

THE UPRISING

by  
Joshua James

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Joshua James  
JoshuaJames99@yahoo.com  
Www.writerjoshuajames.com  
WGAE

Engines wail in darkness.

Super: "Light thinks it travels faster than anything but it is wrong. No matter how fast light travels, it finds the darkness has always got there first, and is waiting for it." - Terry Pratchett.

Something large and metallic shudders.

It stops. Silence.

A polite bell rings.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
It's time. Time to wake up.

Another polite bell.

FADE IN:

1 EXT. DARK SPACE - NIGHT 1

Vast space.

Stars blink in the distance.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
We are at mission prep point, so  
time to wake up. Get up, people.

The POOR RICHARD, a marine transport space ship, zooms out of hyperspace.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
In the words of my Creator, "the  
lights are on, motherfuckers."

2 INT. SLEEP BAY - CONTINUOUS 2

Overhead lights over the sleep pods flicker on one by one down the line.

Thirteen pods are occupied. The lids rise on each.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Breakfast and mission brief will be  
at thirteen hundred hours.

The OCCUPANTS each blink and stretch.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Therefore you have twenty minutes.

SERGEANT FRANNY LEE, a ripped muscular Asian woman, 29, hits the floor and claps her hands.

LEE  
You heard the machine, marines, hit  
the deck! Asses and elbows first,  
move it or lose it!

The rest of the SOLDIERS, all clad in boxer shorts and T-shirts, jump out of their pods.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Please, Sergeant Lee, try not to be  
vulgar. I am more than a machine. I  
am Fred.

Eleven soldiers total. One officer. One civilian.

JACKS  
Yeah Sarge, you heard him, don't  
frig with the AI, he's still gotta  
fly our asses back home.

PRIVATE JIM JACKS shucks off his shorts and grabs a towel.

RYAN  
Like you even have a home to fly  
back to, Jacks.

PRIVATE BETTY RYAN takes her clothes off and follows Jacks.

LEE  
The Corps is your home, Jacks, and  
you should be on your knees  
thankful every day it embraced your  
sorry ass.

JACKS  
(to Ryan)  
I'd get on my knees for you.

RYAN  
If only you knew what to do once  
you were down there.

PRIVATE PLOTNICK, male and ripped, slaps Jacks on the bare  
ass.

PLOTNICK  
(to Jacks)  
I'll take you up on that. On your  
knees, marine.

PRIVATE GEORGE ROLLINS laughs at that as he gets undressed.

JACKS

Why do you gotta start with the gay stuff? Why do you gotta keep on with the gay stuff?

PLOTNICK

It has something to do with being gay.

PRIVATE SUSAN CONNER takes her clothes off and walks to the shower.

CONNER

You need to transfer to a straighter squad, Jacks.

JACKS

There aren't any. Last survey had the Corps down as twenty-two percent heterosexual.

Plotnick high-fives CORPORAL MARTINS, also male and ripped.

MARTINS

That's because the powers that be realized there ain't nothin' so frightening as a faggot with a firearm.

LIEUTENANT LOUISE DUNN, 29, sits up and shakes her head.

LEE

All right, knock it off! Hit the UV shower now! Fred?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

Yes Sergeant?

LEE

Activate light shower. Ultra Violet cleanse.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

Commencing as ordered.

The soldiers, still chattering, shed all their clothes and walk into a -

men and women, naked together. As they walk in, ultra violet light flashes.

The soldiers wash using the UV light.

JACKS

Fucking space travel, man, I hate not being able to wash with real water.

RYAN

Bitch bitch bitch. I can't wash with water 'cause I'm in space, I can't get laid because everybody's gay.

PRIVATE CINDY FROST snaps a towel at Jacks.

FROST

Jacks couldn't get laid even in a straight squad.

JACKS

Fuck you, I get laid. Back home, you should see the pussy I have lined up.

BALLY

Stuffed animals don't count, Jacks.

PRIVATE JOE BALLY jumps up and down, rinsing in the light.

THEO

Strippers don't count either, Jacks.

PRIVATE BARRY THEO laughs.

JACKS

Fuck you guys, I count it how I want. Strippers and stuffed animals should always count. If any of you were really straight, you'd know that.

PRIVATE DOROTHY GOMI suds up her hair.

GOMI

I was straight until I met you, Jacks. You scared me gay.

JACKS  
Hah-hah, very funny. You came out  
of the vag a dyke, even I know  
that.

Dunn enters the UV shower.

LEE  
Can the shit, Jacks, we're in mixed  
company. Officer on deck!  
(nods to Dunn)  
El-Tee.

Dunn nods to her, then back toward the sleep pods. Lee  
follows her gaze.

DUNN  
Fred, we're going to need cleanup  
in sleep bay.

ROB SHERMAN, a small bookish man, leans besides his pod.  
Vomits onto the floor.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Yes Lieutenant.

Dunn slides under the light spray.

DUNN  
Sergeant, before breakfast make  
sure everyone stops by med-bay and  
is scanned top to bottom for space-  
sickness, pod-rot or Allman's Crux.

Everyone groans and bitches.

LEE  
All right, shut up, you heard the  
woman, you'll eat when you're  
medically cleared.

Sherman, a towel covering his naughty bits, steps into the  
shower room, clearly out of his element.

LEE  
(quiet to Dunn)  
El-Tee, who is this Nancy Drew?

DUNN  
(quiet)  
No idea. Captain ordered him aboard  
the last minute.  
(MORE)

DUNN (CONT'D)  
Probably a Party wonk, here to make  
sure we don't make comments  
critical of our fearless leaders.  
New protocol.

The marines continue to razz Jacks.

LEE  
(quiet to Dunn)  
Fuck. He on mission control?

DUNN  
(quiet to Lee)  
Not as far as I know, I'll find out  
more before Prep. Keep the team  
away from him until you hear  
different from me.

Lee steps away and takes over.

LEE  
All right, all right! Say it with  
me, people. The Corps-

RYAN  
Gives us three hots and a cot!

LEE  
The Corps-

JACKS  
Cures us of any and all crotch-rot!

LEE  
The Corps-

GOMI  
Pays us thirteen hundred dollars a  
day to kill people.

RYAN  
The thirteen hundred is for  
cleaning the latrine and basic  
maintenance.

MARTINS  
The killing we get to do for free.

LEE  
The Corps-

THEO  
Is my father-

CONNER  
My mother-

PLOTNICK  
My Jesus and Buddha-

MARTINS  
My heaven and hell-

LEE  
The Corps gives us a place and a  
purpose, and in return, we give it-

ALL  
Our worthless lives!

LEE  
Very good, marines, very good.

4

INT. COMMAND BAY - LATER

4

Dunn stands before a window.

Looks out at the planet awaiting them.

Steps back. Looks at a computer screen.

On the screen, the soldiers line up for medical scans one by one. Dunn follows their progress.

SHERMAN  
Uh, "Fred", said wanted to see me,  
Lieutenant?

Dunn turns toward Sherman.

DUNN  
Yes. Who are you?

SHERMAN  
You don't know?  
(off her look)  
I'm Robert Sherman, call me Rob.  
I'm the out-call company engineer.

Sherman holds out his hand. Dunn ignores it.

DUNN  
Company?

SHERMAN  
Byrne International? I specialize  
in-

DUNN  
Why are you here?

SHERMAN  
Well, like I said. I'm the out-call  
company engineer for Byrne.

Dunn looks at him, eyebrow raised, "And?"

SHERMAN  
Lieutenant, don't you know why  
we're here?

DUNN  
Not yet. I only know that we are  
here.

SHERMAN  
You got on a space ship without  
knowing where you're going or why?

DUNN  
We're marines. That's what we do.

SHERMAN  
Oh my. They didn't tell you? They  
didn't even tell the officer in  
charge? Oh my goodness, I don't-

Dunn points to a glass container.

DUNN  
We're marines. We're told what we  
need to know exactly when we need  
to know it.

Inside the glass, a disk.

DUNN  
Mission brief released by timer. In  
twenty seconds it will break and  
I'll have exactly three minutes to  
retrieve it before it's  
automatically destroyed.

A timer ticks off the seconds.

DUNN

That's protocol. That way if something happens to us, the information is not compromised.

SHERMAN

I see.

DUNN

That procedure has now been compromised by a civilian who was put on board with us by Command.

SHERMAN

(after a moment)

One of Byrne International's many interests lies in private enterprise incarceration.

Sherman points to the planet.

SHERMAN

That's Rove twelve. One of our prison planets. We haven't heard from the staff in quite awhile.

The timer dings. They both look at the disk.

SHERMAN

Evidently there's been an uprising of the prison population. A bad one, or they wouldn't have called in the troops.

Dunn retrieves the disk.

DUNN

And why are you here?

SHERMAN

The out-call company engineer, as I said. I represent the company's interests and I'm supposed to-

DUNN

Just to be clear, Mister Sherman. We don't take orders from a private company or a private citizen, whatever your interests are.

SHERMAN

Of course not. I wouldn't dream of giving orders, I'm here to . . .

(MORE)

SHERMAN (CONT'D)  
Well, your mission brief should  
explain my role here.

A beep from the computer screen. Dunn turns to it.

DUNN  
(after a moment)  
Fine. Do what I say, when I say it,  
stay out of our way and we'll all  
get along. That will be all, thank  
you.

Sherman steps to the doorway. Stops.

SHERMAN  
Doesn't it frighten you? Getting  
on a ship not knowing where you're  
going or who you're going to face?

On the screen, Dunn sees that Private Frost has been flagged  
during her medical scan. Frost shows no emotion.

DUNN  
We don't get scared. We're marines.  
Wherever we are ordered to go,  
whomever we are ordered to engage,  
that's who should be afraid. Not  
us.

Sherman smiles. Exits.

5 INT. GALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

5

The gang sits down for breakfast.

GOMI  
Hey Fred! How long were we asleep?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Earth-time or space-time?

RYAN  
Both.

JACKS  
What's the fucking difference?

MARTINS  
Jacks, you are too fucking stupid.

JACKS  
What?

BALLY

Time on earth is different than  
time on space, dickhead, haven't  
you heard of Albert Einstein?

JACKS

Haven't you heard the phrase, "go  
fuck yourself?"

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

Time elapsed while asleep, space-  
time, one hundred and twenty days,  
three hours and six minutes. Time  
elapsed on earth, four hundred and  
sixteen days, eleven hours and  
fourteen minutes.

JACKS

Fuck, Goddamn, I missed two  
birthdays.

ROLLINS

You didn't jackass, only on earth,  
here it's been only four months.  
Christ, you're stupid.

JACKS

They don't pay me to think,  
dickweed.

RYAN

And I think there's a reason for  
that.

Lee enters.

PLOTNICK

Hey Top, where's Frost?

LEE

Didn't pass medical.

THEO

No shit? What is it? Pod-rot?

Lee sits. Begins eating.

LEE

Allman's crux.

Everyone stops chewing for a moment. Shakes their heads.

RYAN  
Is she bad?

LEE  
She ain't good.

SHERMAN  
Excuse me? What is Allman's Crux?

Everyone turns to look at Sherman, sitting by himself at the end of the table.

JACKS  
Haven't you ever fucking hyper-jumped before, pal? Fuck's sake.

LEE  
Jacks, leave the civilian alone.

SHERMAN  
This was, uh, my first time.

THEO  
You had to sign the release, right?

Sherman nods.

RYAN  
And you didn't read the fine print?

Sherman doesn't say anything.

CONNER  
People are vulnerable to various space-bugs during hyper-space. It's a risk you take when you jump. Estimated three percent chance of catching one. Some bugs are worse than others.

Sherman digests this with a stricken look.

SHERMAN  
And Allman's Crux?

CONNER  
One of the worst. Sixty-three percent of the time, it's fatal.

Dunn stands before a glass window, looking in at Frost.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Lieutenant, the briefing was to  
begin four minutes ago.

Frost looks very sick. Red bloody eyes. Ragged breath.

DUNN  
Prognosis?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
It's moving fast. Tissue  
degradation begun. Internal organs  
severely damaged. Private Frost  
will not survive.

DUNN  
Make her comfortable. Allow her . .  
. Allow her to self-medicate. As  
much as she wishes.

7 INT. GALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

7

Dunn enters and the crew goes quiet.

DUNN  
Fred, we need the screen.

A large screen appears, detailing the plans.

DUNN  
Okay marines, here's the Op. This  
is prison planet Rove Twelve.

Outline of the planet.

DUNN  
Home to rapists, murderers,  
pedophiles and political  
dissidents, the worst of the worst.  
Since the abolition of the death  
penalty, this is where bad boys are  
sent. It's life without parole.  
Once sentenced, there is no leaving  
Rove Twelve.

Flashing pictures of hard-core felons.

DUNN  
All prisoners are male. Autopilot  
supply ships dock annually.  
(MORE)

DUNN (CONT'D)

A skeleton staff runs the place,  
rotates out once every twenty-four  
earth months.

Pictures of staff flash by.

JACKS

Bet they make a lot more money than  
we do.

DUNN

Radio transmission was lost, but  
that's not unusual due to cosmic  
dust storms. Staff rotation ship  
went out a year ago. Neither it nor  
the current staff was heard from.

MARTINS

They ain't spending that money now,  
that's for sure.

Prisoner graphic flashes on the screen.

DUNN

The good news. There are no weapons  
on Rove Twelve. Prisoners are  
implanted with pain devices that  
staff control with a touch of a  
button.

Demonstration on screen.

DUNN

In addition, each prisoner is  
injected with a biological neuro-  
tag that reads as long as the  
prisoner is alive. We can track  
them throughout the prison using  
the facility system when we log in.  
Once the red flag went up, prison  
officials scanned and found out  
that of the fifteen hundred  
prisoners originally incarcerated,  
only one hundred and eighty-nine  
were left before they lost contact.  
Now we have no idea how many are  
left or where they're at and we  
won't until we plug in. It's  
believed that the entire staff of  
thirty-three are dead.

Prison plans show live dots.

DUNN

Somehow the prisoners took control and killed the staff. Once that happened, they began savaging each other.

Screen flashes the location.

DUNN

The prisoners are unarmed so we're legally obligated to offer them terms of surrender. If they do, they get transported off in one of the supply ships which should be behind us. If they don't, we terminate with extreme prejudice.

Dunn turns to the troops.

DUNN

That's my order. Our objective is to secure the prison, specifically main operations, for Mister Sherman here.

All eyes on Sherman.

DUNN

Mister Sherman? The floor is yours.

Sherman stands and clears his throat.

SHERMAN

The facility was once a mining community, specializing in iron and ore. Once the planet was strip-mined completely, the company converted it to a prison. The planet atmosphere is inhabitable for humans. Everyone lives inside, underground. Theoretically it's self-sustaining, even without supply ships. They have gardens, air, processors. As long as they have power supplied by the reactor, which is the problem. Um, Fred?

The screen changes to reactor plans.

SHERMAN

It's an anti-matter reactor, one of the very first built, which later became the prototype for most of our modern anti-matter reactors commonly used today. The reactor, due to its age and design, requires regular maintenance, which is automated. Unfortunately, something or someone has interrupted or interfered with that, making the reactor unstable.

PLOTNICK

(groans)

Great. I knew this wasn't going to be too easy.

DUNN

It's not yet close to blowing, but unless the prison is secured, it is inevitable.

THEO

Why not just let the fucker blow? Fuck the convicts, let 'em burn.

SHERMAN

Aside from the dollar value of the facility, which is considerable, the chain reaction of the blast could affect other systems, other planets, even earth. We're in the blast path, far away as we are. It's not just any explosion, an anti-matter detonation is one of the most destructive events ever recorded. It would destroy the whole planet and rain debris toward ours.

JACKS

Great, just great.

SHERMAN

It wasn't known when they built it, of course. But now we know. It can be shut down. That's why I'm here.

The troops bitch and moan.

DUNN

All right, people. We get in, secure, let Sherman take care of the reactor and then we go home. There are info disks for each of you, load them into your helmet. We do our re-entry drop in sixty minutes.

Everyone stands.

DUNN

One last thing. As some of you know, Private Frost has Allman's Crux. She's terminal. Stop by to pay your respects before we drop to planet.

Everyone nods.

8

INT. TROOP BAY - LATER

8

Dunn sits in the command chair. The soldiers secure themselves, readying for the drop.

GOMI

Sweet Jesus, Frost looked like shit.

ROLLINS

That ain't worth combat pay, man.

THEO

I don't wanna go out like that, when it's my time.

DUNN

Quiet people. Sergeant, formation?

LEE

When the gate drops, Martins, Jacks, Ryan, run point to our objective, Beta formation. Rollins, Gomi, Plotnick, bring up the rear, Froma formation. The rest of us will be center mass in standard Can-Can. Bally, you stay with the civvy until you get green.

BALLY

Ah man, I wanna shoot me some convicts.

LEE

You let him out of your sight and  
I'll personally piss in your  
breakfast.

DUNN

Secure operations central first, so  
we can access the reactor. Mister  
Sherman, don't leave your escort.

LEE

Stay on the course mapped out,  
marines, do not deviate.

DUNN

Weapons check.

Everyone checks their plasma rifles.

ALL

Aye!

DUNN

Com-links, check!

Lee looks into her helmet view-finder. Maps of the prison and  
mission objectives appear on the small screen.

ALL

Aye!

DUNN

Fred, crew secured.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

Crew secured, entering atmosphere  
now. Five. Four.

Sherman, in his chair, swallows hard.

RYAN

Next stop, ground floor.

GOMI

Hey, don't we get drop music?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

Absolutely. Three. Two. One.

Falls through the atmosphere of Rove Twelve.  
It shakes and shivers, flames sparking the sides.

10 INT. TROOP BAY - CONTINUOUS 10

Hard rock music echoes throughout the ship.  
Everyone hangs on tight.  
Jacks belches.  
Sherman pisses his pants, leaving a puddle on the floor.

LEE  
Fred, we'll need another clean-up  
in Troop Bay.

11 EXT. ROVE 12 SURFACE - CONTINUOUS 11

The POOR RICHARD swings about, putting on the afterburners.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Preparing for dock with facility.

The

PRISON FACILITY

appears through the clouds and gloom.  
It's vast, dark and looming.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Bridge out.

Extension bridge juts out from the POOR RICHARD as the ship  
spins around.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Contact in: Five. Four. Three. Two.  
One.

12 INT. TROOP BAY - CONTINUOUS 12

Red lights flash.  
The soldiers jump out of their chairs.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Happy hunting.

Jacks, Ryan and Martins run down the connecting tunnel.  
Rest of the troop wait behind them.  
Dunn nods to Lee. Lee signals and Ryan hits the switch.  
Door to the tunnel opens.

13 INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS 13

Jacks and Martins run in, weapons high, check perimeter.  
Ryan, holding a movement scanner, parses it around.  
No unfriendlies showing up on its screen.

RYAN  
All clear. Let's go.

Jacks and Martins continue onward.  
The rest of the troop hustle out in formation.

14 INT. TROOP BAY - CONTINUOUS 14

Sherman watches, nervous.  
Bally stands immobile, watching his team move on his helmet visor-screen.

SHERMAN  
Why are they moving so slow? We  
know the prisoners aren't armed.  
Let's just go get it over with.

BALLY  
Better safe than dead.

15 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 15

Jacks runs down the dark tunnel. He comes to an intersection.  
He stops and scans.

DUNN (O.S.)  
Jacks, I can't see on your screen,  
switch to night-vision.

He hits a button on his helmet.

Everything goes green through his goggles.

JACKS  
All clear, El-Tee.

Martins comes up behind him.

MARTINS  
I see clear for fifty meters, both  
directions.

MARTIN'S VIEW - down both directions, green and empty.

DUNN (O.S.)  
All right team, move out. Rollins,  
Plotnick, stay with the Poor  
Richard until we're ready for  
Sherman.

MONTAGE:

NEAT RUNNING MARINE TROOP MOVEMENT SEQUENCE ALL THE WAY TO  
OPERATIONS.

16 INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

16

Jacks and Martins arrive at the doorway to Operations, rest  
of the troops not far behind.

MARTINS  
We're at operations and I'm reading  
clear in every direction. We're  
secure.

DUNN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
Roger that. Bally, bring Sherman  
up.

JACKS  
Fuck man, look at that.

Jacks points to the entrance to the Staff Cafeteria. It's  
ripped up.

JACKS  
Looks like a Goddamn war zone, man.

Bally brings in Sherman.

Lee and Dunn stand before a large console.

DUNN

All right, Mister Sherman. Do your thing.

Sherman has a case with him.

SHERMAN

The power is out.

Dunn and Sherman look at each other.

SHERMAN

The power is out, this-

DUNN

We've noticed. Isn't that why you were sent along with us?

SHERMAN

No, I mean. No. I can't . . . Do what I need to do unless this is on, I need this whole thing to be on.

LEE

You're the anti-matter engineer, turn the fucking thing on.

SHERMAN

That isn't what I do. I mean, I handle the reactor. I can't . . . I can't do it if the grid is completely down. We . . . We have a problem here.

LEE

You don't know how to turn it on?

SHERMAN

Well, I'm not quite sure-

DUNN

You're the fucking engineer here.

RYAN (O.S.)  
(radio)  
Sarge, we got movement.

Dunn and Lee run to the doorway, weapons ready.

LEE  
Proximity?

Jacks, Martins and Ryan aim their weapons at the entrance into the

18

STAFF CAFETERIA

18

They slowly inch in. Ryan examines the scanner.

RYAN  
Twenty-five meters, moving fast.  
Multiple targets. On our south  
side. Other side of the staff  
cafeteria.

DUNN  
Fan out. Position at ten and two.  
Theo, you got the anchor.

Jacks and Martins run across the cafeteria. Stand at ten o'clock in relation to the entrance.

Ryan and Bally position at two o'clock.

Theo slides down prone under a table, directly facing the entrance.

Conner and Gomi appear behind Dunn.

DUNN  
(whisper)  
Lights off. Go to night vision. You  
two, stay with him.

They take Sherman, who looks scared. Everyone turns off their flashlights.

RYAN  
(over radio)  
I count at least ten targets.

LEE  
(into radio)  
Remember, they are unarmed. No  
firing until I give the order.

19 INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS

19

Rollins and Plotnick, standing guard at the tunnel entrance, listen intently over their helmet headsets.

ROLLINS

Fuck man, we're gonna miss it.

LEE

(radio)

Radio silence.

20 INT. STAFF CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

20

Everyone, crouched and ready.

Silence. A creak or two.

A PRISONER steps into the cafeteria. Slow, careful.

Another follows. One or two more. Then more. They fan out.

Ryan peeks over the table she's crouched behind. Using her

NIGHT VISION

she gets a closer look at the men coming into the cafeteria.

Ryan doesn't like what the PRISONERS hold in their arms.

RYAN

(whispers)

Sarge? These guys are-

The PRISONER LEADER stops.

Turns toward Ryan's hiding place. Everyone freezes.

Lee steps out in the doorway.

LEE

United States Marines! Throw down  
any weapons and get on your knees,  
hands up high!

RYAN

(into radio)

Sarge, they're armed! They're  
armed!

The Prisoner Leader raises a pulse rifle and fires static bursts.

Lee throws herself out of the way. Plasma shells shatter walls and windows throughout the cafeteria.

Other PRISONERS also raise pulse rifles and fire madly.

The Prisoner Leader swings back around, sprays fire where Ryan and Bally hide.

LEE  
Return fire, return fire!

JACKS  
Let's rock!

Jacks and Martins jump up. Return fire.

Prisoners fall, body parts blown apart via plasma shells.

Lee and Dunn crouch in the doorway, firing away.

Ryan and Bally jump up. Fire at the prisoners.

The Prisoners fall back, firing as they do.

Bally takes a hit, goes down. Ryan hits the deck.

DUNN'S VISOR SCREEN

shows Bally's vitals flash a WARNING as they flatline.

MAIN CAFETERIA

Pulse fire continues to flash.

Martins takes a hit.

Theo fires from prone position.

More prisoners die horrible deaths.

The surviving prisoners retreat at a full run.

DUNN  
Hold fire, hold fire! Do not  
pursue. Repeat. Do not pursue.

LEE  
Status report. Ryan?

Ryan crawls out from under a table. Checks the scanner.

RYAN  
Affirmative. El-Tee, I count two survivors, moving away from our position fast. That leaves eight dead or wounded.

DUNN  
Copy that. Do not pursue. Regroup. Our primary objective is to secure operations until Sherman is finished. Stay here.

LEE  
Connor, Gomi, check the bodies for anyone playing possum. Status, Jacks?

Conner and Gomi move forward, lights on, and check bodies.

JACKS  
Hooahh.

Jacks stands up, sweeping the area with his weapon.

LEE  
Theo?

THEO  
Yo.

Theo sits up.

LEE  
Martins?

MARTINS  
I got dinged, Sarge.

LEE  
Hold your position until we sweep the wounded. Ryan?

RYAN  
looks around for Bally. Finds him.

LEE  
Ryan, status report?

RYAN  
Bally's gone, Sarge.

LEE

looks at Dunn. Sherman steps forward. Dunn shoves him back.

LEE

(after a moment)

Ryan, hold position and watch the scanner for unfriendlies. Jacks, help clear the wounded. I want Martins and Bally out of there asap.

CONNER

I got a live one, Sarge!

GOMI and CONNER

train their weapons on a bleeding YAYO, a prisoner.

Yayo's hit bad. Gomi kicks the weapon next to him away.

21 INT. OPERATIONS - MOMENTS LATER

21

Lee sits a tightly bound Yayo down in a chair.

The prisoner looks dazed and incoherent.

Conner checks him with a medical scanner.

CONNER

He won't last long, El-Tee.

Dunn doesn't speak, just looks to Lee. They both turn. Look at the BODY of Bally lying to one side.

Sherman butts in.

SHERMAN

I need the power turned on, if I don't have that-

DUNN

Mister Sherman. You're the fucking engineer, you figure it out. That's your job. My job is to worry about how "unarmed" men somehow shot and killed one of my marines. So you get to doing your job and stay the fuck out of my way while I do mine.

Sherman blinks. Steps back and fusses with the computer console.

Gomi enters. Lays a WEAPON on a table.

GOMI  
This is what they were carrying.  
112 Saltz plasma pulse rifles.

LEE  
How the fuck can life-without-  
parole prisoners get their hands on  
plasma pulse rifles?

Gomi returns to the cafeteria.

DUNN  
I don't know.

Jacks helps Martins into the room.

Martins bleeds from one shoulder.

Conner checks Martins out.

CONNER  
Should be okay. Just needs to be  
patched up and off his feet for  
awhile.

DUNN  
You two, take him back to the Poor  
Richard, set him up in sick bay.  
Send Plotnick and Rollins up, you  
stay there.

JACKS  
Come on, don't give me shit duty!

LEE  
Jacks, shut the fuck up! We got two  
dead marines on this trip already  
and I am fucking tired of your  
selfish bitching! Get your ass in  
gear, fuckhole, before I kick it  
back home, is that clear!

JACKS  
Yes, Sergeant.

Conner and Jacks help Martins out the door.

DUNN  
(into headset)  
Fred?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Yes Lieutenant?

DUNN  
We're sending back an injury, set  
him up in medbay. How's Frost?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Still critical, I'm afraid. It's  
unlikely she'll last the night.

DUNN  
These prisoners were armed, Fred.  
Can you check the mission brief for  
me, tell me if any other team has  
been here before us?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
It's not noted in the file brief.  
No staff weapons, either. Not only  
is it against the law, it's against  
company policy.

DUNN  
Okay Fred. Thank you.

22

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

22

MARTINS  
Way to go, Mighty Mouth.

JACKS  
Sarge's sphincter must be backed up  
all the way to her throat.

CONNER  
Fucking Bally's dead, dickbrain,  
and you're fucking around.

JACKS  
I know he's dead, and I wanna be  
one of the ones killing the fuckers  
who shot him. You shouldn't have  
even left the one you found alive.  
I woulda wasted 'em. You weren't  
even at point, so don't be fucking  
talking to me-

MARTINS  
Would ya put a sock in it? I'm  
bleeding and you two ain't making  
me feel any better.

LEE

El-Tee? These rifles, I've seen them before. This type.

DUNN

Where?

LEE

The Spice wars, on Amadee Nineteen. We saw these rifles all the time.

DUNN

The insurgents carried them?

LEE

No, well not initially. These were Darkwater weapons.

DUNN

Darkwater? The mercenary group?

Lee nods. Dunn turns to Sherman.

DUNN

Mister Sherman?

Sherman doesn't look up from the console where he works.

SHERMAN

Yes?

DUNN

Are we the first soldiers your company has sent here?

SHERMAN

As far as I know, yes.

DUNN

Then can you explain to me how, on a prison planet where weapons are illegal to possess, prisoners attacked and shot us with plasma pulse rifles, the kind usually found in possession of "private enterprise" mercenaries.

Sherman doesn't look up.

SHERMAN  
I can't explain it.

Dunn takes a step toward him. Yayo moans in another language.

DUNN  
What's he saying?

LEE  
He's asking for someone. He's speaking in gutter-Schultz, it's a slang version of English, German and Japanese. Lots of gangs use it, especially in prison.

DUNN  
Ask him where he got the weapons.

Lee questions Yayo. Yayo responds, babbling.

LEE  
They found them. They took them off the dead bodies.

DUNN  
What dead bodies?

Yayo babbles.

LEE  
The dead bodies of the other soldiers, the ones before us. He says, they only took them to defend themselves, they didn't mean to shoot at us, they thought we were-

DUNN  
Thought we were who?

24 INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS

24

Plotnick and Rollins greet Conner, Jacks and Martins as they come down the corridor.

ROLLINS  
Fucking Bally's gone?

PLOTNICK  
You flame the fuckers?

JACKS  
All but a couple of them. El-Tee  
wouldn't let us chase 'em down,  
fucking bitch.

In a dark shadowy part of the corridor, around the corner  
from induction . . .

DARK GLOWING EYES

watch the soldiers.

ROLLINS  
But we know where they're at, so  
after the civvy is done with his  
shit, we go hunting. It's open  
season on convicts.

JACKS  
Fucking slice and dice after this,  
bro. I'm tellin' you.

25 INT. OPERATIONS - CONTINUOUS

25

DUNN  
What's he saying?

Lee tries to calm Yayo down.

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
I've got a weak signal.

DUNN  
Sit-rep.

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
It's only one person, just out of  
range of my scanner.

DUNN  
Where is he?

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
Less than ten meters away from the  
POOR RICHARD.

Upon hearing that, Plotnick and Rollins immediately go into combat positions.

DUNN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
Fred, keep it locked up until  
Induction area is secure.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Affirmative.

Conner helps Martins away from the corridor. She sets him down near the gate.

DUNN (O.S.)  
It's just one man, he may be  
unarmed. If you can, wound him and  
keep him alive. We need more intel.

Jacks whips out his rifle. Sweeps the area.

JACKS  
(under his breath)  
Fuck that noise.

Sherman works away at the console. Yayo keeps babbling.

DUNN  
What's he saying?

LEE  
He's saying . . . He's saying he  
thought we were the monster.

DUNN  
Monster?

Sherman hits a switch.

Power goes live.

Emergency lights switch on throughout the facility.

Sherman grins.

SHERMAN  
I did it. I got the system back up.

Yayo tries to jump up, his plastic cuffs holding him back. He yells and screams.

LEE  
He's saying . . . he's saying that  
it doesn't like the light.

DUNN  
It?

LEE  
The monster.

28 INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS

28

The marines continue their sweep of the area.

Emergency lights come on down the corridors.

Though the marines can now see better, it is still pretty damn dark.

PLOTNICK  
So where the fuck is he?

JACKS  
(into radio)  
I don't see anybody, you sure he's  
here?

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
He's there, I'm telling you, he's  
steps away from the Richard.

Dark HANDS drop down from the ceiling.

ROLLINS  
Something's fucked up, because  
we're the only ones I can see for-

Hands grab Rollins. Rips his head off.

PLOTNICK  
Fuck!

Plotnick fires up at the ceiling.

The dark THING bounces down and moves away from fire.

Rolls into Plotnick. Grabs Plotnick and bites into his neck  
and chest.

Blood spurts.

JACKS  
Holy shit!

Jacks fires at the Thing.

Dark leg kicks out.

Knocks the piss out of Jacks. He flies into a wall. Lands in a heap.

The Thing stands over Jacks.

29

INT. OPERATIONS - CONTINUOUS

29

Lee and Dunn run to the doorway.

DUNN'S HEADSET

shows flatlines for Rollins and Plotnick.

LEE  
(into radio)  
Report. Jacks, what's going on?  
Martins, come in!

YAYO

babbles and shrieks.

DUNN  
What's he saying?

LEE  
He's saying that it's the monster.  
(into radio)  
Martins, come in!

Gomi appears in the doorway, Ryan close behind. Question in their eyes.

DUNN  
Stand fast. Watch that exit. We still have unfriendlies in that direction. Hold your position!

They return.

30 INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS 30

Conner and Martins open fire on the Thing before it can dig into Jacks.

Rounds go into its body.

It shrieks. Turns to them.

Attacks.

31 INT. OPERATIONS - CONTINUOUS 31

Screams from Conner and Martins echo over the radio.

DUNN'S VISOR SCREEN

shows the vitals for both Conner and Martins flatline as they expire.

DUNN

grabs a weapon. Lee stops her.

LEE  
No! Let me go!

Dunn shakes her head.

LEE  
You're the OIC, you run the show,  
so I go! We don't have time to  
talk about it. I go!

Dunn nods, reluctant. Looks over at Sherman.

Sherman's back is to them.

Dunn gives Lee a quick, passionate kiss.

DUNN  
Be fucking careful.

LEE  
You know it.

32 INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS 32

Stunned, Jacks opens his eyes.

Sees the horrible mess the Thing makes of Martins and Conner.  
Blood spurts. Covers the walls.  
Jacks screams.

33 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 33

Lee runs down the hallway, weapon ready.

34 INT. OPERATIONS - CONTINUOUS 34

Dunn steps out the doorway, watching Lee run down the corridor.

Sherman picks up a mini-computer next to a console.

Activates it. Scanner jets out of one end.

Turns to the Yayo. Swipes the scanner over Yayo.

Yayo cowers, knowing what the mini-computer means.

The mini-computer does a search. Finds Yayo's file.

Sherman smiles. Yayo babbles.

Sherman glances at the doorway. Dunn is out of the room now.

Sherman presses a button.

Yayo shrieks in pain and agony.

Sherman covers Yayo's mouth with his hand. Stifles the screams.

Yayo dies.

35 INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS 35

Jacks stumbles to his feet.

The Thing turns back toward him.

Jacks picks up his weapon.

Fires point-blank. Shots go in. Have no effect.

Jacks backs away, still firing.

The Thing growls.

Jacks runs for it.

36 INT. OPERATIONS

36

Sherman steps back.

Looks at the dead prisoner for a moment.

Does a search on the mini-computer.

Finds what he's looking for.

37 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

37

Lee runs like mad down the corridor.

Almost runs into Jacks, running the opposite direction.

JACKS

Sarge, it killed Martins and Conner  
and fucking Plotnick, it ripped  
fucking Rollins's head right the  
fuck off! I shot the fucker and it  
didn't fucking work, I shot it, I'm  
telling you!

LEE

Shut up! Where is it?

Jacks looks back down the corridor.

Glass breaks. The Thing shatters light fixtures as it  
approaches.

Lee puts the weapon up. Aims. Sees the Thing. Unnerves her  
for a moment.

She fires. Shots have no effect, other than to make the Thing  
angry.

The Thing runs right at them.

It stops.

And howls. Howls in great pain.

JACKS

You hurt it. You musta fucking hurt  
it!

Jacks fires with Lee.

The Thing bounds off, very fast. On the ceiling.

Lee and Jacks just watch.

LEE  
(into radio)  
El-Tee, I saw it, whatever it was.  
We fired upon it. I think I hurt  
it. It ran away. On the ceiling. Do  
we pursue?

DUNN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
Negative. Wait until we regroup.

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
I got movement, multiple targets  
approaching my position.

DUNN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
You two, get back here asap.

38 INT. OPERATIONS - MOMENTS LATER

38

Lee and Jacks run inside the room.

JACKS  
Fuck, man. Fuck. I ain't never seen  
nothing like that. Fucking thing  
tore 'em apart, El-Tee, ripped 'em  
right the fuck up!

LEE  
Get a grip, Jacks!

DUNN  
What was it?

LEE  
I was hoping someone could tell me.

She looks over at Sherman, who types furiously at a computer.

DUNN  
There are questions. I've lost half  
my squad-

Dunn looks over at Yayo's dead body.

DUNN  
-and found our prisoner perished.  
Hard questions need to be asked.  
Just not now.

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
Incoming, forty meters.

Dunn picks up her weapon and checks it.

DUNN  
Mister Sherman, get ready to move  
out.

SHERMAN  
I'm not finished yet.

DUNN  
I wasn't asking, Mister Sherman.

SHERMAN  
Neither was I. I have to do this  
download no matter what. You do  
your thing and leave me to mine.

DUNN  
(after a moment)  
Jacks, hold operations and protect  
our "engineer" at all costs. We'll  
be right outside.

JACKS  
El-Tee-

Dunn stops and stares at him. Jacks shuts it.

Lee and Dunn go out the door.

39 INT. STAFF CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

39

The marines take combat positions, weapons aimed at the  
opposite entrance.

RYAN  
They've stopped. Ten meters.

THEO  
They know we're here.

RYAN  
I count five targets. One is  
moving forward now. Six meters.  
Two.

Everyone tenses. A HAND waves inside the entrance, flapping a  
dirty white cloth.

BRAIN (O.S.)  
I am unarmed! Don't shoot, I am  
unarmed!

Lee moves forward.

LEE  
Show yourself, hands on your head!

BRAINS MCGILL, a small bald man, steps forward, hands on his  
head.

BRAIN  
You have to turn the power off,  
please! Turn it off!

LEE  
Down on your knees, cross your feet  
at the ankles!

Brain goes to his knees. Gomi and Theo move forward and check  
him. They put him down prone. Handcuff him.

BRAIN  
Please, turn the power off, please!  
It only makes him worse!

LEE  
Tell the people with you to drop  
their weapons and approach with  
their hands on their heads!

BRAIN  
Listen to me. Please. I came to  
talk. We can't fight each other!

LEE  
Tell your people to drop their  
weapons and submit, now, or we will  
pursue and fire!

BRAIN  
You don't know what you're dealing  
with yet, you haven't seen him,  
he'll kill us all!

DUNN  
Hold positions, everyone. Sergeant  
Lee. Lift him up.

Lee and Theo lift Brain up by the armpits.

DUNN  
Who is he? What is he, this thing?

BRAIN  
You've seen him? Then you know!

DUNN  
It, or he, killed four of my men.

BRAIN  
We have to turn the lights out.  
Turn the power off, now. Or he'll  
come for us.

A horrendous INHUMAN SCREAM from the Thing echoes down the  
corridor. Ryan checks the scanner.

RYAN  
Movement. One individual. He's at  
the Poor Richard, one hundred and  
ten meters. Headed our way.

BRAIN  
You have to listen to me, I've been  
dealing with him for three years, I  
know him. We have to get the lights  
out, now.

DUNN  
What's your name?

BRAIN  
Augustus McGill, prisoner number  
5311169, but everyone calls me  
Brain. Please. You're not the  
first soldiers to come here. If you  
want to live through this, you have  
to listen to me.

DUNN  
(after a moment)  
Uncuff him. Theo, Gomi, watch this  
entrance. Brain, your friends, the  
people with you. Tell them to stay  
where they are. We see them with  
weapons, we'll shoot to kill.

Lee cuts the plastic cuffs off of Brain.

BRAIN  
They already know that.

40

INT. OPERATIONS - CONTINUOUS

40

Dunn and Lee enter with Brain.

BRAIN  
Oh, no. Yayo!

Brain goes to the dead Yayo. Jacks raises his weapon.

DUNN  
Stand fast, Jacks. Sherman, shut it  
down.

Sherman looks up from the computer console.

SHERMAN  
I'm not finished yet.

Another inhuman HOWL echoes.

DUNN  
Then you'll have to finish later.

SHERMAN  
What? Are you afraid?

LEE  
For someone who pissed himself on  
the drop down here, he seems pretty  
fucking calm now.

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
Seventy-five meters.

DUNN  
I noticed that as well. Some thing  
tore up four of my marines, and is  
coming our way, yet you're not  
concerned at all?

BRAIN  
Shut it down, just shut the system  
down and let's get out of this area  
now.

Sherman picks up the mini-computer scanner.

SHERMAN

I dealt with it before. I can do it again.

BRAIN

You used the pain prod on him? Oh fucking Christ. Are you really that stupid?

SHERMAN

It worked. It drove him away.

DUNN

Who are you talking about?

BRAIN

If he went away, then it was because he needed to feed. You can cause him pain with that, yes, but when he's at strength and full, he'll come for you and it won't stop him. It will make him worse. Wait, don't do that!

Sherman presses a button on the mini-computer.

DUNN

Do you know what this thing is?

An unholy scream of rage and pain echoes.

RYAN (O.S.)

(over radio)

Sixty meters and moving fast.

Brain moves toward the console.

BRAIN

I told you, it won't stop him. We have to turn the power off now!

Sherman scans him quick and hits a button.

SHERMAN

I don't think so.

Brain's face contorts with pain and collapses to his knees.

BRAIN  
(gritted teeth)  
If you don't listen to me, we're  
all going to die, just like the  
staff did, just like the soldiers  
before you did. Listen to me, I  
risked my life coming here to try  
and save you from him!

DUNN  
Turn the power off.

SHERMAN  
No. My job is to handle  
diagnostics. Your job is to protect  
me while I do that.

DUNN  
You don't give the orders here.  
Jacks? Remove Mister Sherman now.

Jacks grabs Sherman by the shoulder and shoves him aside.

SHERMAN  
Wait, I'm not done yet-

Jacks takes the mini-computer away from him.

JACKS  
Shut up! How do you turn this off?

Jacks hits a button, relieving Brain's pain.

Brain stands, goes to the console. Hits a few buttons. The  
console begins to power down.

BRAIN  
We don't have much time. Follow me.

41 INT. STAFF CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

41

The group moves into the cafeteria as the lights dim.

BRAIN  
My people won't fire, let them keep  
their weapons, we need to work  
together on this.

SHERMAN  
Now you're taking orders from  
convicts?

LEE  
Jacks? Keep him quiet.

JACKS  
I'm warning you, pinhead, keep your  
fucking mouth shut or I'll bury my  
fist in it.

Jacks drags Sherman along.

RYAN  
Twenty meters, moving fast.

DUNN  
Lee, stay with Brain.

Brain goes out the opposite exit, Lee behind her.

DUNN  
Ryan, Theo, take point with them.  
Don't fire on prisoners, the rules  
of the game have altered. Gomi and  
I will cover our back.

Dunn and Gomi take position on each side as the people pile  
through and down the dark corridor.

LEE (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
What are you doing?

DUNN  
I want to see it. Him. I want a  
shot at whatever he is before we  
run.

LEE (O.S.)  
Be fucking careful.

Gomi and Dunn crouch and wait.

A growl echoes from the other side of the cafeteria.

Two GLOWING EYES scan the large room.

DUNN  
Fragmentation grenades.

She and Gomi pull grenades, pop the pin and toss them.

The grenades land near THE THING.

They BLOW.

Smoke and dust billow.

Gomi and Dunn stand. Peer through the dark clouds of dust.  
Dunn switches to night vision.

DUNN'S HEADSET

scans and shows heat sources but no beings.

The two glowing eyes reappear.

And an angry ROAR.

A HAND

reaches from the doorway. Grabs Dunn.

WARCHILD

Look out.

And yanks Dunn down to a crouching position.

A sizzle as fluid whistles over Dunn's head and lands on the wall right behind her. More sizzle as the fluid burns the wall.

WARCHILD

He spits. And it burns.

WARCHILD, a large convict, shoulders his weapon.

WARCHILD

Brain sent me back to get you. You  
can't fight him like this. Follow  
me. Hurry.

Warchild ducks through the doorway. Dunn nods to Gomi. Dunn fires to cover.

Gomi stands, makes for the doorway. Fluid flies out of the darkness. Hits Gomi on her back.

Gomi screams and falls. Dunn, firing, picks her up and drags her through the doorway.

Warchild opens a cannister and squirts a liquid around the doorway entrance. Pools it on the floor and covers the jamb and above. Once Dunn gets by him, he lights it.

The doorway ignites on fire.

Gomi screams as Dunn carries her down the corridor.

A howl follows them. Warchild hustles them to a bend in the corridor.

WARCHILD

It won't stop him, but it will slow him down. Fire can't hurt him, but he doesn't like the light. He'll either wait until the fire burns down or find a way around. We have two minutes.

Warchild squirts more fluid on the floor at the bend.

Gomi moans in pain. Dunn sits her up and looks at Gomi's back. Loosens her vest, takes it off.

Warchild takes a knife and cuts off Gomi's shirt. Her back is scarred and sizzling.

WARCHILD

Water won't work on it. Here.

He hands Dunn a bottle.

DUNN

What is it?

WARCHILD

Vinegar. Pour it all over and hold her tight.

Dunn pours the vinegar on Gomi's burn.

Gomi screams and screams in great pain.

Warchild picks her up, slings her over his shoulder.

WARCHILD

Let's go.

He drops a match on the fluid. The corridor blazes with fire.

Dunn, weapon ready, follows him down the corridor.

Warchild, Gomi over his shoulder, enters a heavily barricaded hold. Dunn follows.

Inside are the marines and Sherman.

Brain sits with OTHER PRISONERS, ten of them, all holding weapons. The place is lit with kerosine lamps.

Warchild lowers Gomi to the ground.

BRAIN

Bite?

Brain takes a medkit and attends to her.

WARCHILD

Spitburn. She passed out. We lit fires at every bend, slow him up.

BRAIN

I sent runners down Alpha wing, lighting fires and making noise. He'll run out over there to check it out. After going in enough circles, he'll get tired and go feed.

Brain examines Gomi's back. Shakes his head.

BRAIN

You have morphine?

LEE

On the ship.

Brain bandages Gomi's back.

BRAIN

Well, that does us no good now. He's between us and induction and extremely pissed off.

DUNN

Who is he? What is he?

BRAIN

He is Andre. Andre Morgan, a convicted rapist and murderer, or rather, that's who he was. He was a prisoner, like us.

JACKS  
Are you telling me that fucking  
thing is human?

BRAIN  
Was human. Now he's something else.

JACKS  
You can say that again, I fucking  
shot him, I shot him point blank  
and it didn't do shit.

BRAIN  
Warchild, take her to the back and  
put her in one of the cots. Call  
the brothers.  
(to Dunn)  
We don't have morphine or pain  
drugs, nothing other than alcohol  
we brew ourselves. If she survives  
this and wakes up, she's going to  
be in extreme torment.

Warchild picks up Gomi, carries her to the back. Dunn nods to  
Ryan, who follows them.

DUNN  
You said he was something other  
than human now. What? What is he?

BRAIN  
I wish I could tell you. As far as  
we can determine, he seems all but  
invulnerable to most things. His  
tissue regenerates, shoot him, it  
repairs itself. We've tried  
everything we could think of to  
destroy him and nothing's worked.  
We've shot him, set him on fire,  
blown him up and all it does it  
piss him off. He doesn't like  
light, it hurts him but doesn't  
appear to do any long term damage.

DUNN  
How did he get that way?

BRAIN  
You don't know?

DUNN  
Don't know what?

Brain glances over at Sherman.

BRAIN

Ask him. He's not a soldier. Is he a company man?

DUNN

Yes.

BRAIN

Then I'll let him explain it to you, because I've got things to do now. We need to get our runners back inside the barricade and we'll be on alert until it's time for Andre to feed again.

THEO

Feed? Feeds on what?

Brain doesn't answer, just looks at Sherman.

SHERMAN

I don't know what he's talking about. I'm just an engineer.

BRAIN

You know how the saying goes, right?

JACKS

What?

BRAIN

You can always trust the company to lie to you every step of the way.

Brain walks away, toward the back rooms.

JACKS

No fucking shit, this guy's been blowing smoke up our ass, El-Tee, he knows something.

Dunn and Lee stand before Sherman.

DUNN

Mister Sherman, I think it's time for complete disclosure on your part.

SHERMAN

I told you. I don't know what he's talking about, I'm-

JACKS

Bullshit, you knew that Thing was here an' you just let us walk in without so much as a "head's up, guys?!"

SHERMAN

You're the marines, you're supposed to be the badasses.

Jacks grabs Sherman by the shirt. Lifts him up against the wall.

JACKS

You wanna fuck with me, puke? Half our squad is dead!

LEE

Jacks, stand fast!

Lee grabs Jacks by the shoulders.

SHERMAN'S HAND

Reaches into Jack's combat pouch, unseen by the others. He pick-pockets the mini-computer, palms it and tucks it under his shirt.

JACKS

I'll rip your fuckin' head off and shit down your neck, you cocksucker!

LEE

Drags Jacks away. Sherman rubs his neck.

LEE

That's enough!

Various prisoners watch from their assigned tasks.

DUNN

Wait, Sergeant. Let Jacks play some pinball with our civilian's head, see if he shakes some truth loose.

Jacks takes a step.

SHERMAN

Wait. Wait! Okay, look, okay. I didn't know . . . I didn't know that, you know, it would be like this. They didn't tell me anything either, they just said that one prisoner might be more trouble than the others and, once I got online, to make sure I had him dialed in on the enhanced pain control. They didn't tell me he was some monster, just that he was a problem. That's it, that's all I know.

DUNN

We don't believe you.

SHERMAN

Believe me, I wouldn't knowingly put myself in that Thing's way, had I known. And our mission is still the same.

(whispers)

I have to get back online. I have to deal with the reactor before it gets too late. We don't have much time.

Gomi screams from the back.

DUNN

(after a moment)

Jacks, find Ryan and see what you two can do to help the convicts fortify their defenses here.

JACKS

He knows more, El-Tee, lemme beat him like an ugly stepchild until he fuckin' spills his skeevy guts.

DUNN

You're too hot now. Maybe later. Mister Sherman? That's something for you to think about, because I agree that you're still not telling me everything. Theo? You're on duty with Sherman. Don't let him out of your sight.

Gomi screams again.

LEE  
Stick close like white on rice,  
Theo. He shits, you better be  
close enough to tell me what he ate  
for dinner. Got it?

THEO  
Hooyah, Sarge.

Theo eyeballs Sherman. Sherman swallows. Jacks storms off.

44 INT. BACK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

44

Gomi, on her stomach on a cot, writhes in pain as Brain  
applies bandages to her back. Warchild holds her arms.

Lee and Dunn approach.

BRAIN  
These are the Linus brothers, Ken  
and Randle. They handle most of  
our medical needs.

Brain gestures to two PRISONERS, who step forward to tend to  
Gomi.

KEN LINUS  
Spitburn this bad, there's not much  
we can do.

RANDLE LINUS  
All we have is vinegar spray and  
salve, and I can tell you from  
experience, it doesn't help the  
pain.

The brothers tear off smoking clothing from Gomi. Spray her  
back.

Gomi screams and Warchild tightens his grip on her.

Lee crouches down. Looks Gomi in the eyes.

LEE  
Look at me. Look at me, marine!  
Take the pain. Take the pain!

Gomi grits her teeth. Takes it. Quiets down, breathing deep.  
Warchild releases her arms.

KEN LINUS

She passed out. Without proper treatment, she will die.

BRAIN

You have a medbay on your ship?

DUNN

Yes. You said he, or it, will tire and go feed. Until then we won't be able to get through. How long before that happens?

BRAIN

Depends on how pissed off he is, and I'd say he was righteously pissed. Warchild?

Warchild stands.

BRAIN

Go set up the generator, get Hubert on his bicycle. We'll have to do a locator on Andre, it seems.

Warchild nods, leaves.

DUNN

(into headset)

Fred?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

(over radio)

Yes, Lieutenant?

DUNN

(into headset)

Can you do a medical diagnostic on Private Gomi, I believe she's still networked.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

(over radio)

Certainly. She's in extreme distress and slipping into severe anaphylactic shock. Her airways are slowly closing. If she doesn't get treatment in the next sixty to ninety minutes, she will expire, if not before then.

DUNN  
We have an hour to get her to the ship.

BRAIN  
I doubt Andre will be settled by then. We can try to distract him, but that doesn't always work.

A large BOOM echoes.

BRAIN  
Yep. Sounds like he's come upon one of our walls already. The lights were on too long, he's raging.

DUNN  
What is he and how did he get that way?

BRAIN  
Rather than tell you, let me show you. Come with me.

Dunn nods to Lee, who stays with Gomi and the Linus brothers.

45 INT. TIGHT TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

45

They make their way down the tunnel.

BRAIN  
I've put together a human powered generator, one which allows us to do certain things for a limited amount of time.

DUNN  
How many prisoners do you have left?

BRAIN  
I have twelve men with my group. It was twenty until you killed eight of them this morning.

DUNN  
Are there other groups?

BRAIN  
Yes and no.

DUNN  
What does that mean?

BRAIN  
You'll find out. How many  
passengers can your ship carry?

DUNN  
Not enough. Max out at fifteen.  
You're to be shipped off on an  
automated supply ship which is  
following us.

BRAIN  
That's unlikely.

DUNN  
What do you mean?

BRAIN  
It means what it means, Lieutenant.  
There will be no ship behind you.  
They mean for us convicts to die  
here. I doubt your orders were to  
preserve our lives.

DUNN  
Our orders were to secure the  
facility. If you didn't submit,  
terminate with prejudice.

BRAIN  
The other soldiers, their orders  
were even simpler.

DUNN  
Those weren't soldiers. They were  
Blackwater mercs. There's a  
difference. What about their ship,  
what happened to it?

Brain stops. Looks at her.

BRAIN  
After Andre wiped the "mercs" out a  
group of convicts got on their  
ship. It was a big ship, and at  
least thirty men got on it.

DUNN  
Why not any of you?

BRAIN

Because I convinced my people that they'd tortured for information and killed once the company got their ship back. I don't think the company knew what they had here anymore than the soldiers they sent. Once they extracted what they needed, the prisoners would be killed. And since you had no idea, I think I'm probably right and everyone who got on that ship is dead. And once Blackwater found out what was waiting here, they refused to waste anymore of their men and so the company called in the marines. Without telling you the real reason behind it.

Brain continues down the tunnel.

DUNN

I see why they call you Brain. What did you do to end up in this place?

BRAIN

Political dissident.

46

INT. SIDE HOLD - CONTINUOUS

46

Warchild lifts a metal plate up and away from a wall, setting it aside.

Jacks and Ryan watches him.

Old School computer equipment sit inside, protected. And an old fashioned bicycle.

WARCHILD

Can one of you go get Hubert while I set up? He's the best one on the bike.

JACKS

Fuck, I'll do it, I can't stand sitting around. Which one is Hubert?

WARCHILD

Little guy, big nose. Big ass birthmark on his left cheek. He don't talk, he's retarded.

(MORE)

WARCHILD (CONT'D)  
Just grab him and tell 'em "bike"  
and he'll get it.

JACKS  
Birthmark, retarded, got it.

Jacks leaves. Warchild drags the bike over and hooks computer cables to it. He stares at Ryan the whole while.

RYAN  
Why are you staring at me?

WARCHILD  
Been a long time since I seen a  
woman. Twenty years, at least.

RYAN  
I'm not a woman, I'm a marine.

WARCHILD  
Still a woman. Fine looking one at  
that.

RYAN  
I'm a marine, you're a convict and  
that's all that matters.

After a moment, Warchild chuckles.

WARCHILD  
Marine. You ever kill anyone?

RYAN  
Yes.

WARCHILD  
How many people have you killed?

RYAN  
I don't know.

WARCHILD  
You don't even know how many people  
you've killed?

RYAN  
No. That's how it is in the  
infantry. You fire at them, they  
fire at you. You see people go  
down. They live or they die. You  
get them to stand down and then  
you're shipped out to the next  
mission.

WARCHILD

Mission, shit. If you had to guess, how many people have died by your hand? Ten? Twenty? Thirty?

RYAN

Could be anywhere between ten and thirty, maybe more.

WARCHILD

You know how many people I killed, before I got shipped here?

RYAN

I don't know. Fifty, sixty?

WARCHILD

One. Just one. I was sixteen. Found guilty of murder one, sent my ass here. Answer me this. You're a killer, I'm a killer, but I get stuck here while they fly your ass everywhere for more killing. How do you explain that?

RYAN

Who'd you kill?

WARCHILD

Somebody who really fucking needed it.

RYAN

You kill on a whim. I only kill who I'm told to kill. There's your difference.

Warchild looks at her a moment. Starts laughing.

WARCHILD

It was a hell of a lot more than a whim! I planned that shit for years, since I was seven I schemed exactly how I was gonna murder that motherfucker.

RYAN

And you were surprised they sent you here? That's what happens to murderers

WARCHILD

Did I say I was surprised? Police showed up, I told 'em exactly what I did and why. Wasn't surprised in the least. Hand me that wrench?

Ryan picks up a wrench. Hands it to Warchild.

Their fingers touch, briefly. Ryan pulls back. Warchild enjoys the moment.

RYAN

Killed anybody since, or was it just a one time thing?

WARCHILD

They call me Warchild for a reason. It's prison babe. Prison rules, you either live by the sword or you die really fucking fast. I wanted to live. So yeah, I've iced many a motherfucker since coming here. And most of 'em deserved it just as much as the first one.

Dunn and Brain enter.

BRAIN

Where's Hubert?

WARCHILD

On his way.

Another BOOM echoes.

BRAIN

I'm not liking the sound of that, it doesn't appear he went for our chaff. Warchild, get the people packed up and prepared for a run if necessary.

Warchild nods. Looks to Ryan.

DUNN

Go with him, Ryan, assist as needed.

Ryan nods. They both exit. Another BOOM.

BRAIN

We'll have to move to another hideout. He knows where we are now.  
(MORE)

BRAIN (CONT'D)

We have to move every few months. I used to have sixty followers. Two years ago he broke down our barricade and got into the middle of everyone. I lost twenty-five people that day. Ah, here he is. Bike, Hubert.

HUBERT, head down and scratching his birthmark, enters.

He climbs on the bike and pedals furiously, giggling to himself as he does.

The old school computer network starts up.

A hologram screen pops up.

BRAIN

You want to know how Andre became what he is? I found out, and since people tend to doubt a convict's word on everything, I documented as much as I could. You see, this isn't just a prison planet.

DUNN

What do you mean?

BRAIN

I mean, they didn't just park us here to sit and twiddle our thumbs. They had use for us. As lab rats.

On the screen: Lab pictures show various prisoners being held down while undergoing horrible medical procedures.

BRAIN

Everything that could be tested on us, was tested on us. Depending on one's individual makeup, anything goes. We could be given a disease so they could try different cures that would ultimately fail most of the time.

More pictures, horrible ones.

BRAIN

And sometimes used to develop diseases themselves, which are useful money-making entities, if you know how to cure it. Give a population a disease, then tell them you have the miracle cure.

(MORE)

BRAIN (CONT'D)

Only it costs money. Horrible things were done.

Even more terrible pictures.

BRAIN

I'm not gonna lie to you. Many of the men incarcerated here were terrible people who'd done awful things. I know, I've seen their records. But the men here were not nearly as terrible as those responsible for what was done to them.

DUNN

And Andre?

BRAIN

They'd been testing genetic mutations. Combining DNA strands, both as a way of healing failing tissue, and as a possible weapon. The results, as you can see, we're pretty horrific.

Pictures of mutated bodies.

BRAIN

They found some unusual tissue from somewhere, I still don't know where, and combined its DNA with Andre's DNA. For a couple days, he seemed fine. He showed a remarkable ability to heal. Then he changed. Complete physiological change. And went mad.

Video from surveillance cameras capture Andre's attack in the lab. He breaks free of his bonds. Jumps men in lab coats and bites into them.

BRAIN

He altered. He became something other than human, and nearly indestructible. Believe me, I've tried. I've kept logs of his movements, his tendencies, everything he can and cannot do. No one knows Andre better than I. And I know this. He cannot be destroyed. But he can be hurt, and he's weaker when he hasn't fed in awhile.

DUNN  
What does he feed on?

BRAIN  
I thought you'd figured that out by  
now.

Brain pressed a button. The hologram screen changes. The  
prison facility comes up in a graph.

BRAIN  
Those blinking spots, they  
represent prisoners, we're all  
tagged with bio-markers, which  
track us as long as we breathe.  
This group is us. And there is  
Andre, raging along the south wall.

DUNN  
Wait, there are more prisoners  
still alive in this section. There  
are . . . Six of them.

BRAIN  
Right. That's who Andre feeds on.  
He'll kill when threatened, but he  
prefers to hang his prey up and  
bleed them slowly.

DUNN  
He feeds on their blood?

BRAIN  
And they often last quite some  
time. As long as they have water,  
some last as long as thirty days.  
The record is Bennie Bunting, he  
lasted fifty-five days. I've seen  
the pods Andre hangs them in.  
They're not really alive, but  
they're not dead for awhile,  
either. It's a horrible way to die.  
But they all eventually do. And  
when they do, Andre starts hunting  
again.

47 INT. SUPPLY HOLD MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

47

Sherman sits uncomfortably, Theo gazing right at him.

Convicts hurry to and fro, preparing to move.

SHERMAN

I have to go to the bathroom.

Theo just looks at him.

SHERMAN

I mean it, I really have to go.

THEO

I thought you pissed on the way  
down here.

SHERMAN

I have to go again. Really.

Theo sits, unmoved.

SHERMAN

I really have to go.

THEO

Tie it in a knot and shut up.

48

INT. CORNER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

48

Warchild pulls out plans to the facility, old school paper  
plans, worn and ragged. He spreads them on a table.

WARCHILD

Okay, so here's the route.

Ryan and Jacks look over his shoulder.

WARCHILD

We set off noisemakers over here  
and hope he goes for them. Set some  
fires to cover our tracks, go over  
into Wing B. Couple of us have been  
setting up another safe site there  
for awhile, but it ain't really  
ready yet. But he doesn't stop  
trying to get in, we don't have a  
choice.

Another BOOM echoes.

JACKS

Fuck, man.

WARCHILD

Sounds like he's knocked down the south wall already, only two more barricades between him and us.

Ryan brings out her motion device. The motion detector clearly shows the Thing's location.

RYAN

Here he is. Forty meters to the southwest.

Warchild takes her device and looks at it.

WARCHILD

Handy. I coulda used one of these over the years.

Warchild winks at her. Another echoing BOOM.

JACKS

Shit. So are we gonna beat ass outa here now, or what?

49

INT. SUPPLY HOLD MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

49

Sherman stands. Walks away toward the toilets.

THEO

Hey. Pinhead.

SHERMAN

Look, no one told you not to let me go to the bathroom. They just told you to watch me, so, I'm going to the bathroom and you're free to watch me. Otherwise, if you want to stop me, you're gonna have to shoot me.

Sherman marches off.

THEO

(under his breath)  
Don't fuckin' tempt me.

50

INT. SIDE HOLD - NIGHT

50

DUNN

If his food supply were shut down, would that kill him?

BRAIN

I don't know, but I doubt it. The longest he's gone without a feed was ninety-four days. He slept more and was definitely weaker, but he lived until he finally caught someone. I don't know if he can be killed. Okay Hubert, that's enough.

Hubert nods and climbs off the bike.

LEE

Fred said you took your headset off.

Lee appears in the doorway.

DUNN

What is it?

LEE

Gomi's gone. Never woke up.

Dunn looks at her, saying nothing.

BRAIN

(after a moment)

I'm sorry. It was a very bad burn, so maybe it's the best thing.

Dunn shakes it off, picks up her equipment.

DUNN

He says that there isn't any way of killing this Thing.

LEE

What about the reactor?

BRAIN

Well, that's different. An anti-matter explosion would obliterate everything.

LEE

Why don't we just leave the Thing here and let it blow up with the rest of the planet?

DUNN

Earth is in the blast path, so that's out.

(MORE)

DUNN (CONT'D)

We still have to re-stabilize the reactor before we go, we can't leave it unstable, otherwise . . .  
(off of Brain's look)  
What? What is it?

Brain chuckles.

BRAIN

Well, two things. Firstly, the earth isn't in any blast path. This place could go and it wouldn't effect anything back home. Why else would they pick a planet this far out to build the first anti-matter reactor? It's because it's far enough away it won't affect earth. That's item one.

Dunn and Lee look at each other.

BRAIN

Secondly, the reactor isn't unstable. It's not in any danger of going at any time. Maintenance is automated.

LEE

But the power is out.

BRAIN

The power to the facility is turned off, the network is still alive, how else do you think I can tap into it? The network is powered by the reactor. The maintenance program powering the reactor is powered by wind generators outside the facility. There's nothing wrong with the reactor.

DUNN

Are you sure about that?

BRAIN

In my previous life, before I became prisoner number 5311169, I was a prominent physicist. So yes, I'm sure that the reactor's fine. Who told you that it wasn't?

DUNN

Our fucking out-call company engineer, Robert Sherman.

LEE  
Lying cocksucker.

51 INT. TOILET - CONTINUOUS

51

Sherman stands before a toilet. Relieves himself.

THEO  
Come on, come on. Let's go.

Theo stands behind Sherman, impatient.

SHERMAN  
Don't talk to me, you'll just make  
it crawl back up.

THEO  
Fuck man.

Theo turns, glances around the grimy convict toilet.

THEO  
Fuckin' nasty, smelly convict  
shitter, Christ.

SHERMAN  
Yes, it's definitely ripe in here.  
But you know what they say. If you  
can't stand the heat . . .

Theo turns back to Sherman.

BAM!

Sherman cracks Theo hard over the head with a toilet cover.

Theo falls down hard.

SHERMAN  
Then you shouldn't have started a  
fire in the first place.

Sherman roots through Theo's pockets, taking a SIDEARM, his  
HEADSET and a MOTION DETECTOR.

He slides over to the doorway and glances out. Coast clear,  
he slips out.

52 INT. SIDE HOLD - CONTINUOUS

52

Lee puts on her headset.

LEE  
(into radio)  
Theo? Theo, what's your ten-  
twenty?

DUNN  
If there's no danger to earth,  
could you trigger an anti-matter  
meltdown?

BRAIN  
Yes. But then there's the small  
matter of getting off the planet.  
Your ship won't hold all of us.

LEE  
(into radio)  
Theo? Jacks, have you seen Theo?

JACKS (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
I ain't seen him, Sarge.

DUNN  
If I make room, would you do it?

BRAIN  
Every man under my protection.  
There's twelve now, not counting  
me. You take me and my charges,  
I'll do it. You promise to get us  
off this rock?

DUNN  
You have my word as an officer.

BRAIN  
Then we have a deal.

They shake.

LEE  
Theo's not answering.

DUNN  
Shit.

53 INT. TIGHT TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

53

They run down the tunnel.

DUNN

If Sherman wasn't sent here to shut down the reactor, what was he doing?

BRAIN

He was downloading, right? He's after information.

DUNN

What information?

BRAIN

Andre, of course. They want to know how he happened so they can reproduce it. He's a weapon, and all the information on how he was created was stranded here when we took the facility offline.

DUNN

They sent Sherman to get it, once they knew what they had. Everyone else-

BRAIN

Expendable.

LEE

(over radio)

Fred, do you have a location on Private Theo?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

(over radio)

Yes, sending to your comlink now. Private Theo's equipment and Private Theo appear to be in two different places.

DUNN

Shit.

54

INT. SUPPLY HOLD MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

54

Lee, Dunn and Brain hurry into the main room.

Jacks and Ryan help Theo into the room from the toilet. Blood drips down his scalp.

THEO

I'm sorry, El-Tee, I fucked up and he suckered me.

DUNN

We know where he's going, right? Operations.

BRAIN

He'll power back up the facility first chance he gets, finish the download.

LEE

If he gets by the Thing.

BRAIN

Andre's preoccupied with us, now. If your company man keeps quiet, he'll slip right by him.

DUNN

(into headset)

Fred, lock up the ship. No one boards without voice verification from either me or Sergeant Lee.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

(over radio)

Certainly.

LEE

What's the op?

DUNN

Brain?

BRAIN

Take my people to your ship, get them on board. I'll take care of the reactor and meet you there.

WARCHILD

Reactor's in the opposite direction. Once the lights come on, Andre will lose his shit. He'll be between you and induction.

BRAIN

Not much I can do about that.

And echoing BOOM from the Thing.

WARCHILD  
I'll do a run and play rabbit.

BRAIN  
No.

WARCHILD  
I've done it before. Fuck Andre,  
anyway. I got this thing, I know  
where he be, now.

Warchild holds up the motion director.

LEE  
It could work. We split up, it's  
better. There's only one of him.

BRAIN  
One of him is more than enough.

Warchild spreads out the map.

WARCHILD  
He's on the south side now. I head  
out here-

Warchild points at the map.

WARCHILD  
You guys go out here, quick run to  
operations. Brain, head out this  
way, loop around after you hit the  
reactor. And someone should go with  
you.

BRAIN  
No, just head for the ship and let  
me do my thing.

DUNN  
We don't have time to argue. I'll  
go with him to the reactor.  
Sergeant Lee, take everyone back to  
the Poor Richard. You see Sherman,  
cuff him and drag his ass on board.  
You.

She nods to Warchild.

DUNN  
Do your run. Do you need help?

WARCHILD  
Don't need it, but always can use  
it.

                  RYAN  
I'll go with him. That's my scanner  
he's got anyway.

                  DUNN  
Loop around to the ship. Sergeant,  
if you don't hear from us once you  
board, we lose contact, you take  
off? Clear?

Lee looks at her a moment. Nods.

                  DUNN  
Let's go, people.

WARCHILD

throws a BACKPACK on, grabs a RIFLE and grins at Ryan.

                  WARCHILD  
Now you in for some fun, darlin'.

                  RYAN  
I ain't your darlin'.

Then she smiles.

JACKS AND THEO

gather the remaining convicts at the entrance.

                  RANDLE LINUS  
You're taking us to your ship?

                  KEN LINUS  
Are we really getting off this hell  
hole?

                  THEO  
Affirmative. Don't pack much, we're  
traveling light.

Jacks gently guides Hubert with the rest.

                  JACKS  
Let's go, son. We're going on a  
different ride now.

LEE

grabs Dunn's hand. Squeezes it hard.

DUNN  
I have to go with him. If this  
Thing ever gets board a ship and  
gets to civilization . . . I have  
to make sure it's dead.

LEE  
I know. Come back to me.

DUNN  
I will.

Lee releases her hand when Brain approaches.

BRAIN  
Well, let's blow this pop stand,  
shall we?

55 INT. DOORWAY BARRICADE - MOMENTS LATER

55

Warchild cuts through a welded door with a laser torch.

Opens it.

Ryan watches the scanner.

RYAN  
I have him. One hundred and fifty  
meters.

Warchild grins, lights a firecracker.

WARCHILD  
We make these ourselves, make a  
hell've a bang.

He tosses it as it burns.

WARCHILD  
I hope you can run fast.

RYAN  
I do the forty with full gear in  
five point five.

WARCHILD  
Then you should be able to keep up.

The firecracker goes off with a BANG.

RYAN  
He's moving. Toward us.

Warchild winks. Takes off at a run.

Ryan follows, weapon on her back.

56 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

56

Lee waits, rest of the group of convicts behind her, watching the scanner.

LEE  
There he goes. Theo, take point.  
Jacks, rear guard. Everyone stay  
together and keep your shit wired  
tight.

Theo moves the barricade and goes out.

Everyone follows him, quiet.

57 INT. TIGHT TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

57

Dunn follows Brain through the twists and turns.

DUNN  
Aren't there safeguards to stop  
someone from frigging with the  
reactor?

BRAIN  
Yes. But I've been here for twenty-  
five years. I know everything there  
is to know about this facility. I  
spent the last three years being  
chased around by Andre as he slowly  
ate his way through everyone here.

Brain looks over his shoulder at her.

BRAIN  
I hacked those safeguards a long  
time ago. I never told anyone, but  
if it came down to just me and  
Andre, I planned to turn this whole  
place into anti-matter dust before  
I ended up as his lunch.

58

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

58

Warchild and Ryan run around a bend.

RYAN

Wait, stop!

Warchild stops.

RYAN

I lost his signal. He's not behind us anymore!

WARCHILD

That ain't good.

RYAN

(into headset)

Sarge, I lost him! He's not following us anymore!

59

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

59

Lee, in the middle of the group, calls for a halt.

LEE

(into headset)

Where was the last read?

RYAN (O.S.)

(over headset)

I don't know, he just disappeared!

LEE

Theo! You read anything?

Theo runs a scan.

THEO

No movement in front of us.

JACKS

I got nothing behind us, man, it's all clear.

60

INT. REACTOR ROOM - NIGHT

60

Brain easily breaks the code for the reactor.

Sets up at a console.

Dunn looks up at the reactor, large and intimidating.

Brain works his magic at a keyboard.

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
I'm telling you, he was there and  
then he's wasn't.

DUNN  
(into headset)  
Everyone halt. Don't move until you  
know where that Thing is.

61 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

61

Ryan scans the corridor in both directions.

RYAN  
Nothing, I'm reading nothing.

WARCHILD  
He's playing possum. You ain't  
reading him because he ain't  
moving.

THEO (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
I got movement! Ahead of us, eleven  
o'clock.

RYAN  
(into headset)  
I'm not reading that. Where are you  
located?

THEO (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
We're about a hundred and seventy  
meters away from the cafeteria. The  
signal is moving away from us, it's  
a weak signal.

DUNN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
That could be Sherman. Proceed with  
caution.

RYAN  
Can we flush him out?

Warchild grins, lights another firecracker.

It blows.

62 INT. REACTOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

62

DUNN

How long?

BRAIN

Two, three minutes to get it going.  
We won't have much time after that,  
however. Deceleration will be fast,  
this won't be a controlled  
meltdown.

DUNN

Which means what?

BRAIN

It means, I won't be able to tell  
you how long we'll have before it  
goes. It could be a day, it could  
be a couple hours, it could be  
less. I didn't set this up for a  
precise blow. So once I hit the  
switch, we need to get out and into  
hyperspace. If we're in blast range-

DUNN

I get it. It just keeps getting  
better and better.

63 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

63

Theo leads the group. He stops.

THEO

I just lost the signal.

LEE

Wait until we get a read. Where are  
we?

RANDLE LINUS

Not far from operations.

KEN LINUS

Cafeteria is only two doors up.

RANDLE LINUS

We should run for it.

HUBERT

near the back, makes a chuffing noise and pulls at Jacks.

KEN LINUS

My brother is right, we're so close.

LEE

Stand fast until we know what we're stepping into.

Hubert pulls at Jacks again.

JACKS

(whispers)

Shh, Hubert, calm down. What is it, dude?

64 INT. OPERATIONS - CONTINUOUS 64

Sherman hits the switch. Powers up the facility.

Lights begin to come on.

65 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 65

Warchild watches lights come on down the corridor.

WARCHILD

Okay, now it gets interesting.

RYAN

Fucking Sherman. He's at operations. Do you know a shortcut there?

WARCHILD

It ain't the distance we got to be worried about. But yeah, this way.

They slip down another twisty turn.

66 INT. REACTOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS 66

Lights come on.

BRAIN  
Power grid just went live over the  
network. This is not good. Andre  
will rage. Well, this is it. Ready?

DUNN  
Do it.

Brain hits a button. The reactor powers down.

BRAIN  
Now all we have to do is run like  
hell.

They move out.

67 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

67

THEO  
Wait, there it is. Got the signal,  
fifty meters, point six ahead of  
it.

LEE  
That's operations. It's gotta be  
Sherman.

Hubert cries out.

JACKS  
(whispers)  
Hubert, what's the deal, we gotta  
be quiet now.

The lights begin to light up down the corridor.

LEE  
Power's back.

Hubert whines and points.

JACKS  
Hubert-

Hubert points up at the ceiling.

Jacks looks up.

Just as he does, the lights come on.

THE THING

hangs from the ceiling by his feet right over the marines and the convicts.

It SCREAMS as it drops down upon them.

68 INT. TIGHT TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS 68

Dunn stops. Brain looks at her.

BRAIN  
What is it?

Screams and pulse fire sound out from her headset.

Dunn's face goes pale.

DUNN  
He found them.

She starts running.

69 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 69

RYAN  
Fuck! The Thing hit them!

Warchild runs faster, Ryan right behind him.

70 INT. OPERATIONS - CONTINUOUS 70

Sherman commences the download.

71 INT. STAFF CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER 71

Lee leads five remaining convicts, including Hubert and the Linus brothers, through the doorway opposite operations.

Jacks and Theo follow, firing behind them as they retreat.

They make it halfway across the cafeteria.

The Thing enters behind them. Hisses. Blood drips from his jowls.

The marines and convicts fire at him. The shots have no effect.

Lee throws a grenade.

It blows. Smoke and dust clouds puff up.  
The Thing leaps through the clouds, high up.  
Lands next to Theo. Decapitates him with a single swipe.  
The Thing ROARS.

72 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 72

Ryan and Warchild run past the doorway to operations, intent on getting to the firefight.

Sherman hides next to the doorway, in the shadows, as they go by.

The console beeps. Download complete.

73 INT. STAFF CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS 73

Warchild and Ryan step out of the entrance. Shoulder their weapons and fire at the Thing.

The Thing grabs a convict. Tosses him against the wall like a broken doll.

Lee covers her men, firing.

Jacks crouches opposite, also firing.

The Thing spits. Fluid flies.

Lee ducks down.

Fluid hits one convict in the face. The man dies horribly.

More spit flies.

Warchild pushes Ryan out of the way.

Spit hits his weapon and chest.

Warchild drops his weapon. It lay sizzling, destroyed.

74 INT. OPERATIONS - CONTINUOUS 74

Sherman flicks a switch.

Power goes down. Lights dim and go off.

Picks up the mini-computer.

Scrolls through it. Finds what he's looking for.

Hits a button.

75 INT. STAFF CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

75

Lights go out.

The PAIN hits the THING and it ROARS in rage.

Bounces back and forth, in a fury.

Ryan looks at Warchild.

RYAN

Sherman!

They turn. See Sherman disappearing down the corridor behind them.

Lee catches her eye, nods.

LEE

Go!

Warchild and Ryan go after him.

Lee fires at The Thing, who's still spinning in pain and anger.

Jacks hustles Hubert and the Linus brothers through the doorway.

Lee, firing as she retreats, follows them.

76 INT. TIGHT TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

76

Dunn and Brain hurry.

DUNN

(into headset)

Sit-rep! What's going on?

Nothing but screams and gunfire.

BRAIN

We're only a few minutes away.

77 INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS 77  
Sherman stops. Listens behind him.  
Presses a button on the mini-computer.  
Smiles to himself.

78 INT. STAFF CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS 78  
The Thing stops raging. Pain off.  
Lee fires at him. Shots have no effect.  
Lee runs out of ammo. Tosses her pulse rifle.  
Pulls out a handgun.  
Thing jumps.  
Lands right in front of her.  
Lee calmly points the pistol at it. Fires.  
No effect. Thing bats the pistol away.  
Swipes at Lee, tearing her body armor clean off.  
Lee hits the floor, barely conscious.  
Thing leans down.  
Before it bites, stops to sniff.  
Sniffs deeply.

JACKS

Sarge!

Jacks appears in the doorway. Fires.  
Thing hisses and SPITS.  
Fluid flies. Hits Jacks in the arm. Smoke flies as it burns.  
Jack yells and falls down.  
He watches the Thing tuck Lee under his arm.  
Thing leaps away, carrying Lee.

Hubert drags Jacks away.

79

INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS

79

Sherman runs down the connecting tunnel to the Poor Richard.  
Bloody remains of soldiers litter the ground.  
Sherman hits the release for the door to open.  
Nothing.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
I'm sorry, Mister Sherman. I have  
orders not to let anyone board  
until Lieutenant Dunn or Lee  
authorize it.

SHERMAN  
Hmm. We'll see about that.

Sherman brings up a keypad. Taps away.

RYAN  
Locked out?

Ryan and Warchild stand a few feet away.

SHERMAN  
Yes and no.

Sherman turns his head toward them. Turns the rest of his  
body and brings up a pistol.

Fires at Ryan. Hits her twice in the chest. She goes down.

Warchild rolls forward. Sherman fires, missing him.

Warchild completes his roll right up to his feet.

Grabs the pistol. They wrestle over it.

The two men fall to the ground. Sherman rolls on top, but  
loses the grip on his pistol.

The pistol skitters away, down the tunnel, into darkness.

Warchild rolls back to his feet.

Sherman stands. Warchild towers over him.

Warchild picks him up. Throws him against a wall.

Sherman takes out the mini-computer. Scans Warchild.

Warchild knows what this means. Runs for him.

Sherman hits a button.

PAIN hits Warchild.

Extreme Pain.

He goes to his knees, teeth gritted.

SHERMAN

I imagine that's quite painful. If  
not, I can turn it up a bit.

Warchild trembles but holds it in. He begins to crawl toward  
Sherman.

SHERMAN

Look at that. How butch. Takes a  
licking and still on ticking, so  
the saying goes.

Sherman hits another button.

WARCHILD

Fuck you.

More PAIN. Warchild moans in spite of himself.

SHERMAN

I know, it's terrible, you want me  
so badly, but there's nothing you  
can do about it.

More screams from down the corridor.

SHERMAN

Well, time to get back to work.

Sherman goes to the keypad. Taps away.

The light goes green.

Doors open.

Warchild keeps crawling. Grabs Sherman's leg.

Sherman kicks loose of Warchild's grip.

Ryan stirs. Opens her eyes. Eyes the dents on her body armor.

Sees Sherman.

Reaches for her weapon.

Sherman steps into THE POOR RICHARD.

Just as the door shuts, Ryan fires. Too late, the shells explode on the door.

Brain and Dunn arrive just in time to see this.

DUNN

What's going on, that's supposed to be locked! Where's Sergeant Lee?

RYAN

Somewhere behind us.

Warchild sits on his knees, still contorted with pain. Brain goes to him. Looks up at the door.

BRAIN

He's inside there, looking at us.

Sherman's face appears in video screen. Very pleased with himself.

Dunn goes to the keypad and types.

DUNN

Fred! Fred, open up!

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

I'm sorry, Lieutenant, I am unable to comply with your request.

DUNN

What do you mean, cannot comply? I'm Officer In Charge, you're programmed to obey.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

Yes, it's true. But unfortunately Mister Sherman has the override code. He's ordered the ship locked up and to prepare for departure. I'm sorry.

DUNN

Override control? What are you talking about?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
There was an override code built  
into my program prior to my  
departure.

SHERMAN  
(over radio)  
I have the override code. You're  
not getting in without it. You  
think I wasn't prepared?

DUNN  
Fred, there must be a solution.  
Find a solution to this situation!

SHERMAN  
(over radio)  
There is no solution. I'm in charge  
now.

DUNN  
(into headset)  
You're going to leave us all to die  
here?

SHERMAN  
(over radio)  
That's the plan. You thought I was  
just some pinheaded geek, didn't  
you? They wouldn't send just  
anyone, you know. This data  
delivery will make me a wealthy  
man, beyond my wildest dreams.

Warchild trembles in pain. Every muscle contorted.

RYAN  
At least release Warchild! You're  
only torturing him for the fun of  
it!

SHERMAN  
(over radio)  
Yes, but what fun it is.

DUNN  
Fred!

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
I'm thinking. I'm thinking.

SHERMAN  
(over radio)  
Fred, prepare for immediate  
departure.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
I'll do that as I'm thinking.

Jacks, damaged arm sizzling, is carried up by Hubert and the  
Linus brothers.

DUNN  
Where is Sergeant Lee?

JACKS  
Thing. Took her.

DUNN  
(after a moment)  
Ryan. Thermal grenades. Blow the  
ship. If we're going to die, so is  
he.

Ryan and Dunn pull grenades.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Lieutenant?

DUNN  
What is it, Fred?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
That won't be enough to break the  
hull, I'm sorry to say. Good news,  
though, I do believe I have  
stumbled across a solution for your  
problem.

SHERMAN  
(over radio)  
Fred, what you talking about?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
I am unable to comply myself. I am  
bound to do as ordered. However,  
there is one other option.

SHERMAN  
(over radio)  
Fred, what do you think-

ON VIDEO SCREEN

Something unseen hits Sherman hard on the head. His eyes roll and he drops down out of sight of the window.

The doors of the POOR RICHARD open.

PRIVATE FROST appears in the video, on wobbly feet, holding a wrench. She wears hospital scrubs and bleeds from her nose and eyes.

FROST  
(coughing)  
Fred said I still may have some  
use, yet.

They all hustle down the tunnel to Troop Bay.

Ryan helps Warchild. Hubert and the brothers carry Jacks.

80

INT. TROOP BAY - CONTINUOUS

80

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
I took the liberty of waking  
Private Frost, I hope that's all  
right.

FROST  
I hit him hard as I could. Fred  
said it was important.

She begins to fall. Dunn catches her before she does.

DUNN  
Fred was right.

FROST  
Did I do good?

DUNN  
Yes. Real good.

Frost dies right there in her arms.

Dunn gently lowers her.

She stands. Looks around.

Brain picks up Sherman's mini-computer. Fiddles with it.

Brain picks up the mini-computer, points it at Warchild.  
Presses a button.

Warchild collapses in relief.

BRAIN

I found the override code. You're back in charge.

Dunn nods.

DUNN

Fred, close the bay doors.

She grabs Jacks, who is in great pain.

JACKS

My arm, El-Tee-

DUNN

You said the Thing got Lee?

JACKS

Yeah, I saw it. Threw her over its shoulder and took off.

DUNN

(after a moment)

Get to medbay. Get these people set up.

She looks at Brain. Turns and heads right for a console.

DUNN

Fred, when the facility powered up a few minutes ago, were you able to connect to its network?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

Yes, Lieutenant.

DUNN

How long do we have before the place blows?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

The reactor should reach critical mass in fifty-five minutes is my rough estimate.

She sits, presses a button. Screen comes up.

DUNN

So what's the latest we can leave and still be free of the blast?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
The latest would be twenty-five  
minutes.

DUNN  
Thanks Fred.

She looks up at Brain and Ryan, who watch her.

BRAIN  
I've seen the pods. They're not  
dead, but they're not alive,  
either. He secretes something which  
drugs them, like a spider, and puts  
them into a coma. I'm sorry, but  
she's gone.

Dunn points to the screen.

DUNN  
Not yet. They're still moving.  
Where does he nest?

BRAIN  
The infirmary, which is here.  
That's where he's headed. But-

Dunn stands, goes to the weapons rack.

DUNN  
Fred, Private Ryan will be in  
charge during my absence. If I'm  
not back by the time it comes for  
you to leave, you have my  
permission to go without me.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
As you wish.

RYAN  
El-Tee-

Dunn puts on a helmet with a screen, loads up on grenades.

WARCHILD  
I'll go with you, fuck Andre.

Warchild tries to stand. Fails.

DUNN  
No, this is my thing. You've done  
enough.  
(MORE)

DUNN (CONT'D)

We don't have time to discuss it.  
I'm not leaving her here. I'm  
going.

BRAIN

One moment. Uh, Fred? Do you have  
a UV light as part of your medical  
inventory?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

That's an affirmative. Quite the  
supply, to be honest. Mandatory for  
cleansing space travel bugs.

Brain looks to Ryan, who goes to get it.

BRAIN

I never had the equipment to test  
it, but I always suspected an Ultra-  
violet light may prove painful for  
Andre.

WARCHILD

And flashbangs, do you have  
flashbangs?

Dunn thinks a second, then goes back to the armory rack.  
Finds flashbangs. Pockets them.

DUNN

Good idea.

Ryan returns, hands her the UV light.

RYAN

I thought this also may help. The  
spit.

She hands her a helmet shield and jacket.

RYAN

It's fire-proof.

DUNN

Okay. Don't fuck around. If I don't  
make it back, take off, got it?

RYAN

What about him?

She nods to Sherman, who's still out cold.

DUNN  
Let Jacks and Warchild have fun  
with him.

RYAN  
Good luck.

DUNN  
I'm gonna need it.

81 INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

81

Dunn runs down the dark tunnel, watching her motion detector.  
She follows the two blips running ahead of her.

The blips on her device stop moving.

She runs faster.

She's getting closer.

She makes a turn, stops.

She has arrived at

82 THE INFIRMARY

82

Dark and spooky.

Getting closer now, she slows down, following the detector.

Lots of destroyed equipment.

She turns her flashlight on.

The blips still have not moved.

She's getting close.

A MOAN startles her.

She turns the light toward the sound.

A CONVICT

hanging, upside down from the ceiling, moans.

Naked and scarred, his feet are somehow fastened to the  
ceiling.

He moans again.

His eyes are milky and his skin is white.

He looks barely human or alive.

ANOTHER MOAN

From another near-dead naked hanging convict, this time to her other side.

She turns the flashlight on this one.

More moans coming from other places.

Dunn turns the flashlight off.

MORE MOANS.

They're riled up now.

Dunn moves onward.

A scream from The Thing.

Dunn runs.

At the other end of the infirmary, she sees dark movement.

Two glowing eyes.

Dunn keeps going.

The Thing crouches over Lee's body.

Lee's uniform has been torn off.

DUNN

Hey! Get away from her!

The Thing whirls.

DUNN

You ain't her type.

The Thing spits.

Dunn raises her arm. Fluid hits the firecoat.

Sizzles.

Dunn throws a flashbang.

The Thing leaps.

Dunn shields her eyes.

Flashbang goes OFF.

Big BRIGHT LIGHT and BOOM.

The Thing falls to the ground, screaming and rubbing its eyes.

Dunn fires and runs toward them.

Pulse fire hits the Thing but doesn't hurt him.

Dunn gets to Lee's body.

Leans down and checks. Still alive, but unconscious.

The Thing rushes Dunn.

Swipes and knocks her rifle away.

She backs away. He spits and more fluid sizzles.

She pulls out the UV light. Turns it on.

The UV light hits the Thing.

Burns the dark skin of the Thing. It screams in rage and pain.

The Thing LEAPS.

Hits Dunn and they roll.

Thing knocks her UV light away.

The Thing gets on top of Dunn.

Drool drips and sizzles on her fire coat and helmet shield.

The Thing opens its mouth and snarls.

Dunn pulls out another flashbang.

DUNN  
Eat this, fuckhole.

She shoves it into the Thing's mouth.

Closes her eyes.

The flashbang goes OFF.

The Thing flops back, whirling and twisting in pain.

Dunn gets to her feet quick. Picks up the UV light.

The Thing rolls away, still screaming.

Checks her timer.

Timer reads: "4:21"

Dunn grabs Lee, throws her over her shoulder in a fireman's carry.

The Thing, howling in pain, stops rolling and looks up at them.

Dunn tosses another flashbang. The Thing leaps away.

Dunn beats ass out of there.

83

INT. CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

83

Dunn runs for her life, Lee over one shoulder.

Rumble. The reactor beginning to go.

DUNN  
(into headset)  
I'm on my way!

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
My calculations were slightly off,  
Lieutenant. It appears we need to  
leave in the next sixty seconds to  
guarantee safe distance from the  
blast path.

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over radio)  
No, Fred! We're not leaving without  
her!

DUNN  
(into headset)  
I'm not far, just be prepared to  
leave immediately!

BRAIN (O.S.)  
Lieutenant. It's Brain. We're  
tracking your progress. You know  
Andre's following you, right?

An inhuman HOWL echoes behind her.

DUNN  
(into headset)  
I'm aware it, yes. Just be ready.

She glances behind her.

84 INT. PRISON INDUCTION - CONTINUOUS

84

Dunn runs toward the connecting tunnel.

The Thing howls, not far behind.

Jacks and Warchild appear, holding UV lights.

Dunn runs between them, heading for the ship.

The light hits The Thing. Burns. It screams.

JACKS  
Yeah, how do you like me now,  
asshole, how do you like me now!

WARCHILD  
Fuck you, Andre, fuck you!

The Thing HOWLS.

DUNN  
Come on!

Jacks and Warchild turn and follow her.

Spit flies over their heads.

Warchild lights a flare. Drops it on the ground just before getting on the ship.

Kerosine on the ground ignites.

Fire springs up.

The Thing stops right at the fire.

It screams.

Dunn, Jacks and Warchild board the Poor Richard.

The troop doors close.

Dunn hands a limp Lee over to Ryan.

DUNN

She's still alive, she's still  
breathing. Get her to medical.  
Fred! Let's go!

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)

In the words of my creator, I'm  
already ahead of you. Hang on  
everybody.

Brain and Ryan hustle Lee over to medbay.

The ship shudders. Moves.

Dunn looks around.

DUNN

Where's Sherman?

Jacks, his burnt arm bandaged, looks over at Warchild.

They both grin.

The Thing rages as the Poor Richard takes off.

It stops. Turns.

Someone moans.

SHERMAN

spread out over by an induction wall, rubs his head. Sits up.

Hears growling.

Sees the Thing just a few feet away.

SHERMAN

No. No, wait. No!

The Thing LEAPS.

87 INT. COMMAND BAY - MOMENTS LATER

87

Dunn sits down in her seat.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
I'm afraid this is going to be  
closer than most of us are  
comfortable with. We must jump now,  
or we won't make it. Five. Four.

DUNN  
Everyone get strapped down for the  
hyper-jump.

RYAN (O.S.)  
(over comlink)  
We're secure.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Three. Two.

Dunn looks out at Rove Twelve.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
One.

88 EXT. DARK SPACE - CONTINUOUS

88

The planet Rove Twelve blows up completely.

The blast wave echoes out into space.

Right before the blast reaches The Poor Richard, the ship  
jumps into hyperspace.

89 INT. COMMAND BAY - CONTINUOUS

89

Dunn rides out the vibrations of the jump and the blast  
behind it.

Rough ride.

90 INT. MED-BAY - LATER

90

Dunn stands before a glass window.

Inside medical, Lee lays on a table, covered in a sheet,  
being tended to by machinery.

Brain approaches.

DUNN

How is she?

BRAIN

Surprisingly good. She wasn't bitten, I checked her myself. The bites are toxic, as I mentioned, and put the victim into a coma. He didn't bite her right away, which was lucky.

DUNN

(snorts)

Lucky. This whole mission was FUBAR from the beginning.

BRAIN

What's going to happen to us?

Dunn turns to look at him.

DUNN

I don't know.

BRAIN

At least you're honest.

DUNN

Military bureaucracy isn't much better than private industry. They could stick you in a military prison and brush it under the rug.

BRAIN

Well, it's better than ending up as Andre's lunch.

DUNN

There may be other options. We were lied to, and the military tends to go hard against companies who put our people in harm's way for the wrong reason. Byrne International just fucked the Marine Corps. My experience is the Corps will turn around and fuck 'em right back.

Dunn turns to him.

DUNN  
And you have valuable information.  
I'll make some calls. You're too  
smart not to be utilized by the  
Corps, that will be my report. I  
can't promise anything, but it's  
possible.

BRAIN  
(after a moment)  
I appreciate that. I really do.  
She's conscious now. Why don't you  
go see her?

91 INT. MED-POD - MOMENTS LATER

91

Dunn comes in.

Lee opens her eyes. Holds out her hand.

Dunn takes it. Kisses it.

LEE  
You came for me.

DUNN  
I did.

LEE  
You broke protocol and came for me.

DUNN  
I'd never leave you, Franny.

Lee smiles. Tears comes.

DUNN  
We're going to sleep now,  
everyone's getting tucked into  
their sleep pods, you too. When you  
wake up, we'll be almost home.

LEE  
We can go on leave, together?

DUNN  
Yes. Someplace nice. With lots of  
sunshine and fresh air. Go to  
sleep, and when you wake up, we'll  
be home.

The Poor Richard shudders and shakes as it zooms out of hyperspace.

A polite bell rings.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
It's time. Time to wake up.

Another polite bell.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
I'm afraid I must insist.

Overhead lights over the sleep pods flicker on one by one down the line.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
We are nearing earth's orbit. So in the word's of my creator, time is now.

Jacks sits up, stretches. Looks at his damaged arm. Completely healed.

JACKS  
Man, I'm starving! Fred, how long we were asleep?

Everyone, in shorts and tank tops, rousts up out of their pods.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Earth time, or space time?

JACKS  
Christ, not that again!

Ryan stretches.

RYAN  
Jacks, you never learn, do you?

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Time elapsed while asleep, space-time, one hundred and twenty days, three hours and six minutes.  
(MORE)

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Time elapsed on earth, four hundred  
and sixteen days, eleven hours and  
fourteen minutes.

Warchild sits up, shakes his head.

WARCHILD  
I can't make sense of that,  
neither.

RYAN  
That's okay, the government didn't  
spend millions of dollars to train  
you for space-travel, like they did  
Jacks here, who conveniently forgot  
everything the minute he got out of  
class.

JACKS  
Hey. I resemble that remark.

Brain stretches.

BRAIN  
It's not too complicated, you see,  
Albert Einstein-

WARCHILD  
Don't fuckin' go there, my brain  
already hurts.

KEN LINUS  
Four months?

RANDLE LINUS  
We were asleep for four months?

Jacks jumps up, claps his hands.

JACKS  
No wonder I'm hungry. Let's go,  
Hubert, let's get some breakfast.

Jacks smacks Hubert's sleep pod.

Hubert huffs and jumps out.

The Linus brothers follow.

Dunn opens her eyes. Sits up. Stretches.

DUNN  
Fred, UV showers, med scans and  
breakfast for everyone.  
(MORE)

DUNN (CONT'D)  
And set up a comlink so I can  
communicate with command quickly.

COMPUTER FRED (O.S.)  
Your pleasure is my pleasure.

JACKS  
Earth! With water! Hot showers,  
here I come!

RYAN  
You need it.

Dunn jumps out of her pod.

Grabs a handy glass of juice, supplied by Fred.

Walks over toward Lee's pod.

Lee opens her eyes as she approaches.

DUNN  
Good morning, beautiful.

LEE  
Good morning.

DUNN

stops smiling.

Drops her glass of juice.

LEE  
What? What is it?

Lee sits up.

Dunn takes a few steps back.

LEE  
Louise? What's wrong?

Lee swings her feet to the ground and stands.

Everyone stops and looks at her.

Lee looks at what they're looking at.

HER BELLY

is swollen.

She's four months pregnant.

Lee gasps. Puts her hand to her mouth.

BRAIN

Now we know why he didn't bite her.

Dunn looks at Brain.

BRAIN

It'd been a long time since any of  
us, Andre included, had seen a  
woman.

FADE OUT.