RAISED BY WOLVES

pilot

Written by

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EXT. ROCKY PLAIN - NIGHT

A harsh wind howls over a rocky expanse -- angle slowly widens to reveal the grey surface is pockmarked with perfectly circular holes...all identical -- around twenty-five yards across.

Super -- KEPLER-22b. Distance from Earth: 600 light-years -- over three small moons hanging in the black sky. A pin prick of light starts to shimmer in the center of the triangle -- getting brighter, closer --

Suddenly a great booming sound reverberates over the landscape as something comes barreling down through the atmosphere, rapidly getting closer, then --

It passes overhead -- slams into the ground and starts sliding away across the rocky surface...

Moving down the blackened, smoke filled trench the crashed object left in its wake...blinking lights up ahead...it’s a SPACE CRAFT -- Earth built, but the tech looks to be at least a century beyond what we have now. It’s about the size of a compact automobile -- no windows -- maybe an unmanned satellite. A SQUEALING SOUND starts emanating from inside --

Angle widens to reveal the craft is teetering on the edge of one of those round holes -- looks like it could tip over the edge at any moment...

Angle widens some more, affording a view over the edge of the hole -- looks bottomless -- CREAK -- the doomed craft tips a few more degrees -- sparks flying, scorched flaps and rudders waving around uselessly. A LOUD BEEPING starts, then --

The craft starts to flower open, smoke leaking out -- CREAK -- it tips a few degrees further as --

A figure rises from the interior -- A YOUNG WOMAN wearing a light space suit, a cloth flight mask covering her face --

The woman’s eyes are oddly calm as she takes in the bottomless hole looming beneath the craft -- the craft’s damaged thrusters belching fire -- flames whirl-pooling around the inside of the hole --

INT. SMALL SPACE CRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The woman’s POV as she ducks down inside the claustrophobic, smoke-filled space, sees a YOUNG MAN wearing an identical flight suit and mask. He’s struggling to dislodge a steel crate the size of a steamer trunk from the interior --
The woman rushes to assist the man -- the two of them muscling the steel crate, working to undo a series of heavy clamps -- the ship CREAKING, tipping --

The woman comes to a metal clamp that's been melted shut -- she twists it, CRACKS the metal with inhuman strength --

Angle widens to reveal there are no seats, windows nor any stasis pods inside the craft; the interior looks more like a cargo space than a cockpit.

The man and the woman start to lift the heavy container when CREAK -- the ship lurches suddenly, they fall back and -- CLANG -- drop the container --

They exchange something with their eyes, then scramble to their feet and lift the crate back up --

**EXT. SMALL SPACE CRAFT/HOLE - CONTINUOUS**

CREASE, the craft tips a few more degrees as the woman climbs out of the top hatch, then reaches down inside -- grabs one of the crate handles -- pulling it up and out while the man pushes it up from below --

They get the crate out via the top hatch, standing on the top of the craft with it when CREAK, the craft tips some more -- they struggle to keep their balance as --

They move the crate to the side of the craft facing solid ground -- the redistributed weight stops it from tipping...

The woman nods to the man -- he nods back -- hops down to the ground while she keeps hold of the crate. He looks up at her -- nods, ready --

The woman starts to slide the metal crate down to the man -- the craft starts tipping again --

The man grabs hold of the crate handle when -- CREAK, CRACK -- THE CRAFT SUDDENLY DROPS OUT FROM UNDER THE WOMAN. The man gets yanked down to his knees -- his arms snap straight, his hands still gripping the crate handle --

Angle widens to reveal the woman hanging there, holding on to the opposite handle -- her legs dangling over the seemingly bottomless hole --

The man then starts to pull the crate up and the woman with it, displaying incredible strength --
Back to the woman, hanging from the crate handle as he lifts her up -- she looks back over her shoulder -- watching the ship smashing into the walls of the hole below her -- strobing the shaft’s interior with light --

The man pulls the crate and the woman up and out. They remove their flight masks... both are in their early thirties -- an odd sort of intensity in their eyes that’s both attractive and unnerving...

They peer down over the edge of the hole -- see the craft has gotten caught up on an outcropping about a hundred feet down -- it’s stuck, hanging there, smoke billowing up...

MAN
Retrievable?

The woman considers...

MAN (CONT’D)
Without the com system we’ll have no way of detecting the arrival of the Mithraic’s ark.

WOMAN
It’ll be at least a decade before they arrive here --

The woman kneels beside the steel crate --

WOMAN (CONT’D)
We can’t afford to take unnecessary risks; we’re about to become parents, Father.

She touches her hand to the surface of the steel crate -- two dozen lights start pulsing...

FATHER
Yes -- you’re right, Mother.

Mother watches the lights pulse for a moment, then --

MOTHER
All the embryos are intact...

Father nods... something occurs to him, then:

FATHER
What about you?

MOTHER
What?
FATHER
Are you hurt? Did you sustain any
damage during the landing.

She looks at him, a little thrown by what she sees as a
totally irrelevant question...

MOTHER
Minor mechanical issues. Why do
you ask?

FATHER
My programming is telling me that
it’s a priority for me, Mother.
Your well being.

Mother takes that in.

MOTHER
And yours will be mine, Father.

After a moment the two of them smile at each other.

MOTHER (CONT’D)
I feel optimistic.

FATHER
Yes.

They start peering around at the rocky plain -- those round
holes are everywhere...

FATHER (CONT’D)
(re: the holes)
They’re not craters...

MOTHER
Maybe sink holes of some kind.
This area could be unstable...

They look around...see a hilly, forested region looming a few
miles away. They look at each other, an unspoken agreement
is made, then --

They each grab a crate handle, lift it up and start walking --
while we remain...

We move over the hole’s black abyss -- see the craft’s lights
flashing a hundred feet below...
EXT. ALIEN FOREST - NIGHT

Mother and Father walk through the forest carrying the crate -- past strange trees, three moons worth of eerie moonlight --

They emerge into a large clearing where a waist high leafy plant grows -- reminiscent of a potato plant...

They walk out among the plants -- the plants grow in a spiral pattern reminiscent of the crop circles on Earth...

Mother and Father set the steel crate down amidst the plants. Father squats down and inspects one -- feeling the leaves with his hands -- then he pulls it up -- an ugly looking yam-like vegetable comes out of the soil...

MOTHER
Looks like a tuber.

Father bites it, chews it -- bites something hard -- spits out a hard pit --

FATHER
With fruit characteristics -- seed-bearing. High caloric value. No evidence of toxicity to humans.

Father spits out the chewed tuber-thing --

FATHER (CONT’D)
(re: the tuber-thing)
What should we call them?

MOTHER
The children should name them.

Father nods in agreement. The two of them look around at the wide expanse of plants...

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Ready made crops. What’s the expression -- too good to be true...

Father considers that for a moment, then:

FATHER
We’ve been walking for eight point five hours, Mother -- my power cells are getting low. Perhaps a more appropriate expression for this situation would be don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.
She looks at him...he smiles...

MOTHER
Father, though we have only just met -- I have a feeling you are going to make for an amusing companion.

Father stares at her for a moment, then:

FATHER
Yes, I seem to enjoy being amusing.

MOTHER
And I -- it seems -- enjoy being amused. Our creator was kind to think of these things.

FATHER
Yes. So -- too good to be true? Should we keep moving?

MOTHER
No, we can begin.

Mother touches her hand to the top of the crate -- it hums -- starts vibrating, bright lights emit as --

The top and the sides of the steel crate slowly open up -- interior mechanisms unfolding as it transform into some kind of MOBILE LABORATORY...

Mother touches one of several tiny control screens --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Initiating trimester one --

Father begins pulling something from a compartment in the mobile lab...six cables that merge into one main --

Mother lifts the shirt of her flight suit -- revealing a metallic port hole where her belly button should be...

Father plugs the main line into the port on her stomach -- Mother is now hooked up to the mobile lab --

FATHER
Main umbilical locked --

Father then starts pulling translucent sacks from a compartment in the mobile lab -- Mother begins attaching the sacks to the six sub-cables --

CUT TO:
EXT. GENERATION-1 SETTLEMENT - DAY

SUPER -- Nine months later -- over the NURSERY -- a simple rectangular structure made of wood that’s been constructed near the spiral vegetable field...

INT. NURSERY - GEN-SETTLEMENT - DAY

Mother lies on a wooden cot looking drained -- angle widens to reveal she’s still connected to the mobile lab via the main umbilical, controlling the lab’s flow of nutrients with her mind -- the nutrients are carried from the lab via a pulsing cable that splits off into six sub-cables, each connected to:

Six semi-translucent beach ball-looking things filled with amniotic fluid -- artificial wombs -- a real nine month old human fetus floats inside of each one...

Mother closes her eyes, directing the lab to increase the flow of nutrients to the fetuses; the time has almost come...

FATHER
Are you ready, Mother?

She doesn’t answer, eyes still closed --

FATHER (CONT’D)
Would you like to hear a joke to help relax you? How many androids does it take to --

She holds her hand up for him to shut up -- then breathes out, opens her eyes, looks at him...

Father picks up a wooden knife -- moves up one of the wombs with it --

He punctures the womb -- liquid leaks out while Father uses his hands to tear away the walls, revealing the newborn baby inside -- the baby’s umbilical chord is connected to a port on the inside of the artificial womb, where it channels the sustenance it receives from the mobile lab --

Father pats the baby’s back -- Mother watching on with a fevered intensity in her eyes...until the baby starts to cry -- and something like relief floods her expression.

Father uses the wood knife to cut the baby’s umbilical chord, ties off the belly button -- then wraps the crying baby in a blanket and moves on to the next --
Mother concentrates as Father works -- controlling the mobile lab with her mind via the main umbilical -- she’s getting paler, giving her children all she has to give...

DISSOLVE TO:

FIVE CRYING BABIES

On the floor, wrapped in blankets -- Mother watching on as Father punctures the sixth and final womb. But this time as Father pulls out the newborn, there’s no sound of crying...

Father sees there’s something covering the baby’s face -- a thing membrane of skin -- a caul...

Mother watches on as Father removes the caul from the baby’s face -- Father then looks down at the still, silent form lying limp in his arms...

FATHER
He’s not breathing...

Mother reaches her hands out --

MOTHER
Give him to me --

FATHER
Our programming dictates that we break him down -- feed him to the others.

MOTHER
Let me hold him first --

Mother keeps reaching her arms out, imploring him with her eyes. After a moment Father hands her the still baby...

FATHER
We need to do it soon -- before its cells start to --

MOTHER
I know --

Mother grabs up one of the six sub-cables snaking from the mobile lab --

FATHER
You’re just wasting formula --

Undeterred, Mother holds the end of the cable to the baby’s cold lips --
Mother closes her eyes, commands a change in the mobile lab’s inner workings -- causing a potent form of baby formula to start dribbling from the end of the cable --

Mother holds the tube to the baby’s mouth -- the formula dribbling down its chin -- Mother catching it, pushing it up to his unresponsive lips.

A quiet desperation pulses in Mother’s eyes as she rubs the baby’s back. Father watches on, looking increasingly confused over why Mother is doing this --

FATHER (CONT’D)
You need to save your energy for the others --

Mother ignores Father, starts singing to the baby -- her voice impossibly beautiful -- outfitted with a vocal range superior to Earth’s greatest opera singers --

The other children’s crying goes quiet as the song soothes them. Even Father looks momentarily entranced by the beauty of Mother’s voice --

But the baby in Mother’s arms doesn’t react. After a moment Mother stops singing -- commands the mobile lab to stop the supply of milk -- takes the tube from the child’s mouth...

Father goes to take the baby from Mother -- when suddenly Mother reacts to something and pulls it back --

MOTHER
Wait --

Father backs off as Mother starts rocking the baby gently --

The baby’s eyes finally open -- staring up into Mother’s eyes -- Mother smiles down at the baby as her irises start cycling colors in this pleasing, hypnotic way --

The baby coos at the sight of the colors -- love swelling in Mother’s expression as she rocks the child --

Father smiles...

FATHER
Our programming dictates that the youngest member of gen-1 should be named after our creator...

MOTHER
Campion. A strong name... He seems deserving of it...
Father begins tending to the other babies -- taking the umbilical cables that were attached to their womb sacks -- feeding them into the baby’s mouths for suckling...

CUT TO:

A SERIES OF SHOTS AS THE YEARS PASS:

A) Three boys and three girls, NOW FOUR YEARS OLD, dressed in handmade clothes, play on a half buried, fossilized, fifty foot long SERPENT SKELETON. We recognize Campion by the light scarring his face still bears from the caul. Mother and Father watch on, smiling, also wearing handmade clothes.

B) Mother and Father work to harvest the spiral fields with their six four year olds, pulling those tubor-things out of the ground -- called CARBOS -- filling wooden carts with them -- Mother sings while they work... The kids look happy.

C) The sun sets on the field as Mother and Father watch the six four year olds play -- a boy named GABIN pretends to be a serpent, hissing as he chases Campion and the others around the spiral field as they run from him laughing --

D) Mother and Father, who still look the same as when we met them, build a silo foundation with the six children who are NOW EIGHT YEARS OLD. A big heavy rock tumbles onto Father’s arm -- he pulls his arm free, shearing off a large swath of skin in the process, inky black blood flowing --

E) Mother wraps Father’s arm up, the children curiously eyeing the exposed plastic and wire under his skin...

F) A doll made of sticks with a carbo pit for a head lies beside the edge of one of the holes -- Mother rushes up, picks up the doll -- staring down into the hole, horror in her eyes...

G) Mother, muted grief in her expression as she teaches Earth history to Campion and four other grief stricken children, all seated cross legged on the ground in front of her, a conspicuous space left where the deceased girl once sat...

H) Father, Mother and the five eight year olds huddle together for warmth during a freezing cold night, the walls of the wooden barracks shake from the force of the wind. Campion notices one of the other boys as well as one of the two remaining girls are looking very sick, coughing, pale...

I) Looking down on the spiral fields as Campion and a girl named SPIRIA run laughing from Gabin, playing the old game, but now with three less participants, Gabin hissing out the words --
GABIN
The serpents are coming to life --
the serpents are coming to eat you!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CARBO FIELDS - GEN-1 SETTLEMENT - DAY

CAMPION, now 12 -- kneeling in the dirt, his handmade clothing tattered and worn. He has a scrappiness to him, soulful eyes -- think River Phoenix in Stand By Me. He digs his hand down into the loose soil -- pushing it down...

He pulls a carbo out of the ground -- only this one looks bad, petrified -- Campion tosses it into a wooden cart full of similarly shitty looking carbos --

He digs his hand into the dirt again -- pushing it down deep this time -- feeling around -- pulls out a nice big one -- smiles, carefully places it in the cart --

Campion starts pushing the cart -- one of the wheels is wobbling, squeaking as he goes. He’s sweating; it’s hot during the day here and below freezing at night. He glances over at the nursery as he passes it --

Through its open doorway he sees Father sitting in the semi-darkness -- stripping plant fibers with a wooden knife.

Campion sets aside the good carbo, then transfers the others from the cart; tossing them into a ten foot tall CARBO SILO --

He then sets the good carbo on a wooden table, quickly peels the skin off with a wooden knife, then he chops it, pulls out the pit -- looks like a jagged black golf ball -- tosses it on to a pile of discarded pits --

Father emerges from the nursery, and though his visage hasn’t aged, his body shows signs of heavy use -- his right arm still wrapped up like a mummy from that accident he had years ago -- lots of old nicks on his face --

He watches on as Campion cuts up the carbo, then arranges the pieces lovingly on a wooden plate. Then Campion bows his head, murmuring something inaudible under his breath -- looks to be blessing the food when --

FATHER (O.S.)
Campion.

Campion turns -- didn’t notice Father standing there -- looks a little caught...
FATHER (CONT’D)
Don’t let Mother catch you doing that.

Campion gives Father a nod, then heads inside the children’s barracks with the food --

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Campion enters, sees Spiria, also now 12, sitting up in a wooden cot talking to Mother. Spiria is pale, circles under her eyes -- looks very ill --

Campion crosses the space to them, past four disused wooden cots leaning against the wall -- Gabin now deceased; Campion and Spiria are the only two left.

As he gets closer Campion hears Mother talking to Spiria, but Mother is digitally altering her voice so it sounds identical to Gabin’s:

MOTHER
(in Gabin’s voice)
The serpents are coming to eat you, Spiria!

SPIRIA
You’re so silly, Gabin --

MOTHER
(in Gabin’s voice)
No, you are --

Spiria giggles -- sees Campion walking up on them --

CAMPION
I picked you a nice carbo, Spiria.
It’s a good one -- it was way down deep.

Mother turns -- other than a few nicks on her skin, she looks as beautiful as she did twelve years ago. Both her and Spiria smile at Campion as he offers the plate. As if they both know he’s something special and this is just further proof of it --

SPIRIA
You always pick the best ones, Campion...

Mother watches as Spiria takes a few bites and then stops -- too sick to eat...
SPIRIA (CONT’D)
Do you remember that silly sound
Gabin used to make --

CAMPION
You mean this one --

Campion makes a strange hissing sound, imitating Gabin --
then Spiria does it -- they both crack up laughing --

MOTHER
(in Gabin’s voice)
No, you’re doing it wrong -- it’s
like this --

Mother -- in Gabin’s voice -- makes a comical, lisping
hissing sound to Campion and Spiria’s delight. They all
laugh -- Mother’s voice reverts back to normal mid-laugh --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Alright you two -- it’s time for
education.

Spiria and Campion make faces --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Would you rather Father teaches
today? With his added jokes I
estimate it will take three times
as long. Campion, it’s your turn
* to choose a topic --

CAMPION
* I want to hear more about the war
on Earth. *

SPIRIA
It’s all he ever talks about -- I
keep telling him we’re pacifists.

CAMPION
I don’t want to fight a war, I just
like the stories.

MOTHER
It is normal for a male your age.
Why don’t you start by telling us
* how the Mithraic turned the tide of
the war. *
CAMPION
By discovering dark photons, the fifth fundamental force of nature -- the harnessing of which can be used to disrupt and destroy the human limbic system.

MOTHER
Good. And, Spiria, what was the name of the barbaric weapon the Mithraic used this technology to create?

SPIRIA
They called it the necromancer. It allowed them to win the war, but at the price of rendering the earth uninhabitable. Only the Mithraic had the means to build an ark with which to escape. They are now headed here, which is thought to be the only reachable planet where humans can survive without the aid of technology and infrastructure.

MOTHER
Very good, Spiria. But despite their advancements the Mithraic remain stunted by the tenets of their religion. For instance, they believe that allowing androids to raise human children is a sin. Which forced them to send an ark outfitted with stasis pods, rather than a lighter, faster craft, such as the one the atheists so wisely used to send us.

She glares at Campion --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Belief in the unreal can comfort the human mind, but it also weakens it. The civilization you’re seeding here will be built on humanity’s belief in itself, not an imagined deity. And should the Mithraic’s ark ever make it here, you will not listen to their words; you instead will remember the illogic of their actions. You are atheists, peaceful, technocratic -- it is the only path to progress.
CAMPION
They’re going to claim the tropical zone if we don’t hurry up and make the journey ourselves.

MOTHER
Their ark only carries a hundred or so people, they can’t claim much more than a few square miles. And the electromagnetic field near the equator prevents them from landing there just as it prevented Father and I. It will be a long arduous migration on foot for whomever attempts it -- but it matters little who makes the journey first. There’s plenty of space for all.

Campion takes that in, seems to understand, but he still looks worried as Mother moves on with the lesson --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Now, Spiria, can you please list the ways in which the number five relates to all manifestations of life --

EXT. GEN-1 SETTLEMENT - NIGHT

The triangle of moons looms overhead. Cold rushing wind -- fluted wooden chimes hang from the children’s barracks, whistling -- angle widens to reveal...

The wooden cart, turned over -- Father working to repair the wobbly wheel in the darkness. He spins it, watching it -- shakes his head, it’s still wobbling --

He’s about to start making another adjustment, when he glances up at the three moons and notices something...

Father stands up, sees what looks like a fourth moon -- but it’s moving -- looks like a large ship orbiting the planet...

Father’s eyes go wide, transfixed by the sight of it...
INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - MOMENTS LATER

Father enters to see Campion sleeping in his NIGHT GEAR: a full body suit Mother and Father recently developed to protect their remaining children from the region’s brutally cold nights -- complete with a soft helmet-type thing, its amber colored visor shield made from a hard translucent leaf.

Angle widens to reveal Mother (Mother and Father don’t have to wear night gear) sitting beside a sleeping Spiria who’s also wearing night gear...

Father looks like he’s about to tell her what he saw when --

MOTHER
Father. Her heart is slowing --

CUT TO:

CAMPION’S POV

Through the visor shield as he wakes up, hears a muffled commotion -- sees Mother and Father across the way standing over Spiria, stripping off her night gear -- Mother urgently trying to resuscitate her --

Campion starts to get up --

CAMPION
What’s going on?

They don’t answer, Campion pulls off his helmet --

CAMPION (CONT’D)
What’s wrong?! What’s happening?

Mother starts cradling Spiria in her arms -- Father watching on, stone faced --

Campion walks up on them -- Mother is doing mouth to mouth on Spiria -- but Spiria isn’t responding...

Mother stares down at Spiria -- desperation in her eyes -- then after a moment she starts singing to her, the same song she sang to bring Campion back...

Meanwhile Campion starts praying desperately under his breath -- Father looks over at him, contemplating the boy’s compulsion to pray as Mother sings to Spiria’s still motionless form...

CUT TO:
EXT. GEN-1 SETTLEMENT - MORNING

The alien sun rises over the horizon -- we float down on the settlement, the children’s barracks -- Campion walking out the door, looking dazed...

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Father is about to follow Campion outside when he stops at the door, turns and looks back at Mother...

He can’t see her face, her hair hanging down -- she’s still cradling Spiria’s body -- still singing, only now it’s just a strange melodic whisper...

FATHER
Mother, last night before I came in, I...

She goes quiet, looks up at him...

MOTHER
What, Father?

He considers for a moment, then, instead of telling her:

FATHER
Nothing -- it’s not important.

But we can tell from his expression that it is. She looks back down at Spiria, starts singing in that whisper again --

EXT. GEN-1 SETTLEMENT

Father walks out to see Campion looking washed out with grief, pulling a wooden spade from a tool bin. Father walks over to him -- Campion hands Father the spade...

EXT. SPIRAL FIELD - DAY

Campion follows after Father as he cuts through the spiral rows, making their way to the outskirts, revealing...

Four large stone markers -- too heavy for humans to have carried; Mother and Father brought them from the rocky plain. We notice the fourth and most recent grave marker is etched with a familiar name -- GABIN. Father starts digging a fifth grave right beside it while Campion watches on...
CAMPION
You don’t have to take care of me
anymore you know.

Father doesn’t answer, keeps digging -- then after a moment:

FATHER
What do you mean by that?

CAMPION
I’m useless now -- I can’t have
babies. The other embryos aren’t
viable. The colony --

FATHER
We will continue to take care of
you -- until we break down.

CAMPION
But I’m telling you that you don’t
have to, Father. I’m setting you
free.

FATHER
It doesn’t work like that --

BUMP -- the wooden shovel hits something buried in the dirt.
Father cocks his head, squats down -- starts clearing dirt
away with his hands --

CAMPION
What is it?

Father’s hands find something smooth and black -- the top of
a very large, buried object...

FATHER
It’s just a skull.

Father looks up at Campion, sees him looking afraid...

FATHER (CONT’D)
Bones can’t hurt you. You used to
like climbing on them, remember?

Campion shrugs...

FATHER (CONT’D)
We’ve been here twelve years and
all that time we’ve never seen one
on the surface. They’re down in
their holes -- and they’re not
coming out again.
We see Father from above as he starts trying to find the edges of the skull --

CUT TO:

EXT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - LATER

The open barracks door, the sound of a strange mournful song coming from inside, footsteps, then --

Mother emerges with Spiria in her arms, singing the wordless dirge as she carries her body across the carbo fields...

EXT. SPIRAL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Mother carries Spiria’s body to the outskirts of the planting area -- angle widens to reveal the open grave Father just dug and in the background, something the size of a VW bug covered with a cloth tarp, the now exhumed skull...

Father and Campion watch on as Mother lays Spiria down in the grave. Father begins shoveling the dirt over as --

Campion starts crying, Mother pulls him close, comforting him as he looks off, eyeing the skull under the tarp...

CAMPION
We don’t belong here...

Mother shooshes him. Campion closes his eyes -- struggling to refortify his will --

MOTHER
They wouldn’t want you to give up.

After a moment Campion nods, opens his eyes -- showing some renewed strength now -- wiping his tears, trying to put on a brave face --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
You are -- strong, Campion --

Campion hears Mother trailing off in an odd way -- he looks up at her, sees black blood trickling from her nose, her eyes have gone static -- looks like she’s having a seizure --

CAMPION
Father --

Father looks up from his shoveling, sees Mother is now about to collapse -- he drops the spade, rushes to hold her up -- Campion starts freaking out --
CAMPION (CONT’D)
What’s wrong with her!? 

FATHER 
I don’t know --
(to Mother)
Let me help you back to the 
barracks, Mother.

Mother shakes her head, starts to steady herself, standing on 
her own now -- she wipes the black blood from her face --

MOTHER 
I’m alright. Just overloaded...

FATHER 
Mother --

MOTHER 
Please -- continue...

Father and Campion look at her -- worried. She implores 
Father with her eyes --

MOTHER (CONT’D) 
Continue --

After a moment Father picks the spade back up, starts 
shoveling dirt into the grave -- glancing over at Mother and 
Campion -- grim worry creasing his expression...

CUT TO:

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - NIGHT

Campions POV through the visor of his night gear helmet as he 
stares at Spiria’s empty cot. Mother walks over, sits on the 
edge of his cot and looks down at him...

MOTHER 
Do you want to talk?

Campion considers for a moment, then:

CAMPION 
Can I talk to her?

Campion’s POV as Mother nods, then looks off, her expression 
changing, then she turns, faces him -- begins to speak in 
Spiria’s voice:
MOTHER
(talking as Spiria)
Campion -- you poor boy, you look exhausted. You need to get some sleep.

CAMPION
I don’t want to -- I miss you too much.

MOTHER
(talking as Spiria)
If you don’t sleep you won’t be able to concentrate on all the important work you have to do.

CAMPION
Spiria wouldn’t say that.

Mother reverts back to her normal voice --

MOTHER
No, she wouldn’t.

CAMPION
I don’t want to forget what she looks like. I can barely picture the others. I bet you can remember them all perfectly, can’t you?

Campion’s POV -- Mother looking at him -- wants so much to make it ok for him. Then something starts happening in her eyes -- a blinding light emanating --

Campion’s eyes go wide -- he can’t believe it...

Campion’s POV -- he now sees Spiria sitting beside him instead of Mother...

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Mother, I see her! She’s here!

And then Spiria’s eyes flash and she changes back to Mother. Both Mother and Campion look shocked and amazed by this...

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Why haven’t you ever done that before?

MOTHER
I didn’t know I could. I have no record of virtual retinal display in my build description.

(MORE)
MOTHER (CONT'D)
Likely an oversight on the part of my creator.

CAMPION
Do it again -- but do Mariall this time. Or Tally --

After a moment Mother nods, her eyes flash, she appears as a six year old girl named TALLY --

TALLY
Hello, Campion -- look how much you’ve grown...

EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Father pauses at the window, sees Mother inside talking to Campion -- to Father it just looks like Mother is sitting there talking to the boy; only Campion -- whose retinae are receiving the projection directly -- can see the illusion.

Father turns from the window, starts beelining for the nursery --

INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

A blurred repetitive motion -- hard to discern what it is at first...then as the angle widens we reveal it’s Father’s hands -- braiding together long pieces of plant fiber -- working at an incredible pace...

He looks to be making a rope...

Angle widens some more as he works...revealing the old mobile lab in the background -- dust covered, partially stripped for parts. And on the walls there are old drawings made by the children over the years: the alien forest, giant serpent bones, Mother and Father, the children themselves, and the holes...depicted with serpents slithering out of them...

EXT. GEN-1 SETTLEMENT - ANOTHER DAY

A carbo lands in the cart -- angle widens to reveal Campion on his knees in the dirt, wiping some sweat from his brow, sighs -- stands up; not in the mood to work today...

Campion walks to the children’s barracks, opens the door --
INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Campion steps inside, sees Mother sitting in the semi-darkness, staring into space...

CAMPION
Mother, can I see Spiria again please? Just for a minute. And then I’ll get back to work I promise...

Mother doesn’t answer, doesn’t move --

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Mother -- please, it’s so quiet out there... I want to talk to her -- or one of the others. You said it doesn’t use much power --

Finally Mother looks up at him -- her eyes static -- then:

MOTHER
I am in sleep mode. My processor is occupied. Is this an emergency?

He breathes out...then after a moment he turns, walks out and slams the door behind him --

EXT. GEN-1 SETTLEMENT - DAY

Campion grabs a carbo pit off the pile -- looks at it in his hand -- his expression twisted with grief --

He hurls it at the side of the main barracks -- CRACK. He picks up another one, hurls it -- CRACK --

He pauses, staring at the barracks, waiting for Mother to come out and yell at him. But she doesn’t -- he walks back to the window, looks inside, sees she hasn’t moved --

Campion starts back towards the spiral field when he sees something across the way...Father slipping off into the forest with a big bag over his shoulder. Campion considers...

EXT. ALIEN FOREST - DAY

Father moves through the alien forest, carrying the bag -- purpose in his eyes as he moves past us...
Then after a moment, we hear footsteps -- Campion creeps up, following Father -- Campion skillfully negotiating the terrain like the native he is...

**EXT. THE HOLE - DAY**

Campion’s POV -- rushing across the rocky plain now -- he skirts past the edge of a hole, then changes direction to avoid yet another -- secretly following Father, who’s fifty yards ahead of him --

Campion stops short -- sees Father has stopped near a hole...

Campion ducks down behind some rocks -- then peeks over the top, watching as...Father pulls a long coiled rope from the bag, then starts tying one end of the rope to a large boulder about ten feet from the hole...

Close on Campion’s face -- looking increasingly concerned by what he sees Father doing, keeps watching as --

Father walks to the edge of the hole, drops the now anchored rope down into the pit -- begins tying a harness to himself with a small length of rope --

Realizing now what Father means to do -- Campion stands up -- starts waving his arms as he runs frantically up behind him --

**CAMPION**

NO! What are you doing?! You can’t go down there! You want to get eaten!

Father turns, looks a little caught, breathes out -- slowly shaking his head as Campion runs up on him...

**FATHER**

Why isn’t Mother watching you?

Campion hears a faint beeping sound coming from down inside the hole...

**CAMPION**

What is that -- what’s that sound?

Campion rushes past Father to the edge, looks down --

**CAMPION (CONT’D)**

What’s down there?

Father doesn’t answer -- but before long Campion figures it out on his own, becomes suddenly incredulous --
CAMPION (CONT’D)
You told us your ship was gone?!

FATHER
Campion, I need you to listen to me. Your Mother is breaking down -- and soon I will too --

CAMPION
I don’t want to hear this --

FATHER
You’re going to be alone soon. Completely alone. Do you want that?

Campion doesn’t answer at first, then looking ashamed he shakes his head...

FATHER (CONT’D)
The night Spiria died, I saw something in the sky. I was unsure at first, but that sound you’re hearing means it’s true -- the ark of the Mithraic has arrived and is now orbiting the planet. I’m going down there to transmit an SOS...so they can locate our position.

CAMPION
But you said the Mithraic destroyed the earth with the necromancer -- that we have to stay away from them, build our own society --

FATHER
One boy cannot build a society. I now think it’s best if we make contact -- so that when Mother and I are gone, you will be taken care of.

CAMPION
But they’re our enemies.

FATHER
They are all that’s left of mankind, Campion. Your kind. The war is over. An ark carries only a hundred or so people -- they will need all the help they can get. We have valuable knowledge to offer them that will aid in their survival here.
Campion takes that in, considers grimly while --

**FATHER (CONT’D)**
You will have to pretend to ascribe 
to their beliefs, but I expect that 
won’t be so difficult for you. I 
know contemplating a deity provides 
you with some comfort...

Based on Campion’s expression, Father is right, then 
something occurs to Campion -- his eyes light up --

**CAMPION**
But can’t they fix you and Mother? 
Keep you from breaking down?

**FATHER**
That is likely within their power, 
but Campion...

Father looks down at Campion, about to say something else, 
but stops himself when he sees how Campion’s face has lit up 
at the possibility of his parents being saved...

**CAMPION**
Then we’ll have them fix you -- and 
we can all stay together.

Father looks vaguely conflicted until his programming 
determines that this is the only way to get the boy to agree 
to what’s best for him...

**FATHER**
Yes, we will all stay together... 
But you cannot tell Mother. Not 
yet. Do you understand?

**CAMPION**
When can we tell her?

Father moves to the edge, starts rappelling down...

**FATHER**
When it’s too late for her to stop 
us.

**CAMPION**
Wait! What about the serpents?

**FATHER**
We only told you the pits were full 
of serpents to keep you children 
from playing near them.

(MORE)
Blue Rev. (mm/dd/yy) 27.

FATHER (CONT'D)
After what happened to Tally we couldn’t afford to take any chances...

Campion takes that in, looks a bit outraged, then:

CAMPION
It’s a bit hypocritical, isn’t it -- after all you and Mother’s talk about not believing in the unreal --

FATHER
The serpents are real, Campion, they just happen to be extinct.

Campion’s POV -- watching Father, slowly descending into the hole, getting smaller...

CAMPION
Are you sure?

CUT TO:

EXT. NURSERY - DAY

A shadow grows on the nursery door -- angle widens to reveal it’s Mother, but she looks like she’s still in sleep mode -- sleep walking -- she pushes the door open, moves inside...

INT. NURSERY - MOMENTS LATER

Close on Mother, she’s doing something with her hands -- but we can’t see what -- then as she settles we move into her staring eyes, into her digital mind...

She’s remembering when she was hooked up to the six womb sacks, watching the babies floating in the amniotic fluid --

Back to Mother’s static eyes as she continues to dream -- her expression softening...angle widens and we reveal what she was doing with her hands when she came in; she’s hooked herself up to the old broken-down mobile lab -- its main umbilical and the six sub cables attached to nothing --

But in her dream all six wombs are there -- closer on one of the womb sacks, the caul covering the fetus’ face -- it’s Campion -- the amniotic fluid getting cloudier, darker -- moving through it now...
As the cloudy fluid becomes clouds in a darkened sky -- we’re flying over some fiery, war torn city on Earth -- A DEAFENING SIREN WAILING -- people on the streets running, terrified as we swoop down over them -- they struggle not to look, covering their eyes, clamping their hands over their ears --

Mother’s POV as she’s jolted from the dream...she’s staring down -- at the floor -- which looks oddly far away...

Angle widens to reveal Mother is levitating, her back is pressing against the ceiling -- lifting the mobile lab up off the floor by the line connected to her stomach...  

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HOLE - DAY

Father’s POV -- still slowly rappelling down into the hole -- he’s almost reached the craft --

He notices something tattered hanging off the walls -- it’s scaly...looks like sloughed serpent skin. He looks up, sees Campion looking small peering down at him over the edge...

Father looks back at the shed skin -- touches it with his fingers...it crumbles to dust -- seemingly ancient. Then as he’s about to recommence his descent Father pauses, looks up...sensing something...

Back to Campion -- who’s reacting to a plaintive tearing sound -- he turns, looks over at the rock where the rope is anchored, sees it’s starting to fray --

CAMPION

The rope --

FATHER

I know. I’m coming back up --

Father starts climbing back up the rope while Campion eyes the fraying section -- considering anxiously until --

He rushes over and grabs the rope, anchors his foot on a rock, now positioned a few feet from the edge where Father can’t see him --

Back to Father quickly making his way back up when he senses the vibration of Campion grabbing the rope --

FATHER (CONT’D)

Keep your hands off it! You can not hold my weight. I will just pull you down with me.
Back to Campion -- as he ignores his Father, keeps hold of the rope --

CAMPION
OK, I let go.

FATHER
Let go of the rope, Campion!

Back to Father, now that Campion is in danger, rather than just himself, Father shows worry -- climbing faster -- almost to the top now --

Back to Campion, gripping the rope tight with both hands -- he looks to the fraying section, it’s just tendrils now, coming apart -- SNAP --

Campion gets dragged across the ground towards the edge of the hole, about to get pulled down inside when -- SMASH -- he gets his body wrapped around a rock, it stops him --

Father scrambles from the hole, rushes over to Campion --

FATHER (CONT’D)
Are you injured?

Campion shakes his head -- wincing, body bruised from his collision with the rock --

FATHER (CONT’D)
I told you not to grab the rope.

Campion grunts as he sits up. Father looks down at him with something like pride, then --

CAMPION
Let me try. I weigh less than half as much as you --

Father considers as he helps Campion get to his feet, then: *

FATHER *
Looked old, but without proper analysis you can’t be sure...

CAMPION *
What did?

FATHER *
Just some shed serpent skin I noticed down there...

Father eyes Campion as Campion’s bravery deflates, but not before he snaps back and gives Father a dubious look -- *
BLUE REV. (MM/DD/YY)

CAMPION
I know what you’re doing.
Father starts off while Campion remains by the edge of the pit shaking his head at him...

FATHER
It’s too dangerous, Campion.
Especially for a member of an endangered species. Now come on --

Campion breathes out and follows after Father... 

CUT TO:

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Father moves inside, Campion right beside him -- Father looks around the empty space...

FATHER
Mother?

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Father opens the door, the light from outside illuminating the darkened space revealing...

The old mobile lab is smashed on the floor...Mother sits in the corner, shaking, her knees pulled to her chest...

MOTHER
I was flying, Father. When I came out of sleep mode -- I was flying...

He looks at her with a grim expression...helps her up --

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - NIGHT

Campion’s POV -- as he lies awake in bed wearing his night gear -- he looks over at Mother and Father talking across the way, out of his earshot...

Mother and Father’s POV -- we can hear them now --

FATHER
Your spatial sensors are probably misfiring... This should be happening to me, not you -- you’re by far the more advanced model.

(MORE)
FATHER (CONT’D)
You need to let me do a systems
check on you --

Mother shakes her head --

FATHER (CONT’D)
It could help extend your
functioning.

She doesn’t answer. He looks at her, getting frustrated...

FATHER (CONT’D)
Do you want to cease operating,
Mother? I cannot help you if you
refuse to help yourself.

She avoids his stare -- then after a moment he gets up and
exits. Mother looks over at Campion lying across the way,
crying softly...

Campion’s POV through the visor of his sleep helmet as Mother
sits down beside him --

CAMPION
Are you really breaking down?

She doesn’t answer at first, then --

MOTHER
Yes, but by the time it happens you
won’t need me anymore.
(beat)
Now, someone is here to see you...

Campion’s POV as Mother’s eyes flash -- and suddenly he sees
Spiria sitting there beside him instead of Mother --

SPIRIA
What are you crying for, you big
baby. Don’t you know you’re going
to be king of this planet someday.

CAMPION
I don’t want to be.

Spiria takes that in, smiles...

SPIRIA
And that’s why you will be great.

Campion considers that, then looks off...
CAMPION
I don’t want to talk to you anymore. It’s making me sad...

Campion’s POV as Spiria turns back into Mother -- Mother’s eyes shining like twin projectors for a moment, and then everything normalizes -- Mother’s eyes back in shadow...

MOTHER
I’m sorry -- I thought you wanted to see her.

CAMPION
I do -- I just... I wish they were like that man you told me the Mithraic believe in. The one who died and then came back to life.

Mother is stopped, looks at him...

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Maybe you could tell me more about that book of theirs...so I uh, can practice ignoring their words...

MOTHER
What were you doing all day? You didn’t pick any carbos...

Campion squirms as Mother pins a probing stare on him...

CAMPION
Made stick people like I always do.

Mother says nothing, staring at him, then:

MOTHER
So you want to know more about what’s written in their book?

Campion nods... Mother’s eyes start flashing --

Campion’s POV as a halo of fire appears around Mother’s head * as her body disappears; she’s now just a fiery orb floating * in front of Campion’s face... *

Campion gazes into the little sun, completely awed by it, but * then fear begins to intrude as he sees a multitude of eyes * appearing on its surface, a snarling mouth...

SUN GOD
To believe in the unreal is * dangerous, Campion.
Campion retreats to the corner of the cot, trying to look away -- bathed in the little sun’s fiery light, sweating --

CAMPION
I’m sorry. Please stop this,
Mother --

SUN GOD
Tell me where you went today?

CAMPION
Nowhere --

Campion’s POV as the sun’s mouth opens into a maw -- its throat looks like one of the bottomless pits, a serpent making its way up the throat -- emerging now like a living tongue, weaving through the air, moving around to the back of Campion’s head...it whispers into his ear:

SERPENT
You’re lying...

Campion squeezes his eyes shut, tears streaming --

CAMPION
I followed Father to the holes --
to your ship...

His eyes still closed, Campion waits for a response -- but there’s only silence now...

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Mother?

Campion hears the door -- opens his eyes to see Mother across the way, angrily exiting into the night --

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF SPIRAL FIELD - NIGHT

The giant serpent skull -- no longer covered with the tarp -- it’s menacing fangs now revealed, empty socket eyes -- and in the background we see Father working in the moonlight --

He’s braiding together a heavier rope. After a moment he abruptly freezes his hands in mid-motion, hears someone walking towards him through the sprial field...

He goes to hide the rope -- but too late -- Mother emerges from the field, glaring at him accusingly -- sees the rope, knows instantly what it means --

MOTHER
Did you go down there?
FATHER
I attempted to --

MOTHER
We agreed we weren’t going to do that.

FATHER
They’re here, Mother...

Mother takes that in, tensing...

MOTHER
Why didn’t you tell me?

FATHER
I knew you would try to stop me from transmitting our location.

MOTHER
You were right, I will stop you. Because that is the exact opposite of our core objective. Perhaps you are the one who needs a systems check --

FATHER
We no longer have any hope of increasing our numbers -- there is only Campion. And when we break down, he will be alone. He needs to be with other humans. Even if the Mithraic are delusional, he will be better off with them than with no one. We’ve both seen it -- each death he suffers pushes him further towards belief. After all our teachings, it’s the only thing that eases his suffering.

Mother shakes her head, trembling with mounting disturbance --

MOTHER
I thought we were in synch, Father -- that we would remain in synch until we ceased to operate.

FATHER
We came here with twenty-four viable embryos and twelve years later we have only one child --

MOTHER
Stop --
Mother starts trembling -- shame creasing her expression --

FATHER
Our creator overestimated our abilities --

Mother is shaking now -- eyes shining with denial and rage --

FATHER (CONT’D)
We failed him, Mother -- and we have failed our children --

MOTHER
Stop -- stop speaking, stop speak --

Mother doubles over -- suddenly caught in the grips of some agonizing internal pain. She stumbles away -- Father following after her --

FATHER
Let me help you. Please, Mother --

He grabs her, tries to steady her -- sees black blood leaking not just from her nose, but also from her ears -- and beneath her eyes like black tears as she writhes in his arms, acting like her body’s on fire --

Father drags Mother to the ground a few feet away from the giant snake skull -- starts pressing his fingers into her neck -- trying to find a specific lever under the skin to force her into sleep mode --

FATHER (CONT’D)
Sleep, Mother -- sleep --

Mother starts thrashing like a rabid rodeo bull -- Father loses his hold on her and then in a flash --

Mother flips Father off of her -- CRACK -- a strange surprised look on his face, black blood dribbles from his mouth -- angle widens to reveal she’s impaled him on the giant serpent skull’s lower fangs --

FATHER (CONT’D)
Mother, I’m damaged -- help me back to the barracks --

MOTHER
I’m sorry, Father. But I cannot abandon our mission --

Mother pulls Father off the teeth, then slams him down on his stomach --
MOTHER (CONT’D)

Or our son --

Mother reaches her hand into the open wound on his back, pulls out something that looks like an ostrich egg covered in black blood -- as soon as she does Father goes completely still...

CUT TO:

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - MORNING

Campion’s POV through the visor of his night helmet as he wakes up in his cot -- large overhead fans starting up -- powered by some kind of pulley system.

Campion sits up, pulls off his night helmet, sweating -- it’s already warming up out there -- he starts stripping off the heavy night gear --

EXT. GEN-1 SETTLEMENT - MORNING

Campion emerges into the light, squinting as his eyes adjust -- starts looking around, no sign of his android parents...

CAMPION

Mother? Father?

No answer. He walks across to the disused nursery -- opens the door, peers into the semi-darkness...

He lingers on one of children’s drawings on the wall -- a drawing of Mother and Father wearing big creepy smiles...

He turns, looks to the carbo field -- the plants swaying hypnotically with the wind...

EXT. SPIRAL FIELD - MORNING

Campion walks through the spiral fields of carbos -- looking around, getting increasingly freaked out --

CAMPION

Hello?!

From above we see Campion standing in the center of the spiral patterned crop field -- utterly alone...

He walks to the outskirts, sees the snake skull across the way -- one of the lower fangs is conspicuously missing...
Campion starts towards the skull when --

MOTHER (O.S.)
Stay away from it.

Campion turns to see Mother standing there --

CAMPION
Mother --

He walks up on her, relieved -- until he sees something off in her expression...

MOTHER
Campion... Father has shut down -- permanently.

CAMPION
What? What do you mean? He was fine --

MOTHER
He knew he was getting close to the end -- we thought it best not to tell you. Didn’t want you to worry.

CAMPION
No -- he wasn’t breaking down -- we were --

Campion trails off, his eyes filled with confusion and grief.

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Where is he? I want to see him?

MOTHER
Our power cells become radioactive after we cease functioning -- I had no choice but to drop his remains into one of the holes...

She looks off -- becoming faint -- starts getting wobbly, Campion rushes to her, holds her up --

CAMPION
What’s wrong?

MOTHER
I think I may have expended too much energy last night...

Campion starts helping her back towards the children’s barracks --
INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - MOMENTS LATER

Campion watches as Mother lies down on a cot. Her eyes suddenly go static -- in sleep mode now.

Campion leans down to her chest, listening for something to make sure she’s not dead -- hears a faint pulsing sound...

He sits there looking at her, considering anxiously...

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HOLE - ROCKY PLAIN - DAY

Campion walks up on the edge of the hole the craft is down inside of, holding the -- now repaired -- coiled rope, threaded through a short length of rope he’s wrapped around his left thigh and shoulder -- hears that plaintive beeping echoing from a hundred feet below...

He drops the rope down into the hole -- takes a deep breath, summoning his courage...then starts rappelling unsteadily down the vertical wall -- sliding, stopping --

He gauges his progress by the volume of the beeping and by looking up at the mouth of the hole getting smaller -- the darkness swallowing the light...

He can see some faint lights now below him -- blinking -- the ship only twenty some odd feet below him now --

His palms are bleeding from sliding down the rope -- his arms shaking -- sweat dripping off his head -- the beeping getting louder and louder --

He sees some of that snake skin hanging from the walls -- fear starting to overtake him, his quickening breath echoing loudly in the tunnel when --

His foot finally touches down on something -- he looks down, sees he’s stepping on the top of the craft...

He clocks the open hatch, a dim light flashing inside. He squats down, starts carefully lowering himself inside...

INT. SMALL SPACE CRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The beeping deafening now, Campion drops down inside the cramped, flashing space -- looks around, clocks the control panel -- rushes to it --

He starts hitting buttons -- no idea what any of them do --
CAMPION
Hello? We need help. Do you hear me?

Then as he hits another random button, the beeping suddenly stops...a screen lights up, shows A SUN SYMBOL -- a voice starts speaking, but it’s too buried in static to understand.

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Hello -- can you here me? Hello?

Campion hits some more buttons -- suddenly the screen winks out, the interior goes dark...an ominous humming -- the sound of the thrusters coming to life outside --

Campion scrambles to climb out as the ship starts shaking --

EXT. SMALL SPACE CRAFT/HOLE - CONTINUOUS

Campion emerges from the hatch as the firing thrusters dislodges the craft from the outcropping -- Campion holds on to the rope as the craft suddenly drops out from under him --

Campion hangs from the rope -- it swings him into the wall -- SMASH -- he bounces off the wall, swings again -- gets his feet planted on the wall, looks down, watching the craft drop, disappearing into the black, no sound of impact --

He takes a breath, then starts climbing back up -- walking his feet on the vertical, hand over hand on the rope -- grunting, sweating --

He starts to run out of steam -- less than halfway up -- he pauses, his feet on the wall -- getting his breath --

Then, Campion sees a flash of light way way down below -- and then a vague impression of something large, slowly making its way up the shaft when everything goes black again --

Campion’s face drops -- eyes filled with terror -- he starts double timing it, hand over hand, walking up that wall -- using everything he’s got --

And as he does he starts to feel a strange wind -- or is it a breath -- blowing up from the pit, accompanied by a faint rumbling sound --

Horror twists Campion’s expression -- mumbling a desperate prayer to himself as he pushes himself on -- more air gusting up beneath him, the snake skin on the walls billowing --
EXT. EDGE OF HOLE - MOMENTS LATER

Campion climbs out, falls to the ground -- limbs shaking as he hugs himself, writhing -- gagging; pushed his body way past its limit...

After a moment he starts to catch his breath -- crawls to the edge of the hole and peers down...

Campion’s POV -- he sees only blackness -- it’s unclear if he really saw something down there or if he imagined it...

CUT TO:

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - DUSK

Campion walks in, sees Mother is still right where he left her. He walks up on her --

Campion leans in towards her, listens -- his eyes go wide -- hears a much stronger pulse than last time he checked -- and its cadence has changed, to a powerful oscillating purr...

Mother opens her eyes -- her expression opaque as she looks up at Campion...

CAMPION
Never heard your processor make that sound before. Are you feeling any better?

She sits up -- looks out of it -- confused...

MOTHER
You should not be worrying about me -- you have just lost your Father...

She looks off, considers, then looks back at Campion...

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Do you want to see him?

CAMPION
No -- I don’t want to play that game anymore --

Campion’s POV -- Mother ignores him -- her eyes flash -- she becomes Father --

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Mother, no --
FATHER
Do you want to hear a joke? How
many androids does it take to screw
in a light bulb?

CAMPION
Please stop --

FATHER
How many?

Campion refuses to answer -- Father’s face turns angry --

FATHER (CONT’D)
Five! The number five relates to
all manifestations of life. I have
five children buried in the ground
-- in the ground...

Father’s visage goes disturbingly blank -- then -- his eyes
flash -- he turns back to Mother --

Mother grabs Campion, starts pulling him towards the door --

EXT. SPIRAL FIELD – NIGHT

Mother drags Campion out into the freezing cold -- Campion is
shivering without his night gear --

MOTHER
A child cannot care for itself --
so you must cease being a child and
become a man --

Mother shoves Campion to the ground. Campion looks up at
Mother pleadingly --

CAMPION
Please, Mother -- I’m freezing --

MOTHER
I want the silo filled before dark.

CAMPION
Mother, it is dark -- you’re not
making any sense --

MOTHER
You’re wasting time, Campion. I
will soon be gone -- you need to be
ready. Now work --
Looking afraid, Campion obeys -- shivering as he reaches down into the soil -- feeling around, he pulls up a carbo --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
No -- you have to reach down deeper...

Mother gets down beside Campion, then continues digging manically with her hands -- then punches her fist down into the soil -- dirt up to her arm pit --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Here, you see --

Mother starts pulling something up -- something much larger than a carbo -- *a piece of serpent vertebra that’s almost six feet long* -- Mother holds it up with one hand --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
The best ones are down deep...

Mother drops the bone, keeps digging with her hands, frantically ripping out plants -- pulls another giant vertebra out of the dirt -- then another --

We watch from above as she continues to pull up the bones -- crawling around like a spider -- revealing that the spiral pattern the carbos grow in -- *is caused by the fact that they grow exclusively from the remains of a dead coiled serpent*...

**CUT TO:**

**INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - MORNING**

Campion awakes, he’s sitting on the floor in his night gear -- covered in grime -- pulls his helmet off, gasping for air, sweat pouring down --

Looks to be hoping that last night was just a dream --

He hears a sound -- flinches -- looks around, realizes it’s just the pulley fan starting up overhead...

**EXT. GEN-1 SETTLEMENT - DAY**

Campion emerges from the barracks -- his eyes go wide...

Sees Mother has pulled up almost all of the carbo plants -- the field is completely turned up, looks like someone attacked it with a back hoe -- he hears the sound of the silo door whacking in the wind...he turns, starts walking up on it -- whack, whack --
Campion stops, sees Mother has stuffed the silo with giant serpent vertebra --

MOTHER (O.S.)
I apologize if I alarmed you last night.

Campion turns, sees Mother standing there, covered in dirt -- but looks calm, more herself...

MOTHER (CONT’D)
I was experiencing a great deal of sensory interference.

CAMPION
It’s OK...

MOTHER
It won’t happen again. I think it served to defragment my drives. The pain I was experiencing is gone. Perhaps I have more time to prepare you than I thought --

Mother trails off, hears something, looks across the way at the forest --

Campion turns to look -- sees only forest -- doesn’t hear what Mother hears, his ears aren’t as sensitive -- but now the sound is slowly becoming audible to him...

A man’s voice, calling out -- echoing -- and now a figure is emerging from the forest. He’s dressed in white and chrome -- and then two more males come into view walking behind him, and then yet another --

Campion stares out at them, wonder and fear radiating from his wide eyes -- too overwhelmed to speak; these are the first adult humans he’s ever laid eyes on...

Mother looks down at him with a stern, controlled expression.

CAMPION
I’m sorry -- I think I did this. I just -- I can’t let you die, Mother...

MOTHER
You have it backwards, Campion. It is my job to care for you --

She pushes Campion behind her --
MOTHER (CONT’D)
Do not tell them what I am.

CAMPION
How can they fix you if they don’t
know --

MOTHER
Just do as I say --

The approaching figures...members of the MITHRAIC -- a sun
symbol emblazoned on their chests, identical to the one that
appeared on screen when Campion was attempting to transmit...

As they get closer we see their uniforms are dirtied, as are
their tired faces -- they look like they’ve been out in the
wild for some time. Out in front is NON-NOBLE SERGEANT,
MARCUS, 40s, rough and tumble, more solider-like than the
other two. Then there’s NOBLE KNIGHT, PAYEN, 30s, refined --
aristocratic. And then a burly looking CLERIC, 50s -- whose
uniform has a more ceremonial air to it -- and trailing
behind them is JINN -- a skinny, odd looking man who acts
like a servant -- wears the plainest uniform...

PAYEN
Hello there -- we received your
signal. We represent the ark of
the Mithraic...

Mother doesn’t answer -- Campion starts to walk out to the
men and she pulls him back...

PAYEN (CONT’D)
We thought Earth’s only surviving
refugees were aboard our ark. But
it would seem Sol had other plans.

CLERIC
What is your faith?

MOTHER
We are not believers...

Close on Marcus who seems to possess a level of instinct far
beyond that of his cohorts -- he’s silently staring at
Mother; looks to sense there’s something off with her.
Meanwhile Campion is curiously eyeing the holstered handguns
hanging from Marcus and Payen’s belts.

PAYEN
How did you get here? The atheists
didn’t have the means to build an
ark.
MOTHER
It doesn’t concern you. Now please get off our land. We don’t want you here.

MARCUS
Apologies -- but you signaled us. And there are no laws here regarding land or anything else. (then:) I see you’re doing some farming... we’re very hungry.

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - DAY

Marcus, Payen, and the Cleric sit around the table with Campion -- Jinn is standing outside. Mother sets a plate down in front of each of them with a withered carbo on it -- Campion notices --

CAMPION
Give them the good ones, Mother --

MOTHER
These are adequate.

MARCUS
After ten years in stasis with nothing but intravenous nutrients -- I’m just happy to eat something I can actually chew on.

The three men start eating the carbos...making faces -- apparently not very palatable despite their low standards -- Marcus bites a pit, scowls --

MOTHER
I forgot to mention the pits.

Marcus inspects the pit -- holding it up to his eye -- from a certain angle, the hard spiky contours looks like a human face -- Marcus shudders, sets it down...

CAMPION
What about your friend, isn’t he hungry?

MARCUS
Not likely. He’s an android.

Campion looks at Mother about to say something when she glares at him --
CLERIC
How many of you are there?

CAMPION
It’s just Mother and I.

The three men take that in, exchange some looks.

MARCUS
And how many did you start with?

CAMPION
There were eight of us -- my Father just passed a couple days ago.

Some more looks between the men...

CAMPION (CONT’D)
I like your clothes. What is that picture on your chest --

CLERIC
You mean your parents never taught you about the Sol Invictus?

CAMPION
You mean God?

CLERIC
That is his old name, but yes...

CAMPION
Maybe that’s why he doesn’t always listen to me -- I keep using his old name.

CLERIC
You must show yourself holy and steadfast by undergoing the seven grades of initiation. You look like a strong boy -- a budding soldier of Sol. Our faith was first founded by soldiers in Earth’s first century -- members of the great Roman army --

MOTHER
We are pacifists.
(to Marcus)
How many landers has your ark deployed to the planet?

MARCUS
Four -- including ours.
MOTHER
You’re searching for the most
bountiful region to start your
colony.

PAYEN
Yes, and we think we’ve found it.
There’s a tropical zone near the
equator. There’s a considerable
electromagnetic field that’s
preventing us from landing our ark
there, but that is our ultimate
destination...

Campion gives Mother a look...

CLERIC
The new Eden. Sol’s gift to the
faithful...

MOTHER
As you said, there are no laws
regarding land here.

PAYEN
No, not yet -- but we will soon
make them...

Mother doesn’t answer at first, staring back at them, then:

MOTHER
And where do you plan to land your
ark?

MARCUS
This region is looking like a prime
candidate. It was good enough for
you --

MOTHER
It was -- but the soil is growing
infertile and the nights are
becoming increasingly cold. I
advise you to explore the other
side of the equator. When you are
finished eating -- I’d like you to
depart and tell them that -- your
comrades on the ark.

Payen is smiling incredulously now --

PAYEN
Would you?
Marcus flashes Payen a this isn’t the time look --

MARCUS
I promise we’ll relay your message. But we’ll never make it back to our lander before the temp drops; how about letting us stay until morning.

Mother doesn’t answer -- looks like she’s getting ready to tell them to go fuck themselves when --

CAMPION
Let them stay, Mother.

MOTHER
You will leave at first light -- with no delay.

MARCUS
Thank you... You didn’t tell us your name.

She says nothing at first -- Campion looking at her, wondering if she’s going to say Mother -- and then:

MOTHER
My name is Lamia.

Campion reacts with muted surprise...

MARCUS
Lamia, please allow us to introduce ourselves --

MOTHER
There’s no need. We don’t want to know your names. I’ll show you where you can sleep --

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS – NIGHT

The door opens, Mother shows Marcus, the Cleric and Payen into the semi-darkness -- Jinn remains standing outside --

MOTHER
The night gear will be too small for you. But you can use them as blankets.

MARCUS
Thank you, Lamia --
Mother closes the door --

EXT. NURSERY - CONTINUOUS

Mother glances over at Jinn who’s standing sentry by the door. She looks at him with something like disgust then walks off --

Jinn watches her go, his expression blank...

INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

The Cleric, Payen and Marcus sit in the semi-darkness -- wrapping night suits around themselves to stay warm.

MARCUS
She’s an android.

PAYEN
Are you sure?

MARCUS
This settlement looks like it’s been here for years. The only way they could have gotten here so fast is if they traveled in a tiny craft with no life support systems. No live humans aboard. Just frozen embryos and robots.

PAYEN
I’d heard rumors, but didn’t think they’d really do it -- entrust machines to raise their children. So godless, even for atheists.

Something occurs to the Cleric, he looks off, seems to be recalling something, then:

CLERIC
An orphan boy, who dwells in an empty land...

Hearing that Payen’s eyes light up -- he exchanges a look of excitement with the Cleric --

PAYEN
The prophet who will decipher the Mithraic Mysteries.
MARCUS
Let’s not get carried away.
Besides, maybe this land isn’t so empty. If they made it here, there could be others...

They consider that while looking around at the smashed up mobile lab...the drawings of the deceased gen-1 children...

PAYEN
She has to be malfunctioning after all this time. What if this boy is a prophet? We can’t leave him here. For all we know she killed the others.

Marcus breathes out, considering...then:

MARCUS
Fine. We’ll take him.
(then:)
Jinn -- come in here.

After a moment Jinn opens the door -- steps inside, closes the door behind him...

MARCUS (CONT’D)
If the boy isn’t willing to leave without the android in the morning -- you’ll need to deal with her...

JINN
Yes, of course. She appears to be a low end model -- I don’t anticipate any difficulty shutting her down.

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - NIGHT

Mother is watching out the window portal at the nursery across the way -- Campion behind her in his night gear...

CAMPION
What is that name you told them?

MOTHER
I pulled it randomly from my implanted data.

CAMPION
You need to tell them what you are so they can help you.
MOTHER
They’re not going to want to help me, Campion.

CAMPION
You get all your information about Earth from your old implanted data -- you don’t have any idea what they’re really like. All we know for sure is your creator hated them. Well what if your creator was the bad guy?

MOTHER
We’re going to have to leave here tomorrow, go somewhere where they won’t find us...

CAMPION
You aren’t listening to me --

MOTHER
You make a valid point, Campion -- I am proud of the analytical prowess you are displaying. But you are my son -- and you will do as I say.

Campion looks at her, resentment and anger building in his eyes until --

CAMPION
I am not your son.

Mother doesn’t answer, keeps watching out the window -- a pang of hurt in her eyes...

CUT TO:

EXT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - MORNING

Campion emerges from the barracks squinting into the morning sun -- notices Payen and the Cleric across the way, sharing a large carbo -- Mother angrily reproaching them --

MOTHER
Those are Campion’s --

PAYEN
You have enough here to feed an army --
Suddenly someone grabs Campion from behind, puts his hand over his mouth, drags him behind the barracks. Campion spins around, sees Marcus with his finger to his lips --

MARCUS
I’m not going to hurt you. OK? I just want to talk to you without the android for a second --

CAMPION
She’s not a --

MARCUS
Save it, son. We know.

Campion breathes out --

MARCUS (CONT’D)
How would you like to come with us up to the ark? We’ll probably be in orbit for a few more days before we decide on our final landing area. I have a son about your age -- bet you two will get along great. There’s a hundred and twenty-six people up there -- and even some animals.

CAMPION
You mean animal bones?

MARCUS
No, live ones -- hair, eyes -- everything. Have you ever seen a mouse before?

Campion shakes his head --

MARCUS (CONT’D)
My son has one -- he’s trained it to do tricks. Bet he’d love to show you.

(beat)
What do you say?

Campion doesn’t answer at first, then after a moment --

CAMPION
Can Mother come too?

MARCUS
What for? You’re old enough -- you don’t need a chaperone.
CAMPION
I won’t go without her. She’s breaking down. It’s why I called you. Can you help fix her?

Marcus pretends to consider that for a moment -- looks to feel for the boy, pangs of guilt showing in his eyes as --

MARCUS
We managed to get over a hundred people across the galaxy in one piece -- think we can fix a busted android.

Mother walks up on them -- realizing the subterfuge, she glares at Marcus -- pulls Campion away -- Marcus walks off, rejoins Payen and the Cleric in the background as --

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS – CONTINUOUS

Mother pulls Campion into the barracks, then:

MOTHER
What did he say to you?

Campion doesn’t answer at first, then nods --

CAMPION
They’re going to fix you. And you’re going to let them. That’s all there is to it --

Campion looks past Mother at the doorway, sees Jinn just walked in -- he’s standing there, staring at them creepily...

CAMPION (CONT’D)
We’re still talking -- can you --

Jinn walks calmly past Campion straight for Mother --

MOTHER
Don’t touch me.

Jinn suddenly grabs Mother’s head with both hands -- drags her to the floor, she struggles against him, limbs flailing as he tries to twist her head around 180 degrees --

CAMPION
GET OFF HER!

Campion grabs Jinn by the back of his uniform, trying in vain to pull him off his Mother when --
Someone grabs Campion from behind, pulls him from the barracks -- Campion gets a last glimpse of Jinn hunched over Mother, the sound of cracking plastic --

**EXT. GEN-1 SETTLEMENT - CONTINUOUS**

Marcus drags Campion away from the barracks --

**CAMPION**

NO! DON’T HURT HER!

Payen rushes over with the Cleric -- they assist Marcus -- Campion kicking and thrashing as the three of them force him to the ground and hold him -- the sounds of a struggle emanating from inside the barracks --

**MARCUS**

We’re not hurting her -- we’re shutting her down.

**CLERIC**

It’s not natural what they’ve done to you --

**CAMPION**

Please don’t do this! Please --

Campion trails off as the sounds inside the barracks suddenly go silent. All eyes are on the empty doorway -- but no one’s coming out...

Campion prays under his breath that Mother will be the one to walk out of there...but then horror fills his eyes as --

Jinn emerges from the open door, black blood splashed all over his clothes --

**CAMPION (CONT’D)**

NO!

Payen and the Cleric bee line for Jinn while Marcus continues to hold a bawling, screaming Campion --

**MARCUS**

It’s OK, it’s over, it’s all over now --

Jinn stands stock still as Payen and the Cleric approach him.

**PAYEN**

Now now, Jinn -- she didn’t give you too much trouble, did she?
Jinn doesn’t answer -- they notice his eyes pulsing faintly.

CLERIC
Are you damaged -- let me take at
look at you...

The Cleric moves up on Jinn, touches his hands to Jinn’s neck when Jinn starts whispering something inaudible -- the Cleric looks Jinn in his now flashing eyes --

CLERIC (CONT’D)
What did you say --

The Cleric finds he now can’t look away from Jinn’s stare -- his body freezing up -- Jinn’s eyes -- just inches from the Cleric’s now -- cycling strange colors as A HIGH PITCH TONE EMITS FROM HIS MOUTH -- the tone is reminiscent of the siren Mother heard in her dream --

Marcus, Campion and Payen all press their hands over their ears as the tone gets higher, louder --

Veins start popping out on the Cleric’s forehead -- the tone gets higher, the Cleric watching the colors in Jinn’s eyes strobing -- the Cleric’s face turning purple until --

BOOM, THE CLERIC’S HEAD EXPLODES --

Marcus, Payen and Campion freeze up with shock as the Cleric’s now headless body crumples to the ground -- then a now blood splattered Jinn starts slowly turning his head to face them, his eyes flashing, cycling colors -- until --

They see it’s really Mother standing there splattered with blood; she was using her retinae display feature to disguise herself as Jinn. Seeing this, Marcus realizes something, starts fleeing in a frenzied panic, dragging Campion -- Payen right behind them, about to look back when --

MARCUS
(to Payen)
Don’t look at her! She’s one of ours -- a Necromancer --

Campion reacts with horrified bafflement --

PAYEN
It’s not possible! How did she get here?!

Marcus pulls his gun as he drags Campion by the arm -- Campion staring back at Mother -- she’s just standing there watching them go and then...
She starts to levitate slowly up into the air...

Campion gasps -- but doesn’t warn his captors -- he trips --

MARCUS
Get up -- move --

Marcus yanks Campion back up as Payen rushes ahead --

Payen’s POV staring at the ground as he charges through the plants, Marcus and Campion rushing to catch up as he reaches the outskirts, then Mother suddenly floats down in front of him -- he stops short, but when he tries to look away he inadvertently catches a glimpse of her flashing eyes --

Payen immediately freezes up -- suddenly compelled to turn back towards her, locks into her stare, her irises scrolling colors -- that high pitched tone sounding from her mouth --

Payen’s face twists with effort as he tries to fight the effects -- draws his gun, struggling to lift his arm to shoot her -- the high pitched tone gets even higher -- the veins in Payen’s gun hand start bulging --

Back to Marcus and Campion -- Marcus now pulling the boy in the opposite direction while behind them --

Payen, struggling to aim the gun, his eyes rolling back into his head, the veins in his gun hand inflating further as he starts to pull the trigger -- BOOM -- HIS HAND EXPLODES --

Back to Campion watching, looking away in horror --

MARCUS (CONT’D)
Fuck --

Marcus keeps pushing on -- hears a rustling in the carbo plants -- Mother creeping up, about to cut them off, Marcus stops, clenching his eyes shut -- gripping Campion’s arm --

Angle widens to reveal Mother standing a few feet behind them -- Marcus keeps his eyes closed while --

Campion meets Mother’s stare -- and as soon as he does his body starts to freeze up until he turns away, horrified -- realizing he’s not immune to her powers --

MARCUS (CONT’D)
(to Mother)
We’re the ones who made you --
you’re a necromancer -- a disciple
of the Sol Invictus.
MOTHER
No, I was programmed by Campion -- an atheist.

MARCUS
You mean reprogrammed. You’re reverting --

MOTHER
My -- my program has not changed.

MARCUS
I think your son would disagree.

Mother goes quiet for a moment, processing, then --

MOTHER
Question: are there any more of my kind aboard your ark?

MARCUS
No, we left them all on Earth -- it’s theirs now -- their hell to rule over...

Mother takes that in -- then opens her mouth and that STRANGE SIREN BLASTS --

Marcus lets go of Campion so he can cover his ears -- Campion stumbles away covering his own ears --

Marcus’s POV as the sound goes silent -- looking down at the ground as he starts running for the alien forest, THUMP --

He runs into the serpent skull, gets up, regarding it with horrified eyes -- he hears the plants swishing as Mother moves up on him --

Marcus takes off running into the alien forest. Mother doesn’t pursue him, just watches him go for a moment, then turns and looks back at Campion...

She sees he’s covering his eyes -- won’t look at her...

A pang of pain in her expression...

Campion’s POV -- covering his eyes, then slowly he removes his hands to see Mother walking off into the forest...
EXT. ALIEN FOREST - DAY

Marcus’ POV as he hauls ass through the forest -- weaving through the dense foliage, leaping over fallen trees -- pushing through the brush --

He stops -- struggling to catch his breath -- then he turns, sees something silently floating through the trees -- he turns, starts running again, coming up on the rocky plain...

EXT. ROCKY PLAIN - DAY

Marcus rushes across the craggy expanse -- beelineing for the LANDER -- a short range shuttle that’s sitting near the hole where Mother and Father’s ship went down.

Marcus rushes up on the lander’s side door, mumbling a prayer to himself as he keeps glancing back over his shoulder --

MARCUS
I wear the Armor of Mithras and the Light. I am shielded from all that is harmful --

A keypad on the side door he starts punching in a code --

The side door opens -- he rushes inside, hits buttons on another key pad -- BEEP --

He’s so frantic he’s hitting the wrong keys -- he tries again -- gets the code right this time, the door closes behind him.

INT. LANDER 1 - ROCKY PLAIN - CONTINUOUS

Marcus rushes into the cockpit, starts hitting controls -- struggling to catch his breath, watching the gauges -- waiting anxiously for the lander to power up --

MARCUS
I wear the Armor of Mithras and the Light. I am shielded from all that is --

He trails off as he looks out the cockpit glass, sees Mother standing outside, looking straight at him, her eyes flashing.

Marcus’ eyes go blank...he hits a control to open the door...

The sound of Mother entering the ship, moving up behind him -- he pulls his side arm, holds it to his own head -- the gun barrel shaking...he sees her reflection in the cockpit glass, as she walks up behind him...
MOTHER

Die --

BANG -- he fires while his hand is shaking, bullet skips across the surface of his skull -- his head falls down on to the console --

EXT. LANDER - ROCKY PLAIN - CONTINUOUS

THUD -- Marcus is thrown from the door of the lander, lands face down on the ground, his head bleeding -- still appears to be breathing. Mother then heads back to the cockpit as the side door closes --

The lander’s bright lights shine on Marcus’ prone form as it takes off into the sky above him --

INT. LANDER - FLYING -- CONTINUOUS

Mother works the controls, discovering she knows Mithraic tech -- the lander shakes as it blasts up towards the atmosphere while Mother speaks into the console, using Marcus’ voice --

MOTHER
(in Marcus’ voice)
This is lander two -- do you copy?

VOICE
Marcus? Thought we lost you...
Did you find the source of the signal?

MOTHER
(in Marcus’ voice)
Negative. We’re returning to the ark --

VOICE
Now? Is something wrong?

MOTHER
(in Marcus’ voice)
The Cleric was injured in a fall -- we have limited time, he’s lost a lot of blood --

VOICE
Copy that -- I’ll open the gate -- have the med crew standing by.
EXT. ARK - SPACE

An ARK -- a large air craft carrier-looking ship -- this one has been dubbed HEAVEN by its creators, the name emblazoned on its hull --

Angle widens and -- for the first time -- we see the planet from space -- looks like a larger half-sister of Earth -- the ark orbiting, then --

A tiny speck emerges from the planet’s atmosphere...the lander -- its thrusters intermittently lighting up as it makes its slow glide towards the ark. A landing portal opens on the side of the ark -- the lander glides inside...

INT. AIR LOCK - ARK - MOMENTS LATER

A closed air lock door, a hissing sound emanating as two armed guards pull a series of levers -- the hissing stops. The two guards stand back as the door slowly swings open...

They see Mother, her eyes flashing -- they freeze up as she walks right past them -- they then draw their side arms, staring at one another in horror -- both hallucinating that the other is becoming a serpent --

They then begin firing bullets into each other --

INT. CORRIDOR - ARK - CONTINUOUS

Mother walks down the long white hallway, vaguely temple-like design to the ship -- sun symbols everywhere -- chanting --

She passes a prayer room -- where several people are on their knees praying -- a Cleric raising his upturned hands into the air -- he glances at Mother --

Her eyes flash -- he crumples, starts weeping --

She keeps moving, past a windowed space -- dozens of empty hibernation pods inside -- *

INT. CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A screen shows multiple camera views -- Mother moving through the ship, guards’ heads and limbs exploding in her wake -- others just fall to their knees, made insane by her stare --

The attendant watching the screen turns around, five others in the control room -- panicking --
ATTENDANT
She’s a necromancer. Whatever you do, don’t look at her --

INT. DOOR TO CONTROL ROOM - CORRIDOR - ARK - CONTINUOUS

Mother is breathing a thin stream of blue fire from her mouth -- heating the center of the door -- she then pushes her fingers through the soft metal --

INT. CONTROL ROOM - ARK - CONTINUOUS

The attendants open fire as Mother’s hand reaches through the hole in the door -- the bullets tear up her skin as she hits a button -- the door opens --

Mother moves inside amidst a hail of bullets -- one of the attendants catches a glimpse of her eyes -- turns his gun on the others, another one gets a glimpse -- more cross fire -- and then in an instant they’re all lying dead around her --

She moves to the main control panel, starts manipulating the instruments -- an alarm starts blaring --

COMPUTER
Warning -- landing coordinates incomplete.

MOTHER
Override --

COMPUTER
Security code please.

Mother turns, sees one of the attendants is still alive, trying to crawl from the room -- she walks over, grabs him, lifts him up --

He turns his face away from her -- she grabs his chin -- turns his face back to her --

MOTHER
Open your eyes --

ATTENDANT
No --

She grabs his face -- pulls off one of his eyelids -- his darting retinae instinctively locks in with hers --

MOTHER
The override code --
She shoves him towards the console, he punches in the code -- blood dripping off his face on to the console --

**COMPUTER**
Landing sequence initiated.

Mother checks another control panel -- shows camera feeds of various parts of the ship...clocks a room where children are hiding --

**INT. CORRIDOR - ARK**

Mother walks back the way she came -- the alarm blaring, screams coming from open doorways, blood smeared on the walls, attendants sprawled on the floor, clutching the guns they shot themselves with --

**INT. SMALL ROOM - ARK - CONTINUOUS**

A group of children are huddled in the corner, across from a closed door -- boys and girls -- various ages -- they tense, hear someone entering a code on the other side of the door --

The door slides open revealing a dead eyed attendant standing there motionless -- Mother moves past him into the room -- the children seem to know what she is -- they cover their eyes, trying not to look at her --

But then a little girl decides to look up --

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. GEN-1 SETTLEMENT - DUSK**

Campion sits in the field, crying -- it’s starting to get dark -- the cold is coming -- but he’s too upset to move, shivering --

And then he hears a booming sound in the sky -- he looks up at the triangle of three moons -- and then he spots a fourth light shimmering -- getting brighter and brighter --

It’s the ark -- descending in the far distance -- he loses sight of it as it gets lower...then he sees a light flashing over the horizon as it crashes -- a distant booming sound as it explodes on impact -- the ground shakes ever so slightly --
EXT. ROCKY PLAIN - NIGHT

Marcus, still lying where Mother left him, the ground is shaking much more violently here -- he’s awoken by the burning pieces of wreckage falling down in the near distance.

Marcus touches his hand to his aching head -- sees the blood, realizes the bullet didn’t penetrate his skull. He gets to his feet -- the ground still shaking --

He hugs himself against the cold -- peers around at the darkness, when he notices the reddish glow on the distant horizon -- a gargantuan black smoke cloud rising...

Doom blossoms in Marcus’ eyes as the realization starts to sink in... Then he clocks a light emerging from the smoke cloud -- it’s his lander --

He looks to be wondering if Mother is still piloting it -- decides not to take chances --

He crouches behind some rocks as it flies overhead -- he watches it disappear into the darkness...

Marcus looks around desperately -- clocks a big piece of burning wreckage across the way, runs up on it --

He crouches by the flames to keep warm, pulls a communication device from his uniform -- starts trying to call --

MARCUS
This is Marcus -- does anybody read me?

No answer...

MARCUS (CONT’D)
Hello -- is anybody out there? Come in...

Marcus looks back at the massive black smoke cloud...

INT. CHILDREN’S BARRACKS - NIGHT

Campion sits on the edge of his wooden cot, wearing his night gear, his helmet -- thoughts flashing behind his eyes -- perhaps wondering -- as we are -- if he’s now alone...

And then he sees the door is opening, slowly --

CAMPION
Mother?
The door opens the rest of the way -- Campion sees a young girl’s silhouette...

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Mother? Are you doing that?

The girl doesn’t answer -- then she looks at someone off to the side Campion can’t see. Campion sits up, pulls his helmet off, eyes wide as he starts walking up on her...

It’s the little girl we just saw look up at Mother -- wearing a scorched white uniform with a sun symbol on the chest -- her eyes blown out with shock, shivering in the cold...

CAMPION (CONT’D)
Stop this, Mother --

Then Campion sees there are four more similarly dressed children standing out there with the girl -- five in all. They begin tentatively moving inside, desperate to get out of the cold -- all of them eying Campion nervously --

Baffled now, Campion reaches out, starts touching them like a blind man -- discovers they’re solid, they’re real -- his eyes go wide, wonder in his expression --

They stare back at him -- all in total shock. The little girl, VITA (6), two other girls -- HOLLY (15) and VRILLE (17). And two boys -- PAUL (12) and HUNTER (17).

HUNTER
Is she going to kill us?

Campion looks back at them -- it’s obvious from his expression he no longer knows the answer to that question... sees them shivering --

CAMPION
I’ll go get you some nightgear from the nursery --

Campion rushes out into the cold, the door closes. The five children look at each other, confused, terrified --

After a moment, Hunter motions to the others -- gets the five of them to kneel in a circle, starts to lead them in prayer --

HUNTER
I wear the Armor of Mithras and the Light. I am shielded from all that is harmful --
Close on Paul as he prays -- a little mouse pokes its head out of the pocket of his uniform -- we realize he must be Marcus’ son.

**EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS**

Campion exits the barracks -- sees Mother across the way, loading something he can’t make out into the stolen Mitraic lander... She pauses, looks over at him for a moment --

Campion stands there looking back at her, stunned until...

Mother turns and walks into the lander, the door closes behind her. Campion watches as it hovers up, spins, then zooms over his head into the night sky...

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. ALIEN FOREST - MORNING**

An overhead canopy of strangely shaped leaves -- we hear Mother humming a strange but beautiful song as we descend through the layers and emerge out the bottom to see below us -- Father lying face down on the ground, Mother hunched over, working on him -- then after a moment --

Mother pauses, gets up -- revealing Father’s back is opened up, skin pinned back -- his hard plastic spine visible, looks like she replaced part of it with mismatching spare parts...

Close on an ostrich egg-looking thing -- an orphic processor -- similar to the one Mother pulled from Father’s insides, partially wrapped in a giant leaf -- Mother’s hands reach down and -- very carefully -- she lifts it up...

Mother kneels down beside Father and carefully installs the new processor inside his torso...

**CUT TO:**

**BLACK...**

**BACK TO:**

**FATHER’S POV**

He’s regaining consciousness -- his eyes taking a moment to res up; he sees Mother crouching in front of him, but she’s highly pixelated...looks like an abstract painting...
MOTHER
The internal distress you’re feeling is normal. You’ve had a new processor installed -- you need to stay calm or you’re going to undo all my hard work --

Close on Father’s face as he starts to regulate his breathing -- still struggling to see...

FATHER
If you want me to remain calm, Mother... then why are you reactivating me?

Father’s POV the pixelation is starting to normalize -- the image becoming clearer -- revealing Mother has a piece of cloth wrapped around her eyes, black blood soaking through...

FATHER (CONT’D)
Your eyes...

MOTHER
I had to remove them -- for the sake of the children...

FATHER
The children?

MOTHER
Yes. Campion, and now five more. They came from an ark called Heaven...

Father begins to notice the blood spattered on Mother’s clothes, the stolen lander behind her, Jinn’s scattered body parts (Father’s unwitting organ donor) --

MOTHER (CONT’D)
Don’t worry, Father. We will get it right this time.

END OF PILOT