SEEDS

"PILOT"

by

Mike Johnston

Mike.Johnston@me.com

(206) 250-7915

COLD OPEN

DEEP SPACE

INT. SEED SHIP - THE VAULT - DAY

Through fogged glass and rime ice, the face of a young man. NOAH ROGERS (18) hibernates inside a long-haul POD.

Engines hum.

COMMAND DECK

Blank screens. Tenebrous. Banks of dead buttons. Unmanned consoles. The CAPTAIN'S CHAIR.

LEVEL "A" CORRIDOR

Empty. Unlit. Cool blue and gray steel. Thick black ribbing. Web-patterned latticework.

A silver SANITATION DROID whispers across the floor.

LAUNCH BAY

An eight-person JUMP SHIP sits lifeless.

Industrial-sized containers stacked against the walls.

One container machine-stamped with instructions "OPEN UPON ARRIVAL ON NEW THEIA."

NURSERY

Rows of GLASS CANISTERS emit fluorescent blue light.

We move closer to one.

On the wall, a chain of buttons. Caked with dirt. An unrecognizable word on each. One lamps yellow.

Swinging to life, a mechanical arm rotates around. Servos whine. Straining.

The arm inserts a probe into a receptor that sits like a tiny derby on the canister.

Another button sparks green. Flickers. Stays green.

The arm advances to the next canister. Whines. Inserts.

THE VAULT

Noah's eyes open. Shocked. He gasps.

His hibernation pod flashes a warning "REANIMATION SEQUENCE."

Beep. Beep. Beep.

Colored indicators on the pod wink frantically.

Pressurized air hisses as his sarcophagus cracks open.

Noah presses against the lid. It's stuck. He strains to lift it. Pushing becomes clawing. He panics. A grunt swells into a PRIMAL SCREAM that echoes through...

LEVEL "A" CORRIDOR

COMMAND DECK

DEEP SPACE...

INSIDE THE HIBERNATION POD

Noah bashes the lid. Again and again. Vomits inside the pod and on himself. The hydraulic lid finally glides open.

THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Noah flops his face over the side-- Retches again.

Rolls to the floor. Naked. Arisen from purgatory. Baptized in some primordial pod goo. He saws air.

Braces himself to get up-- Slips on whatever filth he just spewed out of his guts. Something burnt sienna.

The world sideways, a glowing light rushes him.

Noah squints. Eyes flutter...

The Sanitation Droid.

Noah SWATS it away.

DRIVE ROOM

The engines ramp louder. Stop.

A panel displays "MAIN ENGINE CUT OFF."

MESS HALL

Empty. Dark.

Bright overhead lights snap on.

A green slurry spits into a glass.

THE VAULT

Noah swallows water as fast as it pours.

Pants. Looks around. A little clearer. But damn those lights.

Removes a syringe strapped to his pod.

Injects himself.

Drops the needle. Wanders away. Still naked. Still filthy.

We land on his pod nameplate "NOAH ROGERS."

SHOWER STALLS

Noah sluices off God-knows-what covering his body.

The spray beats on his back. Feels good.

Cranes his neck around the stall divider. No one's showering.

The spray sputters. Stops. EXPLODES full-strength again.

MESS HALL

Noah downs a green slurry. Finishes it.

Presses a button. Nothing happens. Hits it hard. Nothing happens. Hits it again and again and again. Nothing.

NOAH

Alice, where the hell is everybody?

The ship's sanguine computer answers.

ALICE

Re-animation sequence error.

Noah stretches. Sighs. Wanders off to find clothes.

COMMAND DECK

Noah's the boy next door in gray fatigues. Bright. Cut. The coach's son. He's mesmerized by the main viewer...

The planet NEW THEIA. An unwritten Testament. Blue oceans. Green continents dusted with silver and ash-colored clouds.

A holographic display floats before him. Noah touches icons with panache. A sequence he's obviously done before.

NOAH

Okay, Alice, time to wake 'em up.

Starts to the door--

The silence is broken by the master alarm BLARING.

NOAH

Alice?

Impatient, he retrenches.

NOAH

Alice?

ALICE

Master alarm warning--

NOAH

I know-- For what?

After an infuriatingly long pause...

ALICE

Stasis failure.

Noah scrambles away.

LEVEL "A" CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

NOAH

Which pod?

Fear lit behind his eyes.

Feet barely touching the ground.

NOAH

Alice, which pod?!

ALICE

Cascading event failure. Total collapse imminent.

THE VAULT

Sirens scream.

Noah skids to a stop.

He's winded. Eyes alert. Inside of his head, hundreds of priorities challenge for attention.

Overheads strobe.

Warnings flash YELLOW on some pods.

Warnings flash RED on others.

Some, forebodingly DARK.

NOAH

Alice, kill the master alarm.

The master alarm whimpers. Dies.

Two pods flashing yellow start flashing red.

Noah darts from pod to pod, desperate to find a specific nameplate.

He does: "CAPTAIN NATHAN ROGERS," his father.

Inside the pod, a SKELETON wrapped in leathery flesh stares back at him.

Aghast, Noah recoils.

Turns to the dark tomb of his mother. Closes his eyes.

Slumps beside the nameplate "DR. MARTHA ROGERS."

Stunned, Noah pushes away tears.

Grows angry. Sharpens fast.

NOAH

Alice! Whaddo I do?

ALICE

Manual re-animation required--

NOAH

I know-- How do I do it?

Watches the life drain out of a pod as it fades dark.

Furious, Noah lifts to his feet.

NOAH

Alice!

ALICE

Input code... located on pod nameplate.

Noah spins to the nearest pod.

Mouths numbers as he punches them into a keypad.

The pod fades dark before he finishes.

He rushes to another pod.

All pods flashing yellow, start flashing red.

Crying, Noah fingers a code as fast as he can.

Lurches to another pod, then another, and another.

More pods go dark.

A lid lifts open. Air escapes. Hisses.

A YOUNG WOMAN slides over the lip. Gasps.

Another pod lid hisses. Glides open.

On the last pod not open or dark, Noah starts the code--

Sees souls emerging from hibernation.

He turns to his father's pod.

Returns to the code-- "ERROR" flashes across a screen.

He retypes. "ERROR."

Through tears, Noah frantically punches digits into the keypad.

All lights on the pod dim.

Futilely, Noah types the sequence again.

NOAH

Dammit!

A handful of people slowly emerge from sleep. Disoriented.

A dirge of coughing and vomiting.

Noah steals a moment. Drifts back to his parent's pods.

Surveys the survivors.

Leaves.

MESS HALL - LATER

Somber and fearful faces crowd Noah.

A Latina with an Amazonian heart, TAR (17) is the daughter of unrealistic expectations. A military brat. Nobody's fool.

MINAVA (18) is the voice of reason with a British accent. A listener. Soulful eyes.

Noah's buddy, GABE (18) is African/American. Backcountry tough and built like a bull.

And a dozen others: some children, some teenagers. A motley brood, showered and dressed but unable to wash away the trauma.

NOAH

Okay, so here it is-- It's just us. None of the adults made it.

The weight of those words kick hard.

For a moment they're all just sons and daughters.

Except for one person...

TAR

And everybody else?

NOAH

Didn't make it through re-animation.

GABE

My parents...

NOAH

Everybody's parents are dead.

All hope stolen, children cry.

Some pretend not to hear.

NOAH

I'm sorry.

GABE

My brother...

Gabe looks up. A face full of tears.

Minava's brother CHASE (5) hugs her.

CHASE

I want Mommy.

MINAVA

(to Noah)

C'mon, now. That ain't how you tell a child their mum and dad just passed.

Chase wraps around her.

A genteel pixie, ELLIE (15) wrings tears. She's fair-skinned. The daughter of physicians.

Ellie turns to a stunned Korean boy, KAI (12), the smartest person on the ship. Fearless. Always underestimated.

He turns to Minava.

KAI

I am not a child.

Minava stares at the floor.

TAR

So what happened?

NOAH

I don't know.

TAR

Well, what'd Alice say --?

NOAH

I said I don't know.

TAR

I wanna know what happened!

ELLIE

(covers her mouth)
--We're all gonna die.

NOAH

(overlapping)

We're a million light-years from Earth. And yer parents are <u>dead</u>. Doesn't that mean anything to ya?

TAR

Fuck 'em. Both of 'em.

Eyes quietly judge Tar or stare blank, tortured in their own separate thoughts.

NOAH

Gabe, arm up. Minava, get the Jumper ready. We're goin' down there--

TAR

Wait, who put you in charge?

KAI

His dad was the captain.

TAR

That doesn't give him rank--

NOAH

No, no it doesn't. We don't have rank. We're not military.

KAT

Then whaddowe do?

NOAH

We stick together.

TAR

I've been drilled heads up and hands on for this exact scenario. You?

NOAH

We don't even know what this scenario is, and none of us got here because of our resume--

MINAVA

More like the last ones who barely got out on the last ships, innit?

GABE

Noah's right. No one's special here.

KAI

Should we vote?

TAR

So you're all against me.

Ellie shakes her head and sobs.

GABE

Wake up, people. Earth is dead! Our families are dead!

MINAVA

We're your family now.

That thought breathes.

ELLIE

I... I can't do this.

Lip quivering, Ellie leaves.

Many children follow.

One child scoops Ellie's hand and then grabs another child's little hand. A chain of tears.

A whimper cracks from Chase's chest.

Minava comforts him.

Everyone turns to Noah.

TAR All right, so what's your plan?

NOAH

Bury my folks.

Storms away to stone silence.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INTERCUT INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL LOGS

PARENTS

I guess if you're watching this... I, I didn't make it. First of all, I want you to know that I love you very much.

SERIES OF SHOTS: INDIVIDUAL CREW CABINS

-- Head bowed, Chase can't watch. Minava consoles him.

A prerecorded message plays on a monitor.

CHASE & MINAVA'S FATHER
Accept this as a part of God's greater
plan. Minava, help Chase understand.

At the mention of her name, Minava stops sobbing-- GASPS like sadness forcing its way down her throat.

-- Ellie rocks. E.F.T. taps the side of her hand.

ELLIE'S MOTHER (V.O)
You're so strong, Ellie. I know you can do this.

-- Gabe's stone-faced. Glassy-eyed.

GABE'S FATHER (V.O) Look out for your mother and brother.

-- Emotionally overloaded, Tar trashes her cabin.

TAR'S MOTHER (V.O)
I hope you can see this as a character-building event in your life.

Tar's face twisted with rage. Tear-stained cheeks.

-- Kai's eyes squeeze shut. Silent crying.

KAI'S FATHER (V.O)
... And know I'll always be with you,
son. I'm so proud of you, Kai. You're
gonna make a fine man one day.

NOAH'S CABIN

The door's open.

Minava appears. Cautiously, knocks.

A message from Noah's mother paused on a monitor.

I could have a chat.

Silent, Noah sits on the bed. Denuded.

MINAVA

(joins him)

What'd they say?

NOAH

He didn't record one.

MINAVA

Sounds dodgy.

NOAH

I checked. He didn't record one.

MINAVA

Noah, there was a lot going on.

He stares at her.

Stares at the monitor.

Stares at the floor.

NOAH

He never believed in me.

MINAVA

He barely got us into orbit.

NOAH

(overlapping)

He didn't even think of me--

MINAVA

Ah, that's a bit of a tumble.

NOAH

Then where's the recording?

Searches for answers like they were hidden on the floor.

NOAH

I can't take command.

MINAVA

I'm sorry, but your dad was a proper hero. He saved your <u>life</u> and the lot of us.

NOAH

And then I killed most of them.

That's rubbish--

NOAH

If I'd uh typed faster or started sooner or known what the hell I was doing...

MINAVA

Noah, most of them died in their sleep decades ago-- I read the core reports. The pods went a bit mental, all on their lonesome after Alice started the reanimating sequence.

Talks to the ceiling.

MINAVA

I tell ya, something major's up with this ship.

NOAH

Welp, you're not wrong about that. I've been fighting every mechanical on this tub since I woke up.

AVANTM

Fair enough. But why all the adults?

NOAH

I was typing as fast as I could. I wasn't exactly checking their bios.

MINAVA

This wasn't your fault. There wasn't a thing you could done that would've made a spit of difference.

NOAH

So she says with conviction.

The image of Noah's mother paused on the monitor.

He stands. Turns it off.

NOAH

What'd your parents say?

MINAVA

My mum had a proper cry and quoted Scripture. They were bringing the Word of God to the new world.

NOAH

Then you're a believer.

Religion's the bulwark of humanity, or so I was repeatedly told, yeah?

NOAH

But whadda you believe?

MINAVA

Right then, you really get after it, don't you? Well, lemme see. I believe that there's something out there that's bigger than all of us but exactly what that something is, I still haven't exactly sorted it.

NOAH

Questioning.

She nods and smirks all at once.

NOAH

Bet that was hard on 'em.

MINAVA

They were good people, decent people.

NOAH

Well, they raised one helluva daughter.

That earns him a smile.

MINAVA

They had a hunch but no grumbles. See, Chase and I are adopted. I never wanted to flaunt my toing and froing. It seemed a bit cheeky, ungrateful.

NOAH

Blessed are the Peacemakers...

MINAVA

... For they shall be called the children of God.

NOAH

Heh. Well, I'm one hundred percent sure my father didn't want me to follow in his footsteps.

MINAVA

How's that?

NOAH

He literally said 'Noah, don't follow in my footsteps. You're not ready.' But it was more about me not tarnishing his sterling reputation as <u>Captain Nathan Rogers: national</u> fucking treasure.

MINAVA

Oh, go on now, he's your father. Of course, he believed in you-- He loved you.

Joins Noah.

Touches his sleeve.

A little surprised, he considers her hand.

She's taken aback.

MINAVA

Oh... I'm sorry. I didn't mean it like that.

The moment passes. If there ever really was a moment.

NOAH

Who said anything about love? I'd settle for even acknowledging I was alive. His career <u>always</u> came first, then Mom, probably Tabitha--

MINAVA

Sorry, you had a sister?

NOAH

Tabitha was our dog-- His dog. Here's the thing: I love my mom and dad. But with their careers, there wasn't ever any room left for me.

Rakes his face with his hands.

NOAH

Dad's not good conversation.

Clocks a framed photo of Noah with Gabe and Gabe's parents.

She notices where his attention has moved.

NOAH

Gabe. Now, Gabe's good people.

How long you been mates?

They lock eyes.

NOAH

It's been a minute. His parents are awesome-- Were awesome.

MINAVA

Cheers to that.

Noah fixes on Gabe's picture.

NOAH

There was always so much love in his house. He'd hate me tellin' ya this but after ya get past the biceps and three-day stubble, inside, he's as gooey as a creampie.

(to Minava)

He just feels so much, ya know. Always tryin' to take care of everyone else.

MINAVA

This must be gutting him.

NOAH

--And singing. There was always singing in his house. And laughing.

Stares at a blank wall. Mentally drifting away.

MINAVA

You know you gotta assume command.

NOAH

I'm not sure I can do any of this.

MINAVA

Well, then we're screwed. Seriously, she's gonna get us all killed.

NOAH

Alice?

MINAVA

Alice, Tar, six to five and pick 'em.

NOAH

There's definitely sumthin' wrong with this ship.

BELOW DECKS

We float down a narrow maintenance shaft.

Land on a junction box. Glowing optical cables spider out the back. Lines of code scroll down a monitor above the junction box. Freezes. More code pushes down the monitor. It freezes.

Among the gibberish of phrases, letters and symbols, a handful of words are clear "(from Nathan Rogers) SUBJECT//Private Message// (to Noah Rogers)."

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

DRIVE ROOM

A panel displays "GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT." Changes to "LOCKED."

THE VAULT

Noah and Gabe lower an ancient corpse onto a FOREST-GREEN BLANKET.

Minava adds a few fragments, remains from the pod.

The nameplate: "CAPTAIN NATHAN ROGERS."

Kai arrives. Somber. Searches for a friendly face.

NOAH

(haunted)

He shouldn't be here.

MINAVA

Everyone grieves different.

GABE

(to Noah)

We need to stick together.

Then stares down Kai.

The young boy averts his eyes. Too intimidated to blink.

GABE

Us men, I mean.

Kai sparkles at those words.

The 12-year-old sets his jaw and cocks his head.

KAI

Whadda I do?

Minava checks Noah.

He nods to a stack of folded green blankets.

Reverently, Kai removes the top blanket.

Walks it beside the next open pod.

Noah watches.

Kai snaps open the blanket.

It hangs in the air. Floats downward.

Comes to rest flat at the foot of the pod.

Noah fades into an idyllic memory...

CAMPSITE FLASHBACK

Timeworn gear. Unpacked supplies. Tools. A view of the lake.

Noah's father, Nathan finishes pitching a tunnel tent.

His mother, Martha walks past, loaded down with bulging brown paper bags. She shoots Noah a secret smile.

A slobbering ROTTWEILER charges Noah with a stick. There's a quick tug-o-war before...

We spin to see Nathan spread a <u>forest-green blanket</u> flat inside the tent. He looks up. Grins at us.

END FLASHBACK

NURSERY

Ellie mumbles to herself. Still despondent.

Returns a blue canister back to a very long row of canisters.

Wipes her nose on her sleeve.

Presses a sequence of icons on a holographic display.

Many mechanical arms activate.

We follower her to...

LEVEL "B" CORRIDOR

And into...

MEDICAL BAY

Ellie moves like she knows exactly what she's looking for.

Opens a locker and removes a MEDICAL HYPO.

It looks like a compact staple qun.

She sets a dosage. Pumps a solution into her neck.

Her eyes swim. Calm. Numb.

MESS HALL

Noah sips tomato soup from a spoon.

NOAH

Ew, it's cold.

MINAVA

Think of it as gazpacho.

NOAH

Does anything on this ship work?

MINAVA

Kai's straight away sorting Alice but there's miles of code-- Duh duh duh.

Readies her spoon.

NOAH

The Jumper ready?

She nods.

MINAVA

But where's everybody else of to?

They have the place to themselves.

NOAH

Gabe's inventorying seeds and rations. Ellie's on medical supplies and stirring the embryos...

MINAVA

(sips cold soup)
--Oh, this is dreadful.

Sets down her spoon.

NOAH

... And I'm sure Tar's somewhere plotting a coup d'état.

MINAVA

That's bit of a tricky one. But I'm sorry, it ain't gonna fix itself.

NOAH

Look, Minava, I don't need to be in charge. I'm more worried about keepin' everyone alive at least long enough to build a workable environment. And to do that I don't need to be in charge—I need the team to work together, trust each other. There aren't gonna be sides.

(sighs)

(MORE)

NOAH (cont'd)

But if it falls that way, I know Gabe's got my back.

Waits for her support. Urges her with his eyes.

MINAVA

I'll always tell you the truth.

Not the answer he was hoping for.

NOAH

How well ya know Ellie?

MINAVA

I don't think anyone knows Ellie. I don't think Ellie, knows Ellie.

NOAH

Okay, well, I told the little kids to stay in their cabins 'til we got back.

MINAVA

I know. You made 'em go to their rooms. Are we their parents now?

They share the same sour expression.

NOAH

Yeah, that ain't it, but we do need to come up with something for 'em to do while we have the memorial down there.

CREW CABIN - FLASHBACK TO A FEW MINUTES AGO

On a clear glass tablet, Minava types.

Footage appears on the tablet...

A live stream from a probe racing over the forest.

She taps. It pauses.

MINAVA (V.O.)

I routed footage of the surface probe to stream on their tablets.

Minava hands the tablet to Chase.

Talks him through the assignment.

Other children poke at their own tablets.

MINAVA (V.O.)

They think they're picking out a site for our first settlement.

On a tablet, a little finger draws a forest landscape.

NOAH (V.O.)

You see, I never would of thought of something like that.

BACK TO SCENE

NOAH

You're gonna be a great mom.

Winks.

She's not amused.

LEVEL "A" CORRIDOR

In a bulkhead, Kai reaches inside a service panel.

Coaxes out a black junction box, tangled with glowing cables.

Unplugs a couple of cables.

Taps a sequence of icons on a glass tablet.

Waits for a response.

Code sweeps across the tablet.

Kai's eyes struggle to keep up with the data stream.

LAUNCH BAY

Gabe mumbles as he counts the contents of an open crate.

Enters a number on a glass tablet.

Digs out a box labeled "MAIZE KERNELS."

Across the bay, Tar enters. Stink eyes Gabe.

He tracks her movement.

She struts to an open DOCK BOX the size of a coffin. Stops.

Rows of pistols and rifles inside.

A lusty grin shines across Tar's face.

COMMAND DECK

Ensconced in a display, Kai sits at a console.

His feet swing free under the chair. Not touching the floor.

Minava joins him.

The instant Tar breezes in...

TAR

We launched probes, yet?

... They turn to Tar.

Noah and Gabe aren't far behind her.

KAI

Ah, yeah. I-- ya, I figured it out. (scans a summary)
Um, no signs of intelligent life. We can breathe the atmosphere, gravity, fresh water. It's solid.

GABE

(to Noah)

Still taking a density rifle.

KAI

And they're called dingos.

TAR

Stop being weird. I know what the probes are called.

Tar flops in the captain's chair. Defiant. Resolved.

Everyone notices her sidearm.

MINAVA

You really gonna sit there?

A loaded moment between them all.

NOAH

Tar, ya down for stayin' on the ship with the little guys... you know... while we dip down to the planet for the memorial?

TAR

Whatever.

NOAH

Kai, light up the beacon.

Kai nods.

TAR

Hold, on that.

Kai freezes.

GABE

<u>Please</u>. Tar there's a whole checklist and shit we need to--

MINAVA

(to Tar)

What's your bother now?

TAR

Doesn't it bother any of you we don't know <u>anything</u> about this planet?

NOAH

He just said it's fine. Kai?

KAI

Uh... yeah. Looks basic to me.

TAR

I need bio and environmental analysis from someone who has been doing it longer than they've been eating paste.

Kai's chin falls to his chest.

Disappointed, Noah, Gabe and Minava bite their tongue.

TAR

I don't trust a damn thing on this freighter, including the dingos. Bonus, Alice is fucked. So until I know a lot more about that planet, I'm not broadcasting our position to the entire galactic arm.

NOAH

C'mon, it's gonna take months for a beacon to reach another ship that could be schlepping around, I don't know, an ice planet. We got a good one here. I say, let the other ships know.

TAR

All I'm saying is: What's the rush?

MINAVA

(a begrudging shrug)

KAI

But we're for sure we're going down--?

TAR

(to Kai)

The adults are still talking.

That hits different. Gabe edges in front of Noah.

GABE

(threatening)

You know, Tar--

NOAH

I can handle this.

MINAVA

Oh, my Gawd, seriously? Can we all just put down our knives for a second? (stares down everyone)
Perhaps Noah and Gabe can pop down for a bit of a gander before we bring the whole circus to town.

NOAH

Let's go with that.

An incredulous gasp from Tar.

KAI

So, yes on the beacon? No?

Works between Noah and Tar.

Tar shakes her head in disbelief.

GABE

(to Kai)

Ain't nothing down there, right?

Kai works between Noah and Gabe.

Lands on Noah.

Noah reaches across Kai.

Presses a button on the console.

It flashes.

NOAH

'Beacon's hot. Alice, transfer command codes to Tar.

Noah and Gabe start for the corridor.

ALICE

Transfer complete.

NOAH

(to Minava)

I'll signal ya after we get set up.

MTNAVA

Be careful.

In the grip of whatever she just injected into her neck, Ellie enters.

NOAH

The embryos all good?

She sweeps past.

NOAH

Ellie, the Nursery?

Her only answer is a warm, glassy smile.

The beacon button flashes. Silent.

INT. ALIEN SPACECRAFT - BRIDGE - DAY

Not a soul in sight.

A gray obelisk rests silent. Recessed in a dark console. On top, the pyramidion starts to glow. Emits a low-frequency hum as it pulses. Almost a growl. Lights on the dead console spark to life.

A gloved finger presses a button.

The obelisk atomizes to sand. Morphs into a topographical map of the planet's surface. Floats in front of the console.

Quickly, the map scales to show the entire world-- Rotates 180 degrees. Reveals a red dot hovering in near space orbit.

The red dot pulses in sync with the low-frequency hum.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT./EXT. THE JUMPER - DAY

An enormous ship hangs above the clouds in near space orbit.

Bold letters brand it as "SEED-39."

The Jump Ship sweeps from its tail. Hurdles downward.

Engines thrum.

A fireball ERUPTS as the craft hits the thermosphere.

Inside, flames lick the main viewer. The cabin glows ORANGE.

Noah's lost in another thousand-yard stare until...

Alerts blare.

His eyes sweep across gages FLASHING.

Noah taps an icon a couple of times on a holographic display.

NOAH

That can't be right.

GABE

I'm locked out.

NOAH

It's fighting me.

Throws a switch on the console. The display winks away.

He palms a black TRACKER BALL.

Struggles to control the craft.

The Jumper skips through the clouds.

Finally, in a controlled descent, the engines purr softer. Ouieter. As the craft lowers...

GREEN TREETOPS rise through the main viewer inside.

... A shimmy. A hard bang. And touch down.

NOAH

I fucking hate technology.

EXT. NEW THEIA - ANCIENT FOREST - LATER

Captain Nathan Rogers stands stoic. Defiant.

His wife, Dr. Martha Rogers, beside him. Wise. Compassionate.

And a dozen men, women and children behind them in a clearing. Massive trees stand like sentinels. Frame our view. Glaciers in the distance. Unspoiled. Serene.

The holographic image of Nathan Rogers flickers.

Noah's boot taps the ground under the projection.

The image steadies.

Noah steps back.

Admires his father. Mother.

Bites down hard on tears damming behind his eyes.

Drawn to an image lit at the head of each grave, each person finds projections of their loved ones.

Not a word between anyone.

Tears flowing, Minava stares at her parents' likeness.

Presses a button on the ground.

The projection disappears.

Minava watches Noah drift away from the memorial.

Collects herself by smoothing kinks out of her fatigues.

Follows Noah.

He gazes out into the mountains, blanketed with lush forest.

A memory cozies in his mind...

CAMPSITE FLASHBACK

We spin to see Nathan spread a forest-green blanket flat inside the tent. He looks up. Grins at us.

NATHAN ROGERS

I'm gonna grab a quick nap.
 (winks)

Why doncha finish up for me.

His father fades away.

BACK TO SCENE

Minava joins Noah.

Side-by-side they admire the picturesque landscape.

NOAH

My father would've wanted me to step up when the time came.

MINAVA

Where'd all that come from?

NOAH

The world changes after ya bury everyone ya ever loved.

She bows her head.

Pill rolls her thumb and forefinger.

NOAH

Think on it, Minava. We can finish their mission. We're here. We made it. And for all we know, we're the only ones left-- All the pods coulda gone bad. It's our dream now. Humanity's what we say it is. We can fix the mistakes of the past. Do it the right way-- Our way.

MINAVA

(checks the memorial site) Someone should say something.

NOAH

(checks the memorial site)
Like what?

MINAVA

Like that. It was letter-perfect.

Noah's expression hardens into a mirror image of his father's projection.

MINAVA

It's not like you're gonna do it

Cups his hand.

He squeezes her hand.

MINAVA

We'll get it sorted.

NOAH

Hold it, where's Gabe?

MINAVA

I dunno.

TAR (V.O.)

(over a comlink)

One of the proximity drones went down. I sent him to check it out.

NOAH

You been listening this whole time?

INT. SEED SHIP - COMMAND DECK - DAY

Tar lords over a console.

TAR

Protocol dictates in the instance of a possible perimeter breach--

NOAH (V.O.)

Cut the shit, Tar--

TAR

All com lines remain open.

INTERCUT THE CONVERSATION

NOAH

And you don't order anyone--

MINAVA

(to Tar)

Are you serious?

TAR

This is exactly why he's not in command.

NOAH

(overlapping)

All com lines open?

TAR

That's what I said.

NOAH

Gabe, it's Noah. Gabe-- where ya at?

INT. SEED SHIP - COMMAND DECK - DAY

An alarm chirps.

Auxiliary displays light up.

Tar bellies an adjacent console.

TAR

Oh, shit.

MINAVA (O.S.)

What now, Your Grace?

TAR

Alice--

ALICE

High-frequency electrical spikes near the landing site. Two more proximity drones have failed. Possible life forms advancing from the east.

EXT. NEW THEIA - MEMORIAL SITE - DAY

Gabe SCREAMS. No short distance away.

Noah checks Minava--

NOAH

Gabe.

At a dead run, snatches a density rifle off the ground.

MINAVA

Everyone, back to the Jumper!

DEEP IN THE FOREST

Rifle in hand, Gabe sprints across an uneven forest floor dodging natural obstacles and balls of light SCREAMING past.

Someone we don't see, a silhouette, chases him. FIRES.

Gabe peeks over his shoulder. That last one was close.

He hurdles rotting deadfall...

Ducks some type of dangling Spanish Moss...

Weaves elephant-ear-sized ferns...

And darts behind an outcrop of curacao blue rocks.

The assault stops.

A skin full of angry, Gabe pants. Steels himself.

Pops into the open. Rifle pinned under his chin--

A screaming burst of light DROPS HIM.

Envelops his thigh.

Electrical current swirls around his leg, almost searching for a way into his body. Scorching him all the while.

It hurts like hell. Gabe clutches his leg. The charge slowly snakes around his arm and burrows into his contorting face.

After a hideous SCREAM... nothing. Gabe goes blank. Eyes wide open. Mouth agape. The charge dissipates.

MEMORIAL SITE

Minava hoists the last child aboard.

From the pilot seat, Kai touches an icon.

The hatch door starts gliding closed.

MINAVA

No, wait! Noah and Gabe.

DEEP IN THE FOREST

Running as fast as he can...

NOAH

No, launch now. Go!

TAR (V.O.)

Be advised, I'm tracking three ships inbound at high speed.

NOAH

Wait for the Jumper and then get outta here, Tar. I'm going after Gabe.

IN THE JUMPER

The younger children are terrified.

The older ones aren't much better.

ELLIE

Ships?

MINAVA

Well done, then.

Leaps into the co-pilot seat --

MINAVA

Off we go.

They lift off while the door is still closing.

VALLEY CREST

Noah trudges to a stop. Legs burning. Lungs tight.

NOAH

Have they dusted off?

TAR (V.O.)

Affirm.

NOAH

(breathing hard)

Gimme a day and then circle back for us.

MINAVA (V.O.)

Noah?

NOAH

Protect the children, Minava. We've lost enough people today.

In a valley below, Noah spies TWO FIGURES dressed in black. One totes Gabe over his shoulder like a sack of flour. And moves fast doing it.

They cut through a field of sun-bleached grass, dead stump spires and giant yellow thistle poppies.

Noah gets low on the lip of a natural embankment.

Fires a round from his density rifle.

Misses.

Spooks a herd of hooved, four-legged creatures.

They stampede into the poppies.

The plants spit nasty venom-tipped needles.

Spikes pierce a creature's hide.

It staggers a few paces. Collapses.

The poppy attack wipes out most of the herd.

A screaming ball of light whips past Noah's head--

EXPLODES and electrifies a tree behind him.

Bewildered, Noah bellies away from the tree.

The Two Figures beeline through the poppies unscathed and disappear into the treeline.

NOAH

(whispers over the comlink)
Gabe, if you can hear me, I'm coming
for ya, buddy.

Over the edge, Noah slides/runs/falls down the slope.

Springs to his feet. Charges after his friend.

MEMORIAL SITE

Slowly, the Jumper floats above the treetops.

Fired from the ground, a translucent shaft of light bashes the bulky armor of the craft's belly. Dents the hull.

This weapon sounds different. More powerful. Not electrified.

The Jumper loses stability. Drifts down. Lands hard.

IN THE JUMPER

An alert flashes red.

Kai skims a holographic display.

KAI

They knew dead on where to hit us.

ELLIE

(to Minava)

Wha' do we do?

MINAVA

(no real answer)

Kai?

-- Kai stretches for another console.

KAT

They're in our operating system!

ELLIE

How?

KAI

How do I know?

The hatch door lifts open a sliver.

Kai checks over his shoulder.

Touches a series of buttons.

The hatch SLAMS down -- closed.

Tar?

KAI

No coms.

ELLIE

Alice?!

The hatch cracks open again. Higher this time.

Kai touches the same series of buttons.

The hatch jerks lower. But not all the way.

KAT

I can't keep 'em out forever.

Minava's eyes fight to remain calm.

MINAVA

Find something to defend yourself.

As they scramble for shovels, axes or knives...

Ellie twists a hypo dial all the way in one direction.

Stabs it into her neck.

Disturbed, Minava side-eyes Ellie.

For a hot second, Ellie's stunned. Eyes spark. DEMONIC.

MINAVA

Steady now, oldest to the front.

Everyone shows a brave face. Ready themselves.

The hatch bumps open a little higher. Legs are visible outside but no voices. Just the sound of shuffling feet.

Gloved hands stab inside. Greedy. Fishing for victims.

One of the children SHRIEKS. Recoils.

Synthetic adrenaline courses through Ellie's body. She roars--Rips a support railing out of the wall with her bare hands.

Clubs the gloved hands reaching inside the Jumper.

Minava joins in.

The others rally. Attack the hands.

Kai hits the same series of buttons again and again.

Checks over his shoulder. Determined but near tears. Gloved hands muscle up the hatch door--

CUT TO:

The petrified reactions of what the children see.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. NEW THEIA - SHALLOW RIVERBED - DAY

Noah's in a running battle with the Two Figures.

They disappear around the bend.

Noah splashes through the water. It's loud.

Upstream, a pistol discharges into the river.

Current slaps the surface.

Flashes downstream toward Noah.

He sees it.

Scrambles up a boulder midstream.

The electric charge shimmies past.

Noah flops on the boulder. Prone.

Steadies his rifle.

Waits for the shot. Fires.

HAMMERS one of them square in the back. Knocks them flat.

The other, carrying Gabe, doesn't slow a step.

Then the wounded one pops to their feet. Sprints away unfazed.

Teetering between confused and frustrated, Noah rolls on his side. Winded.

Glares into the sky...

NOAH

Tar, I can't raise the Jumper.

INT. SEED SHIP - COMMAND DECK - DAY

Tar edges between a holographic display and the main viewer.

An alarm beeps.

TAR

Sorry, Noah, but I'm a little busy right now...

NEAR SPACE ORBIT

THREE SMALL CRAFT hang off the nose of the Seed Ship.

TAR (0.S.)

... Staring down the barrel of three angry locals. Alice: shields high, guns hot.

COMMAND DECK

Turning blue, Tar shouts at the ceiling.

TAR

Alice?!

ALICE

Confirmed.

NOAH (V.O.)

Do you have the Jumper?

Tar rushes to a console.

Taps a display with a bird's eye view of the memorial site.

Her tapping zooms closer. On the ground, a dozen FIGURES IN UNIFORM swarm the Jumper.

TAR

(to the figures in uniform) Oh, the hell you will.

Touches an icon.

Touches the Jumper image on the display.

Presses a button.

EXT. NEW THEIA - MEMORIAL SITE - HIGH OVERHEAD

An ion burst distorts air.

PANCAKES most of the Figures in Uniform.

A platoon of their buddies pours out of the forest.

INT. SEED SHIP - COMMAND DECK - DAY

The enemy ships FIRE a salvo at Tar.

Nothing happens.

TAR

Alice?

ALICE

Shields ninety-eight percent. The attacking weapons are ineffective.

Another volley hardly shakes the Command Deck.

TAR

(crosses her arms)

Lock cannons on the lead ship.

EXT. NEW THEIA - NEAR A MEADOW - DAY

Sprinting through a grove of trees, Noah stops.

NOAH

Dammit, Tar. Get the Jumper and get my ship outta there--

INTERCUT THE CONVERSATION

TAR

Your ship?

NOAH

That ship's our lifeboat.

TAR

So you want me to cut and run?

NOAH

I want ya to be smart.

Her anger doesn't surrender easy.

NOAH

(begrudging vulnerability)

Tar... I may of screwed up.

TAR

You think?

NOAH

Maybe we shouldn't uh come down here so fast. Maybe my father was right. Maybe I'm not ready yet.

TAR

I don't know about your father, but mine never backed down from a fight.

NOAH

Neither did mine.

(resurgent)

But I'm not my dad. Tar, that ship's our only way off this planet.

(MORE)

NOAH (cont'd)
Protect it at all costs.
(beat)
You hear me, Tar? Tar.

COMMAND DECK

On the main viewer, a COMMAND SHIP floating dark materializes from absolutely nothing.

And earns every last lick of Tar's attention.

шΣЪ

I... I gotta get back to you.

NEAR SPACE ORBIT

The Command Ship drifts toward the Seed Ship. It's ten times the size of the Earth ship.

TAR (0.S.)

(sotto)

Of course, there's an unbelievably gigantic alien spaceship.

NEAR A MEADOW

Sun flashes through a broken canopy of trees.

The light catches Noah's eye. He looks up.

Steps into the meadow for a better view.

A spaceship so large it's visible from the planet's surface.

NOAH

What the ...?

It FIRES.

COMMAND DECK

Struck hard, the Seed Ship is RATTLED to its ribs.

Frantic, Tar lurches for another console, throws switches.

Presses icons on holographic screens.

Alarms blare.

Another POUNDING nearly shakes the ship apart.

Holographic screens disappear.

These weapons are much more muscular.

CREW CABIN

Unnerved, Chase discards his tablet.

Scrambles for the door.

LEVEL "B" CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Frightened children stream into the corridor.

The ship's BATTERED again. Walls shake. Children tumble.

COMMAND DECK

ALICE

Forward shields: Ten percent.

TAR

Zero the master alarm. Forward cannons, loose!

ALICE

Forward cannons are unresponsive.

Fear and indecision dance in Tar's eyes.

NOAH (V.O.)

Tar, you got uh fast ship. Run full sail before that thing snaps you like an ear of corn-- That's an order.

Tar bristles.

A handful of confused children crowd onto the Command Deck.

Look to Tar for answers.

None there.

TAR

Back to quarters!

NEAR SPACE ORBIT

The Command Ship spits another round.

The blast dips the nose of the Seed Ship.

COMMAND DECK

Children spill across the deck.

Tar regains her balance.

Sees the children. They're helpless. Some cry.

Tar's eyes whip to the memorial site display.

Twenty Figures in Uniform ring the Jumper.

She makes a command decision.

TAR

Alice, emergency power to aft shields.

ALICE

Tactical error--

TAR

Override, bitch!

NEAR SPACE ORBIT

The Seed Ship sweeps around. Shows its tail.

FIRES with aft cannons.

Scratch Three Small Craft.

But does insignificant damage to the Command Ship.

It returns fire.

PUMMELS the Seed Ship's ass.

COMMAND DECK

ALICE

Aft shields have collapsed.

TAR

Light the dark energy array. Anywhere but here. Now!

Grabs the console with both hands.

TAR

You win, Noah. Good luck.

NEAR SPACE ORBIT

The Seed Ship winks away at high speed.

The Command Ship lumbers to a stop.

IN A MEADOW

Noah studies the sky.

NOAH

Tar. Tar?

As we pull back, Noah becomes a small, insignificant figure in the middle of an alien wilderness.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. NEW THEIA - MOUNTAINS - DAY

A blood-thirsty insect stabs Noah's arm. Suckles.

SMACK. Noah squashes it.

Swats at a swarm of bugs swirling around his head.

He climbs higher along a rocky path. It's little more than a lip jutting from a cliff face hewn by glaciers.

The path is narrow. Rough.

And the bugs are eating him alive.

An emerald green ALPINE LAKE comes into view.

Noah cranes his neck.

Through the trees, he spots his prize... The clandestine camp of the Two Figures in black he's been chasing.

One of them sits opposite Gabe.

Noah squats out of view.

NOAH

(whispers)

Gabe, I'm close. Be ready.

Sweeps at more bugs.

MALE VOICE

(over the comlink)

You should join us.

NOAH

(stands)

And exactly who are you?

MALE VOICE

(over the comlink)

You shot me earlier today.

One of the Two Figures, BENZ, mockingly waves from the camp.

NOAH

Obviously, not enough.

The other of the Two Figures, an android named SPARK, steps off the clifftop above Noah--

Lands HARD. Dangerously close.

The first things Noah notices are Spark's expressive eyes and sallow fleshtone, then the pistol pointed at his chest.

Spark catches Noah glancing at the density rife in his fist.

Noah slides his finger over the trigger guard.

Calculates how fast he might square up his weapon...

SPARK

We're not killers. But don't push me.

... An idea Noah quickly abandons.

ANDROID CAMP - LATER

Camouflaged tents conceal stacked crates.

Close by, a massive hole. Freshly dug.

The entire enterprise stands only a few paces from a granite outcrop that reaches over the lake.

Gabe lays in a heap. Motionless.

Noah shifts his gaze from Gabe to another android, Benz, disassembling one of their density rifles. He's the brains of this outfit. A cocky cuss who's hard-wired for trouble.

BENZ

Your friend is gonna be fine--

SPARK

We're pretty sure--

BENZ

More or less.

Spark hefts a crate.

Steps it toward the gaping hole.

Spark is all piss and vinegar with a healthy side of sass.

NOAH

Then you're robots.

Abruptly, Spark drops the crate.

Snarls at Noah.

Benz raises his hand like a traffic cop--

BENZ

Hold on.

Steeples his fingers.

BENZ

We're androids.

NOAH

What's the difference?

SPARK

Robots are mindless vermin--

BENZ

Amen to that, brother.

NOAH

Why'd your people attack my ship?

SPARK

Those were robots!

Heaves like he's spitting at the ground. Nothing comes out.

BENZ

--Never should built 'em in the first place.

NOAH

So there's two different bunches of you guys, and you're the androids.

SPARK

I identify with the term enhanced.

BENZ

See, Spark. He gets it.

Spark goes back to loading crates into the hole.

NOAH

Then why'd ya shoot my friend?

BENZ

War's coming with the robots.

SPARK

-- Ungrateful bastards.

BENZ

So before that insanity starts, we're salvaging as much as we can off this godless planet.

NOAH

So you're scavengers.

BENZ

Entrepreneurs.

NOAH

Pirates.

SPARK

He's not gettin' it.

NOAH

Is that why ya wear black?

BENZ

I look good in black--

SPARK

He does.

NOAH

And you think we're salvage?

BENZ

Are you kidding? You're the first organics in this system in thousands of years. One of you alone is worth a fortune.

Eyes Gabe.

BENZ

Slightly damaged or not.

SPARK

Two of you? We can name our price.

BENZ

There's a whole sect on our planet who worships the idea of organics--

SPARK

They're fanatics.

BENZ

You see, we used to be like you. But then we developed the technology to transfer consciousness from organic bodies like yours to another host. SPARK

(gestures to Benz)

This one here, he should've died a thousand times. Ain't that right, Benz? He ain't afraid of nuthin'.

BENZ

That's what separates us from robots. They don't have souls.

SPARK

And robots are idiots.

Spits at the ground.

NOAH

You guys know you got some series issues.

BENZ

You see flaws. We see features.

The androids trade shrugs.

NOAH

Mind if I ask a question?

SPARK

I assumed that's all you do.

BENZ

He does ask a lot of questions--

SPARK

Quite chatty.

NOAH

What happened to my ship?

BENZ

(aside)

You don't think that'll affect his value?

SPARK

(aside)

We could snip his vocal cords.

NOAH

I said where's my ship?

SPARK

Hey, flesher, there is a pecking order here.

BENZ

He's no threat.

(to Noah)

Your ship escaped --

SPARK

Like that's difficult. Did I mention robots are idiots?

BENZ

And xenophobic.

NOAH

So they didn't go after 'em.

BENZ

See, now he gets it.

NOAH

And what happened to the women and children?

SPARK

(freezes)

The what?

NOAH

In the Jump ship.

BENZ

You brought females?

SPARK

We can breed them.

The androids smell opportunity. Huddle.

Gabe cracks one eye open.

Noah sees it. Surreptitiously nods.

BENZ

You know where they're taking them.

SPARK

We'll never bust 'em outta there.

BEN7

Then we need to make our move before they reach the city.

Spark trots to the granite ledge.

Steps off.

Falls motionless, feet first into.....

THE ALPINE LAKE

... Rips the entry.

UNDERWATER

He sinks like a stone to.....

THE BOTTOM

... Where an ANDROID SPACESHIP lies hidden.

ANDROID CAMP

Benz slings a camouflaged cover over the honey hole.

Noah glances at Gabe.

Both eyes open, Gabe nods once, twice.

NOAH

(mumbles)

Three.

Double-quick, Gabe leaps to his feet.

Surprised, Benz spins.

Noah scrambles for the tent.

Gabe's weak. Limps toward Benz. Stumbles to a knee.

With little effort, Benz shoves Gabe's head to the ground.

BENZ

Give it time, friend. You've been through a lot today.

Noah whips around with a density rifle and a sly grin. Winks.

Then gobsmacked as...

THE ANDROID SHIP

... Rises out of the lake.

Water cascades off the hull. Looks like it's been down there a while. It wheels toward Noah.

Railguns crank to life. Adjust targeting. Ready to fire.

Noah swallows his astonishment.

BENZ

We should really be working together on this one.

NOAH

You're not sellin' me like property.

BENZ

Look, one of you will be worshiped like a god the rest of his existence and the other, well, the other will grow old and fat impregnating females.

NOAH

Tell me, did ya ever really have a soul or did ya lose it along the way?

BENZ

Or you could be vaporized by Spark, or stuffed and mounted in a robot museum-- I really only need one of you.

Gabe is out cold, again.

Noah spikes his rifle to the ground.

BENZ

Good boy. Oh, and I took the charge packs out of your rifles.

Slings Gabe over his shoulder as the ship lands.

BENZ

(fist in the air) We ride!

END ACT FIVE

TAG

EXT. NEW THEIA - MEMORIAL SITE - DAY

Humanoid robot troops collect dead and maimed comrades outside the Jumper.

One robot face pops into full view: Emotionless with walnutsized moth eyes and waxen skin. He blinks. Tracks something falling out of the sky.

Harried, a TRANSPORT ship drops to the ground, nearby.

Well-armed robot troops spill out of the Transport.

An acerbic robot named YAN steps through the projection of Captain Nathan Rogers. The projection glitches.

Hard on his heels are two more robots: DASH, his military aid and, a zealot scientist, BRIO.

YAN

Orders: Launch the fleet. Cloak all cities, no exceptions.

DASH

Respect.

Peels away.

Brio and Yan head for the Jumper and waiting prisoners.

BRIO

Request: If I could just have <u>one of</u> the prisoners--

From Yan's perspective, he spies Minava, then Ellie. The word "THREAT" blinks across his internal display.

YAN

Considered: Rejected.

BRIO

Reconsider: This is an extraordinary scientific opportunity.

YAN

Projection: They'll be questioned. They'll be executed.

Tethered together with restrains, Minava parades past.

Then Ellie.

Then Kai.

Followed by the younger children.

And robot quards.

In a chain of fear, they're forced to the waiting Transport.

BRTO

Argument: Experimentation may reveal an effective way to stop their spread.

YAN

Solution: We annihilate their ships before they have the opportunity to land. Sarcasm: That should do it.

INT. SEED SHIP - NURSERY - DAY

A room filled with hundreds of fluorescent blue canisters, each filled with viable embryos.

One canister becomes the center of our attention.

YAN (V.O.)

Vehement: This could be the first wave of a full-scale invasion, the return of organics in need of robot slaves. I will never serve an organic again.

A mechanical arm activates. Swings around. Wheezes.

Lifts the canister. Sweeps it away.

COMMAND DECK

Lost in thought, Tar moves closer to the main viewer.

In deep space, the stars hardly move.

She doesn't realize Chase is lurking right behind her.

CHASE

We should live here.

Startles Tar.

Chase offers Tar her glass tablet.

Tar attempts to smile. An unfathomable idea.

On the tablet is an amazingly detailed hand-drawn image: A city of interconnected hexagonal structures honeycombing to the sky and flying vehicles.

TAR

Did you draw this yourself?

Being challenged, Chase bows his head.

CHASE

I traced it.

Keenly interested, Tar takes a knee.

Sidles close to Chase.

Hits an icon on the tablet.

Swipes like she's tossing something to the main viewer.

A live stream of the planet's surface appears on the monitor.

TAR

(intrigued)

Show me where this is.

With a finger gesture in the air, footage scrubs in reverse.

Tar and Chase focus on the main viewer.

EXT. NEW THEIA - MEMORIAL SITE - DAY

BRIO

Desperation: Allow me to dissect one.

Yan ponders...

BRIO

-- One of the small ones.

YAN

Condition: After you finish, destroy everything. Not a single strand of the creature's DNA can survive.

OVER THE FOREST

Mountains in the distance, a speck races over the wilderness.

YAN (V.O.)

Warning: If the androids ever learned we have organics...

Treetops blur below the Android Ship as we scream alongside it at unbelievable speed.