

# 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**

CREAK, 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 thin 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 --

CUT TO:

**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 Champion 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, Champion 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 Champion back...

Meanwhile Champion 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 -- Champion walking out the door, looking dazed...

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

Father is about to follow Champion 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 Champion looking washed out with grief, pulling a wooden spade from a tool bin. Father walks over to him -- Champion hands Father the spade...

**EXT. SPIRAL FIELD - DAY**

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

Champion 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. Champion closes his eyes -- struggling to refortify his will --

MOTHER

They wouldn't want you to give up.

After a moment Champion 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, Champion --

Champion 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 -- Champion 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**

Campion's 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 -- Champion creeps up, following Father -- Champion skillfully negotiating the terrain like the native he is...

**EXT. THE HOLE - DAY**

Champion'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 --

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

Champion 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 Champion'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 -- Champion 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 Champion runs up on him...

FATHER

Why isn't Mother watching you?

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

CAMPION

What is that -- what's that sound?

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

CAMPION (CONT'D)

What's down there?

Father doesn't answer -- but before long Champion 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)

\*  
\*  
\*

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 -- \*

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 spiral 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 pully 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 soldier-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 -- Champion 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 retinæ 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 Champion back up as Payen rushes ahead --

Payen's POV staring at the ground as he charges through the plants, Marcus and Champion 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 Champion -- 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 Champion 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 Champion'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  
Sturges -- 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 -- beelining 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 keypad -- 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 -- Champion 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 Champion can't see. Champion 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 Champion 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 Champion nervously --

Baffled now, Champion 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?

Champion 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 --

Champion 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. Champion, 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**