

BLACK LION

by

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EXT. FISHING BOAT, OCEAN - DAY

A scrappy-looking vessel. A crew works the deck. A net rises from the water. A DECKHAND (M,40s) pulls it in with his cybernetic arm. All the crew-members have cybernetic prosthetics; arms, legs, eyes, hair, etc.

JAEL (F,16), stern but emotional, lifts a heavy crate. An older woman, JEAN (50s), sorts Isopods by size into buckets. Jean flips one of the buckets, takes a seat, and drinks some water.

JEAN

Jael!

Jael approaches.

JAEL

...

JEAN

Help me.

Jael sighs, then reaches down for an isopod. Jean sees a scrap of paper poking out from Jael's pocket, grabs it.

JEAN

What's this?

JAEL

A recruitment poster.

A deckhand yells...

DECKHAND

Capt'n, you need to see this!

The CAPTAIN (M,50s) hurries past. A net is suspended from a winch, containing a fresh catch.

The Captain's cybernetic eye-lens shifts back and forth as he examines the hand of a LITTLE GIRL (6). She's dead.

DECKHAND

Should we bring her back to shore?

The Captain grabs the child's hand, looking for something. Finds it...a small tube-like contraption.

CAPTAIN

Kid was a bag. Dump her.

The net crashes into the sea. Jael watches, no emotion. Jean joins her.

JEAN

That's where army kids end up.

JAEL

Some. Others get into New Giza.

The girl in the net sinks out of view.

JEAN

They won't let you in. What do you know ab-

JAEL

I met a guy. We're...he can get me in.

Jean spits.

JEAN

Don't be stupid, Jael. If you join the army with some boy you just met, you aren't going to fulfill some silly fantasy of changing things, or getting into New Giza. You're going to die.

JAEL

Would rather die trying than live the rest of my life in this shit hole.

Jael leaves. Jean calls after her...

JEAN

Yeah, send me a postcard.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

SUPER: 2250. SANDS OF NEW GIZA. WESTERN WAR FRONT

Desolate, bright and quiet. No greenery or animals. We are in the outskirts of Egypt close to the Libyan border, but it's hard to tell by looking. A military base stands out in the distance.

INT. MILITARY AIR BASE, UNDERGROUND HANGER - DAY

Military PERSONEL in sand uniform occupy the space; mechanics, engineers, soldiers, etc.

Jael (now late 20s) puts body armor vests on a group of five CHILDREN (aged 10-16) in line next to a large truck.

She looks closely at each child's face, looking them in the eyes as she works. She puts a vest on the oldest child, CAP (16) and notices a distinctive scar on Cap's face.

CAP

What?

JAEL

...nothing.

Jael finishes putting the vest on, which involves tucking medical cables into place which are attached from the children's hands to their chests. Jael discreetly breaks one of the medical tubes on Cap's hand.

JAEL

You're done.

Jael starts on the next child, but sees Cap leaving. Jael turns to another of the older children.

JAEL

Hey, can you help the rest with their vests. I need to do something.

She follows Cap to a group of SOLIDERS led by BROX (30s) large and fearsome, who gather around another van. Brox waits at the rear of the van, noticeably angry. Cap rushes to him. Brox slaps her. Jael arrives.

BROX

What do you want?

JAEL

I'll join your squad today, Sir.

Brox pushes Cap into the back of the van.

BROX

Go back to your dressing room. No bag for you.

Jael
You think you have one?

Brox
What?

Jael
Her transporting system is broken.
If something happens, no stem
cells.

Brox grabs Cap, rips her out the van, throws her at Jael's feet.

Brox
Show me.

Jael takes Cap's hand, pulls her sleeve up, points at the broken tube.

Jael
I can replace it with mine on the
way. It takes some time.

She pulls out an identical tube from her pocket.

Jael
I don't need a...bag.

Brox holds the door open.

Brox
Get your ass into the van then.

Jael smiles as she takes her seat next to Cap.

INT. ARMORED TRUCK - DAY

Nine people sit facing one another. Four SOLIDERS (including Brox) and four CHILDREN (including Cap). Each child sits next to a solider. Jael sits on the floor by the door.

Jael
What's your name?

Cap
Cap. Yours?

Brox
This a sleepover? Shut up.

Jael whispers.

Jael

...Jael.

Cap smiles, then looks at a propaganda poster next to Jael. It shows a man stood in a big arena. At the top the words "LEONARD RICHARDSON" and at the bottom "REVIVALIST MILITIA".

Brox

Aw hell, look at this! Kid thinks if you do your bit out here Leonard Richardson will invite you to the Arena games to join the Rebellion. You know the truth though, eh? He don't give a sh-

The truck stops suddenly. The DRIVER (M,30s) yells through.

DRIVER (V.O.)

Here!

The soldiers and bags all put on rebreather masks.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The storm has subsided. The soldiers prep their day-sacks and load their rifles. Jael approaches Cap.

Jael

How old are you?

Cap

Sixteen.

Brox

Bag! Get over here!

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The group walk in single line spread out meters apart. They walk toward a distant plume of smoke.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

They approach a cliff edge which descends into a deep rocky valley. At the bottom is an ancient deserted cemetery, similar to the Saqqara tombs.

Cap returns to the group having been further down the valley. She returns a pair of binoculars to Brox.

CAP

Eight, no more than ten. Looks like the storm totalled their ride.

BROX

Friendlylies?

CAP

Couldn't tell.

SOLDIER 1

Lions?

CAP

...I don't think so.

SOLDIER 2

Hey, Bag, ever seen a Lion?

JAEL

Wouldn't be here if I had.

SOLDIER 3

What's the plan, boss?

BROX

No response on comms. I don't think they're ours.

SOLDIER 3

Either a nomad unit, or worse.

BROX

Lets go. Attach bags.

At that order all the soldiers pull out tubes from the webbing (which are attached on one end to their chests).

They each attach the other end of their tubes to a child. Fluid moves from the children (or bags) to the soldiers.

The soldiers remove their rebreathers and inhale deeply, rejuvenated. The group make their way down the valley, back in single file.

EXT. DESERT, TEMPLE - DAY

The team approach the centre of this ancient graveyard, a large decrepit temple. Near the entrance stands five SOLDIERS in the same uniform as Brox's unit, and THREE BAGS.

They're moving weird, walking a few paces in a random direction, then stopping, then walking again. Their heads are down, like they're sleepwalking.

Brox raises a hand in a fist. Everyone behind him stops. One of the "sleepwalking soldiers" stops, looks at Brox, then open fires.

BROX

Shots fired!

Brox and his team take cover. Suddenly all of the "sleepwalkers" open fire on Brox and his team.

Brox takes a hit to his shoulder. Cap begins to convulse, pumping translucent stem cell serum from her chest into Brox's via a tube. Brox's strength returns, Cap falls. Brox untethers himself from Cap and continues the fight.

Brox's team returns fire. The "sleepwalkers" are easy targets and fall quickly. The final gunshot echoes through the dunes. It hits Brox again, this time in the chest. The rest of his team check the dead "sleepwalkers"...making sure they're really dead.

BROX

Bag!

Brox can't move.

BROX

Jael!

He points at the unplugged tube, then points to Cap, who lays a few meters away, also unable to move. Jael approaches Brox.

BROX

Attach me...

Jael smiles, then stamps on his tube, crushing it.

JAEL

Oops.

Jael approaches Cap.

Jael
Where did you get that scar?

Cap
A drunk solider.

Jael
Are you telling the truth?

Cap
What's going-

Cap's eyes roll to the back of her head, she sounds demonic...

Cap
The one searching for those alive
must go places where that except
death can be found.

Cap stands like nothing happened.

Jael
Not possible.

Jael sees a hooded figure approaching. A LION! He stares right at Jael, puts fingers to his head, then stops. Looks shocked. Stares at Jael.

Cap picks up Brox's rifle then aims at one of Brox's soldiers.

Jael
Cap, what are you-

BANG!

The soldier's head explodes. Jael takes cover. Cap aims at another solider.

BANG!

Two soldiers left. They take cover, aim at Cap, but they miss. The hooded figure gets closer. Cap takes aim.

BANG!

BANG!

Both soldiers fall without Cap taking a shot.

Jael runs, jumps to Cap, her rifle smoking from the rounds that killed the soldiers, she darts around looking for more threats all the while protecting Cap. Cap snaps out of it. Collapses from the pain in her leg.

CAP
What happened?

The Lion walks toward them.

JAEL
Leave her alone, she's a child!

The Lion stops, stares at Jael, protecting Cap. He sees humanity. He puts a finger to his temple and Jael's eyes roll to the back of her head. The Lion is in her mind.

Cap screams.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. OLD DISTRICT HOSPITAL - DAY

An exhausted YOUNG JAEL (17) watches her newborn BABY being carried away by a NURSE (F,20s). Jael's on a medical bed. A WOMAN IN A PINK SUIT (40s) holds out a paper and a pen.

INT. MILITARY VAN (MOVING) - DAY

Jael lies unconscious on a medical bed. Her body rocks as the van bounces. A DOCTOR (50s) enters, checks the dressing on Jael's arm (now a bandaged stump).

Jael's eyes open. She looks at what's left of her arm, then to the doctor. A badge reads DR. MARY ANN RICHARDSON.

MARY ANN
Hello, darling.

Jael tries to speak but her throat is dry. Mary Ann puts a beaker of water to her lips. Jael downs the lot.

JAEL
What happened?

MARY ANN
Don't worry, you'll be given a new arm.

Mary Ann shows her own delicately ornate prosthetic arm.

MARY ANN

It's not so bad.

JAEL

Where's Cap?

MARY ANN

She...she lost too much blood from a leg wound. I'm so sorry. Were you close?

Jael closes her eyes. Pain.

JAEL

Who are you?

MARY ANN

Mary Ann Richardson. I've been asked to be your chaperone as you cycle in.

JAEL

Cycle in?

MARY ANN

You're a star now, dear! You're going to the New District.

Jael sits up.

MARY ANN

The crew wanted to meet you, but I...everybody's curious how you managed to do it.

JAEL

Lose my arm?

MARY ANN

Survive the attack of a Telepath.

JAEL

What did I do?

MARY ANN

Your memory will come back. Your catch has made quite the stir.

JAEL

My catch?

MARY ANN

You caught a Lion. It's been taken
to fight in the Arena Games.

JAEL

You think I caught a Lion?

MARY ANN

I'm sure you'll remember soon. Your
life is about to change.

JAEL

Yeah?

MARY ANN

You can do anything in the New
District. Be anything.

JAEL

The Arena.

MARY ANN

You-

JAEL

I want to go to the Arena.

EXT. OUTSKRITS OF NEW GIZA - NIGHT

The military van stops at a security check. An OFFICER
(M,40s) checks the driver's documents. The van continues into
the city.

EXT. NEW GIZA, OLD DISTRICT - NIGHT

Known as Barren Grounds, the city is encased in low-hanging
black clouds. Against white snow, ashy smoke evokes the
Dickensian grey of a London Fog, but the tired, worn
Brutalist architecture tells a different story.

Above the dilapidated ground, neon signs display
advertisements and political propaganda. Rundown stores with
archaic hand-painted signs are either boarded up or have been
repurposed.

Hoads of impoverished people stumble through the routine
chaos of this congested metropolitan rush hour. Each
individual's face is entirely covered by an oxygen mask.

LED screens are dotted all over the place showing a digital woman, ANEVA, a city-wide AI announcer.

ANEVA

Hello, this is Aneva, reminding you of our regularly scheduled shift change. Have a great work day. And if you're returning, welcome back!

A group of JUMPSUIT-WEARING WORKERS descend a large escalator coming out from a skyscraper. They remove their work vests, then insert vials of clean air into their oxygen masks.

EXT. TRANSPORTATION TERMINAL - DAY

Used to be used for buses and trains, now filled with military vehicles. Mary Ann helps Jael out of the van.

INT. TRANSPORTATION TERMINAL - DAY

Mary Ann and Jael walk down the hall, passing various armored PROTOCOL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (PEOs) dressed in black combat gear. Mary Ann stops at a door, allowing a PEO GUARD (M,40s) to scan a band on her wrist.

MARY ANN

She's with me.

They pass through the gate.

JAEL

Which area of New District are we in?

MARY ANN

Mode Nouveau. The heart of New District. Come on...

EXT. NEW DISTRICT, MODE NOUVEAU - DAY

A limousine drives on well-maintained roads, through a pristine futuristic city. The limo passes various famous landmarks from across the globe; the Sphinx, the Pyramids, and the Roman Colosseum.

ANEVA DROIDS hover throughout the city sporting flat-panel Ultra-HDR screens. They address residents by name and approach at eye-level to advertise personalized products.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

A BODYGUARD (M,30s) rides shotgun. Mary Ann and Jael sit in the back opposite TAMARA (10) and BRANDON (50s).

MARY ANN

Jael, this is my husband Brandon,
and daughter Tamara.

JAEL

Nice to meet you both.

Neither reply. Tamara draws a pictures on an electronic device and Brandon connects to a video call with LEONARD (50s). Jael looks at Tamara's prosthetic leg. Tamara shows her picture to Brandon.

TAMARA

Look!

He doesn't pay any attention.

MARY ANN

Daddy's on the phone.

Tamara looks disappointed.

JAEL

Show me.

Tamara turns the screen to Jael. The drawing is of a scary monster shining like the sun above the pyramids. Jael looks horrified. Tamara laughs.

TAMARA

It's Sisera.

Jael politely nods. Brandon ends the call.

BRANDON

Leonard's not far behind.

MARY ANN

He's so busy, what with all the-

JAEL

Leonard Richardson?

MARY ANN

He's Brandon's brother.

JAEL
That's the entire reason for
visiting the Ar- Am I in a dream?

Tamara pinches Jael.

JAEL
Ouch!

TAMARA
Not dreaming.

MARY ANN
Show some tact, Tam.

JAEL
It's fine. I'm glad there are still
children who know how to laugh.

MARY ANN
I couldn't agree more.

BRANDON
To Leonard's credit, we're rapidly
approaching a day where all New
Giza's children will have full
bellies and a fair oxygen supply.

Brandon inhales oxygen vials from his ornate breather.

MARY ANN
If it's Leonard you want to meet
I'll introduce you.

BRANDON
He's giving children hope beyond
being bags.

MARY ANN
I wish we could take them all to
Luxor!

EXT. COLOSSEUM - NIGHT

Colorful lighting gives the classic building an entrancing
flare. It looks more like a football stadium than a roman
relic.

INT. COLOSSEUM ARENA - NIGHT

It's a full house. Two cages (containing telepathy warriors, or "LIONS") are wheeled out into the centre of the arena. Each warrior has an electronic helmet on. Both Lions roar a war cry at one another. The sound echoes through the stadium.

Two flatbed semi-trucks burst out into the arena and each parks next to a cage. On the back of each truck is a passed out human, one MALE (20s) and one FEMALE (20s). They're called BLANKS.

INT. PRIVATE BOX SUITE - NIGHT

Jael, the Richardson family, and a few other high class viewers watch the show from a decadent box.

MARY ANN

Jael, see the Lion with the scars?

JAEL

In the cage or on the truck?

MARY ANN

In the cage, dear. The people on the trucks aren't Lions.

JAEL

I see him.

MARY ANN

That's your Lion.

JAEL

Who are the people on the trucks?

MARY ANN

Criminals.

BRANDON

Blanks.

An obese man, EDWARD GLON (60s), relaxes underwater in a Stem Cell Serum (SCS) bath. He emerges from the tank refreshed and invigorated. He grabs a towel to dry off.

GLON

Mr. Richardson, how is your brother?

BRANDON

Apologies Glon, he was meant to be with us. Something came up. I can speak on his behalf.

Glon scoffs and chucks his wet towel into the corner. It falls next to a frail CHILD (6) hooked up to the SCS bath.

GLON

I know his plan. You tell him we're not about to give up control to some rag tag group of daydreamers.

Glon sees Jael. She looks out of place. She looks...poor.

MARY ANN

Glon, this is Jael. You should give her thanks. Without her, there would be no show.

GLON

The one who caught tonight's challenger? Oh Capital!

Glon laughs. One of his friends, SETH (50s), a thin, sleazy man in a very expensive suit with a cybernetic eye, joins in.

SETH

Leonard will be flattered. What a gift you've brought for him!

Glon studies Jael's arm.

GLON

So what's your bet, girl?

JAEL

With you?

GLON

Uh huh.

JAEL

If my Lion wins...a new arm. One of the models reserved for you New District elites.

GLON

And if I win?

Jael

You won't.

Glön

That's not how betting works.

Jael thinks...

Jael

I'll tell you how I got the
psychic.

Glön

How will I know your story isn't a
lie? There is no one who can
confirm -

Brandon

Except him.

Mary points down to the Arena at one of the Telepathy
Warriors (Jael's Psychic).

Glön

If I win that means he'll be dead.

Mary Ann

If you win she'll interview for
your media campaign. It'll do
wonders for your public image.
Goodness knows you need it.

Glön

Yeah?

Jael

Deal.

Glön smiles. Tamara pokes Jael in the stump where her arm
used to be.

Tamara

How did this happen?

Jael

Long story.

Jael smiles as she draws from a cigarette.

Glön

How's the little bag o' juice?

MARY ANN

She's my daughter.

GLON

Bet it feels good to save a bag
from the battlefield.

MARY ANN

Maybe you should give it a try.

GLON

I buy my stem cells from the farms,
I don't need to pretend I'm doing a
good deed.

MARY ANN

She's not a bag.

GLON

Quiet, the games are starting.

JAEL

Mary, why would you allow Tamara to
watch this?

MARY ANN

They say Psychics fear children
because they're stem-cell rich. Not
only is Tamara here so I can keep
an eye on her, but she in turn can
protect us.

JAEL

Are you worried one of the Lions
might escape?

BRANDON

One already did. He's been hunting
children down in the Old District.

JAEL

The Black Lion.

MARY ANN

Gives me nightmares.

A huge gong bellows out, signifying the start of proceedings.

TAMARA

Which one is yours?

J A E L

Three scars on its arm.

INT. COLOSSEUM - NIGHT

The crowd are deadly silent. A beautiful woman appears on a large screen. She is the ANNOUNCER (20s).

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen. You've been
waiting...the time has come...
Let... Them... Roar!

A light switches from red to green on the Lion's helmets. The Lions remove their helmets, revealing glowing eyes. The crowd roars. The Lions roar.

Each Lion looks at one of the unconscious "Blanks". The Blanks wake up and jump down from the trucks.

A laser shoots across the area, branding each Blank with tattoos matching their respective Lion.

The two Blanks walk towards each other. Looking into their eyes, you can tell they're scared about what's to come.

A bare knuckled fight to the death. Teeth get knocked out. Eye sockets are caved in. It's brutal. The crowd go crazy with each blow.

Finally, one of the Blanks jumps on the other, punches him in the face repeatedly, then grabs his head, twists, and breaks his neck. The crowd go insane.

ANNOUNCER

Have you ever??? That was brutal!
Who wants a replay?

The crowd roar.

INT. COLOSSEUM, BACKSTAGE - DAY

An old haggard Scottish woman, THE MECHANIC (60s), stands at a microphone.

MECHANIC

...Then a replay you shall get.
Play it!

The microphone she's at changes her voice to match the beautiful woman projected on the big screens. The Mechanic steps away from the microphone, is met by an ASSISTANT (M,20s).

ASSISTANT
Bosses wanna see you?

MECHANIC
What are those doblers after now?
I'm busy doon here.

ASSISTANT
Everyone's being read. They're
tryna find out who helped Leonoir.

An armed GUARD (M,30s) appears behind the Assistant.

MECHANIC
Right.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

Jael looks out the window as the car drives onto a bridge and past the Sphinx monument.

MARY ANN
My oh my, Glon's face was a
picture. Just make sure he delivers
the best 4th Gen prosthetic! It
would be just like him to get you a
junk 2nd Gen out of spite!

Atop the Sphinx, is a dark figure wearing a samurai hood, and a metallic mask.

TAMARA
He looks like a Lion.

BRANDON
Yes, the Sphinx is a Lion.

TAMARA
No, the man on top of the Sphinx.

The DRIVER (M,30s) stops, stuck behind traffic.

BRANDON
Can you see what the hold up is?

DRIVER

I think there is a political
protest, Sir.

BOOM!

An explosion on the bridge. A PEO convoy steams past.

TAMARA

What was that?

BRANDON

Leonard's revolution!

MARY ANN

I don't think that was protestors,
Brandon.

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

A shadowy figure emerges from the fiery wreckage ahead,
carrying a body. PEO soldiers emerge from their convoy, they
raise their weapons at the figure.

PEO OFFICER

Don't take another step!

PEO OFFICER 2

The bridge is off-limits. To
participate in the demonstration,
you must continue within the
designated protest zones of the Old
District.

The dark figure lifts it's head. Its pale light eyes beam.

This is LeoNoir.

He throws the body. It soars overhead and crashes down on the
hood of the family car. Then stares at one of the PEO
officers until he has control of him. The CONTROLLED PEO
OFFICER turns around and shoots his three comrades.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Then he turns his rifle on himself.

BANG!

Dead.

The Security Officer riding shotgun in the limo exits the vehicle, the driver turns to the family.

DRIVER

Get out, run!

LeoNoir approaches the limo. He punches the windshield, shattering it. He grabs the driver and pulls him out.

Jael's unbuckles herself and Tamara.

JAEL

Go!

Jael tries her door, it's locked. She breaks the glass, crawls out, then grasps Tamara and pulls her out.

Mary Ann and Brandon scramble to get out next, but LeoNoir appears at the window.

MARY ANN

Help!

Jael grabs Tamara, they run for cover. LeoNoir doesn't notice them. He throws something through the window, then leaves.

MARY ANN

Brandon!

BOOM!

A huge EXPLOSION!

Jael covers Tamara's eyes.

EXT. MODE NOUVEAU - DAY

The new day's bright sun shines upon dry sandy desert ice, just beyond the city limits. Jael lies in a dark alley, Tamara pulls her sleeve, waking her. Jael sits up.

JAEL

I'm sorry.

Tamara looks strangely calm.

TAMARA

They said if anything happened to them I should find Leonard.

Jael
How old are you?

Tamara
Nine.

Jael
You are too stress-resistant for a
nine year old.

Tamara
We need to warn the others. That
was a Lion. He was probably there
to read out minds and find out
where my uncle is.

Tamara moves a strand of hair behind her ear, revealing a
scar. Jael points to it.

Jael
Where did you get that?

Tamara brushes off Jael's hand.

Tamara
We must go to Leonard. He's at
Obeliski. I know the way.

EXT. MODE NOUVEAU, STREET - DAY

Tamara leads Jael down a busy streets. Well-dressed passers
by give the scraggly pair odd looks.

EXT. OBELISK HQ, BACK GATE - DAY

The pair approach a black gate, guarded by A MASKED GUARD
(M,30s), weapon in hand.

MASKED GUARD
What are you doing here, bag?

Tamara
I'm here to see Uncle Leonard.

MASKED GUARD
Get out of here.

A camera above the guard. The intercom on the gate buzzes...

DEBORAH (O.S.)
 (over the intercom)
 Stand down. That's his brother's
 girl. Let the girl through.

The gate opens.

MASKED GUARD
 Both?

DEBORAH (O.S.)
 Just the small one.

TAMARA
 I'm not going without Jael.

JAEL
 Tamara...

DEBORAH(O.S.)
 Let them in.

TAMARA
 Knew that would work.

Jael and Tamara enter.

INT. OBELISK HQ, OFFICE - DAY

Tamara and Jael sit in front of CHIEF DEBORAH (50s), a tough muscular short-haired blonde.

DEBORAH
 So, you're the girl from the dunes?
 I heard you made a beeline for the
 Arena after cycling back to the
 City. I just spoke to Leonard, he
 asked that you keep custody over
 Tamara until he can return.

Tamara smiles at Jael. But then frowns.

JAEL
 I can't afford to look after a
 child.

DEBORAH
 Leonard will cover all the
 expenses. He also has an offer for
 you.

Given your record of actually catching a live Lion, he wants you to join us.

JAEEL

Us?

DEBORAH

We're Leonard's Militia.

JAEEL

Why did that Lion attach Tamara's family?

DEBORAH

Leonard's brother was his right hand man.

JAEEL

I can't look after a kid and join a militia.

DEBORAH

If you leave the compound we'll have someone care for her.

JAEEL

What is it you think I can do?

DEBORAH

You'll be on call. If we need you, we'll call. You might come in handy.

JAEEL

I don't remember anything about capturing that Lion.

DEBORAH

Well, if you do, you'd be here.

Jael thinks...

JAEEL

Does the on call position come with a bed?

DEBORAH

Yes, forgive me. Lets get you settled.

INT. JAEEL'S STUDIO - NIGHT

Small but comfy. Jael sits slouched on the edge of her bed. A floating drone ROBOT with arms attaches a new arm onto her. It folds bits of flesh over metal.

EX. DESERT - DAY

Cap lays on the ground, bleeding, screaming for Jael.

INT. JAEEL'S STUDIO - NIGHT

Jael's eyes fill up. She reads a card. "...man of my word. Glon." She lifts a glass of whisky and necks it. An ashtray overflows with butts on the coffee table. A knock on the door breaks the silence.

Tamara enters holding a little pillow.

TAMARA

Can I sleep here?

Jael nods.

An Aneva unit (like a holographic TV on the wall) lights up.

NEWSCASTER

Good evening. This is your local evening news alert.

Jael locks the door then massages her arm.

TAMARA

I can't sleep without a story.

NEWSCASTER

..who attacked Richardson and his family a little less than three weeks ago.

Tamara joins Jael on the bed, they watch the broadcast.

NEWSCASTER

The attacker is believed to be LeoNoir, the only Psychic to escape from the Arena games. This marks the first attack from the Black Lion in the New District.

JAEL

Guess you know this story.

Jael turns the Aneva unit off.

JAEL

I don't know any stories.

TAMARA

I know one.

JAEL

...

TAMARA

The haunting of Luxor castle. Once the castle was a home for some of the greatest thinkers of the past. Their spirits were locked inside weak bodies, their souls were imprisoned in fragile shells, they suffered. And they've found a way to break free. Scientists at Luxor were trying to find a way for thier souls to live outside their bodies.

Tamara yawns.

TAMARA

They created a hive mind. Putting their collective consciousnesses into a god-like creature. They called it Sisera.

JAEL

Sisera, huh.

TAMARA

Some say it died with his creators but I heard it's going to be the thing that either saves us all or finally destroys us.

JAEL

Spooky.

Tamara lays down.

JAEL

Who told you that story?

TAMARA

Brandon.

Jael pulls a blanket over her.

Tamara closes her eyes.

EXT. OBELISK HQ, BACK GATE - DAY

Jael approaches the back gate, Tamara and another little girl, SARAH (6) a few steps behind. Deborah is getting into a van, she sees Jael and speaks to a GUARD (M,30s).

DEBORAH

Take Tamara and Sarah to the rec-room.

The Guard offers a hand to Tamara, who hesitates.

JAEEL

Who's your friend?

TAMARA

Sarah. I was asked to watch her.

JAEEL

Hello.

Sarah hides behind Tamara.

TAMARA

She likes gifts.

Jael pulls a piece of candy from her pocket, gives it to Sarah. Sarah smiles.

SARAH

Thank you.

TAMARA

Do you like my watch?

JAEEL

Sure do.

TAMARA

Deborah gave me it. I can set a timer. How long are you going for?

JAEEL

Hard to know in this world.

TAMARA
You'll come back?

JAEL
Of course. See you soon.

INT. OLD DISTRICT HOSPITAL, PATIENT ROOM - DAY

YOUNG JAEL (20s) lays on a medical bed. A heavily pregnant
BEGGAR GIRL (20S) lays in the next bed over.

GIRL
Would be easier to finish it
yourself.

Jael ignores her.

BEGGAR GIRL
They'll suck the blood out of her
to the last drop.

JAEL
Who?

BEGGAR GIRL
Vampires.

The Beggar Girl puts dirty fingers into her mouth as if they
were fangs. Jael shakes her head, stands up, then heads for
the door.

GIRL
Why else would one thousand married
couples in the New District need
five thousand newborns a year?

Jael looks back at her.

JAEL
Five thousand?

The Beggar Girl makes a vampire face.

INT. OLD DISTRICT HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR - DAY

Jael walks to a door with "QUARANTINE ZONE" written on it.
She tries it , it's locked. Jael looks around, there's a
chair nearby. She grabs it and smashes the door.

A NURSE (F,20s) rushes from a nearby room. Jael keeps hitting the door till the chair falls apart.

NURSE
What are you doing!

JAEL
Open the door.

NURSE
You can't go in there.

Jael picks up a sharp of wood from the broken chair, grabs the Nurse and puts the stake to her throat. The Nurse gives her the key with shaking hands.

Jael lets go, the Nurse runs away around the corridor. Jael opens the door.

INT. HOSPITAL OF OLD DISTRICT, ISLOATOR - DAY

Jael picks up a BABY GIRL, wraps her in a blanket. She turns to leave but a WOMAN IN A PINK SUIT blocks the way, escorted by TWO GUARDS (M,30s).

Jael looks around - sees a window. She holds the baby close then jumps backwards through the window.

WOMAN
My God! Go get her!

INT. MILITIA VAN (MOVING) - DAY

An armored van rushes through New District's streets. In the back a section of five soldiers sit silently. Jael sits next to Chief Deborah. The other militia players are...

TEE TROY (M,40s) a bulky gym rat who cracks his knuckles.

KAITO (M,30s) thin, with a neckbeard, and lots of tattoos.

PAN (M,20s) the joker of the group. He controls drones on a screen implanted into his modified arm.

DEBORAH
A deploy for Leonard ain't like
fighting in the war.

Jael nods.

TROY
You were out west, huh?

PAN
How was that?

JAEL
Cold.

Deborah stands and addresses the section.

DEBORAH
Alright, remember the game plan and stay focused. Should be a simple meet and greet, but it could turn south.

TROY
I hate this slimy bastard.

Deborah looks at Jael.

DEBORAH
And you, you're our ticket in.

JAEL
Me?

DEBORAH
You're his friend.

JAEL
I don't have any friends.

PAN
That's 'cause you're a downer.

The van stops.

TROY
I love this part.

EXT. SATURN CORP, ENTRANCE - DAY

The militia van's door bursts open and the section exit. People in the street take pictures, and look like they're seeing celebrities. Pan waves to people.

Deborah approaches two PEO GUARDS (M,30s) stood in front of a large glass building. This is Saturn Corp.

DEBORAH
We're here to see Glon.

PEO GUARD
Regrading?

DEBORAH
He gave my friend here a new arm.
She wants to extend her gratitude.
And something about an interview.

The PEO Guard takes a picture of Jael then moves to talk on a radio. After a moment he returns.

PEO GUARD
He said Jael can go up...alone.

DEBORAH
Hard way it is.

Deborah pulls out a gun and-

BANG!

Shoots PEO Guard #1 in the foot. He falls to the floor and Deborah grabs his rifle.

Troy aims his shotgun aimed at the other PEO Guard.

TROY
How many of you PEO bitches inside?

PEO GUARD #2
Eight.

DEBORAH
Tie them both up.

TROY
Better be eight.

INT. SATURN CORP, HALLWAY - DAY

Deborah and her team enter, weapons drawn and up. The instantly spread out and take cover in a large marble office reception area.

The PEO Guards open fire. Troy smiles, he's fast, in a split second two of the PEO Guards have been shotgunned into oblivion.

A PEO Guard sneaks up on Deborah, he aims his rifle at her head...

KAITO

No!

Kaito jumps on the PEO Guard, tackles him to the ground, turns him over and sinks his thumbs into the Guard's eyes. The screams are deafening, even over the roar of gunfire.

Two Guards take cover behind the main reception desk, one of them throws a grenade at Pan and Jael, who dive out of the blast area just in time. Pan's up quick, runs toward the reception desk and sits with his back to it. He looks around, sees a stapler, picks it up, tears a piece of fabric from his shirt, wraps the stapler in it, then throws it over his shoulder.

PAN

FRAG OUT!

The two PEO Guards, thinking it's a grenade, dive over the counter, landing in front of Pan. He takes aim.

BANG!

BANG!

Blows both their heads off.

Ding!

The elevator arrives to the ground floor with the last remaining PEO Guards. Deborah and the whole team and there to meet them when the elevator doors open.

They spray gunfire into the Elevator until they're all out of ammo.

INT. OFFICE SUIT - DAY

Glou sits at a fancy desk. Deborah approaches him. Troy Kaito and Pan keep guard by the door. Jael takes a seat on a couch.

Pan opens a suitcase, releasing a small drone, which flies onto Glou's desk and projects a life sized holographic Leonard.

GLON
You've just singed your death
certificate.

LEONARD
Governor Glon. Your business is now
mine.

GLON
Under what authority?

LEONARD
You and your cronies monopolized
everything. Food. Cybernetics. Even
children. So I will take your
business under the authority of the
people, by force if necessary.

GLON
Have you gone crazy, Leonard, how
do you think-

LEONARD
We've already taken-

Glon picks up a heavy ornament and smashes the drone
(projecting Leonard) to pieces. Leonard disappears. Deborah
aims her pistol at Glon.

GLON
Look, Richardson doesn't have even
half of Saturn Corps' money. I'll
triple what he pays.

DEBORAH
What do you say team? Shall we sell
our souls and the future of our
world to this weasel?

PAN
I'd be bored with all that money.

GLON
...what does he want to do with me?

DEBORAH
Jail.

Glon reaches under his table and pulls out a shotgun. He aims
it at Deborah. Troy, Kaito and Pan aim there weapons at Glon.
Jael sits stunned.

GLON
No matter what happens, you die.
Unless you all put down your
weapons and get out.

DEBORAH
Aint gonna happen.

KAITO
You shoot Deborah, I aint gonna
kill you Glon, I'll torture you
indefinitely.

GLON
That doesn't sound too great for
me. So how about nobody has to die,
or go to jail. You three, drop your
weapons and leave. Once I get a
message from the PEOs saying you're
outside the building, I'll let
these two lovely ladies go.

PAN
Sounds good to me.

TROY
If you think I'm leaving this sack
of shit alone with Deborah you-

DEBORAH
It's okay. Head out. We'll come
back with an army if necessary.

GLON
Yes, and I think I'd prefer to
settle this with other people
fighting for me.

Troy, Kaito and Pan leave. Glon lowers his shotgun.

GLON
How's the arm working out?

JAEL
It's stiff.

GLON
Give it time.

DEBORAH
I'm going to enjoy taking you down.

GLON
I don't think so. I'm going into
hiding. I'll use the national army
as protection. Leonard's dream wont
work. Exploitat-

Jael stabs Glon in the gut with a large knife. He breathes
heavily, looks at the knife sticking out his big belly.

BANG!

Glon's head explodes.

Deborah holding a smoking gun.

INT. MILITIA VAN (MOVING) - DAY

The van drives through Mode Nouveau. Deborah talks to
Leonard's hologram.

DEBORAH
Less resistance than expected.

LEONARD
Did you get his key?

DEBORAH
I got it.

LEONARD
Good work! Yes! The delegates and I
will join you tonight back at
Obelisk.

DEBORAH
It's finally happening.

LEONARD
Yes, it is.

Leonard signs off.

JAEL
Delegates?

KAITO
You can't end political corruption
and tyranny and not have something
to fill the gap

PAN
Someone has to lead.

DEBORAH
The delegates will form the new
government.

JAEL
Where are the promised children?

DEBORAH
What?

JAEL
You said you guys save children.
Where are they.

DEBORAH
They're safe at a place called
Luxor.

JAEL
Where's Luxor?

DEBORAH
That's secret. Rest assured,
everything we do is for their
safety.

TROY
And to give hope to the people
rotting in ghost towns all over Old
District.

DEBORAH
Every time the Cor-Op cuts rations
or hikes the price of parts, those
towns get hit the hardest.

JAEL
No one fights for them.

DEBORAH
No one even spoke for them after
The Slowing. People in power left
the adults to rot and took the kids
for stem cells.

KAITO
Can we not-

J A E L

They're used as bags Kaito. Their life is drained from their bodies to fuel the soldiers and the rich. And our children were stolen from us under the promise of finding them a better home.

K A I T O

Leonard wants to change all that.

J A E L

Oh yes, his magical secret safe-space. Luxor, was it?

D E B O R A H

You don't believe us?

J A E L

I'll believe it when I see it.

D E B O R A H

You'll have to speak to Leonard about that.

J A E L

I intend to.

INT. OBELISK HQ, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

A red light flashes on the CAPTAIN'S (M,30s) screen. He flips open a spherical disk and dials a number. Leonard appears as a hologram.

C A P T A I N

Sorry to bother, Sir. Aneva detected an unrecognized-

L E O N A R D

There'll be many unrecognized persons this evening. Our delegates are meeting for the first time tonight, at the base.

C A P T A I N

I'll inform the team.

LEONARD
I'll send a list of names, consider
it extremely confidential.

CAPTAIN
And the breach?

LEONARD
Probably one of the delegates.
Maybe lost? They're mostly older,
retired judges and politicians.

INT. OBELISK HQ, BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Well dressed tables atop with an array of food and drink.
Leonard stands to give a speech to around thirty DELEGATEAS,
a group of older men and women all in formal attire.

Deborah, Jael, Troy, Kaito and Pan sit together at one table.
Out of place in their combat gear.

Leonard sits next to COMMISSIONER AYYOUB (F,50s). Under the
table they secretly hold hands and smile at each other.

AYYOUB
It's time, dear.

Leonard stands.

LEONARD
Welcome, everyone. We all know the
importance of this day. 'Tis
unnecessary to mask any joy within
the room, so express your
excitement and allow me to pay
respect to the hero of the hour.
Along with her team, please show
some love for Western War veteran,
tactics specialist, and now the
Revival Militia Chief, Deborah
Wellington.

Loud applause.

EXT. OBELISK HQ, MONUMENT - NIGHT

A large statue of a horse. A dark figure climbs up and stands
on it. It's LeoNoir! He lifts a rifle, looks through the
scope into the banquet hall.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Leonard continues his speech...

LEONARD

One amongst us envisioned life without oppression. Her unyielding fight and patient endurance are what brought us here. She taught me how to be a leader and it is from her I get my vision of a better Giza for everyone. I present to you our great visionary, Commissioner Ayyoub.

Commissioner Ayyoub stands.

AYYOUB

Thank you all for...well...you know. I'd like to read a poem which I think will do a better job at conveying how important our mission is than I could articulate.

She unfolds a piece of paper.

AYYOUB

"In this broken place where I was born, which has never seemed to know peace, in the very soil we walk upon, are tears that never cease. You can trace the scars of hopelessness. And like sweat upon the backs of the outcast downtrodden, rain slips through cracks."

Jael looks out the window, sees something...

AYYOUB

Don't mistake me for a poet. My son wrote this when he was little, over twelve years ago. After we had moved up in the world into New Giza. Beyond the depraved poverty of Barren Grounds, never to ride the filthy escalator again. It stunned me to think he thought of New Giza as "downtrodden".

It was the moment I realized how
little we'd all sold our soul for.

Jael walks to the window.

LEONARD

A vision conceived in a moment took
us twelve years to bring to term,
but today the last of the old order
was cleaned...now begins the real
revolution.

Applause.

Leonard's eyes roll to the back of his head. He looks
possessed.

Jael looks out the window, sees...no way...can't be...
LeoNoir!

LEONARD

I'm a liar. And anyone who stands
with me is going to die.

JAEL

He's being controlled! Get down!

Leonard unholsters his pistol, places it under his chin.
About to blow his head off when Deborah makes a running dive,
tackles him to the ground. Leonard snaps out of it. Then...

KTSH.

A hail of bullets fall into the crowd, people drop in cries
of terror. Commissioner Ayyoub flees and lets out a whimper
as a cloud of dust can be seen over her head.

KTSH.

More delegates fall.

Chaos erupts.

Deborah flips her table over, her and the team get behind it
and return fire.

Aneva's computerized voice echos out over speakers...

ANEVA

Emergency. Unidentified intruder.

Jael

No shit!

Kaito

Where's the shooter?

Pan

Leonard! Are you alright?

Leonard

We have to protect Ayyoub!

Kaito

Get her over here.

Jael crawl to Ayyoub, guides her to the rest of the team but Ayyoub seems confused. Disoriented.

The lights go off.

Blackout.

Panic.

EXT. MONUMENT - NIGHT

LeoNoir jumps from the statue and calmly walks toward the main building. A man on a mission, not scared of anything.

INT. BANQUET - NIGHT

Jael crawls to Leonard and Deborah.

Jael

Sir, I'm Jael. Is your niece in the building?

Leonard

What?

Jael

Tamara!

Deborah

She's not here.

Jael

Sir, the shooter, it's LeoNoir.

Troy

Good, let's take him out for good!

PAN

Oh yeah lets just "TAKE OUT" the only Lion to ever escape the arena, shall we?! You first, I'm right behind.

AYYOUB

W-We have to get Richardson out of here.

DEBORAH

Agreed.

AYYOUB

Our only advantage is that LeoNoir's never... been... here before... I can't see..

Ayyoub collapses to the floor and begins to convulse. One of her eyes can be seen set at an unnatural angle and blood starts oozing from her head. Leonard grips her in his arms as he knows she is slipping away his anguish is unrestrained.

AYYOUB

We have to get... We have to g...

LEONARD

SHH it's ok my little rose. Everything is ok.

AYYOUB

I Love... I ... I love y-

The team sit in shock and stunned silence as they watch Leonard wail and sob over Ayyoub's lifeless body. Giving him a little distance to mourn. Troy's frustration is the first to break the silence as his frustration and anger bubbles over.

TROY

We attack. All at once. He can't control all of us.

DEBORAH

You can't run in guns blazing against a Lion.

KAITO

Deborah's right.

TROY

You would agree, mama's boy.

Leonard Marches past the team to a side door, and with murderous fury in his voice yells...

LEONARD
Everyone! Follow me! Captain!

CAPTAIN
I'm here.

LEONARD
Lead the delegates out by the
skips. Get them as far as possible!

The Delegates rush through the doors and turn left, following the Captain down a corridor.

SMASH!

JAEL
He's here!

One of the windows in the banquet room shatters. LeoNoir vaults into the room, standing on broken glass. A nearby GUARD (M,30s) raises his pistol but LeoNoir is too fast, he's on the Guard in a second, grabs his hand and manoeuvres the pistol under the Guards chin.

BANG!

The Guard's head explodes. LeoNoir's helmet is covered in blood.

LEONARD
He was in my head, Luxor's location
has been compromised. We need to
get there before him.

DEBORAH
Stay behind me. Lets go.

Deborah gets to the corridor and turns left, the opposite way from the Delegates. She leads Leonard and her team; Troy, Kaito, Pan, and Jael.

LeoNoir arrives to the corridor, he looks left, then right, puts his fingers to his temple...then turns left.

INT. LEONARDS' S OFFICE - NIGHT

The team enter, Troy and Pan barricade the door with desks and other furniture.

KAITO
What we doing in here?

LEONARD
I need the access card for the garage.

Leonard rummages through his desk.

EXT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

LeoNoir walks down the hall. From behind two GUARDS (M,30s) appear and open fire. LeoNoir's hit in the back, but a metal plate takes the damage. He barely flinches before turning, and unloading on them.

BANG BANG BANG BANG

They both fall.

LeoNoir continues down the hall, turns a corner and arrives outside Leonard's office. He puts a hand on the door...knows who's inside.

Takes a step back and fires into the room.

INT. LEONARD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Shots fired. Everyone dives to the ground. Leonard overturns his desk.

DEBORAH
Leonard, the window behind you.

Leonard fires, smashes the window to bits. He crawls, looks over the edge, it's a long way down.

LEONARD
There's a fire escape leading to the roof.

Leonard's outside first, climbing his way up. Pan's second.

LeoNoir's smashing at the door, trying to get in.

DEBORAH
Kaito, hold the door! Give us time
to get Leonard out.

Kaito looks at Deborah, is she really asking him to...

DEBORAH
NOW KAITO!

He pushes his bodyweight against the door. Troy joins him. Jael, Deborah, then Pan go out the window then up the ladder. The noise from LeoNoir stops. Troy looks at Kaito. Kaito's eyes roll to the back of his head. He lifts his rifle and fires.

BANG!

Troy takes a shot to the gut. He throws himself on Kaito, wrestles the rifle away, Kaito returns to normal.

KAITO
What happened?

TROY
He controlled you.

The door to the room smashes open. LeoNoir enters. Troy grabs him, they crash around the room. LeoNoir is able to lift him clean of his feet and throw him against the ceiling.

Troy lands, barely able to crawl away. LeoNoir walks past him.

STAMP!

LeoNoir crushes Troy's head in with a heavy boot, then continues out the window and up the ladder.

Kaito is already half way up with a look of pure dread on his face.

KAITO
Deborah!

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Leonard paces the space, unsure where to go. Deborah, Jael, Pan, then Kaito join him.

Jael

Where now?

Leonard's ranting, seething from watching Ayyoub die.

Leonard

I'm GOING TO DESTROY YOU! We're
launching Luxor now! The Curse of
death ENDS HERE! YOU HEAR ME LION?

Deborah

Leonard, the pool.

Leonard runs to a ceiling window. Below, in the room, is a swimming pool. Leonard looks at Deborah.

Pan

We'll break our legs.

Deborah

Got a better idea?

LeoNoir appears at the top of the ladder. Kaito runs, dives into LeoNoir and they both fall over the edge and down four stories to the ground below.

LeoNoir lands on his back. That hurt. He stands, shakes off, then jumps one story and climbs the ladder again.

Kaito is a bloody mess on the ground next to where LeoNoir landed. Dead.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Deborah fires into the ceiling window, then jumps through the glass, which shatters. She lands in the pool. Pan jumps next, then Leonard.

LeoNoir is back on the roof. Jael is about to jump, but stops. She looks at LeoNoir. He doesn't move. He's holding a pistol. Why doesn't he fire?

Jael jumps...

INT. POOL ROOM - NIGHT

She lands in the pool, hits the bottom hard, then starts to swim to the surface, popping up next to Pan.

BOOM!

LeoNoir comes crashing down on top of them and deep into the water. He grabs Pan by the ankle and pulls him underwater.

Leonard and Deborah are out of the pool and run out of the room. Jael pulls a knife out and dives under.

She sees LeoNoir holding Pan underwater. She swims to them, drives the knife into LeoNoir's head. He lets go of Pan.

Jael grabs Pan and the two of them swim to the surface, get out the pool and follow Leonard and Deborah.

LeoNoir clammers out the pool, in immense pain, holding his head.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Leonard, Deborah, Jael and Pan enter an underground parking lot. They jump into a truck and hot tail out of there.

INT. TRUCK (MOVING) - NIGHT

Pan drives fast through the New District, Leonard, Jael and Deborah have the back.

LEONARD

I cannot express how imperative it is we secure the Luxor facility from that monster!

JAEL

Its location is secret?

LEONARD

That's probably why he attacked, to read my mind and find out.

PAN

Where are we going?

DEBORAH

Take us to Rashid. He can get us to Luxor.

DEBORAH

Lets hope we get to Rashid before Cor-Op.

J A E L

Cor-Op?

D E B O R A H

The Cor-Op wants to destroy Richardson Cybernetics. They're competitors.

J A E L

Do they want the children?

L E O N A R D

Luxor houses a powerful program called Sisera. Our secret weapon in this war. Cor-Op wants it.

J A E L

Wait, that thing Tamara was talking about. Shared consciousness?

L E O N A R D

I'll give you the full tour once we get there.

P A N

Why do you work with con men like Rashid, sir?

L E O N A R D

Rashid is a necessary evil. He is both the safest and fastest route.

J A E L

Leonard, where is Tamara?

L E O N A R D

She's at Luxor.

J A E L

How are we going to stop LeoNoir once we get to Luxor, or is the plan just to keep running?

L E O N A R D

Luxor's quite safe, especially from LeoNoir.

J A E L

Because of Sisera?

LEONARD

Exactly.

Deborah pulls out a piece of paper from inside her jacket and hands it to Jael.

DEBORAH

She left you this.

Jael unwraps it. It's a drawing of her and Tamara hand in hand.

EXT. SECLUDED ALLEY - NIGHT

LeoNoir, slumped in the alley, tends to his injuries. He removes his cracked mask plate, revealing a bloody face covered in distinctive old scars, badly healed.

His breath is heavy. He pulls out a vial of stem cell serum and injects it into his arm.

INT. MECHANIC'S SHOP - NIGHT

The Mechanic (last scene as the Announcer at the colosseum) walks down a long corridor, passing open-door rooms with people in them. The people (hosts) are hooked up to computers.

On the wall in front of those people are large screens showing the people enjoying a variety of fantasies. The hosts go on holidays, daring adventures, live the high life of the Mode Nouveau, whatever their hearts desire.

The Mechanic continues down the corridor and exits through a backdoor.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

The Mechanic lets out a sigh, lights a cigarette, then sits next to LeoNoir.

MECHANIC

Never too late in the day to visit
mother.

LeoNoir nods slightly. A painful wheezing sound comes from him.

MECHANIC

Too proud to roar?

LeoNoir gives her his face plate and empty vials. The Mechanic picks up the helmet.

MECHANIC

I'm assuming you've not come all this way just for a repair job and some Stems?

LEONAIR

Something's changed. I can't read you. Anyone.

MECHANIC

What happened here?

She touches the open wound on his head.

LEONAIR

Knife.

MECHANIC

Well, yes, a knife to the brain might very well interfere with your psychic abilities.

LEONAIR

Why weren't you at the colosseum?

MECHANIC

Fired.

LEONAIR

For freeing me?

MECHANIC

They had one of the Lions read all the staff. Pretty smart really.

LEONAIR

I know where he's going. If I go now there's a chance I can get in.

MECHANIC

What you need?

LEONAIR

Wheels.

INT. RASHID'S LOUNGE - NIGHT

Leonard sits across from Rashid.

LEONARD

You cannot dishonor our agreement
on a whim.

RASHID

Look, Richardson. This is why
people hate politicians. It ain't a
whim. You bring that psych freak
anywhere near my operation and the
whole thing crumbles. I can't risk
my clientele for some guy thinking
he can change New Giza.

LEONARD

If you want to have "clientele"
tomorrow, I suggest you keep your
word.

RASHID

Or what?

LEONARD

Or the city falls into chaos.

RASHID

I'm not a revolutionary like you.
I'm just trying to thrive.

LEONARD

Name your price, Rashid.

RASHID

Double per head.

LEONARD

How many do you have?

RASHID

Fifteen bags.

LEONARD

Don't call them that.

RASHID

We got a deal?

LEONARD

We got a deal. But we need to go now.

RASHID

What we waiting for then?

EXT. DESERT - DAY

An enormous armored lorry drives across the desert. More like a tank than a cargo truck.

INT. LORRY, FRONT CAB - DAY

Rashid stands behind the PILOT (M,20s) and CO-PILOT (F,20s).

RASHID

Keep the pace. Anything unusual call me immediately.

PILOT

We expected anythi-

RASHID

I don't know. But check in with your man on the roof frequently. He's your eyes and early alarm.

CO-PILOT

Where will you be?

RASHID

With the cargo.

INT. LORRY, PASSANGER CAB - DAY

Leonard studies Jael's arm with a light touch.

LEONARD

It's 4th-gen. Where did you get it?

JAEL

Glon lost a bet.

Leonard looks sad.

LEONARD

You saw my brother die?

J A E L

I've seen many deaths.

L E O N A R D

On the frontline?

J A E L

I volunteered.

L E O N A R D

You don't hear that too often.

J A E L

There was no other way to get out of the Old District, even as a bag vet.

L E O N A R D

They feed bags nothing but lies then cast them back to the bottom of the heap.

J A E L

I've seen so many kids die.

L E O N A R D

What made you want to go to war?

J A E L

You don't get it! Life in the Old District was unbearable! The only way out is to volunteer.

L E O N A R D

Everyone in the Barren Grounds wants out, no one volunteers.

J A E L

Yes, well I was feeling particularly suicidal. I'd just given up my child.

L E O N A R D

Your child?

J A E L

I didn't have the courage...

L E O N A R D

Tell me.

J A E L

I did same the same thing everyone was doing in the situation. I gave her away to the people promising a better future.

L E O N A R D

The conglomerates abused everyone for the benefit of the few. We're changing that.

Jael looks sad.

J A E L

Why is he after children?

L E O N A R D

Who?

J A E L

LeoNoir. And how does he know about Luxor?

L E O N A R D

I knew LeoNoir. It's a pity he turned into a fanatic. He works with a woman known as The Mechanic. I don't know what they're up to but I think they need a lot of stem cells...children...to do it.

J A E L

Cybernetics?

L E O N A R D

Likely much more advanced than enhancements.

J A E L

There's plenty of children, why come after you and the ones you save?

L E O N A R D

I tried to help him once. It didn't end well. He's scared of Sisera.

Deborah enters.

DEBORAH
How are you holding up?

LEONARD
Are we being followed?

DEBORAH
Relax. I've just been up. It's clear.

LEONARD
I just pray we get there before him.

DEBORAH
Maybe we got lucky and Jael's knife to the head put him down for good. What do you think, Lion Slayer?

JAEL
Let's hope so.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

LeoNoir rides a motorbike. Three other bikes ride behind him, but none of the other bikes have riders. A cable runs from LeoNoir's cybernetic arm to his bike. He controls the other bikes.

Pan and an armed GUARD (M,40s) stand atop the lorry. The Guard (behind a turret) sees LeoNoir, fires at him, but LeoNoir moves quickly, then fires back, hitting the Guard in the chest.

The Guard falls off the Lorry. Pan rushes back inside.

INT. LORRY, PASSANGER CAB - DAY

Pan bursts into the room, interrupts Jael, Leonard and Deborah.

PAN
He found us!

LEONARD
Deborah, there's fifteen children in the hold.

DEBORAH

Go to them! I can't protect you and stop the Lion.

JAEL

What type of vehicle is he in?

PAN

Motorbike, with three drone bikes.

DEBORAH

Lets get up top and see if can destroy the bikes. That's our best chance. Keep an eye out for each other. If he gets close enough he might take control. If that happens...

JAEL

We know what to do.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The Lorry speeds across a dusty abyss. LeoNoir pulls up along side the Lorry's front cab.

At the same time, Deborah, Jael and Pan arrive to the top of the Lorry. Deborah and Pan take their places behind turrets.

Deborah fires at one of the robotic motorcycles, it dodges well, then returns fire. Deborah has to duck.

DEBORAH

Don't fire at the robotic bikes. They're set up to return fire at point of discharge.

PAN

So what are we aiming at!

DEBORAH

The Lion. He goes down, they all go down.

PAN

Do you see him?

LeoNoir is so close to the cab he can't be seen. He grabs the cab's door handle, yanks it open, jumps off his bike and clambers inside. He grabs the Co-pilot by the throat and tosses him out.

The Pilot slams the breaks, causing Pan, on top of the lorry, to fly off over the edge and land on the ground. A robotic motorcycle nearly runs him over, but he rolls out of the way at the last second.

The Pilot jumps from the cab, and runs. He doesn't make it very far before.

ZVROOM!

He's ran over by one of robotic motorcycles.

With the Lorry stopped, LeoNoir jumps out the cab and walks toward Pan, who's still trying to compose himself.

BANG BANG BANG BANG!

Deborah is back on the torrent, firing at LeoNoir, who ducks for cover under the Lorry. Jael's approaches Deborah, grabs her by the shoulders to stop her.

JAEL

Get to the cab, get us moving. I'll
take over!

Deborah nods, clambers down to the cab. Jael jumps on the turrets.

BANG BANG BANG BANG!

Jael tries to keep enough fire power going to keep LeoNoir in cover. Pan crawls to the back of the Lorry, having to jump out the way of another robotic motorcycle attack. This time he's able to throw a grenade in the robotic motorcycle's direction of travel.

BOOM!

The bike's blown to pieces. Deborah arrives to the cab...no keys! She looks out into the desert, sees the Pilot laying dead on the dusty ground. She makes a run for it.

One of the robotic motorcycles comes at her, she pulls out her pistol and fires into the spokes, it automatically fires back, hitting Deborah in the chest. The robotic motorcycle's front wheel explodes.

Deborah falls, but her body armor takes the brunt of it. She gets up, runs to the Pilot, fishes his pocket for the key, then runs back to the cab.

Jael continues to fire the turret. Unaware that LeoNoir has climbed up the other side and is now behind her!

He lifts her clean out the turret seat and sends her flying across the top of the Lorry, then stands over her.

Pan appears, tackles LeoNoir, but LeoNoir quickly has the advantage, ripping Pan off him then laying into his face.

SMASH SMASH SMASH!

The Lorry starts to move. Jael sees a chance.

She runs, throws herself into LeoNoir, taking him with her over the edge. They both fall to the ground below. Jael's knocked unconscious on impact.

LeoNoir's up quick, starts running after the Lorry, but it pulls away from his fast, leaving LeoNoir for dust.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Jael's asleep, her head resting on the body of LeoNoir's overturned bike. She wakes suddenly, in pain. She looks at her damaged arm, then down at her injured leg, both bandaged.

LeoNoir is fixing one of the other bikes. He looks over.

She runs at him, punching him in the face. She moves to strike again but he takes control of her, her eyes move to the back of her head. He inflicts her with pain. She screams. He stops. She falls to the floor.

LEONARD

Don't.

JAEEL

Why am I still alive?

LeoNoir touches his temple. His voice sounds in Jael's head.

LEONAIR (V.O.)

I need you.

He dips into a side-pouch and throws her a sandwich. She's cautious, but takes it. LeoNoir continues working on the bike.

JAEEL

Where are we going?

LeoNoir nods, gesturing "ahead".

Jael runs away, moving fast away from Leonard, making her escape. Leonard watches her go for a moment, then puts a finger to his temple. In the distance, Jael falls to the floor.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Jael wakes, Leonard is still working on the bike.

J A E L

Why do you want to hurt children?

He shakes his head.

J E A L

Why have you been hunting us?

L E O N O I R

Luxor.

J A E L

What's at Luxor?

LeoNoir stops, walks toward Jael. She looks around for a weapon, grabs a long piece of metal from one of the broken bikes.

J A E L

Stay back.

L E O N O I R

It's easier if I show you.

He's calm. She drops the weapon.

EXT. LUXOR - NIGHT

The lorry arrives to an old warehouse covered in dust. Deborah, Pan and Rashid exit the lorry and follow Leonard to a well concealed tunnel.

R A S H I D

Are we sure Richardson hasn't gone nuts? I'm not seeing any sorta suped-up body shop, you feel me?

PAN

Why are we letting this criminal in here?

RASHID

Criminal?

LEONARD

He's the one that got us here.

The team come to a dead end. Leonard grumbles as he points his flashlight to the floor, searching for something.

RASHID

Great.

DEBORAH

Did you drop something?

LEONARD

Would you mind reaching down at my right foot? I'm a bit constrained with these bandages.

Deborah kneels.

LEONARD

Feel around for a squarish bumpy sort of pattern. I've a numerical keystroke hidden here somewhere.

RASHID

Doc, you're hiding top-secret world-altering technology with a 20th century keyset? Where'd you get a ten-key anyway?

LEONARD

Relic trader. Sometimes, you have to go back to move forward.

DEBORAH

I found it.

LEONARD

In this order: 1-9-9-6-0-5-0-7.

Deborah types the numbers on the keypad. The wall in front of them slides open.

They walk through to another main door with a facial recognition security system. Leonard puts his face to it.

ANEVA

Welcome back, Doctor.

The door opens to Leonard's massive research facility. An incredibly advanced science and technology lab. A small squad of guards approach the team, One of which is noticeably larger than the others (Pixie).

Deborah changes a vile on her breathing mask. Leonard takes his off.

LEONARD

Tell me what you feel.

DEBORAH

I can breathe.

PAN

That's heavy.

LEONARD

Luxor's oxygen generation tech purifies its own air well beyond the quality of any rebreather.

Deborah laughs and her cybernetic hair implants change to a relaxed style.

DEBORAH

Leonard...

LEONARD

If you'll excuse me. I do believe I've a wound to address and a stem cell serum bath to take.

Pixie stays with Deborah, his eyes flitting over her body concealing nothing of his inward thoughts.

PIXIE

Mmm there's something I could really-

DEBORAH

Can it Pixie, you couldn't handle it.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

LeoNoir stands in front of Jael. He touches her temple with two fingers.

LEONAIR (V.O.)
As your eyes open, pain will come.

JAEL
What?

LEONAIR (V.O.)
Truth will become known.

JAEL
I caught that part, thanks. Pain?

LEONAIR
I'm told this hurts.

JAEL
And what if I don't want my eyes
opened?

LeoNoir removes his mask to speak more directly. His scarred lips barely move.

LEONAIR
You are free to go.

LeoNoir extends his arm out toward the empty desert.

INT. LEONARD'S RECOVERY ROOM - NIGHT

Leonard rests in a stem cell serum bath. Deborah enters.

DEBORAH
How are you feeling?

LEONARD
Deborah. There's something I need
to show you.

Leonard lifts himself from the bath, thick silvery liquid sticks to his body.

INT. PRODUCTION WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Leonard and Deborah enter and walk along a display of "prototypes" (early model metal limbs). They continue to the more advanced section (through to the 4th generation models).

LEONARD
You're familiar with our 4th gen
models. But I present to you...

He picks up a sleek and impressive lifelike arm. Gives it to her.

DEBORAH
Is this real?

LEONARD
In a way. Completely lab grown. And
manufactured at a fraction of the
cost.

DEBORAH
Leonard, where are they?

LEONARD
They?

DEBORAH
Tamara, and the rest of the
children.

He hesitates.

LEONARD
Come.

They continue walking.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

LeoNoir touches Jael's forehead. Her body twitches and trembles.

LEONAIR
Nothing can hurt you here and you
can't change anything. Observe...

INT. LUXOR, RICHARDSON CYBERNETICS LABORATORY - DAY

Jael stands in the middle of the main lab at Luxor. She enters a door marked...

OPERATION ROOM

Leonard operates on a patient, attaching a flashy cybernetic arm to a stump. Jael approaches. She sees the patient's face. It's LeoNoir.

LeoNoir sits up, moves his new arm. Looks impressed.

Reality shifts, Jael holds her head, feeling immense pain. The world around her changes.

INT. LUXOR, LAB - NIGHT

Jael opens her eyes. She's in a different lab. Time has passed. Leonard runs tests on LeoNoir's physical and neural state. LeoNoir is sat on a medical chair, held in position with arm and leg restraints.

Leonard attaches sensors to LeoNoir's head and monitors brain activity on a monitor. Seeing the results he wants, he puts a helmet on LeoNoir's head.

LEONARD

One last time. You understand the-

LEONAIR

It's worth the risk.

LEONARD

There are not many things worth dying for.

LEONAIR

Eternal life is one of them. Putting an end to global suffering is another. Being the first person alive to have their consciousness uploaded to Sisera...that's the simplest choice I've ever had to make.

Leonard presses a button. Lasers fire at LeoNoir's temples. His head shakes, his eyes dilate, he screams.

LEONARD

I'm sorry, friend. You are not to be the first one uploaded. But your sacrifice will allow for the first to be uploaded. Understanding a Lions psychic power was the last piece of the puzzle. For this, I, and mankind, thank-

LeoNoir rips his arm free from the restraint, grabs a surgical plate and covers his eyes. The lasers redirect to a computer panel. An electrical fire ignites.

Leonard tries to inject LeoNoir with an anaesthetic injection, but LeoNoir is too strong. He punches Leonard, sends him flying across the room.

LeoNoir rips his other arm free, then stumbles around the lab.

BANG!

Leonard shoots LeoNoir in the shoulder. LeoNoir crashes through a window.

Falls down two stories and smashes through the roof of a conservatory. He stands, spits blood and looks around. There are cages. Cages filled with malnourished children.

One CHILD (M,7) extends a hand through the bars. LeoNoir approaches the cage. Reaches out his hand to touch the child but is hit over the head by a GUARD (M,30s) and knocked out.

Reality shifts again, Jael feels immense pain...

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Corporeal Jael is back at the graveyard temple, everyone in her squad is dead, including Cap. She sees herself (Real Jael) standing in front of a tall hooded figure, The Psychic (the Lion who she "captured" and who was brought to the arena.

PSYCHIC

I know your fate.

Real Jael grabs her gun to shoot the Psychic but he shoots her in the arm. Real Jael drops her weapon, screams in pain. Her arm is a mess.

The Psychic walks toward her. She tries to crawl away but it's no use.

JAEEL

What do you want!

PSYCHIC

Peace.

Jael
 Funny way of showing it.

Psychic
 Yes...

The Psychic turns to look at corporeal Jael. He smiles.

Corporeal Jael
 Can you see me?

The Psychic smiles, then smacks Real Jael in the head, hard. She passes out. He lays her on the sand, tears a piece off her tunic, and ties his legs and hands with it, then shoots himself in the leg. He doesn't react

A military van approaches in the distance. Real Jael lays unconscious on the sand, the Psychic beside her.

Corporeal Jael feels the pain again. Her world spins.

INT. COLOSSEUM, LION'S HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

A prison cell for the arena's Lions. The first Lion Jael encountered in the desert sits on a dirty old mattress, head in hands. The Mechanic appears outside his cell...she talks to someone.

Mechanic
 You have five minutes.

LeoNoir appears, talks to the Lion inside the cell.

LeoNoir
 She said you saw a possible future where it all ends?

The Lion nods.

LeoNoir
 Tell me...

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Jael bursts from the vision like a horrible nightmare. She breaks down in tears.

Jael
 ...is this real?

LEONAIR

...

JAEL

I don't understand. Why does he
wants children?

LEONAIR

Leonard's farming them to build
Sisera?

JAEL

Why?

LEONAIR

He believes Sisera can end war,
return Earth to how it was, and
allow him to live forever.

JAEL

We have to stop him.

LEONAIR

I was nearly sucked in to Sisera,
part of me is inside him. Every
time he sucks the life from a
child...I know it. I feel it.

JAEL

Why didn't you stop this.

LEONAIR

I tried finding it. I needed to
read Leonard to know for certain.

JAEL

How did you survive?

LEONAIR

Instead of burning my body guards
sold it for scraps to a woman. The
Mechanic. She brought me back. My
Lion powers were never the same
though. Even worse now thanks to
your knife attack.

JAEL

You said you'll need me.

LEONAIR
 There's a shield around Luxor. It
 will kill me if I enter.

JAEL
 You want me to-

LEONAIR
 You have to deactivate the exterior
 shield. Then I can get in.

JAEL
 What kind of shield?

LEONAIR
 A high frequency signal used
 against Lions. Our heads explode.

JAEL
 He sent...Tamara! We have to go!
 NOW!

LEONAIR
 Know anything about motorcycle
 repairs?

INT. LUXOR, LEONARD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Leonard sits alone in an office chair, cable running into his
 arm.

LEONARD
 I have not forgotten you. I have
 brought a gift. Did you see her?
 Yes...her name is Deborah. She's a
 warrior.

The cable in his arm is connected to a computer, which is
 connected to the massive vat in the middle of the main lab.
 Leonard can see the vat from where he sits through a window.

LEONARD
 Soon you will have your body.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF LUXOR - DAY

The next morning, Jael and LeoNoir approach Luxor on
 LeoNoir's bike. LeoNoir pulls over.

LEONNOIR

This is as far as I can go.

JAEI

How will you know if I deactivate-

He points to his head.

JAEI

Right.

LeoNoir gives Jael her crutch.

JAEI

How do you know its exactly here
you can't go past?

LeoNoir taps his forehead.

JAEI

Right. Well...see you soon.

Jael crosses the invisible forcefield and walks toward Luxor.

INT. LUXOR, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

A voice fills the room. Deborah, Pan, Rashid, and the Pilot listen.

ANEVA

Now arriving: Officer Jael Lau of
the Mode Nouveau Militia.

Deborah looks at the security camera. Sees Jael walking
across the desert.

RASHID

Sh-! Get a load of that!

PAN

Jael!

They all rush to the exit.

EXT. LUXOR - DAY

Jael greets the team.

DEBORAH

Lion Slayer! How are you alive?
Your arm.

PAN
How did you get here?

JAEL
Gypsies headed to Port Ghalib.

RASHID
And the Black Lion?

JAEL
That guy has a fetish for severed limbs, tell you that much. Or I guess I should say he had a fetish. He smashed my knee in then ripped my arm off. I passed out. I woke with a family surrounding me. LeoNoir was on the ground, meters from me. Dead. His ribs had been punctured.

PAN
You must be the luckiest women on the whole planet.

DEBORAH
Jael, you need to rest.

JAEL
I need some water?

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Jael enters, approaches the security computer. Deborah, Pan, and Rashid enter and sit in a comfortable lounge area.

PAN
Jael, you gotta come tell us how you keep surviving encounters with Lions.

JAEL
Trick is not to be a bitch.

Laughs.

DEBORAH
What are you doing?

Jael discreetly disables the exterior shield on the computer, then sits with the rest of the team.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Leonoir stands where Jael left him. He closes his eyes, lifts his head, listens...

It's time...

EXT. LUXOR - DAY

Two armed LUXOR GUARDS (M,40s) stand smoking outside the entrance.

LUXOR GUARD #1
What was that you reading at lunch?

LUXOR GUARD #2
Called Willing It Into Existence.

LUXOR GUARD #1
Sci-Fi?

LUXOR GUARD #2
Like a self help book.

LUXOR GUARD #1
What's the gist of it?

LUXOR GUARD #2
I'm on chapter two.

LUXOR GUARD #1
Huh.

They stare out into the desert.

LUXOR GUARD #1
They put Harolds on the outer
perimeter again.

LUXOR GUARD #2
I'm tired of Harolds, man. Lying
all the time.

LUXOR GUARD #1
He tell you about his stint
training the convicts at the
colosseum?

LUXOR GUARD #2
He's delusional.

LUXOR GUARD #1

My wife said it's a sign of respect
him lying to us all the time.

LUXOR GUARD #2

What?

LUXOR GUARD #1

Yeah, like, when a guy lies to
another guy its like he's saying,
"you're up here and just would not
be impressed that I'm actually from
the Old District, so I'm gonna say
I'm from New Giza so you'll like
me".

LUXOR GUARD #2

No offense to your wife, but that
is the dumbest shit I ever heard.

LUXOR GUARD #1

Why else would a guy lie to another
guy? You lie to a woman it's 'cause
you want sex, you lie to a guy,
it's respect. If you walk up to a
man and say, "yeah, I'm from Old
District, you're basically saying
you don't care that his opinion of
you is low."

Luxor Guard #2 laughs, but then sees Leonoir walking towards
them, raises his rifle.

LUXOR GUARD #2

Stop!

Luxor Guard #1 has his rifle up to. Leonoir doesn't stop.

LUXOR GUARD #1

Hold it there or we will engage.
Who the fuck is that?

LUXOR GUARD #2

Is it a fucking Lion?

LUXOR GUARD #1

Impossible.

Leonoir throws a large ball at the two Guards. It rolls to
their feet. They look at it.

LUXOR GUARD #2

Harolds...

It's a severed head.

Before they know it, Leonoir's on them. He rips Luxor Guard #1's throat out, then headbutts Luxor Guard #2. Knockout.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Jael sits with Rashid, Deborah, and Pan. Several of Leonard's GUARDS have the room also.

Jael

Checking the security system. Don't exactly want to risk a third encounter.

Rashid

Someone should tell Leonard you're here.

Jael

Wait. First I want to know...has anyone seen the children?

Pixie gets suddenly defensive.

Pixie

Eh you don't have clearance for that intel

Deborah

They're in the main lab.

Jael

Not the ones we brought, the other ones?

Deborah

What?

Jael

Rashid, how many children have you brought here over the years?

Rashid

Hundreds.

Jael

This look like the type of place hundreds of children are living?

Silence.

PAN
What are you getting at?

DEBORAH
Yes, what are you getting at?

Pixie gets a call about the commotion outside.

PIXIE
Deborah...

JAEEL
I think-

Jael's interrupted by LeoNoir busting into the room. He holds a gun, pointed at Deborah.

Panic erupts. Pan and Rashid throw their hands in the air.

LEONNOIR
Don't move.

Deborah turns to Jael.

DEBORAH
You let him in?

Jael feels pain in her head. She hears LeonNoir's voice...

LEONNOIR (V.O.)
Leave, now.

JAEEL
What are you going to do?

Pan puts his hands at the back of his head, then runs his hand further down, to where he keeps a secret gun attached to his back.

LEONNOIR (V.O.)
Nobody will be hurt. Go, free the children if any are still alive.

BANG!

Pan fires, hits LeoNoir in the arm. He falls, seethes in pain.

Jael runs. Deborah chases.

LeoNoir throws a grenade at Rashid and Pan. It explodes into a bright light, blinding them temporarily. LeoNoir runs out the room in the opposite direction to Jael.

INT. HALLS - DAY

Deborah chases Jael.

DEBORAH
Have you gone insane?

JAEL
Stay away from me.

DEBORAH
Jael, wait.

JAEL
I'm fixing this mess.

DEBORAH
What mess?

Jael stops, turns.

DEBORAH
I can't let you ruin our vision.

Deborah grabs Jael, they begin to fight.

JAEL
This place is a slaughterhouse!
Leonard lied to you.

DEBORAH
What has that thing done to you?

JAEL
LeoNoir KNEW Leonard before all
this. They were friends. This new
future you're so excited about?
You're killing innocent children!

Deborah gets Jael in a choke-hold.

DEBORAH
He's freeing the children to a life
of immortality.

Jael back kicks Deborah in the shin, gets free.

Jael

What are you talking about?

Deborah

I wanted you to stand with me! How could you betray us like this?

She kicks Jael in the chest. Jael backpedals and tumbles to the ground, then jumps up quickly.

Jael

Follow me. I'll show you the truth.

She sprints away like a blank shot from a starter pistol.

INT. MAIN LAB - DAY

Jael enters the main lab with the large vat in the centre and the machine which kids were fed into during Jael's out of body experience with LeoNoir.

Jael approaches the rear of the machine, sees a large basin. Deborah arrives, points a gun at Jael.

Deborah

Jael!

Jael looks into the skip, covers her mouth and turns away. She's devastated, falls to her knees. Deborah approaches slowly, looks into the skip.

She sees clumps of hair. Small chunks of flesh. Teeth. Eye balls. Toes. Clothing. Chunks of bone. Deborah's eyes fill with tears. She reaches into the basin and retrieves a skull.

Jael

This is Leonard's future. 5th gen prosthetics. Fabricated from genetic matter. From-

Deborah

Children.

Sisera's malevolent voice startles them. It sounds like several voices speaking as one.

Sisera (O.S.)

Why do you search for the living among the dead?

What is flesh, but a temporal casing which weighs us down? Why must we confuse a child for the casing from which I can free them? They can ascend.

DEBORAH
Where are the children?

SISERA (O.S.)
Transformed into a condition beyond your grasp.

JAEL
You killed them.

SISERA (O.S.)
We uncoupled consciousness from flesh.

JAEL
Impossible.

SISERA (O.S.)
Look at yourselves. How much of you is still flesh?

Deborah's hair morphs to a soldier's cut. She looks at her other cybernetic parts.

DEBORAH
Who are you?

JAEL
What are you?

SISERA (O.S.)
I began as the host AI of Luxor. Now...I'm the next step in human evolution. I am your children.

JAEL
You're a monster!

SISERA (O.S.)
Once a child has been uploaded, there is no pain. No suffering. Join them. Join me.

Jael
 You're trapped, aren't you, Sisera?
 You're looking for a way out.
 That's what all this is about.

Jael begins to bash the equipment around her.

Jael
 You're not "liberating" children to
 build a new era of peace. You're
 building yourself a body to
 liberate yourself!

Deborah
 If you need a body, why do you
 discard theirs?

Sisera (O.S.)
 A great mind requires a strong
 body. You must be Deborah.

Deborah whips out her weapon and fires at the flow tanks.
 Jael throws a grenade at the filtration systems.

Deborah
 Nice to meet you.

BOOM!

An explosion.

Sisera (O.S.)
 NO!!!

INT. SISERA'S INCUBATOR - DAY

Sisera's body convulses, it's fleshy limbs slapping the
 glass. A total freak out. Then...it stops moving altogether.

INT. HALLS - DAY

Pan and Rashid run down a corridor. A door opens, Leonard
 appears.

Pan
 Leonard, run!

Leonard
 What's going on?

RASHID
LeoNoir's here!

LEONARD
That's impossible.

RASHID
He's right behind us!

LEONARD
...Sisera!

The lights turn off. Rashid turns on the light on his rifle. He leads the three of them forward. They turn a corner, creep down a hall.

RASHID
Stay close.

Loud footsteps from behind them. Rashid moves to the back, shines his light down the hall.

PAN
Can you see him?

RASHID
I can't see any-

Rashid yells out in pain. He falls to the ground, his rifle taken off him and thrown away. Darkness.

Leonard runs away.

PAN
Where are you going? Rashid!

Pan doesn't run, he stays to find Rashid...then...he's face to face with LeoNoir.

Neither of them react. LeoNoir looks stern, Pan looks terrified. Rashid grabs Pan's leg. He's in pain.

Pan bends down, never taking his eye off LeoNoir, he rips a piece of cloth from Rashid's clothes and stuff it into Rashid's mouth, who bites down on it. Pan grips the knife handle, yanks the knife out. Then stands to face LeoNoir.

PAN
Your move.

LEONAIR
Step aside.

Pan stands his ground.

LEONAIR
I'm not your enemy.

Pan hesitates. LeoNoir walks past him. Pan bends down to tend to Rashid.

BANG!

LeoNoir's shot in the chest. He falls back against a wall. Leonard appears holding a smoking gun.

LEONARD
An honor to see you, old friend

LeoNoir charges. Leonard fires again. LeoNoir's hit in the leg, he falls to his knees. Leonard comes closer, is about to unload into LeoNoir's head, but Pan grabs the gun out his hand.

LEONARD
What are you doing!

PAN
Something isn't right here. I want to know what's going on.

A loud warning alarm goes off. Leonard panics.

LEONARD
Sisera!

Leonard runs down the hall.

INT. MAIN LAB - DAY

Deborah and Jael approach a set of locked double doors. Deborah uses her keycard to open them. Inside are pig pen style areas, filled with cages of children.

Jael puts her hands to her mouth and starts freeing the children fighting back the tears. Suddenly Deborah is struck across the face by a devastating jab. Pixie emerges from inbetween the pens.

PIXIE
Should have played nice little girl

DEBORAH
Jael. Go. GO!

Jael hesitates to help her friend but the fearful children take her focus. The ensuing fight between pixie and Deborah is brutal, Pixie clearly relishing the moment his face is sadistic and unforgiving. Several times he slams Deborah against guard railings and boots her any time she falls to the ground. Deborah however is clearly the more gifted combatant and slowly the fight begins to swing to her favour. Finally on his knees Deborah breaks his arm against a railing before finally snapping his neck. He falls to the ground leaving Deborah standing victorious.

INT. MAIN LAB - DAY

Jael is ushering the children to a back exit when Deborah rejoins her and points to a vacant lorry.

At the other end of the room, Leonard enters. He sees the damage caused to the machine and the large vat containing Sisera.

LEONARD
What have you done!

He grabs a metal pipe and walks toward Jael, pure rage in his eyes.

LeoNoir enters.

LEONAIR
Leonard!

Leonard turns.

LEONARD
A God reached out to you with the
chance of eternity. You recoiled!

As Jael ushers the last child out the lab, she turns to see the commotion at the other side.

LEONAIR
Sisera's no God.

An explosion!

A giant flesh monster bursts out of the vat in the middle of the room and lands behind Leonard, who doesn't flinch. He lifts his arms in reverie, staring at LeoNoir...

LEONARD

You were saying...

Sisera lifts Leonard into the air and bits his torso off like in Goya's painting, "Saturn Devouring His Son".

Sisera spits out Leonard's head, then peels off his face and wraps it around its own. At the same time it morphs into a smaller, more human, form.

Deborah enters, having ushered the children into the lorry. She sees Leonard's lower torso laying on the floor. She screams. Sisera turns to see Jael and Deborah. Then sees the door to the room which held the children is empty.

Sisera howls! Then charges at Jael and Deborah. It swings, hitting Deborah and sending her crashing into a worktop.

Jael picks up a nearby pipe, smacks Sisera with it. Sisera turns, smiles, and approaches Jael.

LeoNoir jumps onto Sisera's back and drags it away from Jael. Sisera is too strong and throws LeoNoir over it's shoulder then smashes a foot down into his face.

SISERA

We could have been one. As I am one. A collection of minds with the ability to live forever. But you are weak. And you will die.

LEONAIR

You'll never really live. Only survive!

Sisera picks LeoNoir up by the neck and throws him around like a rag-doll.

SLAM.

LeoNoir is smashed against the ground, then picked up by his feet.

SISERA

What do you know of living?

LEONAIR

You need to feel to live. Feel remorse, love, guilt, anger, happiness.

Jael searches for a weapon. Then a voice from behind her...

TAMARA

Jael!

Tamara, almost unrecognizable she looks so scared. Jael runs to her.

JAEL

Tamara! Get out of here, join the others.

TAMARA

Come with me.

JAEL

I have to help LeoNoir. GO!

Jael runs to Deborah, takes her knife, and a grenade from her webbing, then runs to Sisera. Sisera has its hand-like tentacles around LeoNoir's throat, then it bites a large chunk of flesh from LeoNoir's face. LeoNoir screams!

STAB!

Jael drives the knife deep into Sisera's shoulder. Sisera smacks Jael, sends her flying. LeoNoir jumps up, pulls the knife out of Sisera's shoulder, then pulls Sisera's head back and slits it's throat. Sisera collapses.

LeoNoir limps to Jael, knees by her. She hugs him.

JAEL

It's over?

He rests his head on her shoulder. She stands up, helps him up, throws his arm around her shoulder and they limp to Deborah.

EXT. LUCOR - DAY

Jael puts LeoNoir down at the side of the lorry. She opens the back and sees the children in there. They're malnourished, scared, and anxious.

JAEL

It's okay. You're going to be okay.
I promise. We're getting out of here.

Deborah appears, holding her head.

DEBORAH
I'll get in with them.

PAN (O.S.)
Hold the door!

Pan appears holding Rashid up.

JAEL
Pan!

PAN
I don't know what the hell
happened. I take it we're not in
mortal danger from him anymore?

He nods at LeoNoir, sat bleeding out by the side of the lorry.

JAEL
He's always been on our side.

PAN
Rashid needs a doctor.

JAEL
Get in. We're outta here.

Pan takes Rashid in the back with Deborah and the children. Tamara appears from the back. Hugs Jael.

TAMARA
I don't wanna leave you again.

JAEL
Sit up front with me. You can prod
me in case I pass out. And you can
help me lift him.

Tamara jumps out the back of the lorry, Jael closes the doors. The two of them pick LeoNoir up and carry him to the drivers cab.

CRASH!

The doors to the lab smash open. Sisera appears. LeoNoir moves free from Jael and Tamara.

LEONNOIR

Go.

JAEI

I'm not leaving you.

LEONNOIR

Get the children out of here!

Tamara grabs Jael's arms, pulls her away. Jael approaches LeoNoir, he puts his fingers on her head, tells her something. She smiles sorrowfully, then gives him something. He looks down to his hand. He's holding a grenade.

Jael and Tamara run to the cab and get in. LeoNoir takes an extra vial of the stem, then another, then he and Sisera charge at each other, crashing back through the doors into the lab.

Sisera throws LeoNoir down, bites his head, rips a huge chunk of flesh away. LeoNoir punches Sisera in the jaw, then again, and again. He punches one last time, and Sisera bites his hand clean off.

LeoNoir lays on his back...he's done.

SISERA

We shall be one, after all.

LeoNoir throws the grenade pin at Sisera.

LEONNOIR

Not today.

LeoNoir smiles for the first time.

KABOOM!

INT. LORRY - DAY

Jael stops, her and Tamara jump out the cab to see a mushroom cloud of smoke and dust erupt, engulfing the landscape.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The dust settles. Jael approaches the rubble and scans the wreckage. She hears moaning and overturns a sheet of metal, revealing Sisera.

Sisera hisses and snaps like an animal. SCS pours out of it. It squawks, slithers and shakes, but can't get free.

Jael kneels down and peels Leonard's face off of the beast. It's eyes glare at her. She reaches behind her back and unsheathes a dagger. Deborah, Tamara and Pan watch.

Jael plunges the dagger through Sisera's temple. Again. And again. Sisera stops moving. Jael falls back onto a slab of concrete. She pulls a cigarette, lights it, and takes a draw.

TAMARA

You're not finished yet.

JAEL

What?

TAMARA

We have to find each of the children a family.

JAEL

Well at least I've got one of them covered.

Tamara looks so happy.

TAMARA

Are you going to be my new mom.

The words ring in Jael's ears...

JAEL (PRE-LAP)

Mom.

INT. JAEEL'S HUT - DAY

Young Jael (17) shakes a woman laying on a couch. It's the old lady Jael worked with, Jean (50s).

JEAN

Oh, Jael...

JAEL

Please, help me.

BANG BANG BANG on the door.

PEO OFFICERS outside.

BANG BANG BANG

EXT. JAEL'S HUT - DAY

Jean hands the baby to a couple PEO OFFICERS. Jael screams in the background.

PEO OFFICER 1
Not quarantined.

PEO Officer 2 stamps the Baby's head, leaving a triangular mark. The Baby cries.

INT. BARREN GROUNDS, PRISON - DAY

Jael (17) stands in a line of teenagers all wearing orange uniforms. She steps towards a PEO OFFICER and hands him her papers. He reads quickly...

PEO OFFICER
Childkiller.

He stamps her wrist.

PEO OFFICER
Now you're a bag.

PEO OFFICER #2
She also killed two guards.

JAEL
That's not true.

PEO OFFICER
Hmmm...well, if you like killing...

He looks at his fellow officer.

PEO OFFICER #2
You'll like it out west.

EXT. CAIRO RUINS - DAY

Jael walks through the ruins, Tamara at her heels. They see a lone house in the distance.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Inside, JACK (15) serves soup to a young BOY (8) and GIRL (10). The three sit at a dining table. Jael and Tamara enter. Jack cocks a gun. Jael puts her hands up, speaks calmly.

Jael
I'm a friend of LeoNoir.

Jack
I highly doubt that.

Jael
He's no longer...he died.

Girl
Who are you?

Jael
Jael.

Jack
Who's she?

Jael
My daughter, Tamara.

Jack
Why are you here?

Jael
LeoNoir told me, if anything
happened to him, I should come take
care of you.

The kids smirk.

Jael
What's so funny?

The Mechanic enters the room.

Mechanic
A couple intruders, eh?

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Jael and The Mechanic sit at the dining table eating. Tamara and Jack play with the kids in the living room.

Jael
I couldn't save him.

Mechanic
He knew what he was getting into.

Jael
Do you know much about his past.

Mechanic
Come...I want to show you
something.

The Mechanic leads Jael to a bedroom. The Mechanic nods for Jael to enter.

Inside, Jael sees a MAN (40s) in bed. Or nearly a man. He looks like he's half cooked. He has no hair, his eyes haven't fully developed yet. His face has weird lines on it. He's hooked into a bunch of machines.

At the end of the room is one large empty tank.

Jael approaches the man. Looks closely at him. The lines of his face remind her of something.

They're scars.

Same as LeoNoir's.

END