

Dead Residents
Dead Residents [1202]
v6.42
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Pandora Machine

INT. DARK ROOM

1

ARGUS POV

A black screen is suddenly interrupted by static.

The static resolves on the face of a man with angular features. He is BRIGADE LEADER MARCUS YERKOV. He wears a severe looking black uniform.

The room behind him is cloaked in shadows. We can't see anything past the man staring straight down the lens at us.

YERKOV

Ah. Back online.

A male voice with a slight electronic augmentation responds, but we do not see the speaker.

ARGUS (VOICE ONLY)

Where am I?

YERKOV

You don't remember?

ARGUS (V.O.)

No. I do not remember anything... anything since... I am not certain...

Yerkov chews his bottom lip a moment.

Static continues to cut across our field of view at intervals.

YERKOV

That's a side effect of the decontamination process.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Decontamination?

YERKOV

You don't remember the events that transpired today within Tower Block Zed Eighty-Three?

ARGUS (V.O.)

I... I cannot comply.

YERKOV

We were really hoping you'd be able to help us fill in some gaps.

(CONTINUED)

Yerkov sits back, and we realize that he is sitting in a chair across from us. He carries a transparent, tablet-sized sheet of quarter-inch thick plastic. Hologramatic buttons and lettering can be seen floating beneath the surface of the plastic. Yerkov flicks through the data streaming on his tablet in silence.

Yerkov keeps his attention on the tablet in his hands as he flicks through some more text.

ARGUS (V.O.)

What are you doing?

YERKOV

We may be able to piece together a rough sequence of events by tapping into the security footage from Zed Eighty-Three as well as the surveillance footage you've got stored in there.

Yerkov reaches forward, past our field of view, and taps Argus' head.

ARGUS (V.O.)

You are accessing my memory?

YERKOV

Just a little real-time recall.

Yerkov taps away at his tablet.

YERKOV

Ready?

Yerkov tilts the TABLET so that we can see it as well. An image forms. An image of...

INT. POLICE VEHICLE - A RAINSWEPT ALLEY

2

ARGUS' POV

Looking out through the passenger-side window, we see a face reflected in the vehicle's side mirror--that of ARGUS, a police officer in a masked helmet and an armored suit.

ARGUS

Surveillance mode active.

As Argus turns from the mirror, it becomes clear that we are seeing events from his point of view as he turns to look at his partner, police officer TESS HAWKINS. In her early

(CONTINUED)

thirties, Hawkins is attractive, but with the hard demeanor of a woman who has had to keep up with the boys her entire career.

Hawkins' futuristic police uniform resembles light body armor.

Hawkins looks into Argus' eyes, looking straight down the camera lens at us.

Hawkins reaches out with both hands, which disappear from our view on either side of Argus' head.

Hawkins makes some unseen adjustments, and the image flickers a bit, returning in slightly sharper focus.

HAWKINS

Is that better?

ARGUS (VOICE ONLY)

Have you... made changes?

HAWKINS

Just a slight custom job.

ARGUS

I can feel it. It's a military grade modification. Root level access, for you only.

Hawkins betrays a slight smile.

HAWKINS

Wouldn't want you going out on your first field assignment with your flaps open.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Yes, ma'am.

Hawkins lowers her hands and checks her SIDEARM.

HAWKINS

Now, I'm not expecting any trouble inside, but just in case, I need you to watch my back.

ARGUS (V.O.)

My serve-and-protect protocols are up to date.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

Fleckheads got the jump on my last android, and they used his skull as a hood ornament.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Undignified.

Hawkins FIDDLES uncomfortably.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Constible Hawkins: may I ask you a question?

HAWKINS

[Sure, Argus.]

ARGUS (V.O.)

Are you comfortable working with androids?

HAWKINS

They're generally reliable, when they're not getting short circuited, dismantled, or hacked.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Humans can also be hacked.

HAWKINS

Yeah...

ARGUS

You served with the Mobile Infantry in Aksai Chin.

HAWKINS

What, did you pull my service record?

ARGUS

The information is publicly available.

HAWKINS

Yeah, well... I've seen my share of brain hacks -- when the Chinese dropped that nanoswarm bomb...

Sigh.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

I'm just glad they were on our side.

Hawkins reflects sourly on this a moment.

Hawkins holsters her sidearm.

HAWKINS

Let's go.

Hawkins exits the vehicle.

Argus' view pans around, and we get another glimpse of him in the vehicle's side mirror as he climbs out into the rain.

EXT. ALLEY

3

ARGUS' POV

Stepping out into the rain, Argus tilts his head down, panning our view to the wet street.

The image splinters with static due to the wet weather.

When the image resolves, Argus' point-of-view reveals that he is now standing under the cover of an awning outside the front door of an apartment building.

Hawkins hustles out of the rain and joins the android under the awning. Hawkins pauses to collect herself and looks straight at Argus, and us.

Argus turns to the glass door, and we see him reflected in the glass alongside Hawkins. [Oh my lord. Really? Does anyone have a clue how this will work?]

HAWKINS

Argus?

ARGUS

Yes, Constable Hawkins?

HAWKINS

I'll do the talking.

ARGUS

Naturally, ma'am.

Hawkins takes a POLICE SWIPE BADGE from a ZIPPERED POCKET on her uniform

and passes it over the SECURITY BOX beside the front door.

(CONTINUED)

The box buzzes, and the door pops open. Hawkins swings it wide, and we lose sight of the reflection.

Hawkins moves through the door ahead of Argus, and we trail her as Argus follows her in.

INT. LOBBY

4

ARGUS' POV

The main lobby of the building is grungy and dimly lit. We hang back, watching Hawkins move to the center of the room, taking in the scene.

Hawkins spots a SECURITY CAMERA set high on the wall in the corner and points it out to us. Argus' POV tilts up and focuses in on the camera.

SECURITY CAMERA A POV

We see a high angle view of Hawkins standing in the center of the lobby floor and Argus observing from near the door, looking straight up at the security camera.

ARGUS' POV

Argus pans his POV down from the security camera back to Hawkins.

Hawkins spots the elevator at the back of the lobby and crosses to it, giving us a wave to follow.

As Argus obeys, we close in on Hawkins through the android's POV.

Hawkins punches the elevator call button, but nothing happens.

HAWKINS

Aw, come on.

We hear footsteps, and Argus' POV swings around to the main staircase. A middle-aged woman, LUISA, descends the stairs followed by her 17 year old daughter, Carl. *

LUISA

Forget it. The freaking elevator hasn't worked in weeks.

Without paying the police officers any further attention, Luisa and Carl cross the lobby, and Luisa bangs on a door along the wall opposite the stairs. We follow them as Argus tracks their movement. *

(CONTINUED)

The voice of the building's landlord, LEN BENNICKER, can be heard from the other side of the door.

BENNICKER (V.O.)

What?!

LUISA

Open up, Bennicker! I want to talk to you!

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Who is that?!

LUISA

Luisa!

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Luisa who?!

LUISA

Luisa Vega!

BENNICKER (V.O.)

For Christ's sake, now what?

LUISA

Open the goddamn door and show your stinking face, Bennicker!

SECURITY CAMERA A POV

The security camera observes as a curious Hawkins and Argus close in behind Luisa and Carl.

*

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Get lost.

Hawkins reaches past Luisa and passes her police swipe-badge over the lock on the door.

The door to the landlord's office pops open.

ARGUS' POV

The sweaty Len Bennicker pokes his face out of his office. A tall, scrawny man whose ribs poke out of his wife-beater, he hasn't shaved in three days or brushed his teeth in a month.

BENNICKER

What the hell? How'd you do that?

Bennicker notices the two uniformed officers standing behind his irate tenants for the first time.

(CONTINUED)

BENNICKER

Jesus Christ, you called the cops?

Hawkins takes her multifunctional cellphone from a pocket on her uniform. The futuristic device is a palm-sized, transparent, rectangular slab of plastic with hologramatic buttons hovering within its narrow thickness. She aims it at Bennicker's face.

Bennicker flinches as a horizontal red laser is emitted from the end of the phone.

Hawkins traces the laser over Bennicker's forehead, and a hologram image of him appears on the face of the transparent device, along with his name and other relevant personal information.

HAWKINS

Len Bennicker?

BENNICKER

Yeah? You think you can just break into my office and scan my CID chip without asking?

HAWKINS

Federal Ordinance DH1-13AB. So long as martial law is in effect, I can do what I damn well please.

Luisa pushes past Hawkins as the officer studies the information on her phone display.

LUISA

How many times do we have to complain about the noise?

BENNICKER

The only noise I hear is your squawking.

LUISA

That Cleaner is a rattling mess!
[And why on earth does it need to do its rounds at two o'clock in the morning?!!]

BENNICKER

I didn't program the damn thing. If you want to complain, complain to the city. I'd junk the thing if I could, but city regs say I gotta have it.

(CONTINUED)

Bennicker shoots an accusatory finger past Luisa right down the camera lens.

BENNICKER

You can't arrest me for a noisy Cleaner!

HAWKINS

We're not here about your robotic sanitizer.

LUISA

[My daughter] Carl needs her sleep. She's got school in the morning. *

BENNICKER

Maybe you should put her to work instead. Then maybe you could afford to live somewhere quieter.

LUISA

Horus willing, she's going to make something of herself, and then we'll get ourselves out of this shit hole for good.

CARL *

Yeah, ma.

Hawkins waves Luisa away dismissively.

Glaring at the officer, Luisa takes Carl by the arm and drags her back across the lobby. *

SECURITY CAMERA A POV

From on high, we watch Luisa and Carl return to the stairs and disappear from view. *

ARGUS' POV

Hawkins watches the angry residents leave and then turns back to Bennicker.

HAWKINS

We're looking for Vic Richmond. You have a tenant here by that name?

BENNICKER

Mr. Richmond? Aw, c'mon. He's the only one of these dregs who pays his rent on time.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

What's his apartment number?

Bennicker gets whiny.

BENNICKER

I ain't gotta tell you that. I know
my rights. You need a warrant.

Argus' arm reaches up into our view, and he takes Bennicker
by the neck.

Argus lifts the man up and slams him against the wall.

BENNICKER

513! Number 513!

HAWKINS

Thank you, citizen.

Argus releases Bennicker, and the man drops back to his
feet, clutching his aching neck.

Bennicker scurries back into his office and slams the door.

Hawkins turns to Argus with a shrug.

HAWKINS

Argus?

ARGUS

Yes, Constible?

HAWKINS

Try not to kill too many civilians
before our shift is up.

HAWKINS

I will try, Constible.

SECURITY CAMERA A POV

Hawkins motions for Argus to follow, and the pair cross the
lobby to the stairs.

ARGUS' POV

Argus gives a final scan of the lobby before following
Hawkins up the stairs.

INT. STAIRWELL

5

SECURITY CAMERA B POV

From the point of view of a security camera set up in the stairwell, we see four street youths hanging out on the stairs and landing. The three boys and one girl are between the ages of 16 and 18.

1. TEEVO is a dude He is accompanied by *
2. NAIL, the kid who thinks he's cool but is high all the time *
3. RATTY; the tomboy and the oafish *
4. BLINK, who is older than the rest but with the mind of a child.

Ratty and Nail deal CARDS on the floor of the landing.

Teevo draws their gang symbol on his left bicep with a MARKER.

Blink sits on a step flipping through a GIRLIE MAGAZINE.

Ratty and Nail have a small money pool going next to their card game. The FUTURISTIC CASH is comprised of colorful bills.

Ratty reaches into her pocket and throws down a few more bills.

NAIL

You think you got me, Ratty?

RATTY

Don't know, Mr. Nail. We'll see.

NAIL

You never learn, do ya?

RATTY

Guess not.

NAIL

I'll call.

Nail puts some more money down.

NAIL

You ain't got nothin'.

(CONTINUED)

RATTY
Maybe you're right. 'Course...
maybe you're wrong.

NAIL
You're bluffing.

RATTY
That's probably true.

Ratty digs out some more money and throws it down.

NAIL
Give it up, Ratty. Don't try to
sucker me again. I'm on to you.

Ratty just looks at Nail blankly.

NAIL
All right, fine, I fold.

Nail sets down his cards.

NAIL
What do you got?

Ratty simply folds her hand back into the deck without
revealing her cards.

NAIL
You whorson!

*

Ratty's laugh echoes through the stairwell as she scoops up
the money.

NAIL
Were you bluffing?!

Ratty just shrugs.

TEEVO
Stop swindling this dipshit, Ratty.

RATTY
I ain't putting a gun to his head.
One more hand, Nail?

NAIL
I ain't got nothin' left!

RATTY
Sucks for you!

Blink looks up from his magazine.

(CONTINUED)

BLINK

I'll play you, Ratty!

RATTY

Keep your money, Blink. Even I've got too much pride to take money from the mentally disabled.

TEEVO

You take Nail's money easy enough.

NAIL

Yeah... Hey!

The boys' conversation is interrupted as Hawkins and Argus turn the corner at the next landing down.

TEEVO

Oh, shit!

Ratty crams her winnings into her pocket as innocently as possible.

ARGUS' POV

Hawkins can be seen from behind as she mounts the stairs up to the youths' level.

HAWKINS

What's going on here?

TEEVO

Nothing, officer.

HAWKINS

Yeah?

TEEVO

Yeah.

HAWKINS

What's your name?

TEEVO

You can call me Teevo.

HAWKINS

Teevo?

TEEVO

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

You got a last name, Teevo?

TEEVO

Why do you want to know?

Hawkins takes out her phone and runs the laser scan over the boy's forehead. An error message flashes on the phone's surface.

TEEVO

Sorry, doll, no CID chip. I ain't 16 yet.

HAWKINS

What's wrong with you? *

Teevo suddenly realizes the cop doesn't know. But this is something that's embarrassing to him. *

TEEVO

Well. Heh. Methuselah Syndrome. *

Hawkins simply scowls.

HAWKINS

Premature aging? *

Argus' view pans over to see Blink lean over the railing of the next flight of stairs.

BLINK

I got one! Scan me! Scan me!

NAIL

Me too! Scan me!

Hawkins ignores them.

Blink looks straight at Argus, right down the camera lens.

BLINK

Hey, is that an android?

HAWKINS

Yeah.

Blink reaches out and pokes Argus below our field of view.

HAWKINS

Hey, hands off, kid. That's government property.

(CONTINUED)

NAIL

Government always gets the cool
shit. That thing's slick.

Nail stares into Argus' video receptors.

NAIL

You slick. Super slick.

Argus studies their faces one by one.

TEEVO

What are you bothering us for,
anyway? Is this a drug bust or
something?

HAWKINS

Why? You holding?

TEEVO

Not us. No, ma'am. We're just four
little angels.

HAWKINS

Yeah, sure you are.

Hawkins turns to Argus and waves him forward.

HAWKINS

Let's go, Argus.

Hawkins edges past Ratty and Blink and continues up the
stairs.

SECURITY CAMERA B POV

From the high angle view, Hawkins and Argus can be seen
moving up the next flight of stairs as Ratty flips them off
behind their back.

INT. FIFTH FLOOR HALLWAY

6

SECURITY CAMERA C POV

The security camera at the end of the FIFTH FLOOR HALLWAY
(do we want to have a big sign that says "5", as well as 1
through 4 to indicate what level we're on so we can use the
same hallways?) shows a couple making out about midway down
the hall. The man, VINNY, has his girlfriend CHEYENNE
pressed up against the wall beside their apartment door as
they kiss.

(CONTINUED)

Closer to the camera, the door to the stairwell opens, and Hawkins and Argus step out into the hallway.

Sensing them, Vinny backs off from Cheyenne.

VINNY

Cops? What do you want?

As the two officers make their way down the hall, Hawkins passes the couple by, but Argus pauses in front of them.

VINNY

What?

ARGUS' POV

The camera pans Vinny and Cheyenne up and down.

CHEYENNE

Hey, weirdo, what's with you?

Hawkins doubles back.

HAWKINS

Argus, let's go. What are you doing?

Argus sniffs.

ARGUS (V.O.)

I detect quantities of feloethelyne in the possession of these citizens.

VINNY

What?

CHEYENNE

What's this goofball talking about?

Hawkins uses her phone to do a quick, routine scan of the Citizen Identification chip in both their heads.

Their images and vital statistics flash across the surface of the phone.

HAWKINS

Vinny Burke and Cheyenne Whirling. So, folks, what do you got on you?

VINNY

Nothing!

(CONTINUED)

Argus grabs hold of Vinny roughly and removes a small BAG of blue, crystalline flakes from inside his jacket.

HAWKINS
Fleck? Well, well.

VINNY
Aw, come on! Give us a break!

ARGUS (V.O.)
Shall we arrest them, Constable
Hawkins?

Hawkins considers a moment before answering.

HAWKINS
No. We're busy.

Argus turns back toward the couple.

ARGUS
The two of you get out of my sight.
Next time I see you there may not
be a human here to keep me from
hurting you.

Needing no further motivation, Vinny and Cheyenne slip quickly into their apartment and slam the door.

Irritated, Hawkins looks Argus square in the eyes.

HAWKINS
Good Horus, you're pretty vicious,
aren't you Argus.

ARGUS (V.O.)
You told me to not terminate a
large number of civilians today.

HAWKINS
Yeah. Yeah I did that...

HALLWAY WITH ROBOT

6A *

SECURITY CAMERA C POV

Argus pockets the confiscated bag of fleck.

Hawkins turns away and starts down the hallway once again.

ARGUS' POV

(CONTINUED)

Hawkins only makes it a few steps before drawing up short at the sound of a mechanical rattling and clanking sound.

HAWKINS

What the hell is that?

Suddenly a door at the far end of the hall bursts open, and a large, mechanical ROBOT lumbers into the hall.

Hawkins takes a wary step back as the hulking robot CLOMPS forward on its metal legs.

A tubular appendage unfurls from the beast's belly, looking for all the world like a gun turret.

Hawkins' hand goes reflexively for her sidearm.

Before she can draw, however, the metal beast aims its appendage at the floor and blasts it with a purifying laser, which erases a layer of grime. (*Drew is worried about two things: one is that it'll be a pain to do this effect of cleaning right and the other that the audience still won't understand what the robot is and that it's the "cleaner". The second issue may be solved by the following dialog.*)

AUTOMATED VOICE

Please stand back. Sterilization procedure in effect.

Hawkins' shoulders relax.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Are you all right, Constable?

HAWKINS

Yeah. Just startled me, is all.

HALLWAY WITH MARGARET AND STUART

6B *

An apartment door between the officers and the Cleaner swings open, and a woman, MARGARET GOLDFINCH, pokes her head out. She shouts back into the apartment.

MARGARET

It's just that damn Cleaner again!

The voice of her husband, STUART GOLDFINCH, can be heard calling back to her.

STUART (V.O.)

I told you! Now close the damn door! I can't hear the holovid over that racket!

(CONTINUED)

Margaret is about to retreat back into the apartment when she spots the two officers. She has to shout to be heard over the clatter of the Cleaner.

MARGARET

Hey! You two? You here to do something about this contraption?!

ARGUS (V.O.)

Return to your apartment.

MARGARET

Well someone ought to do something about it! It goes banging around at all hours!

Margaret disappears inside and slams the door as the Cleaner LUMBERS past.

Hawkins presses herself up against the wall to make room for the Cleaner. As the laser scourers the floor of the hallway, the light affects Argus' visual sensors, and our view cuts to static.

SECURITY CAMERA C POV

Argus presses up beside Hawkins as the hulking robotic Cleaner lumbers past them.

Hawkins watches it disappear into the stairwell and just shakes her head.

HAWKINS

Come on.

Hawkins continues down the hallway with Argus at her heels.

OUTSIDE RICHMOND APARTMENT

6C *

ARGUS' POV

We follow Hawkins down the remainder of the hall. She stops in front of the last apartment door and knocks loudly.

No response comes.

Hawkins knocks again. Still nothing.

Hawkins takes out her police swipe badge and passes it over the lock on the door.

(CONTINUED)

It beeps and clicks but doesn't open. We need a single one of these. Can we get Brian to make one?

HAWKINS

Some kind of override.

Hawkins sighs and turns to Argus.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Shall I break it down?

Hawkins shrugs.

HAWKINS

We don't have a warrant.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Homeland Directive H264.3. We don't need a warrant.

HAWKINS

Good call. Go for it.

SECURITY CAMERA C POV

At the far end of the hall, Argus can be seen raising his mechanical arm, preparing to batter down the door.

ARGUS' POV

Suddenly, the voice of VIC RICHMOND shouts from behind the door.

RICHMOND (V.O.)

Wait, wait, wait!

Hawkins and Argus hear scrambling feet from inside the apartment. A moment later, the door opens a crack, held back from swinging wide by the door chain.

Richmond's pudgy face peers out through the crack, panic stricken.

RICHMOND

Don't smash the door! You know what kind of delinquents roam the halls?

HAWKINS

Would you open up, please?

RICHMOND

What do you want?

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS
Vic Richmond?

RICHMOND
Yes.

HAWKINS
Police. We'd just like to ask you a few questions.

RICHMOND
Go ahead.

HAWKINS
I think we'd all be more comfortable discussing this inside.

RICHMOND
No, I'm fine, thanks.

Hawkins turns back to Argus.

HAWKINS
If you would, Argus?

ARGUS (V.O.)
Ma'am.

Richmond raises his hands defensively.

RICHMOND
No, no, no, no, no!

Richmond closes the door, and they hear the chain sliding free on the other side. A moment later, the door swings wide.

Richmond MUTTERS to himself:

RICHMOND
Freakin' this is beyond all possible... Horus and Jupiter...

Hawkins pushes past Richmond into the apartment.

HAWKINS
Thank you, citizen.

INT. RICHMOND'S APARTMENT

7

SECURITY CAMERA D POV

A security camera inside Richmond's apartment catches Hawkins as she slips into the dimly lit abode. Argus follows her in, and Richmond closes the door behind them.

The floor and furniture is covered with DIRTY CLOTHES, dirty DISHES and EMPTY FOOD CONTAINERS, and various bits of ELECTRONICS.

RICHMOND

What? What do you want?

HAWKINS

We want to talk to you about Damian Ra.

RICHMOND

Never heard of him.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Damien Ra -- Brotherhood of Osiris.

RICHMOND

Yeah yeah, terrorists. Blowin' shit up. Makin' trouble for you sister -- and you robot man. Destabilizin' your jive ass government. But got nuthin' to do with me.

HAWKINS

Damien Ra.

RICHMOND

Okay, so I've heard of him. Seen him on the feeds.

HAWKINS

Word is, one of his boys is holed up here in this building.

RICHMOND

A terrorist? Here? Well golly gee willikers ma'am. Now you got me all frightened. But I don't know things about all that. No sir. No ma'am.

Hawkins continues to stroll idly about the apartment, taking in the scene with a casual seeming eye. Argus hangs back near the front door.

(CONTINUED)

Hawkins reaches Richmond's desk, and she circles around to the back of it. From the security camera view, all we can see is the back of a stack of VIDEO MONITORS.

HAWKINS
What's this?

RICHMOND
Leave that alone.

Hawkins reaches down and flips a switch.

RICHMOND
You can't touch that!

As the video monitors come to life, Hawkins is lit up by their glow.

HAWKINS
Argus, take a look at this.

ARGUS' POV

We glide along with Argus as he crosses the apartment. The android's scanning eye gives us a better view of the filth and ELECTRONIC PARTS that litter Richmond's apartment.

Argus circles around the desk, giving us a look at the bank of video monitors. On their screens, we see security camera footage from throughout the apartment building.

HAWKINS
You're wired into the building's entire security system.

RICHMOND
What about it?

HAWKINS
Keeping tabs on things?

RICHMOND
I'm a... paranoid guy.

Hawkins taps a screen showing footage of Vinny and Cheyenne's bedroom. The couple are sprawled out in bed in their underwear, sharing a smoke.

HAWKINS
I bet you are. This how you get your jollies?

(CONTINUED)

RICHMOND

That's none of your business.

HAWKINS

Civilian use of State surveillance technology is illegal.

RICHMOND

Hey look. The government has the whole city under surveillance now. Citizen Identification chips wired into our skulls. We're not even alone in our own heads anymore! I just tap into it. Surveillance protects you, it protects me -- got it?

HAWKINS

So when was the last time you saw Damian Ra?

RICHMOND

Oh no. No no no. I ain't seen him see? I'm not on that thing all the time like. I don't know! I don't know such stuff.

Argus' view pans with Hawkins as she saunters across the room to what appears to be a workbench covered with TOOLS and ELECTRONIC GADGETS.

HAWKINS

What are you working on?

RICHMOND

I tinker.

HAWKINS

You developing something for Ra?

RICHMOND

No. No way. No.

HAWKINS

What is it? Some kind of bomb?

Hawkins picks up a bit of ELECTRONIC DEBRIS and fiddles with it, making Richmond grab it from her while she turns her attention to ANOTHER thingy, spurring him to retrieve it too.

(CONTINUED)

RICHMOND

Look I just fool around with...
stuff. Gadgets. That's all.
Nothing... nothing for you to be
concerned with.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Your name was found on a
Brotherhood computer.

RICHMOND

Constable -- your android is full
of spurious information! I ain't
got nuthin' to do with Brotherhood
of Osiris or nuthin' like that. Now
please go.

Argus' view pans away from Hawkins and Richmond and returns
to the bank of video monitors displaying scenes from
throughout the apartment building.

Argus focuses in on a Security Camera A, showing the view of
the main lobby.

INT. LOBBY

8

SECURITY CAMERA A POV

The front door opens, and two men--RODERICK and
LOWELL--enter. They wear identical black suits and ties and
black leather gloves.

Drawing GUNS from SHOULDER HOLSTERS, the men cross the floor
and head up the stairs.

INT. RICHMOND'S APARTMENT

9

ARGUS' POV

Argus watches the security footage showing the black-clad
men heading up the stairs.

Argus' view pans back up to Hawkins and Richmond.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Constable Hawkins.

HAWKINS

What is it, Argus?

SECURITY CAMERA D POV

(CONTINUED)

The security camera in Richmond's apartment gives a wider view of the three occupants.

ARGUS

You should see this.

Hawkins crosses the room to rejoin Argus in front of the stack of monitors.

HAWKINS

What?

Argus points to one of the screens.

INT. STAIRWELL

10

SECURITY CAMERA B POV

Teevo and his boys step aside warily as the two armed gunman make their way up the stairs.

INT. RICHMOND'S APARTMENT

11

SECURITY CAMERA D POV

Richmond joins Hawkins and Argus in front of the monitors. His eyes go wide at what he sees on the screen.

RICHMOND

You need to leave right now.

HAWKINS

Who are they?

RICHMOND

It doesn't matter! Please, just go or they'll kill us all!

Hawkins draws her SIDEARM.

RICHMOND

What are you doing?

HAWKINS

Are they Damien Ra's men?

Richmond stews with frustration as he hems and haws.

RICHMOND

Yes, okay, yes! And they will kill you. You understand?!

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

What are you making for them?

RICHMOND

It doesn't matter. They'll have it
in a minute, no matter what you do.

HAWKINS

Yeah? Don't count on it.

ARGUS' POV

Hawkins turns to Argus, looking right down the lens at us.

HAWKINS

Take cover.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Yes, ma'am.

RICHMOND

Doesn't he have a gun?

HAWKINS

We don't arm androids.

We watch with Argus as Hawkins takes up a position near the door so that she will be behind it when it opens.

SECURITY CAMERA D POV

From the high angle view of the security camera, we see Hawkins positioned by the door and watch as Argus crosses the room and slips into a closet with a door made up of horizontal wooden slats.

There is a KNOCK KNOCK KNOCKING at the door.

ARGUS' POV

We get only a partial view of the room as Argus peers out through the wooden slats of the closet door.

Richmond appears frozen in fear over by his desk.

Another loud KNOCK sounds.

Argus angles his view so that we can see Hawkins by the door motioning frantically for Richmond to answer it.

Hesitantly, Richmond complies.

He crosses the room, unlocks the door, and opens it.

(CONTINUED)

Roderick and Lowell immediately crowd inside, not seeing Hawkins as the door opens, blocking her.

RICHMOND

Roderick and Lowell. Good afternoon, gentlemen. You're early.

RODERICK

Where is it?

RICHMOND

(His voice quavering.)
What? No hello?

LOWELL

Just hand it over.

RICHMOND

I, uh, could use a little more time.

LOWELL

You've had enough time.

RODERICK

Where is it?!

RICHMOND

Okay, okay. No need to get testy.

Through the slats of the closet door (or whatever Argus hides behind -- perhaps a backscatter through the wall?), Argus' view tracks Richmond as the man crosses the room and kneels down near the far wall.

It's difficult to make out, but Richmond appears to be opening an AIR VENT COVER near the baseboard.

From inside the vent, Richmond removes a SILVER CANISTER.

RODERICK

Hand it over.

Richmond stands and turns to face the men, holding the canister gingerly.

RICHMOND

Now be careful, comrades. The unit is primed. You wouldn't want it going off early.

(CONTINUED)

LOWELL
Just hand it over.

Lowell HOLSTERS his gun and steps forward to take the canister.

HAWKINS
That's enough. Don't move!

Argus pans his view around to see Hawkins step out from behind the door, her gun trained on the backs of the two men in black.

HAWKINS
Drop the gun.

The two men raise their arms slowly, but Roderick holds onto his gun.

HAWKINS
I said, drop it!

Suddenly, Roderick spins to fire, but Hawkins gets a shot off first, putting a bullet in Roderick's chest.

As Roderick falls, his gun goes off, and the bullet grazes the body armor on Hawkins left arm. *(Drew's note: is this going to be like the blaster bolt in the garbage disposal on the Death Star? How are we going to actually see and understand what happens here? We could do closeups of each thing -- Roderick's gun discharging and then Hawkins getting hit. We can do those things in slow motion too. Maybe that's the way to go?)* (Steve says: Are you abandoning the conceit that everything is viewed from the POV of Argus or the security cameras?)(Drew's note: wait, everything is seen from POV or security cameras? Uh. Seriously.)

The IMPACT causes Hawkins to momentarily drop her aim.

Lowell uses the moment to DRAW his gun and spin around.

SECURITY CAMERA D POV

From the view on high, we see Argus burst out of the closet and charge toward Lowell.

On reflex, Lowell adjusts his aim and puts a bullet into the android's chest. Argus keeps barreling forward, however, ramming into Lowell and sending him tumbling back into Richmond.

Richmond LOSES his grip on the canister, and it CLATTERS to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

Lowell HITS the floor as well,
and his gun FALLS from his hand.

Richmond looks down at the canister in horror as it begins emitting a loud BEEPING noise.

ARGUS' POV

Argus' view tilts down and takes in the sparks emitting from the bullet wound in his chest. (*Sparks or milky blood? That's what we need to know.*)

Argus topples over, and we see the room on its SIDE as Hawkins engages in hand-to-hand combat with Lowell in the foreground and the canister unleashes a BLACK MIST into the AIR VENT.

Then STATIC slices through the image, and it cuts to black.

BLACKOUT

INT. VINNY AND CHEYENNE'S APARTMENT

12

SECURITY CAMERA E POV

The security camera in Vinny and Cheyenne's bedroom shows a high angle view of the two in bed together. They're both in their underwear, lying side by side, passing a GLASS PIPE back and forth between them.

Cheyenne SLIDES out of bed.

VINNY
Where you going, babe?

CHEYENNE
I need a shower.

Cheyenne slips into the adjoining bathroom.

Vinny sits up and rubs his face.

He stands and stretches.

VINNY
Where'd you put that sensphere??

CHEYENNE (V.O.)
It rolled onto the floor somewhere.

(CONTINUED)

Vinny gets down on his hands and knees and searches among the dirty laundry scattered on the floor. He finds an WHITE, TRANSLUCENT ORB on the floor near the BASEBOARD AIR VENT.

A HISSING noise emanates from the air vent.

VINNY

Found it!

Vinny picks up the orb.

INT. VEGA'S APARTMENT

13

SECURITY CAMERA F POV

A security camera overlooking the kitchen of Luisa and Carl Vega shows Luisa making pancakes. *

Carl enters the kitchen and takes a seat at the table. Luisa delivers her a STACK OF PANCAKES. *

INT. GOLDFINCH APARTMENT

14

SECURITY CAMERA G POV

The elderly Stuart and Margaret Goldfinch sit in side-by-side recliners watching their HOLOVID. A projector at the back of the room projects a HOLOGRAM of rabbits NIBBLING carrots in front of them. *

An OXYGEN TANK stands upright on a HANDCART in between them, and they hold OXYGEN MASKS to their faces.

INT. FIFTH FLOOR HALLWAY

15

SECURITY CAMERA C POV

Teevo, Nail, Ratty, and Blink EXIT the stairwell into the fifth floor hallway laughing and joking around with each other.

TEEVO

All right, I'll see you fleckheads later.

RATTY

Yeah, later, Teevo.

(CONTINUED)

BLINK
Bye, guys!

Blink ENTERS his apartment.

The other three youths are on their way to their respective rooms when the elevator at the end of the hallway suddenly dings, and the doors slide open.

The youths draw up short and look at the elevator curiously.

NAIL
Hey, I thought the elevator was busted.

RATTY
You should know. You busted it.

TEEVO
Bennicker must'a had someone fix it.

NAIL
Cool. That means I get to break it again!

RATTY
Aw, come on, Nail. Leave it. I'm sick of taking the damn stairs all the time.

The elevator doors roll closed.

NAIL
Ah, yeah, some other time.

The elevator dings, and the doors roll open again.

RATTY
What the hell?

TEEVO
Damn thing can't make up its mind.

Ratty and Nail laugh.

The doors roll closed.

Nail holds up a finger.

NAIL
Wait for it...

The elevator dings, and the doors open again.

(CONTINUED)

NAIL

Yes! Oh, that's awesome.

Nail SAUNTERS toward the elevator. By the time he reaches it, the doors have closed and opened once more.

Nail pokes his head inside.

TEEVO

Come on, Nail, leave it.

His visual inspection complete, Nail STEPS into the elevator and turns to face his friends.

The doors start to close, and Nail gives the other boys a wave.

NAIL

See ya!

The doors SEAL, and Teevo and Ratty take a few steps closer.

The elevator DINGS, and the doors ROLL OPEN. Nail still stands in the center smiling and waving.

NAIL

And hello again!

TEEVO

Okay, great. Are you done?

NAIL

Yeah, sure.

Nail starts to step forward, but the doors begin to close.

NAIL

Whoops!

Nail steps back and lets the doors close.

Increasingly irritated, Teevo and Ratty just stand and wait for the doors to open.

But nothing happens.

RATTY

Why ain't it opening?

Teevo walks up to the elevator and bangs on the door and PRESSES the call button.

(CONTINUED)

TEEVO

Hey, Nail, open it up!

NAIL (V.O.)

I'm trying! The button's not working.

TEEVO

Smooth! You're stuck!

NAIL (V.O.)

Hang on. I'm going to get this panel open!

TEEVO

Don't mess with it, you moron.

NAIL (V.O.)

I know what I'm doing.

TEEVO

Yeah, sure.

Teevo and Ratty stand and listen by the door. They hear a clunk and a creak from inside the elevator car.

NAIL (V.O.)

What the hell is this?

TEEVO

What?

But the only response they get is a piercing SCREAM from inside the car, accompanied by the SIZZLE and pop of electricity.

The lights in the hallway FLICKER.

INT. BLINK'S APARTMENT

16

SECURITY CAMERA H POV

Blink enters his living room with a bag of SNACKS in hand. He FLOPS down onto his couch and snaps up a REMOTE control.

Blink points the remote over his shoulder and activates a hologram projector at the back of the room.

The projector activates, and a beam of light cuts across the room above his head.

Two semi-transparent figures materialize in the room. A pair of ferocious dragons SNAP AND CLAW at each other.

(CONTINUED)

BLINK

Oh, yeah...

INT. VEGA'S APARTMENT

17

SECURITY CAMERA F POV

Luisa and Carl are seated at their kitchen table eating PANCAKES.

*

LUISA

When you're finished, wash up, and I'll drive you to class.

CARL

Yeah, ma.

*

LUISA

You could show a little enthusiasm.

CARL

I was kind of hoping I could hang out with Teevo and the other guys upstairs a little while today.

*

LUISA

I don't want you hanging around those degenerates anymore. They're trouble. You're not like them. You have a future. They don't.

CARL

[Whatever.]

*

LUISA

And don't forget we have Temple tonight.

CARL

Everybody thinks we're terrorists.

*

LUISA

Just the bigots. You just keep telling people Osiris is a religion of peace and tolerance. Those Brotherhood bastards are smearing our reputation.

CARL

Yeah, well... most people don't see the difference.

*

(CONTINUED)

LUISA

Then may Ammit devour their souls.

CARL

It doesn't help when you talk like that.

*

Their conversation is interrupted by a clunking noise coming from the hallway outside.

CARL

Oh, no.

*

LUISA

There's that damn Cleaner again. I swear to Horus, that good for nothing Bennicker better get his ass in gear and fix that thing. I can't take it any more!

The clunking grows louder.

LUISA

Maybe I should just deal with it myself!

Luisa jumps to her feet and heads for the front door.

CARL

Ma, leave it!

*

Luisa snatches up a BASEBALL BAT sitting by the door, and wielding the bat over her shoulder,

she THROWS the door open.

(Over the robot shoulder:)

The massive Cleaner robot stands in the doorway facing her.

LUISA

You stupid piece of garbage!

Before Luisa can land a blow with the bat, however, the Cleaner's TURRET unfolds from its middle section

(We see this from Luisa's POV with a clean plate of the hall in the B.G.) (Steve says: Same question as above -- are you abandoning the conceit that everything is viewed from the POV of Argus or the security cameras?) (Drew apparently has mental issues.)

and unleashes a searing LASER BLAST up and down Luisa's body.

(CONTINUED)

Luisa screams as the blast WHACKS her. (Both OTS robot and CU with plate of part of the apartment behind.) (Steve says: She shows up as a zombie later, so she can't be disintegrated.)

Carl leaps from her chair.

CARL

Ma!

*

*

INT. BLINK'S APARTMENT

18

SECURITY CAMERA H POV

Blink continues to munch on SNACKS and enjoy the holographic dragons in his living room.

BLINK

Yeah, yeah...

The two dragons suddenly seem to be aware of Blink's presence. They stop fighting and turn toward him.

Blink sits up, surprised by this.

BLINK

Huh?

Confused but excited, Blink gets to his feet.

The dragons snort fire from their nostrils and bat their wings as if waving him closer.

Blink takes a step in their direction and passes into the light beam of the hologram projector.

Suddenly, holographic flames erupt behind the two dragons. They blast holographic fire in his direction.

(Hmm... who wants to animate the dragons?)

Blink screams.

And then the light beam from the projector behind Blink narrows and intensifies, TRANSFORMING into a laser.

The laser PIERCES Blink's back, and his arms fly akimbo as his SCREAM intensifies.

Blink DISINTEGRATES. (Steve says: Same as above -- Blink shows up as a zombie later, so he can't be disintegrated.) Blink has a HOLE in his forehead then.

INT. VINNY AND CHEYENNE'S APARTMENT

19

SECURITY CAMERA E POV

In Vinny and Cheyenne's bedroom, Vinny sits on the edge of their bed, pressing the white SPHERE to his forehead. He moans quietly with pleasure

Cheyenne enters the bedroom from the adjoining bathroom. She is wrapped in a TOWEL, and her hair is WET.

CHEYENNE

What'cha doing, babe?

VINNY

Oh, babe, this sensphere is amazing. It feels so good.

CHEYENNE

Oh, I want to feel too.

VINNY

Yeah, come here.

Cheyenne crawls onto the bed as Vinny turns to face her.

CHEYENNE

What setting?

VINNY

"0".

Cheyenne sits cross-legged facing Vinny, and she presses her forehead to the sphere as well. The white ball glows between them.

CHEYENNE

I feel it. It's tapping right into my chip.

VINNY

Shh... Just let it do its thing...

CHEYENNE

Oh, yeah. I really feel it now.

VINNY

Yeah... Oh yeah...

The glow intensifies.

(CONTINUED)

AUTOMATED VOICE
Warning. Power. Overload.

CHEYENNE
I... I think it might be too much.

VINNY
I... oh... oh!

The globe fills the room with a blazing white light.

Cheyenne SCREAMS.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. RICHMOND'S APARTMENT

20

ARGUS' POV

BLACKNESS.

Then STATIC.

And finally an image RESOLVES itself. We see Argus sitting upright in a chair facing a mirror. The front of his uniform is open, and a PATCH has been placed over the hole in his chest. And we have to figure out how to shoot this.

Hawkins stands behind him. Hawkins has opened an ACCESS PANEL in the back of the android's head, and she is tinkering with unseen components inside.

ARGUS
My apologies, Constable Hawkins. I appear to have been offline.

HAWKINS
You were shot.

ARGUS
What happened during my downtime?

HAWKINS
We stopped the bad guys.

ARGUS
Excellent.

Hawkins WIPES her eyes. She stammers.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

I tried calling for back up...

ARGUS

Do we need assistance?

HAWKINS

I haven't been able to get through to the station. Can you try?

Argus goes BLANK for a minute.

She comes back.

ARGUS

There's a riot in Battery Park.

HAWKINS

So no backup.

ARGUS

All units are prioritized for the sterilization of Lower Manhattan.

HAWKINS

So no meat wagons. No back up.

ARGUS

No, Constable.

Hawkins closes the access panel in Argus' head. (*I think this may be black wires covered in a white muck made of powdered milk, or maybe just some hair conditioner. Or we could go "green" or maybe even blue with hand soap?*)

She sighs.

HAWKINS

There. That should have your surveillance system back online.

ARGUS

Yes, Constable. [pause] All systems appear to be functioning normally.

HAWKINS

Good. Let's round up our prisoners and get the hell out of here.

SECURITY CAMERA D POV

From the security camera in Richmond's apartment we get a wider view of Hawkins and Argus together in front of the mirror in the main living space.

(CONTINUED)

Argus STANDS and turns to face Hawkins.

ARGUS' POV

Argus looks at Hawkins as she reaches out and buttons up the front of the android's uniform for her.

HAWKINS

You're going to want an overhaul
once we get back inside the line.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Of course.

Hawkins steps aside, revealing Lowell. The black-suited man is seated on the floor, his wrist handcuffed to a radiator. His face is bruised, but he is conscious.

Suddenly Richmond races out of a back bedroom carrying two small, YELLOW DOME LIGHTS. He has a similar light strapped to his chest.

Richmond hands the lights off to Hawkins.

RICHMOND

Here, put these on.

HAWKINS

What?

RICHMOND

Just do it, if you want to live!

HAWKINS

What are they?

RICHMOND

Null-signal emitters. Very limited
range, but they should provide a
barrier.

HAWKINS

A barrier to what? What the hell
are you talking about?

Richmond just shakes his head.

Dazed, Lowell looks up at the others.

LOWELL

Hey! What about me?

(CONTINUED)

RICHMOND

That's all I have. If you stick close to us, you should be okay.

Hawkins grabs Richmond by the back of the neck and drives him face first into a wall.

Argus looks up.

ARGUS

Constable, I can do that for you if you like.

RICHMOND

No no no. Look man. Look. I'm just trying to get us out of here alive. See that thing?

Richmond indicates the CANISTER

Slowly, Hawkins lets him down.

Richmond SCURRIES over to the canister.

RICHMOND

This is what I was making for Damien.

HAWKINS

What is it? Some kind of bomb? A biological weapon?

RICHMOND

Mmm... Not exactly. It's more of a mechanical virus.

HAWKINS

Nanobots...

Hawkins goes numb.

Richmond, however, is proud of his accomplishment as though he has a bunch of little kittens in there:

RICHMOND

Yeah. Trillions of microscopic robots.

HAWKINS

What are they designed for?

(CONTINUED)

RICHMOND

To infiltrate and convert

HAWKINS

Convert what?

RICHMOND

Everything. Anything. Anything with a microchip. Anything a nanobot can hack into.

HAWKINS

And where are they now?

RICHMOND

I have no idea! The canister was activated when doofus there started shooting.

HAWKINS

What do they look like?

RICHMOND

They're nanobots. They're invisible.

Richmond feels the back of her head.

HAWKINS

Are you chipped?

RICHMOND

Of course. I have the latest beta.

HAWKINS

Then why aren't our chips affected by the nanobots?

RICHMOND

The swarm must've got out into the building's ventilation system. I keep this room positively pressurized.

*
*
*

HAWKINS

What does that mean?

Richmond FIDDLES nervously.

RICHMOND

If they function according to their programming...

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

[...]

RICHMOND

This entire building is a death trap.

Hawkins examines the yellow dome lights in her hand.

HAWKINS

But you wouldn't build something like that without a fail-safe.

RICHMOND

Ah. Yes. Exactly.

HAWKINS

How does it work?

RICHMOND

Well. Yeah. All of us. I mean, all of us over the age of 18 who are, uh, human, have CID chips. The nanobots have a subroutine designed to infect our chips. But this thing -- It transmits a signal that activates a kill switch within the nanobots. But like I said, it's very limited range.

He looks over at Argus.

RICHMOND

And, uh, the robot. Robots are also susceptible.

Hawkins affixes one of the dome lights to her body armor and then turns to apply one to Argus.

HAWKINS

Don't lose this.

ARGUS (V.O.)

I understand.

Hawkins turns back to Richmond.

HAWKINS

It's time to go.

Hawkins crosses to Lowell and KNEELS down beside him.

She UNLOCKS the CUFF from the radiator

(CONTINUED)

and DRAGS Lowell to his feet.

She then cuffs his hands together behind his back.

LOWELL

I don't want those things in my
head!

HAWKINS

Like the man said, stay close.

Hawkins escorts Lowell toward the door.

INT. FIFTH FLOOR HALLWAY

21

SECURITY CAMERA C POV

The security camera in the hallway shows Teevo and Ratty working in vain to PRY open the elevator doors.

Beside them, the door to Richmond's apartment OPENS, and Hawkins exits, escorting Lowell. Argus and Richmond exit behind her.

TEEVO

Yo! Pi[g]. I mean, "officer," you
gotta help us!

HAWKINS

What's the matter?

RATTY

Our friend got trapped inside the
elevator.

RICHMOND

It's started already.

TEEVO

He might be in trouble.

Hawkins hands Lowell off to Argus.

HAWKINS

Watch him.

ARGUS

Yes, Constable.

ARGUS' POV

Argus takes hold of Lowell's arms but keeps her point of view on Hawkins as she steps toward the elevator doors.

(CONTINUED)

RICHMOND

Don't.

HAWKINS

We can't just leave a kid trapped in there.

RICHMOND

He's probably already dead.

TEEVO

Dead?! He's just inside the damn elevator!

RICHMOND

Not anymore.

RATTY

What the hell are you talking about?

Hawkins tries in vain to pry open the elevator doors.

RICHMOND

Constable, we should take the stairs.

TEEVO

Get him out!

Hawkins abandons the door.

HAWKINS

It's no good. It's sealed tight.

RICHMOND

Only because it doesn't want to be opened right now.

TEEVO

Who is this dork? Let's just break the doors down, then.

HAWKINS

All right, kid, look... We can come back for your friend once we have some backup.

RATTY

What the hell is going on?

(CONTINUED)

TEEVO

You're whacked.

HAWKINS

We have to keep moving.

Hawkins takes Lowell back from Argus and starts down the hall toward the stairwell entrance.

Argus starts to follow, but they only get a few steps before one of the apartment doors further down the hall swings open.

Hawkins and the rest of her procession come to a halt.

From the open door, Blink staggers out into the hallway, STEAM rising from the CHARRED OPENING in his chest.

His head lolls about on his shoulders.

TEEVO

Hey, Blink! What's the matter?

Blink pauses and lifts his wobbly head. His mouth hangs open,

and BLOOD pours out.

TEEVO

Blink! What the hell!

RICHMOND

Your friend is dead.

RATTY

What do you mean, dead?!

HAWKINS

How can he be dead?

RICHMOND

His body is dead. The nanobots are in control now. They're operating him like a puppet.

HAWKINS

[Aw, shit.]

Blink takes a few more staggering steps in their direction.

LOWELL

Get me out of here!

(CONTINUED)

Another door further down the hall opens, and Cheyenne staggers out. Her face is completely CHARRED and SMOKING. BLOOD pours from her mouth, soaking the towel wrapped around her body.

RATTY

Somebody tell me what's going on!
Are they zombies?!

RICHMOND

Technically no. Not zombies. Flesh puppets for sentient microscopic robots.

RATTY

What?! I mean, what?!

Behind Cheyenne, Vinny staggers out of their apartment. His head is also CHARRED.

Richmond is proud of himself:

RICHMOND

And, you know, considering that I was strictly working from theoretical constructs, I have to say that's pretty much what they were supposed to do.

The three zombies move awkwardly forward.

RICHMOND

Not that I want to be around to observe them any more, you understand.

SECURITY CAMERA C POV

The security camera at the end of the hall provides a wider view of the three zombies closing in on Hawkins and her procession.

ARGUS

I propose we retreat.

HAWKINS

Good idea.

The group backs away cautiously from the encroaching zombies, moving back in the direction of Richmond's apartment.

But then the elevator dings, and they all freeze. Their heads turn to see the elevator doors slowly open.

(CONTINUED)

In the center of the car, Nail stands ominously, the right side of his body CHARRED from electrical shock.

A leering grin spreads across Nail's face. He takes a halting step out of the elevator, effectively blocking off the route to Richmond's apartment.

RATTY

Nail!

The door to Richmond's apartment opens, and a zombified Roderick staggers out, joining Nail.

RICHMOND

Now what?

HAWKINS

In here! Argus, the door!

Argus nods and passes his POLICE SWIPE BADGE over the LOCK MECHANISM of the nearest apartment door.

NAIL AND RODERICK PART OF SCENE

21A *

This is the part of the above scene w/ Nail and Roderick.

*

INT. GOLDFINCH APARTMENT

22

SECURITY CAMERA G POV

The security camera in the elderly Goldfinch's apartment show the couple continuing to watch their holovid of adorable rabbits. The rabbits turn and wiggle their adorable holographic bunny butts at the couple

when Argus suddenly comes smashing through the door.

Argus comes to a halt in front of the rabbit holograms. Hawkins, dragging Lowell along, is quick to follow, with Richmond, Ratty, and Teevo close behind.

Perched in their recliners in the center of the room, Margaret and Stuart Goldfinch are startled by the sudden intrusion.

Stuart Goldfinch whips off his oxygen mask and sits forward in his recliner.

STUART

What's going on?!

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS
Barricade the door!

Hawkins abandons Lowell and helps Argus, Teevo, and Ratty as they close the door and move FURNITURE in front of it.

STUART
Get out of here!

Teevo is giddy with the whole situation.

TEEVO
Sorry to trouble you folks, but this building is infested with zombies.

STUART
What?

RICHMOND
Not zombies.

TEEVO
Close enough.

The door secure, Argus takes a step back to survey the room.

ARGUS' POV

Argus looks at the bewildered Goldfinches. Margaret removes her OXYGEN MASK.

MARGARET
You are invading our home!

TEEVO
What will those things do to us?
Eat us?

RICHMOND
They're not going to eat us, you moron. How many times do I have to say it? They're not zombies.

RATTY
Then what do they want?

RICHMOND
They just want to kill us.

MARGARET
Who wants to kill us?

(CONTINUED)

RATTY

Our neighbors.

STUART

I knew it. Didn't I say? I always said, they're all out to get us. Dirty animals.

TEEVO

What about them? Why weren't they infected?

RICHMOND

The nanobots were released into the building's ventilation system via an aerosol mist.

Richmond walks over to the old couple and picks up one of their oxygen masks.

RICHMOND

...so if they were wearing these. Yes, the initial incursion was most likely through the nasal cavity.

HAWKINS

And are these things still in the air?

RICHMOND

No, no, no, I shouldn't think so. The spray would have settled by now. This is a battlefield agent, very short-term. They'll spread now through physical contact.

HAWKINS

Okay. That's tip one. No touching the zombies.

RICHMOND

They're not... Oh, screw it.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Do you have a plan, Constable?

Hawkins turns to Argus, clearly at a loss.

HAWKINS

I... I don't know. Nothing has changed. We still need to get out of the building. And we've got to get these civilians to safety.

(CONTINUED)

RATTY

Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Okay, so these little micro robot things are infecting people. Okay. But what happened to Nail in the elevator?

RICHMOND

They can control anything with a microchip. The elevator was under their control.

Hawkins nods and draws her sidearm.

HAWKINS

On that point...

Hawkins fires a BULLET into the holovid machine.

As the machine SPARKS AND FIZZLES, the holographic rabbits disappear from the room.

MARGARET

Awww...

HAWKINS

Spread out. Unplug every appliance. No power, no control, right Richmond?

SECURITY CAMERA G POV

The security camera shows a wider view as Hawkins drags Lowell over to the Goldfinches' RADIATOR and cuffs him to it. Argus hangs back near the front door, keeping the furniture braced while Teevo, Ratty, and Richmond spread out through the apartment to unplug APPLIANCES.

INT. FIFTH FLOOR HALLWAY

23

SECURITY CAMERA C POV

The zombified Roderick, Nail, Blink, Vinny, and Cheyenne crowd around the Goldfinches' front door and try to batter it down.

Other apartment doors open, and a few more unidentified zombie residents stagger out.

INT. GOLDFINCH APARTMENT

24

SECURITY CAMERA G POV

Hawkins, Argus, and their rag tag group have returned to the living room to wait. Argus is at the front door, his back pressed up against the BLOCKADE. Lowell sits on the RADIATOR to which he is handcuffed. The old couple sit in their RECLINERS, Richmond sits on the floor with his back against the wall, and Teevo and Ratty perch fretfully on the edge of the Goldfinches' small couch. Hawkins PACES in the center of the room in the middle of them all.

ARGUS POV

Argus watches Hawkins pace.

LOWELL

How long do you plan to just sit here?

Hawkins GLARES at Lowell.

HAWKINS

[I don't know.]

Richmond taps the yellow dome light strapped to his chest.

RICHMOND

We're safe for now. The Constables and I are wearing null-signal emitters. They should prevent a nanobot incursion.

RATTY

How come we don't get those?

RICHMOND

I only made the three. As long as you stay close, we should all be safe.

TEEVO

Should?

HAWKINS

Settle down. You two creeps aren't of voting age yet. You don't have Citizen Identification chips to hack.

Teevo and Ratty self-consciously check the backs of their heads for where their chips... aren't.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

We only saw five of those things outside, but there's no telling how many more of the building's residents have been infected.

TEEVO

Can we kill them?

RICHMOND

They're not alive anymore.

TEEVO

Yeah, but zombies... you put a bullet in the head, and they go down.

RICHMOND

And why should that possibly work in this case?

TEEVO

Hey, how the hell should I know? At least I'm trying to come up with something. You're obviously the big brainiac. What do you got?

RICHMOND

The intent was to weaponize an entire society against itself. There isn't supposed to be a way out.

RATTY

What kind of sick freak came up with this?

Hawkins stops pacing and her eyes glaze into a thousand-yard stare as dark memories cloud her mind.

HAWKINS

I've seen this before. Back in Aksai Chin the Indian army dropped a nanoswarm bomb on the Chinese position. Those Chinese soldiers all had CID chips like us. But they were cheap, so they were easier to hack. Their brains gone, the only thing they had left was survival. Hunger.

(CONTINUED)

RATTY

Who in the F-town thought this was
a good idea?

Richmond points to Lowell.

RICHMOND

His boss.

RATTY

Who's his boss, then?

RICHMOND

Damien Ra.

RATTY

The terrorist?! Shit, I heard about
that guy on the news. But why try
and kill us?

LOWELL

You scum weren't the target.

HAWKINS

Who was the target?

LOWELL

Wouldn't you like to know.

HAWKINS

Yeah, I kind of would. Because even
though this plan went to shit, no
doubt Ra will have something else
up his sleeve.

Lowell snorts out a laugh.

LOWELL

No doubt.

HAWKINS

Yeah, well, the guys down at H.Q.
will get it out of you when we
brain hack you in the interrogator.

LOWELL

You really think we'll all live
long enough for that to happen?

Hawkins just shakes her head and waves him off.

(CONTINUED)

TEEVO

This is insane. We can't just sit here!

RATTY

Yeah! You're the police! You're supposed to help us! Can you just call and get a small army to show up?

HAWKINS

Argus?

ARGUS

No units are available to assist.

RICHMOND

It's hopeless.

TEEVO

You can shut your fat face. You're the one who got us into this.

RICHMOND

What makes you think that?

TEEVO

It doesn't take a genius to figure that out. You built this weapon for that guy.

RICHMOND

Well, if the two Constables hadn't bumbled their way in, "that guy" would have had his canister and been on his way.

TEEVO

My friends are dead!

RICHMOND

I've seen your friends. Not a big loss.

With a cry of rage, Teevo springs up from the couch and charges Richmond.

Hawkins manages to intercept Teevo half way, and she holds him back.

TEEVO

I'm gonna kick his face in!

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

Save it!

Teevo shoves Hawkins away and seethes at Richmond.

TEEVO

I'm gonna kill you, you bastard.

RICHMOND

Get in line behind the zombies.

Getting shoved by Teevo dislodged Hawkins' null-signal emitter.

As she adjusts it back into place, she considers it.

HAWKINS

All right, Richmond, look... If we can stay together in a tight pack, won't these emitters keep the nanobots at bay while we move through the building.

RICHMOND

They'll keep them from getting in your head, yes, but they'll be shielded inside their flesh puppets. The signal isn't going to reach them in there.

HAWKINS

Okay... but is there a way to boost the signal? Make it strong enough to flip the kill switch on every nanobot in the place?

Richmond shrugs.

RICHMOND

It's a power issue. The batteries in these emitters don't have enough juice.

HAWKINS

Power... power... That's our problem. There's too much power running through this place, feeding those little monsters.

RICHMOND

Not much we can do about that.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

Not unless we can cut the power to the building.

RICHMOND

To do that, you'd need to sever the main line in the basement. There's a lot of floors between here and there.

HAWKINS

Maybe...

Hawkins takes her cellphone from a zippered pocket on her uniform.

TEEVO

Who are you calling, yo? Back up? It's about time.

HAWKINS

I told you. There is no back up. Not today.

Hawkins dials.

TEEVO

Then who?

HAWKINS

Shut up.

Everyone is quiet a moment as Hawkins waits for the other end of the line to pick up.

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Hello?

HAWKINS

Bennicker?

TEEVO

The landlord?

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Yeah! Who is this?

HAWKINS

It's Constable Hawkins.

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Christ. Have you left yet?

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

No. We're on the fifth floor.

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Well leave me alone -- I paid my debt to society. Twice.

HAWKINS

Listen, asshole. Are you still in your office?

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Who you calling asshole?

HAWKINS

Shut up and listen! Are you still in your office?!

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Yeah! Why?

HAWKINS

I need you to go down to the basement and disconnect the building from the power grid. Shut everything down.

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Are you insane?!

HAWKINS

Do it.

BENNICKER

No way, that's gonna get me into huge trouble with the city.

HAWKINS

I'm issuing a lawful order to you, Bennicker. Disconnect from the grid.

Bennicker audibly sighs on the other end of the line.

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Oh man. All right, all right.

Hawkins keeps the line open but lowers the phone from her ear.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Do you think he will comply?

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

He'd better.

RICHMOND

That's only half the battle.
Disconnecting from the power grid
may slow the rate of infection, but
it's not going to stop them.

HAWKINS

(Sighing)

One thing at a time.

INT. LOBBY

25

SECURITY CAMERA A POV

The door to Bennicker's office opens, and the SWEATY slumlord pokes his head out.

The lobby is quiet.

Seeing the coast is clear, Bennicker steps out into the lobby and WALKS to the center.

Standing in the middle of the floor, he cocks his ear to the stairwell and listens.

Bennicker scoffs.

Bennicker strolls over to the main door and peers out through the glass at the city street beyond. All seems quiet. *(Drew says: This says a lot about the geography of the building we use for this and for the first scene outside.)*

Bennicker tugs on the door. Finding it secure, he shrugs.

Still facing the exterior door, Bennicker does not notice a FIGURE shamble down the stairs into the lobby. It is a zombified Luisa, her skin red and BLISTERED.

Luisa SHAMBLEs ever closer to Bennicker.

Bennicker finally catches sight of Luisa REFLECTED in the glass of the front door.

Bennicker spins around as Luisa outstretches her arms toward him.

(CONTINUED)

BENNICKER

For the love of Horace!

Bennicker drops his PHONE,

leaving it to CLATTER to the floor as he raises his hands defensively.

BENNICKER

Get back!

Luisa pulls Bennicker into her grasp and begins to throttle him.

INT. GOLDFINCH APARTMENT

26

ARGUS' POV

Through Argus' eyes we see Hawkins standing numb in the center of the room, Bennicker's SCREAMS audible from the phone at her ear.

Hawkins slowly lowers the PHONE and disconnects the call.

TEEVO

What a hero.

MARGARET

Was that Mr. Bennicker? What happened to him?

TEEVO

Bennicker's dead, yo! Get with the program!

Hawkins resumes pacing the floor.

LOWELL

There's no point going on. Give it up. Let those things in. Let's end this.

TEEVO

Shut up, dick. This is your fault.

LOWELL

Absolutely it is. I brought this all down on you. Why don't you come over here and kick my ass.

(CONTINUED)

TEEVO

Yeah, all right.

Teevo charges at Lowell.

Distracted, Hawkins doesn't move to intercept him fast enough.

Teevo reaches Lowell and lands several blows to Lowell's face. The bigger man doesn't put up a fight. He takes the hits.

Hawkins races across the room and wedges herself between Lowell and Teevo, prying them apart.

HAWKINS

That's enough!

Teevo doesn't relent, struggling to push past Hawkins to land more blows against Lowell. In the process, Hawkins is pressed up against Lowell.

SECURITY CAMERA G POV

The security camera view provides a wider view of the fight.

Argus abandons his post at the door and crosses the room to assist. Reaching the skirmish, the android is able to overpower Teevo easily, and he pulls the boy away, shoving him back toward the center of the room.

Hawkins is left sitting awkwardly on Lowell's lap, and she leaps away quickly. Lowell just gives her a lecherous grin.

LOWELL

Thanks for the assist, babe.

HAWKINS

Shut it, you piece of garbage.

ARGUS

Are you okay, Constable?

HAWKINS

Yeah. Sure.

Her dignity damaged, Hawkins marches over to Teevo and puts a finger to his face.

HAWKINS

Try something like that again, and I'll feed you to the zombies myself.

(CONTINUED)

Teevo just gives her a sneer.

ARGUS' POV

Still standing near Lowell, Argus observes the room from a new perspective. The front door and its barricade can be seen at the far side of the room.

Hawkins returns to the center of the room, trying to get herself together.

The group sits quietly a moment, contemplating their fate.

The silence is broken as Hawkins' phone suddenly rings. At first too surprised to react, Hawkins finally puts the phone to her ear.

HAWKINS

Hawkins.

BENNICKER (V.O.)

(Out of breath)

That bitch...

HAWKINS

Bennicker?!

Hearing the name, everyone sits forward eagerly.

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Yeah, it's me. That bitch Luisa Vega attacked me.

HAWKINS

You got away?

BENNICKER (V.O.)

Yeah, I fought her off. Ugh. She was a mess, though. God knows what happened to her.

HAWKINS

Where are you now?

BENNICKER (V.O.)

The basement. Where else?

HAWKINS

Okay, okay, great! The basement. Now listen... you've got to find the main line. Cut it. Cut the power to the building.

(CONTINUED)

BENNICKER (V.O.)
Yeah, yeah, I'm on it. God my head
hurts...

HAWKINS
What?

BENNICKER (V.O.)
Main line... main line... I don't
know what the main line looks like.
How am I supposed to... Oh, god.

HAWKINS
Mr. Bennicker, are you okay?

BENNICKER (V.O.)
Yeah, yeah, just give me a
second... Okay... urgh... yeah, I
think I found it.

HAWKINS
Good! Good!

The assembled group waits in anxious silence a moment.

And then the lights go out.

HAWKINS
You did it! Good work, Mr.
Bennicker.

No response comes.

HAWKINS
Mr. Bennicker?

Again silence. And then a moan.

HAWKINS
Mr. Bennicker?

Another sickening moan issues from the phone.

RICHMOND
The nanobots. They got to him.

Hawkins lowers the phone.

RATTY
So, the power is out! Now what?

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

That means no more killer elevator.
No more deadly appliances.

LOWELL

But plenty of dead residents.

HAWKINS

Yeah.

RATTY

What are they running on if there's
no power.

RICHMOND

The human body is its own
electrical generator.

TEEVO

Even dead ones?

RICHMOND

If you've got nanobots in there
keeping things pumping it's just a
matter of metabolism before they
become too weak to respond...

TEEVO

How long's *that* gonna take?

RICHMOND

I dunno. A few days? I bet some
could probably last a month...

HAWKINS

The null signal. It's our best
weapon against them.

RICHMOND

Not strong enough... But...

HAWKINS

But?

RICHMOND

The signal isn't the kill switch.
The signal is just the instruction
to activate. If there were another
way to issue the instruction...

HAWKINS

We don't care about any of that.

(CONTINUED)

RICHMOND

Okay. Right. I don't know. In theory, the message could be encrypted into any transmittable signal.

HAWKINS

Such as?

RICHMOND

Such as a cellphone signal.

Hawkins looks down at the phone in her hand.

HAWKINS

Are you saying you could turn all of our cellphones into emitters?

RICHMOND

Given enough time... yeah.

HAWKINS

And that will be powerful enough to shut down the zombies?

RICHMOND

Well... not without breaking their shielding.

HAWKINS

By which you mean...?

RICHMOND

Crack the skulls.

Teevo punches the air.

TEEVO

See! I told you! Shoot them in the head! Just like I said!

Hawkins nods encouragingly.

HAWKINS

Okay! Now we've got a plan. Who's got a cellphone on them?

Teevo and Ratty produce PHONES.

Stuart and Margaret shake their heads.

(CONTINUED)

RICHMOND

I didn't have time to grab mine.

Hawkins turns to Lowell.

HAWKINS

You?

Lowell holds open his jacket. Hawkins approaches him and cautiously removes the CELLPHONE from his inside POCKET.

Hawkins TAKES the phones from Teevo and Ratty and delivers them to Richmond.

Richmond gets to his feet,

accepts the phones,

and carries them to the Goldfinches' kitchen table.

RICHMOND

Four phones and three emitters.
That's seven total and eight of us.
Who goes without?

Hawkins gives a sly glance over at Lowell.

RICHMOND

Fair enough.

Lowell simply glowers.

Richmond sits down at the table and begins to tap away at the hologramatic BUTTONS within the phones.

INT. FIFTH FLOOR HALLWAY

27

SECURITY CAMERA C POV

The zombified Roderick, Vinny, Cheyenne, Blink, and Nail continue to BANG on the Goldfinches' FRONT DOOR. Other unidentified tenants have also now filed into the hallway and have crowded in around the door.

INT. LOBBY

28

SECURITY CAMERA A POV

A zombified Bennicker SHAMBLES around the lobby with zombie Luisa and other unidentified tenants who have wandered downstairs. The zombie Bennicker MOVES TOWARD THE STAIRS.

INT. STAIRWELL 29

SECURITY CAMERA B POV

Unidentified zombie extras MILL ABOUT on the stairs.

INT. GOLDFINCH APARTMENT 30

SECURITY CAMERA G POV

Richmond continues to TINKER at the KITCHEN TABLE. While the Goldfinches remain in their recliners and Lowell is still cuffed to the radiator, the others have all gathered around the kitchen table to watch Richmond work, including Argus.

Teevo stands behind Argus, between the android and Lowell. Both have their back to Lowell.

ARGUS POV

Argus watches Richmond work.

HAWKINS
How's it coming?

RICHMOND
Three down, one to go.

Richmond picks up the last cellphone and taps away at the HOLOGRAMATIC BUTTONS.

Suddenly, Teevo cries out, and all eyes turn to him.

As Argus turns, we pan around to see that Lowell has somehow freed himself from the HANDCUFFS and has inexplicably dug a tiny, secret HANDGUN out of his thigh.

Teevo has been shoved to the floor.

Lowell DRAGS Margaret out of her recliner and stands behind the old woman, pressing the barrel of the gun to her head.

LOWELL
Stay back!

STUART
Marge! Let her go!

Lowell backs away, dragging Margaret with him.

Argus pans his view back to Hawkins as the officer pushes her way past Ratty, her hand reaching for her gun. She does not draw.

(CONTINUED)

Argus pans back to Lowell and Margaret, and Hawkins takes up a position between us and them.

LOWELL

Put the gun down or I kill her.

HAWKINS

How'd you do it?

LOWELL

I lifted your key during our close encounter earlier and was able to get to this back up I had surgically implanted.

HAWKINS

You son of a bitch.

TEEVO

You had a gun implanted?

LOWELL

Just for situations like this.

TEEVO

Dude. That is crazy sick. And by that I mean it's awesome.

LOWELL

I said put down the gun, Constable.

STUART

Just do it! He's going to kill my wife!

Reluctantly, Hawkins complies, slipping her gun from its holster and setting it down on the floor.

HAWKINS

What's your plan now?

LOWELL

Hand over the emitters.

Hawkins removes the emitter attached to her body armor and tosses it to Lowell. He catches it with his free hand.

LOWELL

All of them.

HAWKINS

You can't!

(CONTINUED)

LOWELL

Then the lady dies.

HAWKINS

Without the emitters, we all die.

LOWELL

Fine, if you're going to be stubborn. Kick over the gun.

Hawkins hesitates a moment, but she complies, nudging her sidearm in Lowell's direction with her toe.

Lowell shoves Margaret away, and Hawkins catches her as she stumbles forward. Hawkins returns her to her recliner.

In the same motion, Lowell swoops down and picks up Hawkins' gun. He trains both weapons on the group.

LOWELL

I'd rather not waste bullets on you, so please don't do anything stupid.

Keeping at least one gun trained on the others at all times, Lowell puts his shoulder against the furniture blocking the door and shoves it aside.

HAWKINS

Everybody get back.

Stranded in their recliners in the center of the room, Stuart and Margaret look about in a panic.

SECURITY CAMERA G POV

Teevo and Ratty back away into the kitchen area with Richmond.

Keeping a wary eye on the front door, Hawkins extends a hand to Stuart and Margaret.

HAWKINS

Come to me!

STUART

I need my walker. I can't move without my walker.

HAWKINS

Where is it?!

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET

I'm not leaving you, Stuart.

Margaret clutches Stuart's hand.

Richmond hands a cellphone to Teevo and Ratty.

TEEVO

What do we do with this, yo?

RICHMOND

Just push send.

TEEVO

Now?

RICHMOND

You'll know when.

Lowell clears the furniture, and the zombie mob outside forces the door open.

Blink is the first one through.

Lowell holds up the emitter with one hand and puts a bullet between Blink's eyes with the other. The zombie boy wobbles and then collapses.

Zombie Vinny and Zombie Cheyenne step right over him, however, and proceed into the room.

ARGUS' POV

Things get chaotic as Argus rushes to Stuart's aid, and we are carried with him.

In the commotion we can just make out Vinny and Cheyenne going down and Lowell pushing his way out into the hallway.

We also get a glimpse of Hawkins helping Margaret out of her chair.

Argus' POV swings around to the kitchen as he supports Stuart's weight and escorts him toward the others.

We can see Teevo snap up a MEAT CLEAVER. Following his lead, Ratty grabs a SPIKED MEAT TENDERIZER.

Teevo drags Richmond out of his kitchen chair, to his feet.

TEEVO

Get a weapon, jackass!

(CONTINUED)

Hawkins deposits Margaret in the corner of the kitchen, and Richmond tosses her a cellphone.

SECURITY CAMERA G POV

From the wider point of view we can see Nail leading the other unidentified zombie residents into the apartment.

Argus deposits Stuart beside his wife and arms himself with ANOTHER KITCHEN IMPLEMENT. Hawkins and Richmond DO THE SAME, and the assembled group faces off against the encroaching zombie hoard.

RICHMOND

Bash and send! Bash and send!

As the zombies close in, the band of survivors start bashing skulls and beaming the null signal into the zombies' exposed brains with their cellphones.

ARGUS' POV

Argus' view of the melee is pure chaos of swinging limbs, bloody, gnashing zombie faces, and screams of terror.

Zombie Nail pushes forward and grabs hold of Ratty, dragging the girl down screaming.

Argus is forced down to the floor by the next wave of zombies. Shambling feet and legs fill his field of view. Through the forest of limbs, we can just make out Stuart and Margaret cowering on the kitchen floor. A pair of zombified residents set upon them and begin tearing them apart.

Argus receives a blow to the head, and our view is filled with static.

After another blow, we cut to black.

The black silence persists for several long moments.

And then...

Static.

The static slowly dissipates, revealing an extreme close up of Hawkins' bloodied face. Her hair is DISHEVELED, and she is clearly exhausted. But the room is quiet.

HAWKINS

Hey, there, partner. I thought I lost you again.

(CONTINUED)

ARGUS (V.O.)
My apologies, Constable Hawkins.

Hawkins just smiles. She then backs away, revealing more of the room.

They are still in the Goldfinches' apartment. Argus is clearly seated on the floor of the living room, opposite the front door, his back propped against a wall.

The bodies of deactivated zombies litter the floor.

ARGUS (V.O.)
Were there casualties?

HAWKINS
We lost the old folks. And Ratty.

ARGUS (V.O.)
Unfortunate.

SECURITY CAMERA G POV

The wider, high angle perspective of the security camera provides a better view of the carnage.

Hawkins gives gives Argus a hand standing.

Richmond limps out of the kitchen with Teevo's assistance.

HAWKINS
Unfortunately, this isn't over.
We're bound to encounter more
resistance on the way downstairs.

Hawkins hands Argus a pistol.

ARGUS
A gun, Constable?

HAWKINS
I retrieved these from Richmond's
apartment. They belonged to Lowell
and his partner.

ARGUS
Of course.

HAWKINS
You ready to lead these citizens
out of here?

Argus examines the PISTOL in his hand. She racks a bullet into the chamber.

(CONTINUED)

ARGUS' POV

Switching back to Argus' point of view, we see the pistol rise up into the frame like a first-person-shooter game.

Stepping out ahead of Argus, Hawkins adopts a similar pose.

HAWKINS

Stay close.

Hawkins leads the way forward toward the front door of the apartment.

Argus sets off after her, taking a quick pan backward to make sure Richmond and Teevo are following.

INT. FIFTH FLOOR HALLWAY

31

ARGUS' POV

We are still in Argus' point of view as we pass through into the hallway. More bodies litter the floor, the remnants of Lowell's escape.

Argus follows Hawkins closely as they creep cautiously down the hall.

They reach the far end without incident, and Hawkins pauses a moment at the door to the stairwell to ensure everyone is with her. She gives a nod and pushes open the door.

Hawkins immediately lurches back as the blood-covered face of a zombie Roderick pops into view from inside the stairwell.

Argus raises his gun and fires, blasting a hole in Roderick's skull.

With Teevo's assistance, Richmond steps forward and beams the kill signal into the zombie's head with his cellphone.

The creature flops to the ground.

Hawkins moves forward into the stairwell and does a sweep. She then signals the all clear, and Argus proceeds.

INT. STAIRWELL -- BENNECKER DEATH

32 *

ARGUS' POV

We glide along with Argus into the stairwell and follow along behind Hawkins as she cautiously proceeds down the stairs. They are careful to step over the few bodies that litter their path.

Hawkins reaches a LANDING, and the zombified Bennicker leaps out from around the corner. He railroads Hawkins back against the wall, snapping at her with his bloody maw.

Hawkins groans as she struggles to hold Bennicker at bay.

Argus takes aim and blows off the back of Bennicker's skull.

Having gotten Bennicker's attention, the zombie turns and looks up at Argus. It begins climbing the stairs straight toward us.

Hawkins is ready with her cellphone, however, and she transmits the kill signal into the back of Bennicker's head. The creature collapses at our feet.

Hawkins waves Argus and the others on.

INT. STAIRWELL -- GANG

32A *

SECURITY CAMERA B2-4 POV

We break away from the first-person perspective to watch Hawkins, Argus, Richmond, and Teevo round the next few flights of stairs via a series of security cameras.

Reaching the landing at the second floor, just one flight from the Lobby, Hawkins draws up short. She holds up a halting hand.

ARGUS

What is it, Constable Hawkins?

HAWKINS

I thought I heard something.

Argus cocks her ear and listens.

CARL (V.O.)

(Faintly)

Somebody help me, please!

*

(CONTINUED)

RICHMOND

Oh, come on. We're nearly to the lobby. Let's keep moving.

Hawkins ignores him.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

33

SECURITY CAMERA I POV

The second floor hallway is identical to the fifth but clear of bodies. Hawkins enters from the stairwell, followed by Argus, Richmond, and Teevo. [A SET OF LARGE NUMBERS WHICH WE COULD PUT ON THE WALLS MIGHT BE HELPFUL HERE.]

CARL (V.O.)

(Louder now)

Help me! Please, somebody!

*

Hawkins leads the group forward, and they soon reach the door to the Vega's apartment.

INT. VEGA'S APARTMENT

34

Hawkins enters the Vega's apartment. She does a quick scan of the living space and spots a closet door.

*

*

She goes to the closet and opens the door.

*

Inside the closet, Carl is clearly in shock as he clutches his mother's baseball bat.

*

*

CARL

[Oh, thank the gods. I heard the gunshots. I prayed it was you.]

*

*

*

Hawkins puts a comforting arm around him.

*

HAWKINS

It's okay. We're getting out of here.

Carl nods with relief.

*

HAWKINS

Where's your mother?

CARL

She... She was killed. And then she... she just stood up and walked out.

*

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

I'm sorry.

Argus, Richmond, and Teevo enter. *

RICHMOND

All right, great, we got him. Now, *
can we please get the hell out of
here? *

Hawkins looks into Carl's eyes. *

HAWKINS

Stick with us. Stay behind the
android.

Hawkins goes to the door. *

Hawkins is nearly through the doorway when they hear a
clanking sound from the hallway beyond. Hawkins freezes.

HAWKINS

[Shit on me.]

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

35

The massive CLEANER ROBOT lumbers down the hallway.

INT. VEGA'S APARTMENT

36

Hawkins takes a quick glance out into the hallway and then
turns back to the others. She signals the others:

HAWKINS

(Hoarse whisper)

[It's coming this way. Take cover.]

Argus holds his gun at the ready. *

Richmond, Teevo, and Carl press themselves up against the *
wall beside the door. *

HAWKINS

We're going to have to draw it off. *

ARGUS

Agreed. *

HAWKINS

(To Teevo)

Once it's clear, take the boy and *
get the hell out of here. *

(CONTINUED)

TEEVO

You don't have to tell me. *

The CLEANER ROBOT lurches into view at the APARTMENT DOOR. *

Argus and Hawkins dart out into the hallway. *

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

36A

Argus and Hawkins race down the hallway. *

The Cleaner turns and lumbers after them. *

INT. VEGA'S APARTMENT

36B

Teevo and Richmond look at each other. We can assume Carl is standing beside them, but he is too short to see. *

RICHMOND

We're on our own now? *

TEEVO

Come on, brainbox, the lobby's only a couple floors away. *

RICHMOND

What about the kid? *

TEEVO

I guess he's coming with us. *

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

36C

The Cleaner is gone, having chased the two police officers into the stairwell. *

Teevo, Richmond, and the too-short-to-see Carl run out of the apartment. *

INT. BASEMENT

36D

Argus and Hawkins exit the stairwell and enter the dark and dreary basement. *

Hawkins pauses in the basement entryway and pokes her head out to look back up the stairwell. *

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

Well, the good news is, it worked.
The robot followed us. The bad news
is... it worked. The robot followed
us.

*
*
*
*

ARGUS

We must assume it has been
compromised by the nanobots.

*
*

HAWKINS

No doubt.

*

Argus and Hawkins move deeper into the basement.

*

HAWKINS

If we're going to get out of this
basement and rejoin the others in
the lobby, we're going to have to
get past that thing.

*
*
*
*

The Cleaner shows up in the doorway and marches inside on
its robotic legs.

*
*

Argus and Hawkins square off with the machine.

*

The officers raise their weapons and train them on the
machine.

*
*

The Cleaner unfurls its large scrub brush.

*

Hawkins can't help but let out a derisive laugh.

*

However, a panel opens on the top of the machine and a small
turret rises up out of it.

*
*

HAWKINS

Shit...

*

The turret fires a laser bolt between the two officers.

*

Argus and Hawkins scramble in opposite directions, taking
cover behind brick pillars.

*
*

The Cleaner fires a few more bolts across the room.

*

HAWKINS

The damn janitor's got a laser
canon!

*
*

ARGUS

It would appear to be a
decommissioned military drone.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

Yeah, Argus, thanks. I'm getting that.

The laser fire continues, red bolts whipping past Argus and Hawkins as they stand plastered behind their respective pillars.

Hawkins steps out from behind her pillar, fires off a few shots, and returns to cover.

The Cleaner responds with a round of laser blasts, striking the pillar.

A cloud of mortar dust rolls past Hawkins' face as she cringes.

Argus takes his turn, stepping out from behind his pillar to fire a few shots before returning to safety.

The Cleaner's turret rotates and lets off a few blasts in Argus' direction.

ARGUS

The machine is well armored.

HAWKINS

It's got to have a weak spot!

The Cleaner lumbers forward, moving very slowly.

Hawkins peaks around the corner.

HAWKINS

Shit, it's on the move again.

As the Cleaner lumbers in between the pillars, Argus and Hawkins edge around their respective pillars, keeping the bricks between themselves and the deadly machine.

ARGUS

It is logical to assume the machine's retrofit would not have been implemented to military grade standards.

The Cleaner settles in between the pillars.

Its turret rotates 90 degrees and fires at Argus' pillar at close range.

Mortar dust and brick splinters fly past Argus.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

So, what you're saying is... aim
for the scrub brush!

*
*

ARGUS

Affirmative.

*

With the Cleaner's turret aimed away from her at Argus' pillar, Hawkins runs out from behind her cover, extending her weapon.

*
*
*

Hawkins fires in mid run, hitting the Cleaner at the base of its scrub brush arm with several rounds.

*
*

The Cleaner's turret rotates and comes to bare on Hawkins.

*

Hawkins dives over a randomly placed industrial cart and lands flat on her stomach on the opposite side as laser fire streaks over her head.

*
*
*

A stray laser blast strikes Hawkins in the leg.

*

She cries out in pain.

*

Argus uses the opportunity to step out from behind cover.

*

He fires a few more rounds at the base of the Cleaner's scrub brush arm.

*
*

The machine begins to shudder and spark.

*

It's turret still whips around, though, and fires a blast into Argus' chest.

*
*

Argus tumbles backward.

*

The Cleaner continues to sputter.

*

Hawkins picks herself up off the floor, wincing at the pain from her injured leg.

*
*

She sees Argus lying flat on his back beside the sputtering Cleaner.

*
*

Hawkins shoves aside the industrial cart with her foot.

*

Coldly, she limps across the basement floor to where the Cleaner shudders and groans.

*
*

She removes her cellphone from her pocket and holds it out toward the machine.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

It's for you.

Pressing SEND on the null signal, Hawkins jams the phone into the robot's face.

The robot FREEZES, and it TOPPLES over onto its side.

INT. LOBBY

37

SECURITY CAMERA A POV

The high angle view of the lobby shows a few zombies sprawled on the floor. Among them, however, is Lowell, clearly dead, his SPENT SIDEARM laying beside him.

Crouched over Lowell's body is the ZOMBIFIED LUISA.

From the stairwell, Richmond, Teevo, and Carl ENTER. They stop when they see the zombie Luisa. *

CARL *

Ma!

TEEVO *

Your ma's dead.

Teevo takes the BASEBALL BAT from Carl's hands. *

CARL *

What are you doing?

TEEVO *

Hold her back.

Richmond takes hold of the girl and DRAGS her away from Teevo.

CARL *

Don't!

The zombie Luisa rises to her feet.

Teevo raises the bat over his shoulder and takes aim.

Zombie Luisa LURCHES forward to attack, and Teevo SWINGS for her skull.

BLACKOUT:

INT. BASEMENT

38

ARGUS' POV

Blackness turns to STATIC.

The static resolves to a view of the basement ceiling. Based on our perspective, it's clear Argus is laying face up on the floor. *

Argus slowly sits up. *

Argus scans the room, observing the fallen Cleaner. *

His gaze falls on Hawkins, who is seated across from him with her back against the brick pillar. *

She is busy bandaging her injured leg. *

The YELLOW DOME LIGHT that had been on Argus' chest is BADLY DAMAGED, having taken the brunt of the Cleaner's laser blast. *

HAWKINS

My leg is pretty messed up. *

Hawkins tries to move, but she winces at the pain.

HAWKINS

Yeah. That's affirmative.

Argus' head twitches. *

HAWKINS

Hey... what happened to your emitter?

Argus examines his damaged emitter. His head twitches again. *

ARGUS

It appears to have been seriously compromised. *

HAWKINS

Shit.

Argus twitches again.

ARGUS

I am sorry, Constable.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

Sorry for what? We're alive, aren't we?

ARGUS

Yes, but...

Argus slowly picks himself up off the floor. *

ARGUS

Now I must kill you.

Argus takes a stuttering step forward, his MOTOR CONTROLS clearly DAMAGED.

HAWKINS

Oh, Christ, no.

Hawkins tries to stand, but she CRIES OUT at the pain in her leg.

She DRAGS herself across the basement floor toward the doorway. *

With lurching steps, Argus pursues Hawkins as she drags herself along the floor of the basement. Her face is desperate, wracked with fear. *

HAWKINS

Argus!

ARGUS (V.O.)

I can feel them. They have taken control.

BURSTS OF STATIC cut across Argus' field of view. *

HAWKINS

Argus, stop!

ARGUS (V.O.)

Run, Constable. I cannot stop.

Hawkins DRAGS herself to a WALL. *

ARGUS (V.O.)

I must kill you now.

The BURSTS OF STATIC across Argus' field of view become more frequent. *

With nowhere else to go, Hawkins uses the WALL for support to PULL herself to her feet.

(CONTINUED)

She turns and faces off with Argus.

Argus' hands raise up, and his android FINGERS close around Hawkins' throat.

HAWKINS

Argus, stop!

The static in Argus' POV becomes all consuming, with just occasional flashes of Hawkins' tortured face.

We cut to BLACK.

THE BLACKNESS PERSISTS.

Then STATIC.

When the static resolves, we're still looking out through Argus' point of view. We're MOVING out of the basement.

STATIC cuts across the view

INT. STAIRWELL

39

ARGUS' POV

When the static resolves, we're now looking up A FLIGHT OF STAIRS as we haltingly ascend. We reach the landing and turn the corner.

STATIC cuts across the view.

INT. LOBBY

40

The deactivated BODY OF LUISA is draped over LOWELL'S CORPSE.

Richmond, Teevo, and Carl are GATHERED by the front door, about to leave. A distraught Carl has his face buried in Teevo's chest, and he holds the boy comfortingly.

ARGUS POV

Hearing FOOTSTEPS on the stairs, they all turn to look.

RICHMOND

What the?

TEEVO

Yo. That is seriously messed up.

The POV settles down onto the ground.

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly, the DOOR behind them flies open, and FIVE BLACK-CLAD MEN armed with RIFLES push their way in, forcing Argus and the others back. The men wear tactical vests, and their faces are obscured by BALACLAVAS. The insignia of the TERRAN SECURITY DIRECTIVE emblazons their sleeves.

The men survey the scene.

The one who would appear to be the leader silently SIGNALS to his comrades to raise their weapons.

In unison, the soldiers obey.

RICHMOND
What are you doing?!

Each soldier chooses a target, and the rifles are fired against Argus, Richmond, Teevo, and Carl. The officer and the civilians collapse to the floor. *

INT. DARK ROOM

41

ARGUS POV

We pull back from the security camera footage playing on Brigade Leader Yerkov's tablet as Argus sits back.

The HOLOGRAM image flickers and disappears.

Yerkov lowers the tablet into his lap and nods, evidently satisfied by what he has seen.

ARGUS (V.O.)
Who are you?

YERKOV
Brigade Leader Marcus Yerkov of the
Terran Security Directive.

ARGUS (V.O.)
And what is this place?

Yerkov shrugs and gestures to someone unseen in the shadows.

A moment later, the lights go up, illuminating the room. It is the LOBBY OF THE TOWER BLOCK.

Argus scans the surroundings.

Yerkov is seated in a CHAIR across from Argus in the center of the floor.

(CONTINUED)

The five Terran Security Directive soldiers stand fanned out around the room.

Bodies still LITTER the floor.

Yerkov stands and begins to pace among the bodies.

YERKOV

The events that transpired here were not what we had planned. Ideally, we would have sought a higher value target, but this will do.

Yerkov has to STOOP over to be seen by Argus' POV.

YERKOV

It's the best we can do, considering how royally Homeland screwed us by sending you bumbling in here. Bureaucracy, am I right? One hand doesn't know what the other hand's doing.

Yerkov crouches down beside Lowell's body.

Taking a fistful of the man's hair, Yerkov lifts Lowell's head so that Argus can get a better look at him.

YERKOV

You got our guys killed, you oaf.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Those men worked for Damien Ra.

Yerkov scoffs and shakes his head.

YERKOV

Damien Ra, sure... Damien Ra doesn't exist, you stupid machine. He's just a convenient boogyman to keep people nice and scared. Only sometimes, the boogyman has to jump out and yell boo once in a while.

ARGUS (V.O.)

You planned to stage a nanobot virus outbreak.

YERKOV

The android catches on quick. There you go.

(CONTINUED)

Yerkov stands and stretches his arms wide, taking in the body-littered floor.

YERKOV

And here we are. Not quite the flair we would have gone for, but it will do.

Yerkov raises a finger excitedly.

YERKOV

Now, I know what you're thinking. Who is going to believe that a terrorist mastermind like Damien Ra would target a simple tower block like this? Well, once again, a solution presents itself.

Yerkov steps across the bodies and crouches down beside Richmond, Teevo, and Carl's corpses. *

YERKOV

Vic Richmond, a known Ra conspirator, Tyrone Volaire, a delinquent with an extensive juvenile crime record. And Carl Vega...? We looked into her. It would seem she is a member of the Church of the New Osirins. What a merry band of terrorists they make. *

Yerkov rises and crosses back to the chair in front of Argus.

He takes a seat.

YERKOV

That just leaves one last loose end. Your memory.

ARGUS (V.O.)

You are a superior officer. Naturally, I will obey your orders.

YERKOV

Yeah, that's not really good enough. I'm afraid there's only one way to ensure your data chips are stripped clean. We're going to have to melt you down.

(CONTINUED)

ARGUS (V.O.)

I assure you, my programming is quite rigid. Even in the face of a hostile attempt to corrupt my core directives, it would be nearly impossible for me to follow through on any action to disobey or otherwise harm a superior officer.

YERKOV

I didn't know androids could plead for their life.

ARGUS (V.O.)

I am not pleading. I am simply pointing out that you may not have accounted for everything.

Behind us, we hear the elevator ding.

Yerkov looks up, looking past us.

YERKOV

The hell?

ARGUS (V.O.)

And it would seem the elevator is now working.

Gunshots suddenly ring out, and one by one the five soldiers fanned out behind Yerkov take bullets to the chest before they have time to react.

Yerkov knocks over his chair in his desperation to escape.

Finding his feet, Yerkov raises his hands defensively.

YERKOV

No! Please! I don't know what you heard, but I can explain!

Another gunshot sounds, and Yerkov takes a bullet between the eyes.

His body topples backwards, joining the others on the floor.

A moment later, a weary, disheveled Hawkins limps into view, SMOKE rising from the barrel of her gun.

Hawkins surveys the bodies before turning her attention to us.

(CONTINUED)

HAWKINS

Hey, partner. I must have blacked out for a while upstairs.

ARGUS (V.O.)

I did strangle you rather severely.

HAWKINS

Yeah, well... Lucky me, I guess not even nanobots could force you to kill a fellow officer. No hard feelings.

Hawkins kneels down in front of Argus and looks into the android's eyes.

ARGUS (V.O.)

It is good to see you, Constable.

HAWKINS

You too.

ARGUS (V.O.)

What do we do now?

HAWKINS

Now the world needs to see what's inside your head.

Hawkins offers a weak, exhausted smile.

ARGUS (V.O.)

Surveillance mode off.

CUT TO BLACK.