

STARSHIP TROOPERS: MOBILE INFANTRY

Written by:

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Based on the novel *Starship Troopers*  
By Robert A. Heinlein

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TEASER

FADE IN

INT. MILITARY BARRACKS - MORNING

TITLE CARD: CAMP ARTHUR CURRIE, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-JUNE 5, 2108,  
0113 HRS

JONNY RICO (19) wakes and sits on his bunk, rubbing his head. He remembers a conversation with his father EMILIO RICO (50's) before joining military. A soft harmonic HUM begins with the scene and gradually gets louder and more dissonant until DIZZY FLORES (20) puts his hand on Rico's shoulder. CARL JENKINS (19) moans softly in the background.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

June 5, 2108. I woke up that morning groggy, remembering a conversation I had with my father.

EMILIO (V.O.)

You are not going to join the mobile infantry!

RICO (V.O.)

I am 18, dad, I can do it if I want!  
(Long Pause) Dizzy and Carl are joining up and I-.

EMILIO (V.O.)

Dizzy just wants to please his father and Carl...

In the background, Dizzy gets out of bed and stands, looking around.

Well Carl's one of...

RICO (V.O.)

One of what? God, dad, you are so-.

Pauses.

Dad, I want to be a citizen.

EMILIO (V.O.)

*(With heavy sarcasm)*

Oh, of course you do! It's not good propaganda if it doesn't make empty headed-.

Dizzy, in the background, walks toward Johnny.

*(Angry)*

Dubois put you up to this, didn't he? That crippled ass(ole)-.

RICO (V.O.)

At least he can vote!

EMILIO (V.O.)

*(Warningly)*

Watch you're damn mouth, son. This is my house and I will not be disrespected in it.

RICO (V.O.)

*(Wounded)*

What is the point of respect if your father won't even listen to you? I just-.

HUM stops as Dizzy puts his hands on Rico's shoulder.

DIZZY

Rico, you okay?

RICO

Yeah,

Rico pauses.

Yeah, I'm fine.

Rico turns to face Dizzy

Why are you awake?

DIZZY

It's Carl. He looks a little...

Dizzy makes a "bottle to the mouth" drunk gesture.

We better sober him up—remember when  
Zim caught Algerson with—.

Carl moans loudly and Rico and Dizzy go to investigate.  
TROOPERS start to wake up.

*(Hushed)*

Carl, shut up! You're gunna get us  
all—God, he's covered in sweat.

TROOPER I

Eh, what's going on?

DIZZY

Shut it. You want to wake Zim?

TROOPER II

I'd be more worried about Carl waking  
up the old man, myself. I—.

Carl moans loudly again and starts to convulse. SERGEANT  
CHARLES ZIM (Late 40's) gets out of bed.

ZIM

*(Groggily)*

Is one of you apes going to tell me  
what the hell is—.

Carl wakes, still shaking and moans loudly.

Carl, what in the hell—?

Carl screams, in crippling pain.

Dizzy, I think you better get a medic.

CARL

*(Frantic and to no one)*

The darkness whispers...—darkness like  
the...! They are coming—I can hear them!

Pause as Carl looks to Jonny. Other TROOPERS and Zim look at  
Carl. Carl continues talking, though without moving his lips  
using a form of PSYCHIC COMMUNICATION.

Jonny, they know we—no... they know you  
are here...

RICO

*(Calm, yet airily)*

Carl... what's going on?

CARL

The darkness, Jonny, the darkness  
whispers your name.

RICO

*(More awake)*

Carl...

CARL

It comes for you, Jonny.

FADE OUT

TITLE SEQUENCE

FADE IN

"WISDOM JUSTICE AND LOVE" BY LINKIN PARK PLAYS, CUT WITH SHOTS FROM OTHER SCENES.

MONTAGE-SERIES OF SHOTS

SONG

I come to this magnificent house of  
worship tonight,

A- Shot from ACT 7: the PRIEST anoints Soldiers under the RUINED CHURCH.

CUT

Because my conscience leaves me no  
other choice.

B- Shot from ACT 7: Rico lying in bed, trying to sleep and taking pills.

CUT

A true revolution of values will lay  
hands on the world order and say of  
war: This way of settling difference is  
not just.

C- Shots from ACT 5: CIVILIANS enter MILITARY TRANSPORT while MARAUDERS fire on BUG horde attacking the ARMORY.

CUT

This business of burning human beings  
with napalm,

D- Shot from ACT 4: Benson incinerated by TANKER BUG.

CUT

Filling our nation's homes with orphans  
and widows,

E- Shot from ACT 6: Rico tells Mrs. Flores her son is dead.

CUT

of injecting poisonous drugs of hate

MIMNAUGH/MOBILE INFANTRY

7.

F- Shot from ACT 7: Rico's father stern at the military base before they embrace.

CUT

into veins of people normally humane.

G- Shot from ACT 3: Doctor Gearhardt as he begins to lose it.

CUT

Of sending men home from the dark and bloody battlefields

H- Shot from ACT 4: Pack losing his arm.

CUT

physically handicapped and psychologically deranged

I- Shot from ACT 4: Devin getting ready to kill himself.

CUT

Cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love.

J- Shot from ACT 4: Pack flying over the TANKER BUG and dying.

CUT

Cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love.

K- Shot from ACT 2: Woman running from forest into Rico's arms.

CUT

Cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love.

L- Shot from ACT 5: Gren killing a TANKER BUG.

CUT

Cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love.

M- Shot from ACT 6: Rico's rage after leaving wounded Dizzy.

MIMNAUGH/MOBILE INFANTRY

8.

CUT

Cannot be reconciled with wisdom,  
justice, and love.

Cannot be reconciled with wisdom,  
justice, and love.

N- Shot from ACT 6: MARAUDERS descend as Rico runs to Dizzy.

TITLE CARD: THE "STARSHIP TROOPERS: MOBILE INFANTRY" GRAPHIC

FADE

TITLE CARD GRAPHIC FADES AFTER THE LAST SHOT DOES.

FADE OUT



ACT 1

FADE IN

EXT. RURAL - EARLY EVENING

TITLE CARD: CAMP ARTHUR CURRIE, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-JUNE 6, 2108,  
1815 HRS

Rico and Dizzy perform target practice at shooting range with DEVIN (19) and BENSON (19). Characters shoot from to time, very focused; the dialogue is almost a secondary and unconscious.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

We got the news the next day. By that time Carl was already off world.

DIZZY

They are shipping Carl to Pluto early.

RICO

Where did you hear that?

DIZZY

Ashley Valerez.

DEVIN

Ahh, Valerez. Wouldn't mind being the Boot Captain if I had an assistant like that.

BENSON

She has a thing for you, doesn't she?

DIZZY

Can you blame her?

Dizzy takes a shot.

I'm the best looking among you apes and we're the only men for a hundred kilometers. Well,

He pauses.

Other than Zim and the brass, that is.

DEVIN

I thought she had a thing for Rico.

DIZZY

Jonny, pshh, no. Besides, there's only one girl for Rico.

Rico tenses.

NARRATOR RICO

Before they had a chance to shift the conversation to Carmen Ibanez, I changed the subject.

RICO

But they're shipping out Carl?

DIZZY

That's the word. I can't imagine why, though.

Dizzy takes another shot.

Graduation ceremony's in less than a month.

RICO

Pluto.

DIZZY

I wouldn't worry, Jonny—its not like he won't fit in.

RICO

They should at least let him graduate.

Rico fires a shot.

I'm all out.

DIZZY

Me too. Want to head to the rec?

RICO

Yeah. Benson, Devin, you guys coming?

BENSON

Nah, still need to brush up on my shots before the exam tomorrow.

DEVIN

Same here.

DIZZY

Don't worry, guys, you'll get it. Just keep practicing.

DEVIN

Thanks, mom.

Dizzy and Rico begin walking toward the rec hall. Rico waits until they are out of earshot.

RICO

About last night.

DIZZY

Don't worry about it, mate, he's fine. He's just—.

RICO

*(Serious)*

He spoke to me.

DIZZY

*(Nonchalant)*

Yeah, I heard.

RICO

No, not that kind of speaking.

Rico points to his head.

DIZZY

You mean...?

Dizzy shivers.

I hate when he does that.

Pause.

*(Playing it down)*

I almost don't want to ask, but... what did he say?

RICO

The darkness whispers my name or something like that.

DIZZY

Weird.

RICO

He also said *it* is coming for me, although what I have no idea.

DIZZY

Who knows what is going on in his head. I'd forget about it.

They enter the Rec hall and Dizzy looks at the holographic video display.

You see this, Jonny?

RICO

You are changing the subject.

DIZZY

I know.

Dizzy shrugs.

An asteroid is headed toward earth and the idiots in SS want the sky marshal to let the damn thing through the defense grid.

ZIM

Damn stupid if you ask me.

RICO AND DIZZY

*(Saluting)*

Sir!

Zim looks over the couch and gives the two a nod.

ZIM

At ease, gentlemen.

RICO

Any idea why they're doing it, sir?

ZIM

Story is they want to study the effects  
in atmosphere.

DIZZY

I always hated science, but that sounds  
like a load of shit. What's to study?  
Anyway, the defense grid should just  
buy the thing its farm and be done with  
it.

ZIM

I believe you have the right idea, kid.

Zim gets up.

See you in thirty for mark 3  
proficiency. Don't be late.

RICO

Looking forward to it, sir.

DIZZY

Are we ever late, Sarge?

Zim chuckles.

ZIM

You have a point there, kid.

DIZZY

Helps having a colonel for an old man.

Zim nods and leaves.

*(Re: ASTEROID on screen)*

Ugly thing, isn't it.

Rico looks at the holo screen and sees the ASTEROID floating out  
in space.

*NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)*

The moment I saw that rock I knew  
something was wrong with it. The only  
thing I didn't know then was how wrong.

FADE IN

EXT. RURAL - TWILIGHT

TITLE CARD: CAMP ARTHUR CURRIE, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-JUNE 13, 2108,  
1937 HRS

Rico is in his MARAUDER battle suit, somewhere in the woods. Close on Rico's face, you can see reflections of the battle outside the suit on the visor's reflection. Viewers can hear the MARAUDER moving. Rico's HEARTBEAT is heard.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I did my best to forget the asteroid and Carl during the marauder exercises throughout the week, but the thoughts crept in.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

Rico, how far away are you from target?

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

Twenty-five seconds.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

I am thirty out. Hold off for five and resume.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

Affirmative.

MARAUDER stops moving. HEARTBEAT quickens.

*(To himself)*

One. Two. Three. Four. Five.

MARAUDER begins moving. HEARTBEAT slows.

*(Re: Dizzy)*

I'm moving in.

DIZZY

Affirmative.

Battle noise gets louder, though is still in the distance. The reflection in Rico's visor shows him picking up a CTF OBJECT while Dizzy's MARAUDER covers him. They then evacuate.

Blue team, be advised, we have the package. Prepare to disengage.

A short pause passes as the MARAUDERS make movement noises.

Blue team, disengage and move to rendezvous.

HEARTBEAT gets louder. Rico runs through a forest; he looks to his side to see the glowing CTF OBJECT and Dizzy running beside him.

*(Urgent, yet controlled)*  
Drones. Rico, protect the flag.

RICO  
On it.

Rico pulls a huge shield from his side and thrusts it into the ground. He then puts his arm over the shield; on it is a HIGH CALIBER GUN attached below the arm. Rico fires, destroying one of the DRONES while Dizzy's MARAUDER encroaches through Rico's peripheral. Dizzy destroys two DRONES in rapid succession with a LIGHT ROTARY CANNON.

DIZZY  
Rico, one on your six.

Rico turns and fires a BLUE PLASMA FLAMETHROWER at the DRONE.

RICO  
Got it.

A ball of wreckage hits the floor, smoking.

There's a lot of these bastards.

DIZZY  
I count six more, but the ones from the base will join if we don't move.

One DRONE explodes when hit by a ROCKET.

DEVIN  
Dizzy, Benson and I have you covered.

BENSON

Move to extraction so we can get this exercise over with.

DIZZY

Rico, get to rendezvous; we will cover you from behind.

RICO

On my way!

HEARTBEAT rises. Rico pulls the shield from the ground and a mechanism moves it so it is over his back. He runs, carrying the CDF OBJECT under his arm. Battle noises are heard and a shot hits his shield. The other MARAUDERS follow, firing on DRONES. Soon shots come from in front of Rico, fired by friendly DROPSHIP. Rico enters the DROPSHIP and secures the CTF OBJECT. He then supports the other Dizzy, Devin, and Benson as they enter.

ZIM (V.O.)

*(Over DROPSHIP RADIO)*

Clear.

HEARTBEAT fades. The DRONES disengage and TROOPERS cease fire, relaxing and sighing. As the DROPSHIP flies back to base, the TROOPERS sit. They open their helmets and engage in small talk and review stats as they fly back to base. They land and disembark. Zim begins clapping and the other TROOPERS join as well, though less enthusiastically.

ZIM

First team to make it through—and with no casualties. Congratulations.

DIZZY

Cute little addition with the drones in the woods, Sarge.

ZIM

Anticipate everything, kid.

DIZZY

That's a long list of things, sir.



ZIM

You did better than most. The last team lost half their members before even getting to the base.

Several TROOPERS in the crowd look a bit grim at this.

*Some of you might learn a lesson from Dizzy here, that is, if you pull your heads out of your asses long enough to do so.*

DIZZY

Benson saw the landmines.

ZIM

That he did. You four work well together.

DIZZY

Are we dismissed, sir? I can't wait to get a shower.

*(Grimly)*

If the water's hot tonight, anyway.

ZIM

Belay that for now. Look over to the east.

After a moment, the ASTEROID is seen in the sky burning in the atmosphere. Zim and the TROOPERS watch as it streaks across the sky; some make comments when appropriate. Rico puts his helmet back on and zooms in. He sees the SCIENTIFIC CRAFT flying by the ASTEROID as little dots.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Then I saw it.

RICO

What in the...?

Rico then sees a very ambiguous SHAPE move from the ASTEROID to one of the SCIENTIFIC CRAFT. The SCIENTIFIC CRAFT then swerves and crashes into a second craft, the two detonating. Rico gasps and tries to get a better look. Zim and the TROOPERS have similar reactions, though none of them see what Rico sees. They

all watch it drop across the sky and impact a hundred or so kilometers to the south.

DIZZY

Last time the eggheads in SS get a favor for a while, I think.

RICO

Sarge, did you see that?

ZIM

Hard to miss, kid.

RICO

No! Something leapt from the asteroid and—.

ZIM

Leapt?

DIZZY

Did you hit your head on the op, Jonny?

RICO

I have it on my visor. Sir, I—.

ZIM

*(Hasty, but masked by nonchalance)*

Upload it to my server, kid. I'll take a look.

FADE OUT

INT. REC ROOM-DAY

TITLE CARD: CAMP ARTHUR CURRIE, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-JUNE 14, 2108, 1237 HRS

Rico, Dizzy, BENSON (19), and DEVIN (19) sit in the rec room, watching footage of the ASTEROID INCIDENT. Rico is more intent than the others. Dizzy isn't paying much attention at all, writing a LETTER.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Two days had passed and Zim hadn't said so much as a word about the footage. That, and he deleted it from my personal server.

BENSON

Just looks like an unfortunate accident  
to me.

DEVIN

Like your face or—?

Dizzy looks up from his letter.

DIZZY

I'd rather have his than yours, Dev.

Benson laughs.

DEVIN

Ey, shut your damn mouth.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I should have kept my own mouth shut,  
but of course I didn't.

RICO

It wasn't an accident.

DEVIN

This again?

RICO

If Zim hadn't deleted it from my  
server, I would show you.

DEVIN

Convenient lack of evidence there,  
Rico.

Rico stands, exasperated. He walks to the holo screen and  
points to the footage.

RICO

See how it moves a little bit and then  
just lunges off. You took physics  
right? That isn't what it should have  
done.

DEVIN

I still don't see it.

Devin yawns.

RICO

Use your eyes, damn it! It's right in front of you.

BENSON

*(Trying to arbitrate)*

Rico, it's not a big deal, man.

Rico glares at Benson.

DIZZY

*(Airy)*

Rico, I think I see what you're saying.

DEVIN

Not you too!

BENSON

Shut it, Devin.

DIZZY

Yeah, it kinda pushes off there. What do you think it is, some kind of magnetic reaction between the hull and the asteroid.

*NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)*

Once again, I should have left it alone.

RICO

No, I think it might be alive.

A couple seconds of silence pass.

BENSON

Jonny, you know that sounds a little... uh.

DEVIN

I think *insane's* a choice word.

RICO

Dizzy?

Dizzy shrugs, looking as though he wants to help, but is unable.

I know what I saw.

Rico storms out of the rec room. Dizzy follows.

DIZZY

Jonny! Jonny!

RICO

Damn it, Dizzy, I know what I saw.

Dizzy catches up and looks Rico in the eye.

DIZZY

You know what you think you saw, Jonny.

Rico looks away.

Come on, Jonny, aliens? That's what you're saying, right?

Rico sighs.

RICO

It sounds a bit stupid when you put it like that.

DIZZY

*(Jokingly)*

A bit?

RICO

Alright, damn stupid.

Rico sighs again.

Look, I want to be wrong. I want to un-see that. Why would aliens come on some asteroid rather than a ship or whatever? How could they survive? What's the point?

DIZZY

Well?

RICO

I don't know.

DIZZY

Not the most convincing answer.

A pause.

Did you get a letter from Dubois?

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

He loved changing the subject.  
Fortunately this time I caught the  
hint.

RICO

Yeah. "Proud?" I didn't think the  
word was in the man's vocabulary. You  
see he was a Brigadier General before  
he retired?

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Then I took my change of course.

RICO

Speaking of letters, how's yours to  
your sister going? How's she doing?

DIZZY

Good and good.

RICO

I miss her—didn't think I would, you  
know, the whole "kid sister" following  
us around thing—but I do.

DIZZY

*(Subconsciously)*

She misses you too—a lot.

Dizzy laughs then realizes he says something he shouldn't, but  
Rico doesn't. Dizzy quickly corrects his error.

The news about Carl is going to crush  
her.

RICO

Yeah.

FADE IN

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM-DAY

TITLE CARD: CAMP ARTHUR CURRIE, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-JUNE 16, 2108,  
1534 HRS

Rico enters the observation room, seeing Zim and TECHNICIANS.  
They observe many HOLOGRAPHIC SCREENS, observing and controlling  
a MARAUDER test.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

While my team had been the first to  
pass Zim's test and on the first try,  
my opinion on the asteroid still gave  
me grief. When Zim called me into the  
observation room, I was expecting him  
to set me straight with the footage—or  
at least tell me to shut up about it  
already.

ZIM

Send in drones eleven through twenty  
from the rear.

TECHNICIAN

Yes, sir.

RICO

You called me, sir.

ZIM

Ah, Rico.

*(Re: TECHNICIAN)*

Finish them off, sergeant.

TECHNICIAN

Yes, sir.

ZIM

I went over your footage, Rico, that,  
and sent it to brass.

RICO

Sir?

ZIM

Your footage confirmed some suspicions.  
Walk with me.

Rico and Zim leave the observation room and begin down a long, empty hallway.

This is classified and you have been given temporary security clearance so don't go telling anyone about this. Officially, this information does not exist yet. Can I trust you?

RICO

Will this get you in trouble, sir?

ZIM

Not if you don't tell anyone, kid.

RICO

I won't.

ZIM

Two months ago, the Federation detected a fleet of unidentified craft in the Tesca System. After a few days it disappeared. One week ago, the fleet showed up in Sol.

RICO

*(Concerned)*

Sir?

ZIM

*(Grave)*

They look like asteroids, Jonny.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

That was the first time Zim ever called me that. It all sank in then—the deleted footage—the asteroid... even Carl's words.

*RICO*

Carl!

ZIM

He knew about it before we did, it seems.

Zim looks at Rico.



Don't worry; he's safe.

Zim pauses.

They are hiding in the asteroid belt, but we know where each of their ships is. We think the ship that entered the atmosphere is a scouting vessel.

RICO

Why the hell didn't the sky marshal shoot it down?

ZIM

Can't say, kid. Best guess is that he doesn't want to reveal our defensive capabilities until the full fleet comes. It is better that we take them by surprise, I think.

RICO

How do you know all this, sir?

ZIM

I am old friends with General Redwing.

Zim stops walking.

I told you your footage confirmed some suspicions.

Zim looks at Rico.

Don't ask me why and by what information, but brass believes they're hostile.

RICO

I... I...

Zim resumes walking.

ZIM

You, me, and eleven of the best in Currie are heading to the base camp at the ship's impact site. I do not anticipate any issues or "incidents"

but we thirteen should be fine against anything surviving that impact. Nevertheless, we are headed into the unknown.

RICO  
Why aren't they sending in MI?

ZIM  
Zim laughs.

Kid, we are MI.

RICO  
What I meant was—.

ZIM  
I know what you meant. Rico, the brass wants this to look like an exercise for their reasons. I will be commanding and Sergeants Gren and Post will be two of my three wing leaders.

Zim stops walking and looks at Rico.

You will be number three.

RICO  
Me?

ZIM  
You.

RICO  
Is there no one else?

ZIM  
I don't need anyone else.

RICO  
What about Dizzy?

ZIM  
What about Dizzy?

RICO  
He's better.

ZIM

Look, kid, you may not know it yet, but you're exactly what brass looks for in an officer.

RICO

What?

ZIM

Dizzy may be talented, and he'll make one hell of a sergeant, but try and pry him from the foxholes and put him behind a campaign board...

He things for a moment.

Well, that campaign won't go pretty. You, on the other hand, wouldn't make it out of basic without your comrades helping you along the way. You think too much to be a common soldier, kid—you're too damn creative.

RICO

Sir, I—.

ZIM

Remember that shit you pulled to get at that base in the mark three proficiency? —don't think I wasn't listening in on your comm. systems.

RICO

Well it wasn't anything special.

ZIM

Damn wrong, kid. I have been the drill sergeant at Camp Arthur Currie for years and never a once has a cadet tried to use the drones against themselves.

RICO

It didn't work, though; they counteracted Benson's hacking.

ZIM

God damnit, Rico, you're going to make me say it aren't you?

Zim sighs.

It didn't work because I didn't let it work. Those drones would have destroyed themselves inside of a minute if I hadn't disabled your broadcast. I couldn't let your test be that easy.

Zim looks at Rico with thought.

Those were obviously testing drones and you knew that your plan wouldn't work in a real op, but you seized the opportunity presented to you anyway.

RICO

I...

ZIM

Yes, you. Come on, we're headed toward fitting room.

Zim and Rico enter a large room with several lines of MARAUDERS as well as SERGEANT GREN (30's), SERGEANT POST (40's), Dizzy, Benson, Devin, and SIX CADET TROOPERS. Narrator talks as EVERYONE suits up. Zim's voice is heard in the background saying things like: "Your weapons'll have live ammunition" and "This ain't an exercise, apes." CADET TROOPERS look nervous.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

We suited up and Zim briefed the other cadets; brass's suspicions sounded no better the second time. For once, we had our choice of weapons and loadouts, but that seemed to make everyone feel more nervous than prepared. Dizzy asked me more than once what was really happening. Once we had geared up, we headed out.

CADET TROOPERS amass near the entrance to the MARAUDER BAY.

CADET TROOPER

Sir, what's going on?

Zim motions for the MARAUDERS to enter the DROPSHIP.

ZIM

Nothing to concern yourself with, kid.

Zim enters the DROPSHIP and looks back.

Sergeant Marris is in charge until I  
get back. You do anything stupid and  
I'll hear about it.

The DROPSHIP lifts off the ground.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I had seen the nerves on the others as  
they suited up, but as we left the  
cadets behind, I felt it present itself  
in my own chest. I understood then  
that I might be entering a war between  
humankind and something unknown, a war  
from which I might not return.

FADE OUT

## ACT 2

FADE IN

EXT. FOREST-EVENING

TITLE CARD: ASTEROID IMPACT SITE, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-JUNE 18,  
2108, 1840 HRS

Rico, Dizzy, Benson, and Devin escort DOCTOR HAZIR (late 70's) along the side of a large empty lake where the ASTEROID struck. Hazir stops here and there to take readings. As they walk, Rico recounts a conversation with his father and Dizzy speaks in the background, trying to get Rico's attention. HUM from teaser returns, building up until Dizzy gets Rico's attention.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

As the mission took a turn for the more tedious, my thoughts wandered to a conversation I had with my father—one of the first I had on the topic of joining the MI.

EMILIO (V.O.)

*(Incredulous)*

The Mobile Infantry!

RICO (V.O.)

The Mobile Infantry is an honorable choice for—.

EMILIO (V.O.)

It's insane is what it is! If you want to get your franchise, at least do something intelligent. Be a pilot or a-a-anything!

RICO (V.O.)

My grades aren't good enough to be a pilot, dad!

EMILIO (V.O.)

And who's fault is that! Only one in twenty make it through boot camp! Those are bad odds for a franchise, but God only knows why you want one anyway.

RICO (V.O.)

*(Ignoring the last bit)*

I can make it! I'll spend six months  
in boot and then two years in service!  
It is shorter than—!

EMILIO (V.O.)

You know those two years are the  
minimum, right? They can retain you  
for as long as is necessary!

RICO (V.O.)

We're in peacetime and the Federation  
is stable! I—!

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

Rico.

The HUM stops.

You alive in there?

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

Oh, sorry, what's up?

BENSON (V.O. COMM.)

My arm cuff is giving me a strange  
reading and I want get a diagnostic.

DEVIN (V.O. COMM.)

What he means to say is he forgot to  
take a shit and doesn't want to use the  
marauder's tube.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

*(Resigned)*

Do you need an escort? Sightings have—

BENSON (V.O. COMM.)

*(Embarrassed)*

Uh, no, I—I should be fine.

Devin laughs as Benson heads off.

HAZIR

Sergeant Rico.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I liked the sound of that, even if the rank was only provisional.

Rico's helmet opens and he looks down to HAZIR.

RICO

Yes, Doctor?

HAZIR

I think this is a good spot. Can you deploy the equipment?

Rico and Dizzy deploy some scientific EQUIPMENT while Devin stands guard.

I really appreciate the MI's help on this, gentlemen. Moving this scanning equipment would be difficult without your help, especially on this terrain.

RICO

It's our pleasure, sir.

Dizzy's helmet opens.

DIZZY

Anything to get us out of boot.

Hazir fiddles with the EQUIPMENT and takes some soil samples and readings. He talks as he does.

HAZIR

The more readings I take the more I am sure the asteroid's heat did not dry up this lake. Much would have flash evaporated or been thrown into the forest, but the ground is *dry* and where have all the fish gone?

DIZZY

Well you're the scientist.

Rico gives Dizzy a checking look.

HAZIR

That I am.



Hazir chuckles.

I used to be a trooper once as well.

DIZZY

*(Surprised)*

No shit?

HAZIR

Fought along with the best of them, I did.

Hazir laughs.

But that was before those fancy suits you are wearing existed. There were only prototypes in my day and ones not too reliable at that. Plenty of good men spent their blood perfecting those as I remember it, so honor them in wearing the armor.

RICO

*(A bit amazed)*

Yes, sir.

DEVIN

You fought without suits? What was that like?

DIZZY

We fought the first three months of training without suits, dumbass.

DEVIN

*(Embarrassed)*

Oh... yeah.

HAZIR

It was a whole different world then. Mothers didn't spank their children, fathers weren't around, and mobs of youngsters roamed the streets looting and stealing.

DIZZY  
(*Re: Rico*)  
Sound familiar?

RICO  
Just like Dubois said.

Rico chuckles.

(*Re: Hazir*)  
That was before the war, right?

HAZIR  
That it was.

Hazir muses.

Back then, this land you stand on now was called Canada and south of it was the United States. Both fell though—after the war, yet not for lack of skill in military combat.

Hazir sighs.

Most of the world economy crashed after the Great War and social strife brought down even the most resilient nations.

Hazir pauses.

Like dominos, they were.

DIZZY  
That was when The Federation formed, right?

HAZIR  
A move of desperation, really, but yes, that's what happened. All the soldiers, sick of the entitlements and rioting brought down a hammer of worldwide military rule until enough civilians earned their franchise—I was a part of that rule.

DIZZY

*(Joking and light)*

I am surprised you turned it over.

HAZIR

*(Intense)*

Watch what you say, boy, your jape is a betrayal of your foolishness!

DIZZY

*(Somewhat mortified)*

What I meant was—.

HAZIR

*(Calm again)*

I know what you meant, youngster, but you need to heed your words. Always remember, revolutionaries may build a new government, but they must never rule it.

Hazir releases a long sigh.

Only those willing to serve are meant to rule—we took the power by force and knew it. The world was ours to set right, but not to rule. Even now, after fifty years of service, I still do not have a franchise.

RICO

*(In awe)*

You are a greater man than I, sir.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I meant that with all of me, though, in retrospect, it still was not enough.

HAZIR

*(Chuckling)*

Oh, nonsense. I was a boy, just as you.

Hazir pauses.

Now, let us get back to the business of this lake.

Hazir clears his throat.

Hmm, disappearing water and fish,  
sightings of strange creatures on the  
edge of the forest, and MI escorting us  
scientists on a crash investigation; if  
I didn't know better I'd think—.

Devin's helmet opens.

DEVIN

What, that aliens are walking among us?

Rico glares at Devin.

HAZIR

*(Correcting)*

That you troopers are keeping something  
from us scientists.

RICO

I am afraid the details are classified,  
sir.

HAZIR

I have nothing but respect for you  
troopers and I am sure whatever secrets  
you are keeping are done so for a good  
reason.

Hazir frowns.

I just wish Doctor Gearhardt could come  
to understand such—.

DEVIN

Sighting!

Rico, Dizzy, and Devin's helmets close.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

Devin, you stay with the doctor.  
Dizzy, with me.

The two lunge into the woods, in pursuit of a SCOUT BUG. The MARAUDERS are far faster, but the BUG is very agile and random in its path. They follow the SCOUT for the better part of a

minute, highlighting the creature in infrared, thermal, and other types of imaging. The SCOUT BUG disappears into a HOLE.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
Damn holes! They're everywhere!

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
Seal it up.

Dizzy's MARAUDER changes weapons and he fires a small round CHARGE into the HOLE.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Calm and unenthusiastic)*  
Fire in the hole.

Dizzy sighs.

Again.

The CHARGE detonates in a deep thump, sending dirt into the air.

FADE IN

EXT. FOREST-EVENING

TITLE CARD: ASTEROID IMPACT SITE BASE CAMP, NORTHERN  
PRAIRIES JUNE 18, 2108, 1923 HRS

Rico, Dizzy, Devin, and Doctor Hazir enter SCIENTISTS' MODULARS, Rico, Dizzy, and Devin still wearing the MARAUDER UNDER SUITS. Benson lounges on a couch, watching the news and Sergeant GREN sits at a table, eating dinner. Zim and GEARHARDT (30's) are arguing in Zim's temporary office.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)  
We went back to base shortly thereafter; I remember hearing Zim and Gearhardt arguing in the other room.

DEVIN  
How was your shit, Benson?

BENSON  
*(Ignoring Devin)*  
Welcome back guys, anything interesting?

RICO

Saw another unknown and tracked it to its hole. Dizzy sealed it up.

GREN

That makes thirty-one today, by my count. I'm not liking-.

GEARHARDT (O.S.)

*(Shouting from another room)*

We need to take more samples!

HAZIR

It looks as though Gearhardt is on another of his tirades.

ZIM (O.S.)

*(Low and annoyed, but audible)*

No one is going anywhere without an escort.

GEARHARDT (O.S.)

*(Furious)*

I am trying to do my job here but it is no easier with you monkeys interfering!

ZIM (O.S.)

*(With suppressed annoyance)*

The term is "apes" Doctor.

HAZIR

So, Devin tells me there are aliens in the woods.

DEVIN

No I didn't! Sarge, I didn't tell him anything about them!

GREN

*(Annoyed)*

At least, not until just now, anyway.

Hazir chuckles.

DEVIN

*(Re: Hazir)*

Son of a bitch!

HAZIR

*(Re: Gren)*

So... just what are we dealing with?

GEARHARDT (O.S.)

*(Irate)*

I am in charge of this facility, damn it!

ZIM (O.S.)

*(Calm)*

And I don't mind you calling shots from a brig, doctor, so long as they do not interfere with *my* orders.

GEARHARDT (O.S.)

I-I-.

Gearhardt rushes into the main room, furious, storms though, and goes into the LABORATORY. Zim enters the room.

GREN

*(Nonchalant)*

Devin spilled.

Zim glares at Devin.

DEVIN

*(Stuttering)*

I am sorry Sarge-Zim-sir! I didn't mean to-.

ZIM

*(Annoyed)*

Save it.

Zim turns to Gren.

How much does he know?

Gren looks up.

GREN

No idea, sir.

Zim looks at Hazir.

HAZIR

Enough, though not much. Fear not,  
your secret is safe with me so long as  
you wish to keep it.

Hazir pauses.

I did my doctorate on xenobiology,  
though *these*, these are not like  
anything I have seen on *Tesca*, *Roku*  
*San*, or *Hesperus*. *These* seem... quite  
intelligent and coordinated—I suppose  
you could say—militaristic even, or at  
least very instinctual.

FADE IN

INT. MODULAR - VERY EARLY MORNING

TITLE CARD: ASTEROID IMPACT SITE BASE CAMP, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-  
JUNE 19, 2108, 0402 HRS

Rico lies in bed, looking as though he is having a nightmare.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I woke the next morning at the sounds  
of screaming.

A faint scream wakes him and he, naked with FLOGGING SCARS on  
his back, slips into his MARAUDER UNDER SUIT; COMM. CHATTER is  
heard after he does. He grabs a sidearm and meets with Dizzy.  
Screams and gunfire sound throughout the scene.

DIZZY

Any idea what's going on?

RICO

Not a—.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

Weapons free!

Dizzy and Rico hear another scream and run outside. Sergeant  
Post and two other MARAUDERS are aiming at something in the dark  
forest and firing in select bursts. Two MARAUDERS enter the  
woods. Zim exits the SCIENTISTS'S MODULARS from another door  
and the two run to him.



ZIM (V.O. COMM. AND LIVE)  
All units, get to your marauders.  
What's the situation, Pack?

Zim listens to headset.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
Confirmed contact, sir. Gearhardt and  
some others slipped out of the  
perimeter last night. We have two  
confirmed casualties.

ZIM (V.O. COMM. AND LIVE)  
*(Calm, but annoyed)*  
Damn it.

Zim notices Rico and Dizzy.

Dizzy, get in your suit. Rico, corral  
the civilians inside—I'll coordinate  
from the HQ.

DIZZY AND RICO  
Sir!

Dizzy runs off to the MARAUDERS. A young female lab assistant,  
JESSICA VAND (Early 20's), runs from the forest, very  
frightened. Rico catches her in his arm; she cries  
uncontrollably.

HAZIR  
Sergeant.

Zim turns and Rico tries to calm the Jessica. Hazir has a  
RIFLE.

Let me handle the civilians. From the  
sound of it, they need you out there.

ZIM  
Doctor?

HAZIR  
*(Slowly)*  
And retired Lieutenant Colonel, sir.

Zim considers for a moment.

ZIM

Very well.

*(Re: Rico)*

Assist the doctor while I suit up.

RICO

But—Yes, sir.

Zim runs off to the MARAUDERS and Hazir approaches Rico.

HAZIR

Ms. Vand, come here.

Jessica leaves Rico and clutches Hazir, speaking frantically and hysterically.

Be calm child, you are safe now.

Hazir motions toward the door and Rico nods; Hazir goes inside. Rico aims at the woods for another couple of moments. He hears gunfire and then sees Gearhardt frantically stumbling into the light cast by the SCIENTISTS' MODULARS. Gearhardt is missing an arm below the elbow and has a deep wound in his side.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I was closest, so he grabbed me with the one arm he had left.

GEARHARDT

*(Grave and through a bloody throat)*

Demons! Monsters! We need to leave this place!

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

*(Solemn)*

I will never forget the look in his eyes, like the man had lost his soul... or something had taken it.

FADE OUT

## ACT 3

FADE IN

INT. MODULAR - MORNING

TITLE CARD: ASTEROID IMPACT SITE BASE CAMP, NORTHERN PRAIRIES  
JUNE 19, 2108, 0623 HRS

Rico, Zim, Gren, Hazir, and Gearhardt are in a laboratory with a DEAD SCOUT BUG on a table; Hazir dissects it. Zim is on comm., talking in the background while Gearhardt nurses his wounds and complains. Gren bides his time while Rico looks out of place.

GEARHARDT

*(Frantic)*

We need to get out of here!

GREN

Just calm down, Gearhardt, the sergeant's on the wire with the brass right-.

GEARHARDT

Don't "calm down" me. I don't care if he talking to the god-damned Sky Marshal. I am the leader of this expedition and we will be evacuated!

GREN

All in due time.

GEARHARDT

All in due time? All in due time? If you *monkeys* had done your job, we-.

ZIM

*(Furious, though controlled)*

Excuse me?

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

That was one of the few times I heard that tone come from Zim. The last man to earn that had gotten fifteen lashes.

The color drains from Gearhardt's face as Zim approaches him, coming eye to eye.

ZIM

*(Ice cold)*

If you had obeyed my orders, three of your fellow scientists wouldn't be dead right now.

A long pause ensues before Zim looks away.

*(Re: comm.)*

I'm sorry, sir.

A pause.

No, no, sir.

Zim flicks two fingers and Gren nods; Gren escorts Gearhardt out of the room, easily overpowering the thrashing man.

I had a small issue with one of the scientists is all.

A pause.

Yes. I will keep you posted, sir.

Zim ends the call.

*(Re: Hazir)*

What do you have for me, Doc?

HAZIR

It appears to be asexual, incapable of breeding.

ZIM

Pardon my asking, but how can you know that? It's an alien, right?

HAZIR

Yes, indeed. But look. See here?

Hazir points to the DEAD SCOUT BUG. Zim approaches the bug then looks to Rico. He waves Rico over.

ZIM

Come on, kid. Remember week one?

Rico takes a tentative step back.

RICO

Sir?

ZIM

Day five, rule number eight, ring any bells?

RICO

Know your enemy, sir?

Zim smiles and Rico approaches.

ZIM

Right on, kid. Like I said, management material.

HAZIR

If you follow these patterns, one can extrapolate that this creature was once compressed into a small round shape—an egg if you will. I would estimate by the breaching marks no larger than a marble.

ZIM

*(Incredulous)*

So they hatched here? —on earth?

HAZIR

It certainly explains the missing water and fish from the lake.

ZIM

Come to think of it, I haven't seen much wildlife around here, myself. The bastards are using our own resources against us... cunning. The size of marbles, you said?

HAZIR

Marbles, yes.

ZIM

That is a lot of bugs.

HAZIR

Thousands in this one asteroid.. tens of thousands, perhaps.

ZIM

What else can you tell me?

HAZIR

As you can see it has four nearly identical legs, but it also has a pair of pedipalps and this sharp elongated maw.

Hazir motions to LEGS and PEDIPALPS both attached and detached to the DEAD SCOUT BUG.

Yet unlike an insect or arachnid, this creature's four legs are attached to the abdomen, rather than the thorax.

ZIM

What are you saying?

HAZIR

Only that this is a truly alien species.

A pause.

The insides prove more interesting. The abdomen is basically a collection of leg joints, the anus, as well as blood lines and nerves. The thorax and head contain everything else.

ZIM

Define "everything else."

HAZIR

Six hearts, four stomachs and digestive tracts, as well as ten lungs—mismatching ones, furthermore.

ZIM

What do you mean by that?

HAZIR

It has different types of lungs and gills, indicating it is well adaptable to many environments.

ZIM

I don't like the sound of that.

HAZIR

Nor do I.

A pause.

At a risk of sounding sensational, the brain proves the most problematic.

Hazir motions to two brain lobes.

ZIM

How so?

HAZIR

Well, for starters, these have two. One is attached to the nerve stem located between the thorax and the abdomen. The other brain attaches only to the first.

A pause.

*(Gravely)*

I cannot be sure without further tests, but it seems to be built to emit and receive psi waves.

ZIM

You mean like...?

HAZIR

*(Somewhat fearful)*

Exactly.

RICO

*(Re: Zim)*

So... so they're like Carl?

ZIM

That's what it sounds like.

HAZIR

It seems to me these creatures were created to be controlled. They have no reproductive glands, simple stomachs, a weak primary brain, and all samples have identical TNA.

RICO

TNA? Don't you mean—?

HAZIR

No, *Tri-oxyribonucleic acid*, indeed, though simplistic. These creatures seemed designed for combat and against individualism.

RICO

Designed?

HAZIR

Designed, not evolved. It would seem to me that there is some greater force behind this creature—like the hive mind of an ant colony, though far more domineering. These genetics are *deliberate*.

Gren enters.

GREN

*(Drained)*

Gearhardt says he wants the best trooper as a personal escort at all times.

*(With false perkiness)*

As lead scientist, he says, he deserves as much.

ZIM

*(Very annoyed, but controlled)*

Gearhardt can say whatever he wants. He's lost half an arm and all of his



wits. As far as I am concerned,  
Hazir's in charge now.

Zim then turns to Rico.

Rico, the whole team has been given  
temporary clearance to know what's  
happening. Tell them what these things  
are and the nature of that asteroid.  
In the meantime, Hazir and I will be  
talking with brass.

Rico swallows.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I swallowed hard at that. I never was  
one for speeches and *this* speech was  
more than I was ready to give.

FADE IN

INT. MODULAR - MORNING

TITLE CARD: JUNE 19, 2108, 0640 HRS

Rico stands in front of all the scientists and several troopers  
on break. He speaks as a montage of shots pass, showing the  
audience's reactions to Rico's silent words as Narrator Rico  
speaks.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Yet I gave that speech to the best of  
my ability, each syllable a fire on my  
tongue. My fellow MI listened on comm.  
and stood outside, guarding against any  
assault; all outside activities were  
suspended. The scientists, with  
exception of Gearhardt, remained silent  
as I spoke. Well, at least their  
mouths didn't say anything, that is.  
Their faces... their faces spoke all  
kinds of fear. When I got to the part  
of about the psi wave brain, it would  
seem Gearhardt had heard enough.

GEARHARDT

Psi brain aliens! Absurd!

RICO

*(Nervous)*

That is what Hazir said and—.

GEARHARDT

Hazir's a damn xenobiologist—he sees aliens in everything!

*(Re: the whole room)*

I bet—I bet this is a conspiracy and you—you *MI* want us scientists just to help cover it up! You are leading us on!

GREN

*(Re: Gearhardt)*

That bug might have taken your arm, Doctor, but keep talking and I'd be more than happy to take your tongue.

GEARHARDT

You would never—! I am the leader of this research team—you wouldn't dare!

GREN

It was a joke, Gearhardt. Are you hearing yourself?

HAZIR

That would be the toxins talking, sergeant.

Everyone in the room then notices Hazir and Zim in the room.

In truth, it is not a poison, but the creatures' blood itself. It is neurotoxic, necrotoxic, and bioexplosive in one, it seems.

GEARHARDT

Liar! You've been bought!

HAZIR

*(Ignoring Gearhardt completely)*

The creature, using some bio-stimulant akin to adrenaline, activates this blood, making its strength proportional

to its level of excitement. Yet if it is too excited, whether by hysteria or some near death situation, perhaps, it will explode.

SCIENTIST 1 (30'S)  
You mean Gearhardt could—?

HAZIR  
No, no, there is no risk of Doctor Gearhardt exploding, I assure you—not until the blood spreads through in his system, anyway. But, even so, we need to get him to a hospital.

GEARHARDT  
You want to dissect me! You want to take me apart and see what makes me so brilliant!

*(Through a sneer)*  
You have always been jealous!

HAZIR  
*(Ignoring Gearhardt)*  
In truth, these creatures' blood seems to be its own organism, unbelievably. It grows and replicates, feeding on material such as our own blood. But I have no doubt a cure will be found.

ZIM  
*(Solemn)*  
We have two transports on the way, one for the civilians and another for MI.

SCIENTIST 2 (50'S)  
You are leaving us?

ZIM  
We are. Do not worry—.

GEARHARDT  
*(Out of touch)*  
You won't take me alive!

ZIM

*(On the brink of losing composure)*

Somebody shut him up, please.

Gren and TROOPER (19) move to restrain Gearhardt, but are thrown off. Gearhardt lounges toward Zim, throwing people out of his way. Gearhardt's eyes are bloodshot and he is sweating all over. He does not show any pain from his missing arm and black veins can be seen at the sites of his wounds.

GEARHARDT

*(Hysterical)*

I am going to kill you, you smug monkey!

Gearhardt throws a punch at Zim, but he dodges; Gearhardt's fist goes through the wall, crushing the hand and bloodying the arm. Gearhardt throws another punch, but Zim catches the man's wrist, flings him over his shoulder, and pins him.

ZIM

*(Furious, but composed)*

Get me a damn tranquilizer!

Gearhardt swings up his stub of an arm, catching Zim in the face; the arm explodes in dark blood. Zim and Gearhardt fight, but Zim knows martial arts and dodges everything, though Gearhardt is amped and doesn't feel pain. Soon Zim slips on a slick created by Gearhardt's blood. Hazir shoots Gearhardt in the neck with a tranquilizer gun before the doctor can act on this advantage; Gearhardt turns to Hazir and is shot twice more. The scene calms Hazir goes to Gearhardt.

GREN

*(Soft, disbelieving)*

That was enough tranq to bring down a rhino.

HAZIR

*(Re: Gearhardt)*

It is okay my friend.

GEARHARDT

*(Weeping and slipping away)*

I am so sorry.

HAZIR

I will be right beside you all the way  
through this.

GEARHARDT

No, no, stay away; don't touch—.

HAZIR

It makes no matter; I was infected  
already.

Hazir holds up a hand for the man to see; there is a small cut  
on one of the fingers with a thin black vein running from it.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

That's when I had the thought.

Rico looks to Zim; Zim is wiping Gearhardt's blood from his  
face. As Zim looks up, Rico gasps; the veins and iris in one of  
Zim's eyes are black.

Zim had been infected as well.

FADE IN

EXT. MODULAR - DAY

TITLE CARD: JUNE 19, 2108, 1125 HRS

All the TROOPERS are in MARAUDERS, holding perimeter, firing  
shots periodically. Zim, Pack, Gren, and Rico are at the  
corners of the building, denting the structures heavily. The  
scientists are at the center with various pieces of valuable  
equipment, though not everything. Gearhardt is on a stretcher  
and Hazir is holding a rifle.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

We waited on that roof for an hour  
before the "bugs," as we had begun to  
call them, started attacking. The  
assaults were small at first, one or  
two bugs here and there, probing. But  
soon they came in small waves. All the  
cadets were nervous, though the  
sergeants, I myself one provisionally,  
kept them calm. Near the third hour,  
Zim spoke on the command channel.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)  
We are in an ugly situation.

GREN (V.O. COMM.)  
Sir?

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)  
Our dropship will be here in five minutes, but the civi flyer won't make it for fifteen.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
So we wait.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)  
I just got word from brass that New Wekweeti has been reporting of strange creatures in the city limits. More than 100 people are dead or missing.

GREN (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Burdened)*  
We can't wait, can we?

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
Where's the nearest MI unit?

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)  
No, we can't wait and brass puts reinforcements at no less than an hour.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
Can't we just bring the scientists with us in the transport?

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)  
There's not enough space for both us and them.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
Can we switch transports then? Give them ours and take theirs?

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)  
Their evac bird couldn't handle the marauders' weight.

GREN (V.O. COMM.)

I don't like where this is going.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

Neither do I. Pack, I am going to leave you behind with Rico's fire team. You will protect the civilians and get to New Wekweeti on the hump after they are clear; the dropship will be ferrying reinforcements from Camp Curie, so you have to be on foot.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

Yes, sir.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

Gren, you and I are going to split the remainder and hit New Wekweeti hard.

GREN (V.O. COMM.)

Sounds good, sir.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

Sarge! Another wave!

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

Keep cool and watch the six.

MARAUDERS fire on SCOUT BUGS, turning them into exploding pulp. There are periodic mutters of "Got one" and "one down" over the comm.. The DROPSHIP flies over and assault cannons fire, lighting up the tree line; the BUGS retreat before the overwhelming firepower.

PILOT (V.O. COMM.)

Holy shit! What the hell are those things?

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

Stabilize the dropship, pilot.

Zim opens his helmet

Ladies and gentlemen.

Zim talks while Narrator Rico sums it up in voice over. The scientists look soulless, unable to feel anger, abandonment, or any other emotion. Actions respect Narrator Rico's dialogue.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Zim proceeded to tell the scientists the plan; the lab assistant—Jessica was her name—from that morning cried and Hazir comforted her. The MI then loaded into the craft, leaving Sergeant Pack, Benson, Devin, Dizzy and myself. As the dropship left sight, my confidence waivered.

The five MARAUDERS close ranks and wait, a tense scene ensues, as shadows weave throughout the woods; none of the MARAUDERS fire. The BUGS then attack, sending a large wave out.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

Weapons free!

The five MARAUDERS fire, destroying many BUGS in the oncoming wave. Nevertheless, their firepower is insufficient and the 360° encroachment makes progress. The CIVILIAN EVAC. CRAFT flies over and the BUGS retreat a bit, fearing the airborne weapons. The craft is unarmed, though and the BUGS soon realize this and begin advancing again.

Ordinance free!

Explosions rip BUGS and the ground apart as SCIENTISTS enter the CIVILIAN EVAC. CRAFT. Hazir is the last get on the craft, firing his rifle and lending support. Pack looks over and spins his hand over his head. The CIVILIAN EVAC. CRAFT begins off.

Son of a bitch! What in the name of hell is that thing?

Rico turns and sees a WARRIOR BUG charge from the forest.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

And that was the first time I saw one, the bug that would help define the rest of my life.

FADE OUT



ACT 4

FADE IN

EXT. MODULAR - DAY

TITLE CARD: ASTEROID IMPACT SITE BASE CAMP, NORTHERN  
PRAIRIES JUNE 19, 2108, 1141 HRS

The WARRIOR BUG lumbers toward the MODULARS and Dizzy fires on it with a LIGHT ROTARY CANNON; the weapon does some damage, but most of the bullets ping off the armor, killing several other SCOUT BUGS. Rico turns and fires on it with a heavy cannon; the BUG detonates.

DEVIN (V.O. COMM.)

*(Frightened)*

We need to get out of here!

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

I know.

Fighting goes on all around; WARRIOR BUGS appear here and there.

We need better ground.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

We can try and out run them, sir.  
We're faster.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

We're faster than the scouts—who knows with these damn things. The forest is crawling with 'em. I—

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I didn't know if it was smart or not, but I had an idea.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

We can make for the asteroid, sir. A pause.

It gives us high ground and a wide view. The science team said the asteroid was empty.

BENSON (V.O. COMM.)

*(Encouraged)*

I can hot-wire the seismographs around the lake to give us subterranean readings. It will only take a-Sarge!

Another WARRIOR BUG jumps through the forest, catching Pack at the front. Pack rolls over and cuts the BUG in half with a close range plasma lance, emptying entrails and black blood all over his MARAUDER. Another WARRIOR BUG severs Pack's arm at the shoulder before Dizzy kills it.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

*(Furious)*

God damn it! Everyone! To the impact site!

OTHERS (V.O. COMM.)

Sir!

PACK

Rico-van! Dizzy-rear! Benson, Devin-flanks! Go! Go! Go!

The formation moves toward the lake, BUGS swarming from behind. Rico leads the way, taking select shots as he goes. Pack tries to hail brass for evac. while Narrator Rico speaks. The HUM returns and gets louder until Pack snaps Rico out of it.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I had never been so scared in my life. Rico shoots a few SCOUT BUGS with his PLASMA FLAMETHROWER.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

*(Faint in background)*

We need evac.! Now!

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

There were bugs everywhere.

Rico shoots a WARRIOR BUG in the MAW; it stumbles and collapses onto smaller SCOUT BUGS, smashing them.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

*(Faint in background)*

Lat 64 point three-four...

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Our ammo was getting low.

Rico looks at AMMO GAUGE on HOLOGRAPHIC READOUT.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

*(Faint in background)*

Long negative one-one-four point two seven...

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I knew then that we wouldn't make it.

Rico reaches the edged of the lake and turns, covering the other's jumps with heavy, low-toned, thumping fire.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

*(Faint in background)*

It's a giant god-damned asteroid in a dry as hell lake! No, we need evac. now! As in NOW!

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

My father was right.

One by one, Sergeant Pack, Benson, Devin, and Dizzy pass by and Rico stays, laying down fire. The HUM gets loud as time slows, showing each of Rico's spent rounds and casings.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

*(Faint in background)* Rico, we're clear.

EMILIO (V.O.)

I don't want my son to die in a tin can...

RICO (V.O.)

Dad, I'll be fine.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

*(Less faint in background)*

Rico, get out of there.

EMILIO (V.O.)

Son, you have no idea what you are getting yourself-.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Prominent*)  
Rico! Move!

HUM stops and is replaced by SILENCE; time slows to a near stop.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)  
I froze.

Rico looks left, seeing SCOUT BUGS slowly approaching. Sound begins to gain.

They were to my left.

Rico looks right, seeing more SCOUT BUGS approaching. Sound is louder.

They were to my right, too.

Rico looks forward, seeing a WARRIOR BUG lumbering forward. The WARRIOR BUG screams the iconic BUG SCREECH.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Frantic*)  
Rico!

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)  
(*Solemn*)  
I had to move.

Time speeds back up as Rico jumps back, engaging his JUMPJETS and discharges his PLASMA FLAMETHROWER, engulfing the WARRIOR BUG in flames; it screams. Rico flies through the air, leaving a trail of JUMPJET light and FLAMETHROWER fire. Rico looks and gauges his flight, landing on the large ASTEROID with the other four.

Brass diverted Zim's dropship to pick us up. It will be here in twenty.

DEVIN (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Shaky*)  
But will we?

BENSON (V.O. COMM.)  
Done splicing the seismographs into the  
marauders; doesn't look like much is  
going on down there.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
I see a lot of tunnels.

BENSON (V.O. COMM.)  
Yeah—looks like that's how they get  
around. A big one looks like it heads  
to New Wekweeti.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
Guys, any idea why they aren't  
attacking?

No one talks as the troopers look out on the empty lake. SCOUT  
and WARRIOR BUGS amass at the shore. After several shots of the  
surrounding army, Narrator Rico speaks.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)  
We had no idea what was going on, but  
the situation only got stranger.

CARL (V.O.)  
*(From far off)*  
Rico.

Rico looks around.

Rico.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
Who is that?

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
You okay Rico?

CARL (V.O.)  
It's me, Rico.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
Who?

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Scared sounding)*  
Rico, what's going on?

CARL (V.O.)  
It's Carl.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)  
I had no idea how to respond; Carl was supposed to be half way across the solar system right then.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
I...

CARL (V.O.)  
Have Sergeant Pack call in an orbital strike from defense platform C-D-9-a, using code foxtrot alpha echo whisky nine.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
What in the—?

CARL (V.O.)  
Do it now or it will be too late!

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Re: Pack)*  
Sir, you need to call in an orbital strike from defense platform C-D-9-a.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Incredulous)*  
What?

BENSON (V.O. COMM.)  
Uh, guys, we have some seismic activity.

CARL (V.O.)  
*(Pleading)*  
Rico!

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
Do it, sir.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

Sierra Bravo, this is wolf two, do you read?

There is a pause and Pack looks over to Rico, a bit annoyed.

I need to call in an orbital strike,  
Sierra Bravo from platform-.

Pack motions for Rico to talk.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

Platform C-D-9-a.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

Platform C-D-9-a.

BENSON (V.O. COMM.)

Guys, something big-.

Ground near the asteroid explodes in a shower of rock and dirt.  
A TANKER BUG lumbers out from the ground.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

*(Disbelieving)*

Ho-ley shit.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)

Troopers! Open fire!

All but Devin, who is in shock, fire on the TANKER BUG and some shots make it stagger, but none do significant damage.

New plan! Take cover behind the rock!

Everyone but Devin snaps into action. Devin mumbles and his FIRING ARM goes slack. The TANKER BUG lumbers toward him, mouth dripping CHEMICALS. Benson jumps back and throws Devin from the rock. Benson turns just as the TANKER BUG releases a spray of CHEMICALS which engulf him. Benson screams in agony and Rico sees 5000°C and the word "DICYANOACETYLENE" blinking red on his HOLOGRAPHIC READOUT. All at once, the screaming stops and Benson's vitals flat line and disappear. When the fire subsides, there is only slag.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Frantic; Re: Sierra Bravo*)  
We need that damn orbital strike now!

A pause.

Rico! The code!

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
Uh, guys.

The TANKER BUG begins around the ASTEROID and the troopers evade; Dizzy drags Devin.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Nervous*)  
Carl.

The troopers run around the ASTEROID and the TANKER BUG chases them. The troopers continue to evade as they talk.

(*Frantic*)  
Carl! The code!

CARL (V.O.)  
(*Very strained*)  
Foxtrot alpha echo whisky nine.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Screaming*)  
Foxtrot alpha echo whisky nine!

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Frantic*)  
Foxtrot alpha echo whisky nine!

A pause.

(*Woozy*)  
What the hell do you mean you need a target lock?

Pack stumbles and Rico returns to grab him. Rico pulls him out of the way just before the TANKER BUG spews more fire.



RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Very concerned)*  
Sir, your vitals are critical!

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
I... it's my arm. Too much... too much  
blood loss.

*(Re: Sierra Bravo)*  
Can you get a read on my suit?

There is a pause and the TANKER BUG begins to climb over the  
ASTEROID.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
Guys!

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Weak)*  
No, I am pulling my...

He coughs.

My tracker from the marauder. Fire on  
my position when I give the mark.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)  
All too late, I realized what Pack was  
planning. I had no time to act.

Pack shoves Rico aside, ejects his WEAPON MODULES, and activates  
his JUMPJETS.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
Run!

Rico reaches out and nearly activates his JUMPJETS, but Dizzy  
stops him and grabs both Rico and Devin. Dizzy then activates  
his own JUMPJETS and they jump away.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Distressed)*  
Sarge! No!

Pack flies over top of the ASTEROID and the TANKER BUG reaches  
up to claw at him. The TANKER BUG preps to fire its  
FLAMETHROWER again.

PACK (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Re: Sierra Bravo*)  
Mark.

Pack opens his helmet and looks at Rico, Dizzy, and Devin

(*Very weak*)  
What's the matter apes?

He coughs.

You want to... live... for...

Pack falls, tumbling through the air. The sky erupts in blue as a RAILGUN ROUND comes down.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
No!

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
Rico!

Dizzy pulls Rico behind a HEAVY SHIELD just before the RAILGUN ROUND impacts. The entire scene turns a brilliant blue white then dark as the light readjusts. The shockwave blows everything back from rubble to large rocks and a boulder barely misses the remaining three troopers. Most of the BUGS are also blown back by the blast. Once the scene calms, the BUGS begin to amass at the edges of the lake, furious and screaming.

DEVIN (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Frantic and nonsensical*)  
We-we aren't-there's no way out of this!

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
Prepare to fight!

DEVIN (V.O. COMM.)  
I-I can't do this. Sarge is dead-we are just cadets! We're not trained for this!

Devin takes some steps away from the two and opens his helmet.

(*Non V.O.*)  
I don't want to die-not like this!

Dizzy opens his helmet too.

DIZZY

*(Intense)*

Pull yourself together, Devin, we can  
make it through this!

The BUGS move in, but warily.

DEVIN

Look at them! They're everywhere!

He points at the encroaching bugs, flailing.

*(Hysterical)*

They're going to kill us! They are  
going to rip us apart!

DIZZY

*(Angry)*

Devin, damn it, pull yourself-.

Devin raises his gun to point at his head.

*(Pleading)*

Devin, no-please...

DEVIN

*(Soulless)*

I'm not going to die like this.

Devin's gun fires and his head explodes. Dizzy closes his  
helmet.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

*(Pained and weak)*

God damn it.

The two stand back to back, physically slow in their motions.

The transport won't be here for another  
five minutes, at least.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

We won't make it that long.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

I know.

He pauses.

How are you on ammo?

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

Twenty-three rounds on the heavy cannon, 1007 on the light rotary, and three more mortars. Fifty-seven percent on my flamer and eight grenades.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

2711 on the light rotaries and two mortars. Eighty-nine on the flamer and five grenades.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

*(Solemn)*

I'll pull the weapon modules and remaining power packs from Devin's suit. Cover me.

Rico strips Devin's MARAUDER and tries to avoid looking at his destroyed head.

CARL (V.O.)

*(Barely audible and straining)*

Rico.

Rico continues and hears weapons fire. Rico does not hear Carl.

*(Louder and strained)*

Rico, it knows I'm here.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

Jonny, they're moving in! Fast.

CARL (V.O.)

*(Strained and forced)*

Rico!

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

Carl?

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

*(Concerned)*

Jonny, what's going on?

CARL (V.O.)

*(Struggling)*

The big bug, Rico, go through it's  
tunnel, go-.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I had no idea what he was talking about  
and he just broke off. I was lost.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

*(surprised)*

Carl?

Rico looks up and sees the hole where the TANKER BUG emerged.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

But then it clicked.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

Dizzy, to me!

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I saw the opportunity. We had a  
glimmer of hope.

FADE OUT

## ACT 5

FADE IN

EXT. CRATER - DAY

TITLE CARD: ASTEROID IMPACT SITE, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-JUNE 19,  
2108, 1213 HRSRico and Dizzy stand in the midst of a dried up lake nearly  
1,000 BUGS around them.RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
Dizzy! Follow me!

Rico leads the way as the BUG'S full horde descends upon them. Rico and Dizzy fire select shots, Dizzy's twin rotaries creating tracer lines while Rico detonates WARRIOR BUGS with his heavy cannon and holds Devin's gear under his other arm. The two make it into the tunnel and Dizzy turns, firing two mortars into the ceiling, collapsing the tunnel behind them. The scene goes black.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Panting*)  
Damn, its dark in here.RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
(*Panting*)  
My marauder is detecting heavy sources  
of infrared light. Switch on your  
snoopers.DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
That's a lot better. Jonny, we have  
inbounds through other tunnels.RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
We should move. Dizzy, you still have  
those charges?DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
Yup, I'll lay them down.

A montage of them traveling through the tunnels passes, showing the size of the hole. BUG SCREAMS can be heard echoing throughout the tunnel. Dizzy stops now and then to place DETONATION PACKS. Soon the two stop moving.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
You want the honors?

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
No, just set it off.

Dizzy sets off the charges and the tunnel behind them explodes. The BUG SCREAMS die. The two then stop for a moment and divvy up the ammo and weapons.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
I'll take the plasma lance and you can double up on flamethrowers—your better with them anyway.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
Sounds good. What about the other gear?

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
You take the two heavy cannons—I tore you all apart in training when I had four light rotaries, if you remember.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)  
Rico laughs.

That sounds good—I like the single shots anyway. Dump your expended power packs and I'll give you some of the scavenged ones.

The two swap gear and adjust each others' marauders. Once they are finished, they continue moving. Soon they reach the end of the tunnel, which opens through a building in New Wekweeti. The small city is devastated. They both open their helmets. There are storm clouds overhead.

TITLE CARD: FORMER NEW WEKWEETI, JUNE 19, 2108, 1423 HRS

DIZZY  
(*Disbelieving*)  
It's... it's all gone.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

We surveyed the ruin, disquieted. Just two weeks before we had taken leave in New Wekweeti. But then, then it was just... gone.

DIZZY

I...

GREN (V.O. COMM.)

Rico! Dizzy! Is that you?

They both close their helmets.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

Sarge? It's us, yeah! Good God, am I glad-

GREN (V.O. COMM.)

Get your asses down to the armory! We need your assistance!

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

On our way, sir!

The two run down streets, leaving footprint craters in the asphalt. As they run, BUGS notice them and attack. Dizzy kills the SCOUT BUGS while Rico attends the WARRIOR BUGS. They then come into contact with FLYER BUGS for the first time. Dizzy dispatches them easily.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)

Son of a bitch, they fly too?

As they approach the ARMORY, they see a firestorm of weapons fire. Three MARAUDERS are on the roof with heavy weapons as well as a cadre of POLICE OFFICERS with ARMORY RIFLES and GUN PLATFORMS. 100-200 CIVILIANS are also there, most have SMALL ARMS and lend to the fight. There are also MILITARY DRONES flying about, firing on FLIERS.

ZIM (V.O.)

*(Comm. over loudspeaker)*

Be advised: we have reinforcements coming in from the north.



Rico and Dizzy approach, covered by MARAUDER fire. Once close enough, they JUMPJET low onto the ARMORY and lend fire. Fighting goes on for several minutes. Before a MILITARY TRANSPORT arrives, firing wildly at the FLIERS.

PILOT (V.O. COMM.)

You guys said it was rough down there,  
I had no idea.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

Pilot, stabilize your craft near the  
watchtower. Do you need assistance  
with the fliers?

PILOT (V.O. COMM.)

No, sir, we got it covered for the  
EVAC. period.

The MILITARY TRANSPORT navigates to the tower and the CIVILIANS clamber up to the top. Once they all board, Zim opens his helmet and turns to a POLICE CAPTAIN (Late 40's). Rico notices Zim's infected eye, which is callused, dark, and infected looking. The HUM starts up, getting louder until it dies.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

That was what changed it all for me.

Time slows as Rico watches Zim.

ZIM

*(Far off)*

Time to get out of here, captain.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

It wasn't the bugs, or seeing the of  
comrades buy the farm, or anything like  
that.

CAPTAIN

*(Far off)*

We can lend you a hand, sir.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Seeing Zim, the only invulnerable  
constant in my life for the last six  
month, change, it was too much for my  
sense of normalcy.

ZIM

*(Far off)*

This isn't your fight. You wouldn't have a chance if we were overrun.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

It was then that war had begun in my mind.

CAPTAIN

*(Far off)*

You sure, sir? My men are—.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

It was then that I was first truly afraid.

ZIM

Get out of here, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Yes, sir!

The Police Captain runs off, shouting muted orders. Zim looks at Rico, helmet closing.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

*(Calm, serene)*

Rico.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

*(Airily)*

Sir?

ZIM

Get your head in the fight.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

And, just like that, I was back.

The HUM stops.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

*(Crisp)*

Yes, sir.

Rico takes a wall and begins to fire as the MILITARY TRANSPORT leaves. Thousands of BUGS swarm from every direction. TURRETS and DRONES provide automatic fire while the MI take out select targets. Dizzy uses his ROTARIES to fire on the FLIERS. Rico and Zim focus on the WARRIOR BUGS. The other TROOPER (Early 20's) works ordinance and makes sure everyone has ammo. Gren, armed with a shoulder mounted RAILGUN, fires on inbound TANKER BUGS.

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
When's extraction, Sarge?

GREN (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Laughing)*  
There's no extraction, kid. We're the ones dealing with this mess!

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Incredulous)*  
What?

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)  
Sarge says true. These insect bastards want an introduction. Who better than the MI?

DIZZY (V.O. COMM.)  
*(Disbelieving)*  
There are five of us!

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)  
Not quite fair to them, is it?

Fighting goes on and the MI burns through ammo. Gren hits a TANKER BUG with a RAILGUN round which takes a chunk out of its armor. The TANKER staggers and Gren puts one through the chink in the armor.

GREN (V.O. COMM.)  
One down.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)  
Another at your five, sergeant.

A WARRIOR gets by the fire and catches Dizzy off guard. Dizzy reels and fires on the WARRIOR with all four guns as the creature bucks. The damage is sufficient to kill the WARRIOR,

destroying the LOWER MANDIBLE, but the WARRIOR collapses on Dizzy, UPPER MANDIBLE crush cutting through his armor from lower thigh to mid torso. Dizzy screams in agony. Rico looks over, seeing Dizzy. HUM begins.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

*(Far away)*

Rico, help Dizzy. I'll cover you.

Rico dashes to Dizzy opening his helmet, sliding across the roof, and digging up roofing as he does. Rico sees a dark pool of blood below the armor. Rico pulls Dizzy from the dead WARRIOR and Dizzy's entrails are seen dragging from the WARRIOR'S MANDIBLE.

DIZZY

*(Pained)*

Jonny, it feels cold.

RICO

*(Re: Ammo trooper)*

I need a Medi-infusion and Bio-Seal,  
now!

The Trooper throws a LARGE CANISTER and APPARATUS at Rico. Rico catches both. Rico pulls the pin from the CANISTER and sprays BIO-SEAL over Dizzy's open torso. As it adapts and hardens, Dizzy groans.

Don't worry, Diz, you'll make it  
through this!

DIZZY

*(Far off)*

I... I...

RICO

Don't talk, save your strength.

After fumbling, Rico plucks the APPARATUS into the MARAUDER front, injecting LIQUIDS.

DIZZY

*(Dying and faint)*

You are my best friend Jonny.

RICO

Just rest, Diz, we'll get you out of  
this.

Rico turns, closes his helmet, and resumes fighting. As he does so, the HUM gets louder. It eventually overtakes all other sound but dialogue.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Somewhere in my mind I knew my best  
friend was dying, though not  
consciously.

Rico fires into the bugs.

TROOPER (V.O. COMM.)

*(Far away)*

Last rounds!

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

The world was lost to me.

Rico fires and a WARRIOR detonates. Some DRONES and TURRETS stop firing. Gren drops his secondary weapons from their mounts.

GREN (V.O. COMM.)

*(Far away)*

All I got left is the railgun!

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

All I could do was kill.

Several SCOUTS explode. More DRONES and TURRETS stop firing. Zim detaches a HEAVY GUN, ammo depleted.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

*(Far away)*

I'm down one.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

He was my role model.

More BUGS explode. All of the DRONES and TURRETS stop firing. Zim detaches his other weapon and picks up RIFLE.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

*(Far away)*

Grab what small arms you can and prep  
close range weapons.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

He was everything I ever wanted to be.

A TANKER approaches and Rico fires on it, catching it through both eyes in succession. It releases its FLAMETHROWER and incinerates a column of BUGS before lumbering through the remains of a building, crushing more BUGS. The TANKER then crashes into a large building, bringing the structure down on itself.

GREN (V.O. COMM.)

*(Surprised)*

What the hell?

The BUGS stop advancing, forming a wide circle around the ARMORY.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

And he was leaving forever.

Rico's first gun starts clicking, out of ammo.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

Rico.

Rico's second gun clicks, depleted.

Rico!

Rico snaps out of it and the HUM stops. It becomes very quiet and stays that way for a while as the MI and Rico survey the scene. The silence gives way to a soft rumbling which grows into a small quake. A TANKER opens up the ground before the ARMORY. It moves out of the way and a BRAIN BUG emerges. Gren fires on it with an infantry rifle, but the bullets' paths veer off due to PSYCHIC ENERGY.

GREN (V.O. COMM.)

*(Re: Zim)*

Had to try.

The BRAIN BUG approaches, crawling slowly.

TROOPER (V.O. COMM.)

Dizzy's still got four guns, we could  
each take one and try to make a break-.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

We are not leaving Dizzy behind.

RICO (V.O. COMM.)

*(Furious)*

Dizzy is going to make it!

The BRAIN crawls closer. The Trooper approaches Zim, opening his helmet.

TROOPER

But he's-.

Zim opens his own helmet and glares at the Trooper.

ZIM

We never leave a man behind! Clear?

The Trooper nods reluctantly and the remaining four approach the edge, looking at the BRAIN BUG. After a few more meters, the BRAIN stops. Two MANDIBLES slide out from its rolls of skin, each displaying a dead HUMAN. The HUMANS are impaled on the MANDIBLES' spikes, faces grotesque.

GREN

*(In a whisper)*

I sure as hell don't want to go out  
like that.

The HUMANS' eyes turn toward the troopers and mouths open. The BRAIN speaks through them.

BRAIN

*(Two voices slur)*

Rrrriioooo.

GREN

Is it trying to say something?

BRAIN

*(Long and airy)*

Riiicccoooo. Where is The Rico?

MIMNAUGH/MOBILE INFANTRY

80.

Rico freezes and the color drains from his face.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I did not like the sound of that.

FADE OUT



ACT 6

FADE IN

EXT. ARMORY - OVERCAST DAY

TITLE CARD: NEW WEKWEETI ARMORY, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-JUNE 19,  
2108, 1557 HRS

Rico, Zim, Gren, and a Trooper stand on the ARMORY while Dizzy lies unconscious behind them. A BRAIN BUG with two HUMAN BODIES on its MANDIBLES speaks through the two dead mouths. Several thousand BUGS, including SCOUTS, WARRIORS, FLIERS, and several TANKERS stand at attention.

BRAIN

Give us The Rico. We know your "ammos"  
are gone—we hear your thoughts.

Zim takes a moment together his thoughts, surveying the Bug army. After a short while he speaks.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I was afraid, but I knew what I must  
do.

Rico steps to Zim, opening his helmet.

RICO

It's like Carl said, isn't it? They  
want me.

Rico steps closer.

*(Resolute)*

If all they want is me then—.

Zim turns to Rico.

ZIM

Shut up, kid, that is *not* going to  
happen.

Zim looks at the BRAIN.

*(Calm, yet booming)*

We are the Mobile Infantry.

BRAIN  
(*Insistent*)  
The Rico!

The BUG line moves forward tentatively, reflecting physically the confidence of the BRAIN.

ZIM  
We are the guardians of humankind.

BRAIN  
(*Annoyed*)  
I hear The Carl trying, but you cannot hide The Rico from us!

The BUGS advance again.

ZIM  
(*Calm*)  
We are the most well trained soldiers in human history.

BRAIN  
(*Angry*)  
The Rico!

BUGS step forward.

ZIM  
(*Not intimidated*)  
We fight, we bleed, and we die.

BRIAN  
(*Furious*)  
Give us The Rico!

Zim extends two blue white PLASMA LANCES from MODULES on his arms. BUGS step back. Rico and the others follow suit, deploying close range weapons and closing their helmets.

ZIM  
But we certainly don't surrender to alien pieces of shit like you.

This angers the BRAIN and BUGS begin forward more aggressively.

BRAIN

Give us—!

The BRAIN freezes, staring at Zim.

ZIM

*(Smirking)*

That's right, you alien son of a bitch—they're coming. They're coming for you!

The BRAIN turns and tries to retreat into the tunnel from which it came, but a blue-white-hot ORBITAL RAILGUN ROUND lances through it, causing the engorged BRAIN to explode. Pandemonium ensues as nothing "controls" the BUGS anymore and they go wild, fighting each other. LIEUTENANT JEAN RASCZAK (40's) radios from above.

RASCZAK (V.O. COMM.)

Looks like you boys could use some assistance down there.

ZIM (V.O. COMM.)

It's about time you got here, Rasczak, you never could get anywhere on time.

RASCZAK (V.O. COMM.)

Who comes in the front door anymore—and on time? Who do you think I am, old man, a grunt?

Several more ORBITAL RAILGUN ROUNDS come down, hitting large targets, and MARAUDER CAPSULES explode in the air, dropping forty MARAUDERS in jump packs, guns blazing.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

It was only then that I remembered Dizzy.

Rico sees that Dizzy's vitals have flat lined.

In my mind I knew it was too late, but my hopes said otherwise.

Time slows as Rico rushes to Dizzy's side.

I wanted desperately for it to be only  
a glitch in the system or bad readings.

MARAUDERS descend from the sky, laying waste to BUG horde as  
Rico runs.

But Marauder suits don't make the  
mistakes, the apes in them do.

Rico reaches Dizzy. A CLASS 5 MARAUDER SUPERSUIT descends,  
flooding the ground below with awesome firepower.

I cracked his helmet and his eyes were  
still open, staring up at the sky.

Dead Dizzy stares up, soulless.

The storm clouds that had been  
threatening rain all day finally opened  
up.

Sleet begins to fall.

But it wasn't like the vids—the skies  
of the northern prairies only offered  
sleet, covering the ground with slush.

Rico weeps as sleet falls and MARAUDERS fight in the background.  
Lightning strikes a couple of times before the scene ends.

ACT 6

FADE IN

EXT. RUINED CITY - OVERCAST EVENING

TITLE CARD: FORMER NEW WEKWEETI, NORTHERN PRAIRIES-JUNE 19,  
2108, 1945 HRS

MARAUDERS ROAM THROUGH THE CITY, KILLING BUGS.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

The bugs, leaderless, were more  
interested in fighting each other than  
fighting us.

FADE IN

EXT. RUINED CITY - OVERCAST EVENING

TITLE CARD: JUNE 20, 2108, 2005 HRS

MARAUDERS shoot up a group of infighting SCOUT BUGS.

That made things a lot easier.

FADE IN

EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY

TITLE CARD: JUNE 22, 2108, 1034 HRS

MARAUDERS kill a WARRIOR BUG "teething" on a chunk of concrete.

They were incredibly unintelligent  
without the "Brain" as the Zim had  
dubbed it. It was almost pitiable.

FADE IN

EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY

TITLE CARD: JUNE 23, 2108, 1451 HRS

MARAUDERS LOAD SAMPLES INTO CONTAINERS.

We took samples.

FADE IN

EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY

TITLE CARD: JUNE 24, 2108, 1143 HRS

MARAUDERS capture two fighting WARRIOR BUGS with tranquilizers,  
electric nets, and lassos around the MAWS.

We captured a fair number of them, too.

FADE IN

EXT. RUINED CITY - MORNING

TITLE CARD: JUNE 25, 2108, 0711 HRS

MARAUDERS approach a TANKER BUG which has its head hidden in rubble, looking as though it is trying to hide and shaking with fear.

We even captured what the MI had dubbed  
a "Tanker bug."

A MARAUDER coaxes the TANKER BUG out with a branch from a tree.

They are herbivores, as it turns out-

Two CLASS 5 MARAUDER SUPERSUITS escort a TANKER BUG to a large ship. The BUG is cooperative, though looks a trifle scared. One of the MARAUDERS pats it on the head and the TANKER puffs smoke, bouncing happily on its legs like a dog.

-and *friendly*, if it could be called  
that. One of the MI even gave the  
thing a name, "pyro." It stuck.

Rico looks into the thing's eyes and it looks back, sorrowful.

I had a hard time accepting the thing  
after what one of them had done to  
Benson and Sergeant Pack, but when I  
looked into its eyes, I got the feeling  
it was just as much a victim as we  
were.

FADE IN

EXT. RUINED CITY - VARIOUS

DEAD CIVILIANS ARE SEEN, SOME DISMEMBERED, MANY BARELY  
RECOGNIZABLE AS HUMAN. THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES OF THIS.

We didn't find any survivors, though,  
not a single one. The bugs were  
nothing if not methodical. What we did  
find was horrifying, men, women, and  
children butchered, expressions of fear

and agony forever emblazoned on their faces.

FADE IN

EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY

TITLE CARD: JUNE 26, 2108, 1423 HRS

Rico, Zim, Gren, and the fourth trooper stand on a stage in front of a crowd. GENERAL REDWING (40's) puts metals the last of their chests and all four salute.

We, the men of Zim's squad, were given commendations for our efforts and each received The Mobile Infantry's Silver Sword and Shield of Valor.

Zim finishes a speech and a crowd is solemn. Rico looks over to NINE COFFINS.

But metals don't bring back the dead and we lost nine—all of them friends, comrades, and brothers.

A mass funeral is underway in the afternoon. With full twenty-one gun salute in front of an immense wall with pictures of the dead.

All told, 5,328 died that day, more than three quarters of New Wekweeti's population.

FADE IN

EXT. CITY - DAY

TITLE CARD: BUENOS AIRES, SOUTH AMERICA-JUNE 28, 2108, 1110 HRS

Rico and Zim step out of a MILITARY TRANSPORT at a MOBILE INFANTRY. As they get off, officers of higher rank than them salute and the two return.

We were given the respect of war heroes, though I am sure none of us felt we deserved it or wanted to be reminded of the costs.

FADE IN

EXT. CITY - DAY

TITLE CARD: THE FLORES' HOME, BUENOS AIRES-JUNE 28, 2108, 1630  
HRS

Rico and Zim exit a limo and look at a house.

And then... then Zim and I came to  
Dizzy's house.

ZIM

Do you want me to tell them? This is  
often... a difficult affair.

RICO

*(Reluctant)*

No, no, I will. They deserve to hear  
it from someone they know.

The two approach the house, Zim with a FEDERATION FLAG under his  
arm, and Rico knocks on the door. Mrs. Flores (40's) answers.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

But nothing could have prepared me for  
what came next. The emotion was  
crushing.

RICO

*(Wavering voice)*

Mrs. Flores...

Emotion breaks in Rico and he begins to cry. Mrs. Flores reacts  
to this, frightened.

I...

Rico looks to Zim, who nods solemnly.

ZIM

*(Slowly)*

Ma'am, your son, Dizzy-Desmond-has been  
killed in the line of duty.

Mrs. Flores shrinks back against the wall and collapses to the  
floor, shaking her head in disbelief.



MRS. FLORES  
*(Disbelieving, pleading)*  
No! No!

Mr. Flores (40's) approaches.

MR. FLORES  
*(Concerned)*  
Honey, what is—.

Mr. Flores sees Rico and Zim.

*(Detached)*  
It is my son, isn't it?

Rico nods, pained.

Please, come in.

FADE IN

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Zim speaks to Mr. and Mrs. Flores as they sit. Rico is silent. There are coffee cups on the coffee table.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)  
Sergeant Zim went over all of the parts he knew and I told the rest of the story. Mr. Flores had us not spare anything and Mrs. Flores stayed strong.

ZIM  
In my twenty-three years of service I have never seen a soldier of such natural talent, ma'am.

Zim looks down.

He used to call me "Sarge" like he was one himself—respectful, but never afraid to speak his mind—the type of soldier every drill sergeant wants.

Rico notices HOLLY FLORES (17) looking down on them. They make eye contact and she turns away, leaving sight. Rico looks back and sees the other three are looking at him.

RICO  
May I go speak to her?

MR. FLORES  
Yes, I believe that would be best.

Rico goes up the stairs and looks into Holly's room, it is empty. He moves to Dizzy's room and sees Holly on Dizzy's bed, crying into his pillow.

RICO  
Holly.

She throws a PILLOW at him and he lets it hit him. He kneels and picks it up.

I can go if—.

HOLLY  
Don't.

Rico stands in the doorway, looking at her. She sits and looks back. After a while, she gets up and runs to him, hugging him and crying into his shoulder. Rico starts crying.

RICO  
*(Through tears)*  
God, I already miss him so much.

Holly buries her head in his chest, weeping.

He was my best friend and he's gone...  
just like that.

After a long pause, she releases him and looks into his eyes.

HOLLY  
How did he die?

RICO  
Have you seen the reports? The  
footage?

Holly nods.

He fell before one of the warrior  
class. He killed it—but it fell on  
him.

Holly sobs.

He gave his life protecting us and  
evacuating civilians.

HOLLY

Did he feel much pain?

Holly looks into Rico's eyes.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I could never lie to her.

RICO

He said it was cold.

Rico hugs her tight.

I'm so sorry.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

We stayed like that for a long time,  
neither saying a word.

FADE OUT

ACT 7

FADE IN

INT. URBAN - DAY

TITLE CARD: ST. ARMAND'S CHURCH, BUENOS AIRES-JUNE 30, 2108,  
1124 HRS.

There is a large crowd inside a cathedral during Dizzy's mass.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Dizzy's funeral was the next day. I  
saw my parents there, but I sat with  
Zim.

Rico sees his parents. His MOTHER (50's) looks at him and  
smiles, but his father does not.

He had an aunt who blamed the MI for  
his death and made it very vocal.

AUNT (40's) speaks, very animated.

Mr. Dubois also made an appearance;  
Dizzy would have liked that.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DUBOIS (60's) speaks as well, calm and  
respectful.

Then I spoke, forgetting what I was  
going to say and speaking for far too  
long.

RICO

*(Trying to keep it together)*

I knew Dizzy since we were little boys.  
We used to play soldiers in his back  
yard. We played on the same football  
team—he turned down a scholarship to—

Rico chokes a little.

He was my best friend.

NARRATOR RICO

When Zim took the stage, the crowd  
seemed more silent than before.

ZIM

Desmond Flores was the Mobile Infantry. Was a guardian of humankind. He stood among the most well trained soldiers in human history. He fought, he bled, and he died, saving men, women, and children such as yourselves.

The AUNT yells out something, but people shush her and she storms out.

Some may try to discredit that, saying he did his duty or ran the course. But I trained him and saw otherwise. Desmond Flores was not merely a man who died, but a man who sacrificed his human freedoms in order to become the sword and shield of his people.

Zim swallows.

He did not merely lay down his life one day to save some civilians, he *sacrificed* every day for near six months beforehand in order to have the opportunity to make that choice. And I believe it started before that.

Zim chokes up a little.

Traits such as those found in Desmond are not a product of the Mobile Infantry, they are a product of an honorable man and Desmond Flores was one of the most honorable men I had the privilege of knowing.

Zim nods and leaves the stage.

ACT 7

FADE IN

INT. RURAL - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: PUNTA NINFAS, ARGENTINA -JUNE 30, 2108, 1846 HRS

Zim, Rico, Holly, Carmen, and FUNERAL PARTY stand before a funeral pyre with DIZZY'S WRAPPED BODY atop it.

NARRATOR RICO

The church remained quiet after that and after a reception, we traveled to the coast, where Dizzy's body was to be cremated on a pyre.

Dizzy's mother and father light the pyre, his mother weeping uncontrollably.

I saw Carmen there for the first time in six months. She was just as beautiful as ever.

CARMEN IBANEZ (19) looks sad and Rico hugs her.

But eventually it just came down to sitting and watching what remained of Dizzy's fire smolder on the ground.

Rico sits before the fire on the first row of folding chairs. Holly joins him.

HOLLY

He always wanted to be cremated.

RICO

"I want to feel the wind in my ashes" I believe were his words.

Holly smiles and leans against Rico. Rico puts his arm around her.

HOLLY

You are going up there to fight them, aren't you.

RICO

Yes.

HOLLY

Can't you... not. Don't you have that option?

RICO

We can walk away at any time other than during active combat, yes.

HOLLY

Why don't you?

RICO

For you.

Rico smiles at her.

HOLLY

For me?

She looks at him awestruck.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

Dumb ape that I was, I had no idea what that look meant, so I just continued on talking.

RICO

Yeah, and every one like you. I am a sword and shield for all of humanity now, Holly.

HOLLY

Why does it have to be you, though? Can't you stay? Here, with me?

Rico turns to Holly.

RICO

Holly...

Holly looks away.

HOLLY

I know.

She turns to him again.

Take this, then, my parents wanted you  
to have it.

Holly hands Rico one of Dizzy's DOG TAGS. Rico clasps it onto  
his own.

RICO  
Thank you.

ZIM  
Rico, we need to go.

RICO  
Yes, sir.

He begins to get up.

I'm sorry.

HOLLY  
*(Softly pleading)*  
Write to me, Rico? Like Dizzy did?

RICO  
I will. Every week.

HOLLY  
You promise?

RICO  
I promise.

Holly leans forward and kisses him on the cheek. Rico reaches  
up and feels it with his hand.

HOLLY  
*(Hasty)*  
Don't forget.

Holly leaves before Rico has a chance to respond.



FADE IN

INT. URBAN - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: CAMP BRADFORD BARRETT, BUENOS AIRES-JULY 1, 2108,  
0223 HRS.

Rico lies awake in bed looking up. He is in rather scant base hotel with basic provisions.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

I didn't sleep at all that night.

Rico rolls over and grabs a bottle of pills. He opens it, pours out some pills, and takes two.

All I could see was the dead stare in Dizzy's eyes... and the look in Holly's, that little girl from a lifetime ago that would follow Dizzy, Carl, and Me around.

FADE IN

INT. URBAN - MORNING

TITLE CARD: CAMP BRADFORD BARRETT, BUENOS AIRES-JULY 1, 2108,  
0600 HRS.

The base trumpets awaken Rico who is in a disheveled bed. A couple minutes later the phone rings. Rico hits a button and a HOLOGRAPHIC SCREEN apparels from nowhere, displaying Sergeant Zim, already dressed.

RICO

Good morning, sir.

ZIM

Good, you're awake. Dust off is at 0-seven hundred. You'll be ready, I assume.

RICO

Not much to pack, sir.

ZIM

Very well, see you at the transport.  
Zim out.

Rico eats an MRE, showers, gets dressed, showing the FLOGGING SCARS on his back once more, as Narrator Rico talks. Time passes.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

And it was over. I had buried my best friend; all that remained was to step on a ship and head back to base, almost like the whole thing never happened.

After a moment of getting into uniform, the phone rings again. A MILITARY RECEPTIONIST is on the other line.

RECEPTIONIST

Private Juan Rico?

NARRATOR RICO

I liked the sound of that, though not as much as sergeant. Until I got back to boot camp, I was a provisional ranking non-com and proud of it.

RICO

*(With a hint of satisfaction)*

Yes, ma'am.

RECEPTIONIST

You have visitors, sir.

RICO

May I ask whom, ma'am?

RECEPTIONIST

An Emilio and Evelyn Rico, sir. They say they are your parents, sir.

Rico is stunned and the HUM starts up. As Narrator Rico talks, the Receptionist tries to get his attention.

NARRATOR RICO (V.O.)

My parents—or at least my dad—was the last thing I expected to see.

RECEPTIONIST

Sir?

RICO

Oh, sorry. What was it, ma'am?

RECEPTIONIST

What should I tell them, sir?

RICO

*(Distant)*

I will be leaving from gate twelve.

RECEPTIONIST

Pardon, sir?

RICO

Can you direct them to gate twelve?

RECEPTIONIST

Yes, sir.

RICO

Thank you ma'am.

Rico makes his way toward the TRANSPORT GATE as Narrator Rico talks. The HUM grows louder as he goes overriding other noise.

NARRATOR RICO

I was not expecting this. The last thing my father said to me before I left to join up was "never come back" and I was fairly sure he meant it.

People pass, conversation barely audible.

I wondered if my mother had dragged him with her to see me one last time, but I knew in my heart no one dragged Emilio Rico anywhere he did not want to go. I had no idea what was happening.

Rico looks up and sees his mom; the HUM stops. She runs toward him they embrace.

EVELYN

*(Emotional)*

Oh, my little Juan!

RICO

Mom! I have missed you so much!

EVELYN

Are all the things they are saying true? Did you save all those people?

RICO

It wasn't just me, I am part of-.

Zim steps out of the gangway, looking around. He sees Rico.

ZIM

Rico, dustoff's past time. We have to move.

Rico leaves the embrace and looks at his mom.

RICO

Mom, I got to go, I'm sorry.

EVELYN

It is okay son, I won't keep you.

RICO

I love you mom.

Rico hugs her again.

EVELYN

I love you, too, son.

They leave embrace and Rico sees his father. The HUM begins again. Rico picks up his bag and walks to the GANGWAY as NARRATOR RICO talks.

NARRATOR RICO

Then I saw my father, face inscrutable as ever. I did not know what he was thinking and never did, but felt worse than usual.

Rico stands in front of his father and they look at each other. The HUM gets loud.

RICO

Father.

EMILIO

Son.

They stare at each other for a while before Rico nods, defeated and turns.

RICO

Goodbye, father.

Rico takes a few steps.

EMILIO

Jonny, wait.

The HUM stops. Rico turns to meet an embrace from his father.

Forget what I said when you left—forget everything.

Emilio releases Rico and pats him on both shoulders.

Look at you, the soldier I could never be.

RICO

*(A bit teary)*

Dad?

EMILIO

You stay safe, son, you hear me?

RICO

I will dad.

EMILIO

I love you son.

RICO

I love you too, dad.

Rico leaves and they all wave goodbye.

FADE IN

EXT. URBAN - DAY

TITLE CARD: APPROACHING FORMER NEW WEKWEETI, NORTHERN PRAIRIE -  
JULY 1, 2108, 1343 HRS.

Rico sleeps in the cabin of a MILITARY TRANSPORT.

NARRATOR RICO

I slept all ten and a half hours of the  
flight, waking as we landed some 12,000  
kilometers away back in former New  
Wekweeti.

Zim wakes Rico.

ZIM

We're here, kid.

RICO

Where?

ZIM

What's left of New Wekweeti.

RICO

*(Surprised)*

Wait, I thought we were headed back to  
Camp Curie.

ZIM

I am headed back to Camp Curie. You  
have been given your first assignment.

RICO

What? What about finishing training?  
Graduating from boot?

ZIM

The brass agrees with my assessment—  
you're done, kid.

The ship touches down.

PILOT (V.O. COMM.)

New Wekweeti; takeoff in fifteen.

ZIM

I'll make some simple introductions,  
but then I need to go.

Zim and Rico exit the craft then walk a ways. Rico sees a priest ("PADRE" MIGLIACCIO' (50's)) anointing the heads of MI Troopers in a line in the remnants of a church. He sees SCIENTISTS transporting the last bits of EQUIPMENT and SAMPLES to TRANSPORTS. They then come to Lieutenant Gene Raszak who is sharpening a dagger.

Rico I want you to meet Lieutenant Gene  
Raszak-

Raszak looks up.

-the one who saved our asses a week  
ago.

RASCZAK

Zim!

ZIM

Good to see you, Gene.

They shake then give each other a shake then a bear hug.

RASCZAK

Is this him?

ZIM

Sure is.

RASCZAK

Rico, right?

Raszak looks at Rico, nods, and puts forward a hand.

Put her here, kid.

Rico shakes.

I'm Lieutenant Raszak, your new CO.  
Welcome to the Mobile Infantry.

FADE OUT