others aside but ultimately they slow him enough for the hunters to catch up.

HUNTER 1

We did a little mine fielding of
our own before we arrived. Just in
case you attempted to escape.

All three hunters take aim and fire. Fred is jerked back and forth in the sky several times before beginning to plummet. Fred falls for moments before hitting the ground and creating a small crater. The metal rod falls from his limp hand. The hunters land nearby.

HUNTER 1

Since it would not cooperate, we
shall take what we need from it's
corpse. Not that I was really going
to let it live.

The hunters walk towards their wounded prey and Kim leaps out, separating them from Fred.

(CONTINUED)

KIM
STOP! I won't let you kill him!

The hunters continue walking and simply go around her.

KIM
Ignore me huh?

Turning, Kim pulls up her sleeve to reveal her bracelet. She clenches her fist and her gauntlet springs into existence. The spike extends. Kim draws back and lunges viciously.

KIM
I'll teach you to ignore me!

Kim stabs Hunter 3 in the back, piercing shield, armor and body. The hunter screams as the other two turn in shock. Hunter 3 drops to his knees then falls out dead.

HUNTER 1
INSECT! I shall kill you twice!
Once for daring to interfere and
again for killing one of ours!

Both remaining hunters turn to fully face her.

KIM
Bring it on suckers!

Kim pulls her small metal rod from her pocket with a free hand. Energy springs from both ends and she waves it back and forth defensively.

HUNTER 1
So the beast has given you a weapon
and shield! No matter!

KIM
His name is Fred and he's not going
to die tonight. And frankly,
neither am I.

Fred coughs and rolls over in pain.

FRED
Looks like the odds are no longer
in your favor.

HUNTER 1
Injured prey and a mewling cow? You
are no match for us.

KIM

He's right. You can barely stand
and I barely know how to use these
things.

Fred gets to his feet, wobbling badly. His shield still on
the ground.

FRED

Then I'll just have to handicap
them to make it a fair fight.

Fred launches himself towards the house. He flies up and
through an upper window. Hunter 2 pursues and disappears
through the same.

HUNTER 1

Looks like he's abandoned you. But
don't worry. I'm still here.

Kim looks a bit worried as she takes a step back. Hunter 1
raises his hand and is about to fire when the upper window
of the farm house explodes as Hunter 2 comes through it,
taking part of the wall with him. Hunter 1 turns in surprise
as a paintball strikes him.

HUNTER 1

How?

Fred leaps from what's left of the upper floor holding a
large paint ball gun.

FRED

Last chance to surrender.

Hunter 1 quickly fires a beam at Fred and it barely misses,
destroying more of the farm house.

FRED

Cavemen can't do calculus.

Hunter 1 turns to Kim and fires his beam. She attempts to
block but the beam comes nowhere near. Fred drops the
paintball gun and reaches out. The metal rod leaps into his
hand.

FRED

Fortunately you use your suits
sensors for targeting. The same
type of sensors that your trackers
used. I've disabled them with a
little help from basic chemistry.

Fred ignites his shield.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

Now. Let's dance.

Fred flies at Hunter 1, who fires desperately at him, missing wildly. One is deflected by the shield as Fred cannonballs into Hunter 1. The hunter attempts to skewer Fred and misses but manages to slash cloth. Fred retaliates with a slash of his own and sparks fly as he leaves a gash in the hunter's armor. As the two grapple, Kim approaches cautiously. Fred is able to get Hunter 1 into a wrestling hold.

HUNTER 1

We need that technology.

FRED

No, you don't. If your people would just stop your arms race against the universe and each other, you'd have more than enough resources.

Kim approaches with her gauntlet at the ready.

HUNTER 1

What would you know? Your people already have the technology that we seek. You withhold it so as to one day enslave us!

FRED

We no more want to conquer your people than these monkeys!

KIM

HEY!

FRED

No offense.

Hunter 1 breaks the hold and stabs Fred in the gut.

HUNTER 1

YOU LIE! We have been fighting this war to insure our peace.

Kim lunges and stabs Hunter 1 in the side. The hunter screams and takes a wild swing but she blocks it with the barrier.

KIM

I told you, he's not gonna die tonight even if I have to kill you to prevent it!

(CONTINUED)

Hunter 1 staggers back grasping his side as blood seeps out.

HUNTER 1

You have no right to interfere
insect!

KIM

My name is not insect, beast, cow
or none of that! Its Kim and you're
on my planet and that gives me
every right.

Kim's spike retracts into the gauntlet as Hunter 1 drops to
his knees.

KIM

And one more thing.

Kim punches Hunter 1 in the face as hard as she can with the
gauntlet, knocking the hunter out cold.

KIM

That's for messing up my night! I
was looking cute too.

Kim retracts the gauntlet and runs over to Fred, who is
laying on the ground holding his gut. She kneels and holds
his head in her lap. Fred wheezes as he speaks.

FRED

We won?

KIM

Yes. We won.

FRED

Funny. I got this sudden feeling of
deja'vu.

KIM

Probably because this is how you
were when we first met.

FRED

Oh yeah. By the way, I know why you
named me Fred when we first met.

KIM

Why?

FRED

In some of your older languages, it
means peace. You saw peace in me.

(CONTINUED)

Fred coughs and closes his eyes, which makes Kim angry.

KIM
Oh no you will not die on me after
all I've been through!

FRED
Can't a homeless man who's been
stabbed in the gut rest?

KIM
No! Now tell me how to heal you.

Fred looks up at her with his very blue eyes and smiles.

KIM
Still looks weird.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. BUS STATION - MORNING

Kim stands at the driver's window of her truck with a brown eyed Fred behind the wheel.

FRED
Well, like I said, I'll have the
truck shipped back to you when I
reach my destination. In the
meantime you have your bus ticket
and another ten large for saving my
life and helping me clean up.

KIM
Your life's worth a lot more than
that. You know, now that the
hunters are gone you could stay.

FRED
We've already been over this. As
long as I'm on the planet there's a
chance that more of their kind will
show up. I can make it harder for
them track me but it can still
happen. I don't want you getting
caught up in the crossfire again.

Kim makes a pouty face.

(CONTINUED)

FRED

I have your number. If I need you I'll call. Okay killer? Besides it'll be months maybe even a couple of years before I can heal enough get off this world.

KIM

Heal? Don't you mean repair your spaceship or something?

Fred bursts out laughing.

FRED

Spaceship? You people do have such imaginations. I don't need a ship to travel interstellar distances. Like the secrets that brought those hunters here, the ability to travel the universe resides up here.

Fred points to his temple.

FRED

Certain pathways in my brain were destroyed during the hunter's pursuit of me and I have to re-grow them. After they've been replaced, I must re-energize them so that I can safely travel in space again.

Kim looks at him in awe.

FRED

Anyway, good luck miss manager in training. You're special. I know you'll do just fine.

Kim blushes a bit.

FRED

Once I'm all setup, I'll send you a postcard.

KIM

Postcard? Who sends those anymore?

Fred starts up the truck when Kim reaches in and kisses him. She releases him and steps back. He looks at her for a moment then puts the truck in gear. As he pulls away Kim waves. Realizing what she's doing, she puts her hand down.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - MORNING

Army SOLDIERS, trucks, tanks and vehicles surround the smoldering farmhouse. SCIENTISTS in haz-mat suits start collect samples. A jeep pulls up and Colonel Seiver steps out. The sergeant comes running up.

SERGEANT

Sir, whatever they were, they're gone. As you can see there was some kind of battle but nothing that would indicate an alien presence.

SEIVER

Sergeant, if there was a battle then there has to be something left. No cleanup crew can be so thorough as to leave no evidence.

SERGEANT

Yes sir!

The sergeant goes running off. Seiever starts walking towards the house when he hears a CRUNCH under foot. He takes a step back to see something small and shiny, partly buried in the ground. He stoops and digs it out. Rising the object, he dusts it off. It appears to be half of a small metal diamond with cracks running all through it.

SEIVER

They were here. They'll be back.
And next time we'll be ready.

FADE OUT.