

PANDORA

screenplay by
Stephen J. Skelton

Based on the "Legendary" video game story by Eric Church and
Stephen J. Skelton

3RD DRAFT

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EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

The city is alive. Squares of white light dot skyscrapers as helicopters patrol the skies, lit up like giant lightning bugs. Veins of sparkling red and white dots line the city streets, traffic jamming every block.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - NIGHT

MONTAGE

Pedestrians fill the sidewalks, hurrying to the subway, the movies, the theater, focused on themselves and taking their very existence for granted. A mangy dog scrounges for food in an alleyway, ignored. A HOMELESS MAN stands on a street corner holding a sign that reads "The End Is Near!". People rush by him, oblivious to his warnings to repent.

EXT. METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART - NIGHT

The entrance to the Met is bustling with visitors in formal wear. Lights play off of huge colorful banners hanging between the columns, proclaiming "The Reinard Collection - Rare Ancient Greek Art - OPENING NIGHT".

Judging from the number of limousines and tuxedos out front, tonight's opening is for the rich and famous only.

INT. MET SPECIAL EXHIBITION GALLERIES - CONTINUOUS

The black tie event is in full swing on the second floor. New York's social elite congregate among ancient Greek artifacts. Witty chatter and haughty airs barely disguise the fact that they are no more than a well-dressed herd of animals. Fat ones at that.

ACROSS THE GALLERY, a curvaceous figure in a spectacular black gown watches the crowd with professional interest. This is VIVIAN KANE, 30s, British, who has the stunning beauty and silky presence of a 1940s femme fatale.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

After a few moments it becomes clear that she is not watching the gallery crowd at all. Instead, her attention is focused on the SECURITY GUARDS keeping watch over the artifacts. She turns her head to REVEAL a small, flesh-colored radio in her ear.

Vivian speaks in a low voice.

VIVIAN
(scanning the crowd)
Are you in position?

INT. MET BASEMENT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

TWO MEN in custodial jumpsuits stand in a bare hallway next to a cart bristling with cleaning supplies. Two metal doors are closed behind them.

The lead man holds his hand to his ear. This is MAX RITTER, late 30s, skinny, equal parts high-tech thief and con artist.

MAX
(responding to Vivian's
transmission)
Affirmative, Miss Kane. We're good to go.

Max turns and gives a "thumbs up" to JACK DILLON, early 30s, a rugged man who looks like he's spent a lifetime running with the wrong people.

JACK
(to Max)
I don't like this.

MAX
What are you talking about, Jack?
Security's all upstairs for the thing,
I've bypassed the electronics. We'll be
in and out! When are you gonna start
trusting me?

JACK
The last time I trusted you, Max, I ended
up in Federal prison.

MAX
Are you *still* pissed about that? You have
any idea how much that operation cost me?
In cash,
(indicating Jack)
and my best backup man? Think it's a
coincidence I haven't pulled a major job
since you went in?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Yeah, yeah...

MAX

So we're in this together. Just follow my lead, buddy. We'll be in, out, and in the money before you know it.

JACK

Fine. Just none of your bullshit this time.

MAX

Jack, I thought we were past all that. Besides,
(indicating Vivian above them)
her boss is calling the shots these days.

JACK

I don't trust you, and I don't trust the ice princess in the amazing dress. I just want my money.

MAX

Don't get on Vivian's bad side, Jack.

JACK

What, she sensitive about her secretary's ass or something?

MAX

(knows her better than Jack does)
She holds a grudge.

There is a BLIP over their ear radios.

VIVIAN (O.S.)

(filtered)

Max, you realize your mic is still keyed? I can hear every word you two are saying.

Jack and Max freeze, staring at each other.

VIVIAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(filtered)

And, for the record Mr. Dillon, I have no sensitivities about my ass. However, I do have little patience for dealing with them.

Beat. Max sticks his fingers in his ear, muting the transceiver mic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAX
Shit, shit, shit!

VIVIAN (O.S.)
(filtered)
Now, if you're both quite finished, I
would appreciate it if you would collect
what we came for.

Max keys his mic.

MAX
(to Vivian upstairs)
You got it, Ms. Kane. No worries.

VIVIAN (O.S.)
(filtered)
Indeed.

Jack keys his mic.

JACK
(half-apology, half wise-ass)
Sorry about that ass crack, Vivian.

There is no response. Max shoots Jack a look and mutes his mic.

MAX
Will you stop needling her? We haven't
been paid yet.

JACK
Relax. She needs me to fly the thing
outta here. Let's go.

Max and Jack push on through the basement, a loose wheel on the cart SQUEAKING.

MAX
Don't be so pleased with yourself.
They'll let anyone into the Army.

JACK
(correcting)
Air Force.

MAX
What?

JACK
I learned to fly in the Air Force, Max.
Jackass.

INT. ANOTHER MET BASEMENT HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Max and Jack reach the end of the hall, the cart SQUEAKING to a stop. Three metal doors sealed with safe-like dial locks line the walls.

Jack checks his watch.

JACK

Ten minutes 'til the next security sweep.

MAX

No worries.

(looking at doors)

It's in the middle one.

Max moves swiftly to the center door. He pulls out a stethoscope and uses it to listen to the tumblers. Within seconds he has the large metal door unlocked.

JACK

(impressed)

You may be a self-serving rat, Max, but you're a helluva safecracker. I'll give you that.

MAX

I think that's the nicest thing you've said to me yet, buddy.

Jack pushes the cart past Max and into the storage room.

JACK

That's the nicest thing I'm ever going to say to you.

Max follows Jack into the room.

INT. MET BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack and Max push the cart past rows of shelves stacked high with ancient vases, busts, and works of art - all waiting for cataloging and restoration.

MAX

(looking around)

They sure got a lot of junk in here...like my Mom's house...except not as much newspaper or old paperbacks...

JACK

Can we stay focused on the job, please? Where the hell is this thing anyway?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

(snapping back to attention)
Should be just around the corner...*there!*

Jack and Max push the cart around a row of shelves and find PANDORA'S BOX, a large chest-like artifact covered in intricate carvings of mythological creatures attacking human beings, resting on a wooden palette.

The front of Pandora's Box is dominated by a 1-foot deep round opening that appears to contain a switch. It grabs Jack's attention.

JACK

Looks like there's some kind of switch in there. Bet it opens the box.

MAX

(reminding him)
I brought you here to help me carry the stupid thing. Reinard wants to open it himself. That's the job.

JACK

(muttering)
Yeah, yeah. Guess ten million's worth a little heavy lifting.

Jack and Max break down the cart until it is just a platform with wheels.

MAX

You sure you don't want to reconsider my offer, Jack? The payoff could net you five times as much with what I got planned next.

JACK

Thanks, but no thanks, Max. This is it for me.

MAX

You're really gonna buy an island?

JACK

Florida Keys. My own little place to hide from the world. Just rum and waves 'til the end of my days.

MAX

Sounds boring.

JACK

I can't wait.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

They move the platform next to Pandora's Box and prepare to heave the artifact onboard.

JACK (CONT'D)
We have to get in sync here.

MAX
You count it off and I'll shove.

JACK
On three. One...two...thr--

A LOUD BANG echoes from far down the hall. Jack and Max freeze.

JACK (CONT'D)
(alarmed)
Security is early.

MAX
(puzzled)
No, they keep to their schedule.

JACK
Then who is it?

INT. MET BASEMENT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The two metal doors have been blown off the hinges, REVEALING COUNCIL OF 98 SOLDIERS: a half-dozen men in paramilitary gear. Each man carries a sub-machine gun (SMG) outfitted with a flashlight on the barrel.

The leader, a stern American Indian man in his 40s, LEXINGTON WHITE DEER, silently signals the squad to move out.

INT. MET BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack and Max lean against Pandora's Box, assessing their situation.

JACK
Did Reinard ever use anybody else to get his artifacts?

MAX
No. I mean...I don't know.

Max keys his mic.

MAX (CONT'D)
Vivian, we got trouble down here...

INT. MET SPECIAL EXHIBITION GALLERIES - CONTINUOUS

Vivian is looking at a handheld computer that displays the security camera feed from the basement. She recognizes the Council soldiers making their way towards the storage room.

VIVIAN
(to herself)
Damn.

She keys her mic.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
Max, you two need to get out of there now. Abort the operation. Repeat, abort the operation. Meet you at the rendezvous. I'm going dark.

Vivian removes the radio from her ear. She tosses it and the handheld computer into a trash can as she calmly saunters out of the museum. Moments later, there is a SMALL FLASH OF LIGHT from the trash can as the electronics self-destruct.

INT. MET BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack is surveying the room while Max frantically taps his ear.

MAX
Vivian? Vivian? Hello?

JACK
She's gone, Max. We're on our own.

Shafts of light appear at the far end of the storage room, spilling through the shelving.

JACK (CONT'D)
(looking around)
I don't like this. We're cut off from the van. Where's the emergency exit?

Max nods his head toward a row of shelves.

MAX
That way.
(then, concerned)
We can't leave the box.

JACK
Won't fit through the exit.

MAX
It's a shitload of money, Jack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The flashlight beams move closer. Jack and Max huddle behind Pandora's Box, whispering.

JACK

We don't know who these guys are. I'm not risking my life trying to haul this thing.

MAX

You could open it.

JACK

Now you want to open it?

MAX

Reinard will have to give us *something* for what's inside the stupid box. Better than leaving empty-handed. Your call, Jack...

The lights start flashing over Pandora's Box.

MAX (CONT'D)

...make it fast.

Jack thinks as flashlight beams swoop over their position and makes a quick decision. He thrusts his hand into the opening in Pandora's Box, grabs the switch, and twists it.

Immediately, a metal band inside Pandora's Box SNAPS shut on Jack's wrist. Jack SCREAMS.

MAX (CONT'D)

Jack!

The flashlights all freeze, then swing in the direction of Pandora's Box. Footsteps POUND the floor as the lights zero in on Jack.

JACK

I'm stuck! Help me!

Max panics and runs toward the emergency exit.

JACK (CONT'D)

Dammit, Max! Don't leave me again! You BASTARD!

Lexington and his men arrive at Pandora's Box. One of them FIRES several suppressed shots at Max, just missing him as he vanishes behind a row of shelves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEXINGTON
(an order, re: Max)
Forget him.

Lexington turns his attention to Jack and kneels beside him. He takes one look at Jack's trapped arm then PULLS OUT A MACHETE.

JACK
(eyes go wide)
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

LEXINGTON
(to Jack)
No time.
(orders his men)
Hold him.

Lexington's men restrain Jack as Lexington heaves the blade above his Jack's arm.

JACK
NO!

Before Lexington can swing his blade there is a sharp CRACK from inside Pandora's Box, like an ancient lock has been opened, followed by an unearthly HUM. Lexington is stopped in his tracks.

LEXINGTON
(pit of stomach goes cold)
We're too late.

INSIDE PANDORA'S BOX

the switch Jack's hand is grasping slides away. Sections of the cylinder around his trapped arm slide forward. The tips, covered in intricate designs, become white-hot and press into Jack's arm and hand. His flesh SIZZLES as Pandora's Box brands him.

Jack SCREAMS.

Seals POP OPEN around the lid of Pandora's Box. The entire chest begins to GLOW, becoming almost transparent. The carvings along the sides begin to WRITHE.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)
(orders his men)
Cover! Everyone to cover!

Lexington's men scatter, searching for any available cover.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Pandora's Box releases Jack's arm, which is now freshly branded on the forearm, palm, and back of the hand with an intricate pattern. Jack collapses, cradling his seared arm.

Lexington grabs him and yanks Jack to his feet.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)
(re: Jack's arm)
Least of your problems. Run.

Lexington leads Jack in a sprint away from Pandora's Box, heading towards the far end of the room.

Pandora's Box's glow intensifies, becoming almost too bright to look at. White-hot cracks form across the lip and lid.

Lexington and Jack reach a heavy packing crate and dive behind it.

LIGHT EXPLODES from Pandora's Box. Lightning arcs into the air as a WAVE OF ENERGY expands into the storage room. The wave knocks down shelving and sends artifacts flying as it reaches the end of the room and PASSES THROUGH THE WALLS.

INT. MET SPECIAL EXHIBITION GALLERIES - MOMENTS LATER

Energy bursts up from the floor, sending patrons flying and SHATTERING GLASS CASES.

EXT. METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART - MOMENTS LATER

The energy wave emerges from the Met, BLOWING OUT WINDOWS as it expands.

EXT. MANHATTAN - CONTINUOUS

The energy wave spreads across Manhattan, causing power in the city to flicker on and off, and disappears across the horizon.

In the aftermath of the explosion, dark clouds begin to gather in the sky. Flashes of purple lightning dance from cloud to cloud - an unnatural storm is brewing.

INT. MET BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The room has been demolished. No shelves are left standing and debris is scattered across the entire room. Pandora's Box lies at the epicenter - cold, empty, and quiet.

Jack is crumpled up in a ball behind the crate, nursing his branded arm. Lexington stands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEXINGTON
(looking for his second in
command)
Monty! Where are you?

Lexington's second in command, MONTGOMERY, emerges from the rubble.

MONTGOMERY
Here, boss. In one piece.

LEXINGTON
(to Montgomery)
Find the men.

Montgomery nods and starts to pull the rest of the squad from the ruins. Lexington looks down at Jack unable to decide whether to help or shoot him.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)
(ordering Jack)
Let's go.

JACK
What happened?

LEXINGTON
(matter-of-fact)
You just destroyed the world. Let's go.

Lexington drags Jack to his feet and pushes him ahead. Monty reports to Lexington with three Council Soldiers in tow. Jack listens to them in a daze, cradling his arm.

MONTGOMERY
Lost Windsor and Smith in the explosion.
Everyone else is good to go.

LEXINGTON
We need to rendezvous with Kronen and
figure out our options.
(indicates Jack)
We're bringing him.

MONTGOMERY
(serious)
Sure you don't want to shoot him?

LEXINGTON
(serious)
No. Until I am, he's with us.

The conversation brings Jack into focus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK

What? Who the hell are you? What the hell is going on? I'm not going anywhere with you assholes!

A deep, guttural CROAKING interrupts the conversation. Lexington and his team snap to attention, weapons at the ready.

MONTGOMERY

(to Lexington, nervous)
It's already happening, isn't it?

LEXINGTON

Yes.

JACK

(more confused by the minute)
What's already happening?

LEXINGTON

A reshuffling of the food chain.

The flashlights from the weapons all train on the

STORAGE ROOM ENTRANCE

Several SHADOWS flitter across the open doorway, as if some large animal was running up and down the walls.

Montgomery renews his grip on his weapon.

MONTGOMERY

What's the plan?

LEXINGTON

(to Jack)
Your friend took off for an emergency exit, correct?

JACK

(angry)
He's *not* my friend.
(beat, points)
Yeah. Should be down that row behind us.

A new chorus of CROAKING comes from the

STORAGE ROOM ENTRANCE

as more shadows congregate near the doorway.

Lexington decides it's past time to leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEXINGTON

(to all)

Listen up, people. We're going to fall back to the emergency exit and make our way out of the building.

(to Jack)

You stay with me. You're my shadow, understand?

JACK

I'm not going anywhere until I get some God-damn answers--

A HUGE BURST OF CROAKING SOUNDS interrupts Jack as everyone looks to the

STORAGE ROOM ENTRANCE

where a throng of FIREDRAKES, St. Bernard-sized reptilian creatures with oversized jaws, flood into the room. They bounce across the floor and skitter up the walls, scattering destroyed artifacts.

MONTGOMERY

Whatever they are, here they come!

LEXINGTON

Pick your targets and fall back to the exit!

Lexington and his squad OPEN FIRE on the Firedrakes. The creatures fall easily to the controlled machine-gun bursts, SQUEALING as they collapse to the floor.

MONTGOMERY

Not so tough...

COUNCIL SOLDIER #1

(feeling cocky)

If this is all they got, we got nothin' to worry about.

Council Soldier #1 fires a burst into a group of Firedrakes, killing two of them. A third hits the floor near some scattered stone busts.

The surviving Firedrake UNHINGES ITS JAW and scoops a bust into its mouth. It turns toward the humans and plants itself, flexing all its muscles.

A thin layer of smoke rises off of the Firedrake and moments later it's skin BURSTS INTO FLAME.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

The creature BELCHES and LAUNCHES the bust, now A BALL OF FIRE, at the squad. The flaming bust ARCS across the room and SLAMS into Council Soldier #1's chest. The impact throws him past Jack and into a wall.

Jack suddenly puts things into perspective and turns to Lexington.

JACK
(now in complete agreement)
I'm your shadow. *I am your shadow.*

MONTGOMERY
Jesus! We've gotta get out of here!

Panic sweeps over the remaining soldiers as more Firedrakes swallow bits of artifacts and LAUNCH FIREBALLS at the humans. The room starts to burn.

COUNCIL SOLDIER #2
They're on fire! They're on fire!

COUNCIL SOLDIER #3
Where's the exit?!

Shelving tips over, separating Lexington and Jack from the rest of the squad. Lexington tries to give his men covering fire.

LEXINGTON
Stay in control! Dammit, stick together!

More fireballs scatter Montgomery and the two remaining Council Soldiers. Firedrakes continue to pour into the room, scrambling over collapsed shelving to get at the humans.

The FIRE ALARM goes off and the SPRINKLER SYSTEM ACTIVATES, dousing the storage room in water. The fires are contained and the flames on the Firedrake's skin are extinguished.

One Firedrake, about to launch a marble tablet, disappointedly spits it out and re-hinges it's jaw.

Several Firedrakes overwhelm Council Soldier #2. Once clamps onto his gun arm, swallowing him up to the shoulder, as another unhinges its jaws at his feet. The Firedrake OPENS ITS MOUTH WIDE, snagging Council Soldier #2's feet and begins to SWALLOW HIM WHOLE as he SCREAMS.

Council Soldier #3 swings his weapon around, trying to get a bead on the creatures eating CS #2.

COUNCIL SOLDIER #3
Benny! Benny!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

As he shoots into the throng of monsters piling on CS #2, a lone Firedrake positions itself on the ceiling directly above him. It unhinges it's jaw and drops, just as CS #3 looks up.

COUNCIL SOLDIER #3 (CONT'D)
(trying to swing weapon up)
Noooooo!

The Firedrake falls onto Council Soldier #3, swallowing him down to his waist. CS #3 pulls the trigger on his weapon and a MACHINE-GUN BURST explodes from inside the Firedrake. Both CS #3 and the Firedrake fall over dead.

Lexington tries to get Montgomery's attention, who is pinned down by advancing Firedrakes.

LEXINGTON
Monty! We have to leave now! Monty!

Lexington fires into the throng of creatures threatening Montgomery.

Jack sees a Firedrake advancing on Lexington's flank. Without thinking, he scrambles to Council Soldier #1's corpse and snatches up the discarded machine-gun. He points it at the Firedrake and shoots just as it is about to attack Lexington, killing it in a single BURST.

The burst from Jack's gun grabs Lexington's attention. He sees the downed Firedrake and nods at Jack in thanks.

Montgomery, trapped across the room, realizes he's not getting out alive.

MONTGOMERY
Sir, get out! I'll hold them off! Go!

Lexington hesitates, but knows he can't save his man.

LEXINGTON
Dammit.
(to Jack)
Move!

Lexington and Jack scramble for the emergency exit as the Firedrakes overwhelm Montgomery's position.

Montgomery fires several bursts at the Firedrakes to get their complete attention.

MONTGOMERY
That's right, forget them, look at me!
You ugly bastards!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

He keeps firing, but there are too many Firedrakes closing in around him. Suddenly, the emergency sprinklers run out of water. The Firedrakes begin to smoke and burst into flame again as they advance.

MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

Oh, hell...

INT. STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

The sound of Montgomery's machine-gun fire can still be heard as Lexington and Jack run up the staircase. Jack slings his weapon over his shoulder while cradling his burned arm.

LEXINGTON

Keep going! We've got to get outside!

JACK

Tell me what's happening! Will you tell me what's happening?! What was in the box?!

Lexington stops on a landing and SLAMS Jack against the wall.

LEXINGTON

That box protected humanity from it's most terrible predators for thousands of years. Now you've opened it and let them all out again.

JACK

(stunned)
There's more?

LEXINGTON

(deadly serious)
This is only the beginning.

An EXPLOSION at the landing door sends Jack and Lexington flying onto the stairs. The door flies off its hinges and a JET OF FLAME fills the doorway.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

I'll explain later. Now we have to run.

Lexington continues up the stairs. Jack runs after him.

INT. MET SPECIAL EXHIBITION GALLERIES

Jack and Lexington spill out of a stairwell door and into the gallery housing the Reinard Collection.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The gala event has turned into a nightmare. Firedrakes have flooded into the museum and are chasing down SCREAMING PATRONS. The creatures SWALLOW PRICELESS ARTIFACTS to create fireballs that sail across the galleries. Many 'Drakes feed on the museum-goers, swallowing them up like snakes eating mice.

Lexington hands Jack a fresh magazine for his weapon.

LEXINGTON

We're on the second floor. Stay on my right and we'll shoot our way to the street.

JACK

Fine. I've always hated museums.

Jack and Lexington start to move together, shooting a path through the Firedrakes.

EXT. METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART - MINUTES LATER

Jack and Lexington burst out of the museum entrance onto the street. Jack looks out at the city.

JACK

My God...

LEXINGTON

(re: what's ahead of them)
God has nothing to do with this.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS

New York is in CHAOS. Firedrakes cover the streets, chasing down SCREAMING PEDESTRIANS. Cars have crashed into each other, creating a huge TRAFFIC JAM. FIRES burn on the streets and in broken windows as Firedrakes skitter up building faces. Above them, purple lightning lances through the sky.

EXT. METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART - CONTINUOUS

Lexington reloads his weapon.

LEXINGTON

(to Jack)
We stay out here, we're dead.

JACK

(snapping back to reality)
I've got a van in the parking garage.

Jack takes off. Lexington follows.

EXT. MET PARKING GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Jack sprints into the garage and finds his van is gone. Max's discarded custodial jumpsuit lies in the empty space. Jack picks the jumpsuit up in his fist as Lexington catches up.

JACK
(to himself)
Damn you, Max. I swear I'll kill him if I
ever find him.
(to Lexington)
Had a van...

LEXINGTON
That's all right. We'll take my car.

Lexington turns in the direction of an unmarked black, heavily-armored HUMVEE. He jumps in and starts it up.

JACK
(re: van vs. HUMVEE trade-off)
It's probably best.

Jack climbs in and Lexington floors it.

EXT. METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART - MOMENTS LATER

The HUMVEE tears onto the street as a swarm of burning Firedrakes EXPLODES from the museum entrance.

Lexington's HUMVEE plows right into the traffic jam, it's giant tires allowing it to DRIVE RIGHT OVER STOPPED VEHICLES to escape the museum Firedrakes.

INT. LEXINGTON'S HUMVEE

Jack tries to process everything he's seeing. Lexington's face remains grim and determined.

JACK
Now what?

LEXINGTON
We have to get out of the city.

JACK
No kidding. Got an airlift?

LEXINGTON
No. Things happened too quickly. We were hoping to reach the box in time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
Sorry you didn't.
(beat)
If you can get us to JFK, I've got a
plane waiting.

Lexington gives Jack a quizzical look.

JACK (CONT'D)
(explaining)
We were going to steal the box and get it
out of the country same day.

LEXINGTON
Good plan. JFK it is.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS

Lexington's HUMVEE makes a sharp turn and heads for the
airport. The Firedrakes ignore the vehicle in favor of
exposed pedestrians.

INT. LEXINGTON'S HUMVEE

Lexington punches a button on the dashboard console and a
computer screen slides up from behind a panel.

LEXINGTON
Let's see what the traffic's like.

He punches a button on the screen and we see a

TELEVISION PROGRAM, NEWS SHOW SET

where a MALE and FEMALE NEWS ANCHOR attempt to make sense of
the creature attacks.

FEMALE NEWS ANCHOR
(in mid-sentence)
--numerous fatalities. Once again, New
York City appears to be under some sort
of animal attack. Reports all over the
city indicate there are animals loose in
the streets. Authorities advise you to
stay in your homes--

MALE NEWS ANCHOR
(cutting in)
Excuse me, Sue, but we've got something
from Chopper Dave we think everyone
should see...

The picture on the screen changes to

TELEVISION PROGRAM, NEWS CHOPPER FOOTAGE OVER JERSEY DOCKS

The screen cuts to news chopper footage directly over the Jersey docks where a KRAKEN, a giant squid the size of a supertanker, is tearing down the loading cranes with its tentacles. The helicopter's spotlight sweeps back and forth across the Kraken's giant body.

CHOPPER DAVE (O.S.)
(terrified)
Ken and Sue, don't know if you can see this, but there appears to be some kind of...
(has no idea how to describe it)
...sea monster...attacking the docks.
(pause, listening to his headset)
--Bob, our producer, is asking if we can get in for a closer look--the *hell* with that! Fuck you, Bob!

There is a series of SCREECHES and Chopper Dave's camera swivels toward the noise. The helicopter spotlight catches enormous GRIFFONS, half-lion and half-eagle creatures, as they flock around the chopper.

CHOPPER DAVE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
What *is* that?! What the *HELL*--

SCREECHING overwhelms the audio and the news chopper's camera goes to STATIC.

Lexington turns off the news report and guns the engine.

LEXINGTON
This is getting worse by the minute.

JACK
Not exactly the day I had planned, either. Name's Jack, by the way.

LEXINGTON
Lexington.

JACK
Fantastic. Now that we're all good friends and everything, Lex, why don't you tell me who you are and what the hell is going on? Be nice to know before I'm eaten.

Lexington thinks for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEXINGTON

I'm part of an organization called the Council of 98. We were trying to prevent the box from being opened.

JACK

Didn't do a very good job.

LEXINGTON

None of us thought it was the actual artifact until it was too late.

JACK

So what's the connection?

LEXINGTON

We built it.

JACK

And then you *lost* it?

LEXINGTON

Yes.

JACK

How?

LEXINGTON

I don't know. It was a long time ago.

JACK

If protecting this thing was the whole reason for your little club to exist, what have you been doing since then?

LEXINGTON

The Council has had...other issues to deal with.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE

Lexington's Humvee comes screeching to a halt in Times Square.

INT. LEXINGTON'S HUMVEE - CONTINUOUS

Lexington and Jack take in the scene in front of them. Jack's jaw drops.

JACK

Holy shit...

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

There is a huge pile-up of crashed and burning cars blocking the streets in front of the Humvee. Hundreds of CIVILIANS run in all directions, screaming and panicked. FIREBALLS of debris arc into the middle of the crowds, scattering burning corpses in all directions.

Firedrakes swarm over the wreckage, climbing to high ground on top of the piles of cars and up the sides of buildings. Their bodies smolder and catch fire as they scoop up chunks of vehicles in their jaws and launch burning missiles at the civilians and into storefronts, SHATTERING glass windows and leaving behind POOLS OF FLAME.

A HUGE FLOCK OF GRIFFONS patrol the air in-between the skyscrapers, SCREECHING and ROARING.

INT. LEXINGTON'S HUMVEE - CONTINUOUS

LEXINGTON

We're going to need to find a new route to the airport.

Lexington pulls open the video screen in the dashboard and starts punching through street maps.

JACK

No kidding.

Jack turns and looks out his window.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The Homeless Man from the opening montage staggers through the streets about thirty feet away from the Humvee. His right leg is bloody and he holds up his crude "The End Is Near!" sign, screaming at the panicking civilians.

HOMELESS MAN

I told you! Told alla you! End is near!
Prepare yourselves for *judgement!*

He looks straight at Jack in the Humvee.

INT. LEXINGTON'S HUMVEE - CONTINUOUS

Jack locks eyes with the homeless man.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The homeless man focuses entirely on Jack, pointing at him with one arm while holding up his "End is Near!" sign with the other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOMELESS MAN

(to Jack)

The end is near!

Before Jack can react, a Griffon swoops down and SNATCHES the homeless man up in it's paws. His SCREAMS fade as the Griffon gains altitude and vanishes behind buildings. All that is left behind is the crude sign that proclaims, "The End Is Near!" now spattered with blood.

The rest of the Griffons descend on the square. They swoop down on humans and Firedrakes alike, snatching them up and tearing them to pieces with their claws and beaks.

Other Griffons attach themselves to building faces, smashing windows and tearing out metal beams. More gather debris from the ground - phone booths, sections of cars, bus stop canopies - and dive bomb the crowds and Firedrakes. Humans run, but the Firedrakes fight for their newfound territory.

INT. LEXINGTON'S HUMVEE - CONTINUOUS

Lexington folds up the computer screen and puts the vehicle in gear.

LEXINGTON

Think I've found a way to the airport.

Jack is still staring at the "End Is Near!" sign.

JACK

(distracted)

Yeah. We should...go.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The Humvee leaves Times Square to the Griffons and Firedrakes.

EXT. JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - LATER

Lexington's Humvee rolls into the airport. There are fires burning, but the destruction doesn't seem as widespread here. There are even several aircraft taking off from the still-lit runways.

JACK (O.S.)

Doesn't look so bad here.

LEXINGTON (O.S.)

It'll get bad. It always gets bad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK (O.S.)
Anyone ever tell you you're kind of a
downer?

INT. PRIVATE JET HANGAR - MINUTES LATER

The Humvee pulls into the hangar and stops. Lexington and Jack spill out and head towards a small commercial jet parked inside.

JACK
(continuing a conversation)
As long as she's fueled I can have us in
the air in 10 minutes...

Jack does a circle around the jet, performing the world's fastest "walk around."

JACK (CONT'D)
...Looks good, looks good, looks good,
oh, the hell with it. Let's get airborne.

Jack turns to the jet door and notices it's closed. He starts to bang on it.

JACK (CONT'D)
Hey! Hey! We're here! Vivian, open the
damn door! We have to get the hell out of
here!

Lexington bristles when Jack mentions the name "Vivian."

The jet door swings down and Vivian appears, brandishing a pistol at Lexington. Lexington's weapon instinctively snaps to attention and draws a bead on her. It's a Mexican Standoff.

LEXINGTON
(indicating Vivian)
What's *she* doing here?

VIVIAN
(indicating Lexington)
What's *he* doing here?

Jack is so startled he drops his weapon.

JACK (CONT'D)
(bewildered)
You two *know* each other?
(suddenly angry)
What is going on here?! WHAT IS GOING
ON?!

LEXINGTON
She works for the other side.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
(now really upset)
WHAT *OTHER* SIDE?!

VIVIAN
(to Jack)
What's Lexington been telling you?

JACK
(now irritated he has to keep
track of this information)
That's he's part of some secret society
called the Council of 95--

LEXINGTON
98.

JACK
(annoyed)
Whatever. They were after the stupid box
that let all the stupid monsters out.

VIVIAN
(to Lexington, amazed)
You *opened* it?

LEXINGTON
No.
(indicated Jack)
He did. I would think you would give me
more credit than that.

VIVIAN
Sometimes it's hard to tell where you
stand. Afghanistan, 2001?

LEXINGTON
We do what we have to in order to protect
humanity.

VIVIAN
From what? Discovering its potential?

JACK
(exasperated)
HEY!

Lexington and Vivian turn their attention to Jack, but keep
their weapons trained on each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK (CONT'D)

Let's pretend for a second that I don't
give a rat's ass about the *really*
interesting history of the Council and
the...

Jack looks quizzically at Vivian.

VIVIAN

Black Order.

JACK

(finds the sinister name
irritating)
Black Order. Nice.

VIVIAN

(trying to explain)
There's a long-standing tradition--

JACK

(cutting Vivian off)
I don't care. I think both your clubs
have stupid names. Okay? Can we focus on
the more pressing issues? I'd like to get
on this plane and get out of here before
New York burns to the ground.

VIVIAN

(indicating Lexington)
I'm not letting him on this plane.

LEXINGTON

(indicating Vivian)
And I'm not letting her escape.

Jack sucks in a breath and puts his face in his hands. This
is the last thing he needs to have to deal with today. He
looks up.

JACK

Can either of you geniuses fly a jet?

LEXINGTON

No.

VIVIAN

(pause)
No.

JACK

So were you two just gonna stand here
pointing guns at each other for eternity?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Neither of them has an answer.

JACK (CONT'D)

Terrific. How about this? Why don't we all get on the plane, which only *I* know how to fly, and you two can start fighting again once we land somewhere safe.

There is a HUGE GRINDING NOISE that sounds almost like a moan across the tarmac. Jack, Lexington, and Vivian look out the open hangar doors to see

EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC - CONTINUOUS

a giant GOLEM making its way through the airport.

The Golem is almost 100 feet tall and consists of the debris of man-made structures it comes in contact with. Building walls, street lamps, sections of cars and buses, strips of sidewalk, neon signs, all are mashed together to form a crude and gigantic humanoid body.

The Golem SMASHES into a terminal, absorbing part of the loading gantry and baggage carts. Then it turns and shambles towards the hangars.

INT. PRIVATE JET HANGAR - CONTINUOUS

Back in the hangar, Jack finishes his thought.

JACK

(pointing at approaching Golem)
Or, we could be crushed to death by whatever the hell *that* is.

Lexington and Vivian glance at each other and make the smart choice.

VIVIAN

(to Lexington)
I'll give you safe passage to Reinard's compound in England. From there we can contact our superiors and figure out how to stop this.

LEXINGTON

Agreed.

They both drop their weapons and climb into the jet. Jack follows, a little surprised.

JACK

Well, that was easy.

EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC - MOMENTS LATER

Vivian's private jet rolls out of the hangar and taxis towards the runway.

A large PASSENGER JET pulls away from the terminals, heading toward the runway and threatening to cut off Vivian's jet. The Golem turns its attention to the runaway planes.

INT. VIVIAN'S JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack sits in the pilot's seat, screaming into the radio. Vivian sits next to him, eyes locked on the oncoming passenger jet. Lexington sits in the background, staring out the window at the Golem behind them.

JACK
(into the radio)
Hey...big jet about to run over little jet, give us some room! We were here first!

PASSENGER JET PILOT (O.S.)
(over radio)
Forget it! I've got eighty paying customers onboard and we're taking this bird to Ohio! You don't want to get crushed, you better get out of the way.

JACK
(into the radio)
You asshole!

Lexington turns to the cockpit.

LEXINGTON
We should really go faster.

Vivian turns to Lexington.

VIVIAN
You wish to "play chicken" with a passenger jet?

Lexington turns to the window and looks out.

EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC - CONTINUOUS

The giant Golem is right on top of them, swinging its city bus arms into the air. It BELLOWS.

INT. VIVIAN'S JET - CONTINUOUS

Lexington turns to the cockpit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEXINGTON
(answering Vivian's question)
Yes. Yes I do.

Jack pours on the speed.

EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC - CONTINUOUS

Vivian's jet and the airliner speed toward each other. Vivian's jet doesn't have enough speed and is about to collide with the airliner when the Golem's arm smashes down into the airliner's fuselage.

The airliner BREAKS IN HALF AND EXPLODES as the Golem tears into the wreckage, absorbing the twisted metal into its body.

Vivian's jet rushes ahead and takes to the air as the Golem BELLOWS again.

The jet turns away from a New York City under siege and heads out to sea.

EXT. ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

A frog sits near a tree, CROAKING. A SHADOWY WOLF-LIKE FIGURE dashes out of the nearby treeline and snatches the frog up in it's jaws. The croaking abruptly stops. An approaching vehicle scares the figure back into the treeline, GROWLING.

In the distance, a Land Rover speeds down a picturesque road.

JACK (O.C.)
Well, this sure is nice country.

LEXINGTON (O.C.)
It won't be for long.

JACK (O.C.)
Again with the poor attitude...

EXT. REINARD'S ESTATE - DAY

The Land Rover turns onto a driveway, heading towards an estate. A makeshift metal fence surrounds the grounds, which are patrolled by BLACK ORDER GUARDS. They open the gate for the Land Rover.

INT. REINARD'S ESTATE ENTRANCE - MINUTES LATER

Vivian, Lexington, and Jack are met by several BLACK ORDER SOLDIERS. They look similar to the Council Soldiers Jack has seen before, but he notices a small BLACK ORDER INSIGNIA on their collars.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLACK ORDER GUARD #1
Ms. Kane, Mr. Reinard is waiting for
everyone in the Library.

VIVIAN
What's the fence outside for?

BLACK ORDER GUARD #1
There've been creature sightings in the
woods. We're preparing for the worst.

Jack looks at Lexington and notices a small COUNCIL OF 98
INSIGNIA on his paramilitary gear. He laughs to himself.

JACK
(to himself)
Decoder rings.

Vivian turns to Jack.

VIVIAN
(sharp)
What?

JACK
(surprised she heard him)
Nothing! *What?*

Vivian shakes her head.

VIVIAN
(to Jack and Lexington)
Follow me.

The three walk into a hall, followed by the Black Order
Soldiers. On his way inside, Jack spies several LARGE
AIRCRAFT in a nearby courtyard, obscured by camouflage
netting.

INT. REINARD'S ESTATE LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Vivian, Jack, and Lexington enter the library. The Black
Order Soldiers take up guard positions at the entrance.

REINARD stands at a desk on the far end of the library,
staring intently at a computer monitor. He appears in his
late 50s but spry, with gray hair just slightly out of place,
and the kind yet firm demeanor of a strict grandparent.

VIVIAN
Mr. Reinard...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REINARD

You sure have mucked this whole thing up,
haven't you?

VIVIAN

(taken aback)
Sir?

REINARD

Not you.

Reinard looks up from the monitor and fixes his gaze on Jack.

REINARD (CONT'D)

The energy released from Pandora's Box is
spreading across the globe. Already,
major cities across America are under
attack. You were under strict
instructions not to open it. What
happened?

JACK

Don't pin this on me! You never said the
thing was full of monsters! I was trying
to salvage the situation for you before
Lex got to it.

REINARD

(glances at Lexington)
Mr. White Deer, yes. It is unfortunate
you were unable to prevent Mr. Dillon
from opening Pandora's Box.

LEXINGTON

Agreed.

JACK

He tried to hack my arm off!

REINARD

For all out sakes, it's a pity he didn't
succeed. What about Mr. Ritter?

JACK

Max? That little weasel bastard? He
bailed when the shooting started. I hope
he was eaten!

REINARD

If he wasn't, he undoubtedly will be.

VIVIAN

What we need to determine is if there is
any way to reverse the damage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Reinard brightens.

REINARD

Yes, of course! I may have something there!

Reinard goes to his computer and taps on the keyboard. Behind him, a large video display lowers out of the ceiling and turns on. It shows a rotating picture of a metal disk covered in the same carvings that are on Pandora's Box.

REINARD (CONT'D)

I was studying files recently recovered from a
(glances nervously at
Lexington)
Council cell raid and came across a reference to this...

Lexington recognizes the image on the display.

LEXINGTON

The Signet.

REINARD

Ah, so it *is* the Signet after all.

JACK

Fantastic. What the hell is the Signet?

REINARD

I believe it is a fail-safe device, in case Pandora's Box was ever accidentally opened. A way to--

LEXINGTON

(finishing Reinard's thought)
--close Pandora's Box, yes.

VIVIAN

And you know where it is?

LEXINGTON

(beat, reluctant)
Yes.

JACK

Then what are you waiting for? Go get it, close the box, and let's call it a day!

Lexington weighs his options, and realizes he has none.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEXINGTON

I'll need a pilot to get there.

REINARD

I'll have one on standby.

LEXINGTON

No. I'll take Jack.

JACK

I'd really rather stay here, if that's all right with everybody.

LEXINGTON

I won't compromise the security of a Council safe house by revealing it to enemy agents. I'll take Jack.

VIVIAN

I thought we were working together on this?

LEXINGTON

And if our positions were reversed?

VIVIAN

(pause)
Take Jack.

JACK

Hey! I'm *in* the room!

Lexington turns to Jack.

LEXINGTON

(referring to Vivian and Reinard)

Jack, bottom line is we don't trust each other. There's too much history between our organizations. You're the only neutral party in all this, and we need you to help us. I know you didn't mean for any of this to happen, but now's your chance to fix it.

Jack stares at Lexington, then glances at Vivian and Reinard.

JACK

I guess that fence won't stop the really big monsters, will it?

REINARD

Not likely.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JACK

(pause)
I'll do it. I'll probably get eaten,
(glances at Lexington)
or get you killed and *then* get eaten, but
I'll do it.
(beat, touches temple)
I'm getting a headache.

Lexington turns to Reinard.

LEXINGTON

I need to send an unmonitored
communication.

REINARD

Come with me.

Reinard leads Lexington out of the library, followed by the
guards. Vivian approaches Jack.

VIVIAN

Would you like an aspirin?

JACK

Nah. Just stress. It'll go away after a
while, or if my head is bitten off.

Vivian laughs.

JACK (CONT'D)

Ah, the secret society secret agent can
laugh. Who'da thought?

VIVIAN

(re: Council vs. Black Order)
You must think we're all mad.

JACK

Yes. Yes, I do.
(beat, new thought)
What's the point?

VIVIAN

What?

JACK

What's the point of your groups fighting,
of even existing?

VIVIAN

We both want what's best for humanity. We
just have different ways of going about
it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JACK

Why not let humanity figure things out
for ourselves?

VIVIAN

Because that usually leads to disaster.

JACK

(re: their current situation)
Yeah, you guys have done a helluva job
keeping things under control so far.

VIVIAN

You'll fix it. You and Lexington will
recover the Signet and we'll close
Pandora's Box.

JACK

How can you be sure?

VIVIAN

Because otherwise we'll be eaten by
monsters.

Jack stares at Vivian, unsure of how to react.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

That was a joke.

JACK

(pause)
Needs a little work.

Vivian laughs again, leans in close, and kisses Jack. Jack
responds and they embrace. She releases him.

VIVIAN

Good luck, Jack.

Vivian leaves Jack alone in the library.

EXT. REINARD'S ESTATE - LATER

Lexington and Jack climb into the Land Rover as Reinard and
Vivian look on. Black Order Guards open the fence gate in the
distance.

LEXINGTON

(to Reinard)
Expect a transmission from me in two
hours.

REINARD

And if you fail to recover the Signet?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Thanks for the vote of confidence.

LEXINGTON

(ignoring Jack)

The Council cell in possession of the Signet will contact you. You can make new arrangements with them.

Reinard and Vivian watch Jack and Lexington drive away in the Land Rover. Jack waves goodbye to Vivian. She waves back as she leans in to Reinard.

VIVIAN

Lexington won't use our jet. He knows we'll track it.

REINARD

What about Dillon?

VIVIAN

(beat, conflicted about using Jack)

It's done.

EXT. SKY ABOVE LONDON - DAWN

A small private jet (not Vivian's jet from earlier) approaches the city through heavy clouds.

JACK (V.O.)

I can't believe we stole a jet.

LEXINGTON (V.O.)

We couldn't use Reinard's aircraft. They would've been able to track us.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack is in the pilot's seat, flying. Lexington sits next to him, dialing stations on a shortwave radio with an earphone pressed to one ear.

JACK

Oh, of course, we can't have *them* tracking us. That's worth going to jail for--for--I don't even know how long you go to jail for stealing a plane.

LEXINGTON

One stolen plane is the least of anyone's worries now. Listen to this.

Lexington pulls the headphone plug out of the radio.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHORTWAVE RADIO (V.O.)
--numerous attacks across England,
identical to the reports from America
yesterday. Japan also appears to be
suffering from the same...plague of what
can only be described as mythological
creatures come to life. It seems only a
matter of time before this chaos spreads
across the globe--

Lexington turns off the radio.

LEXINGTON
He's right about that.

JACK
Let's not panic or anything, okay? We're
approaching London. I'm gonna lose some
altitude and see if we can get clearance
to land...

EXT. SKY ABOVE LONDON - CONTINUOUS

The private jet drops out of the clouds.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack works the plane controls, starting his descent.

JACK
All right, let's have a look at what
we're dealing with--

Jack's words catch in his throat as he and Lexington stare
out the cockpit window at the city below.

JACK (CONT'D)
(doesn't believe his eyes)
Oh, my God...

EXT. LONDON CITYSCAPE - CONTINUOUS

The city of London is burning. Massive fires rage on either
side of the Thames. Flocks of Griffons blacken the sky and
the shambling forms of huge Golems can be seen leaving
trenches of destruction.

The private jet carrying Jack and Lexington flies toward the
chaos.

INT. PRIVATE JET - MOMENTS LATER

Jack and Lexington recover from the shock of a demolished London. Jack activates the plane's radio as Lexington readies weapons.

JACK
(into radio)
Heathrow, this is flight--
(realizes plane is stolen)
--hell, I don't know what flight number
we are, but we're looking for an
approach, over.

The radio returns sounds of HUMAN SCREAMS and WEREWOLF SNARLS and HOWLS. Then the radio goes dead. Jack looks at Lexington.

JACK (CONT'D)
Sounds like we don't want to land at
Heathrow. Any other airports around here?

Lexington points out the cockpit window.

LEXINGTON
Jack, look out!

Jack turns in time to see a

FLOCK OF GRIFFONS

swarming in front of the jet, hell-bent on tearing it apart. They practically fill the air in front of the cockpit window, blotting out everything else.

JACK
Jesus!

Jack puts the jet into a steep dive.

EXT. LONDON CITYSCAPE - CONTINUOUS

The private jet dives under the flock of Griffons, narrowly avoiding their slashing paws as they SHRIEK and CAW. The Griffons regroup and pursue the jet as it descends toward the city.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack struggles at the controls, trying to correct the jet's steep dive. For the first time, Lexington actually appears nervous.

LEXINGTON
Um, Jack?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
(fighting with the controls)
Kind of busy.

LEXINGTON
Planes are supposed to stay *in* the air.

JACK
Working on it.

LEXINGTON
Work faster and better.

EXT. RIVER THAMES - MOMENTS LATER

The private jet levels out at rooftop level above the river, under the multitude of Griffons that fill the skies. On either side, the city and citizens of London are being torn apart by creatures.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack stops fighting the controls but remains tense, looking at the Griffons above.

LEXINGTON
(relieved)
Good...good job.

JACK
We're still going to die.

LEXINGTON
What?

JACK
I can't fly on the deck like this forever and there's too many Griffon things overhead to grab altitude. We may have to ditch in the water.

EXT. RIVER THAMES - CONTINUOUS

As the jet barrels down the Thames, a Kraken emerges from the water. It uses it's tentacles to haul itself partway onto a bridge while extending it's other tentacles to ensnare the oncoming jet.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack prepares to maneuver through the swirling tentacles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
(the Kraken is just too much)
Oh, now this is *bullshit!*

EXT. RIVER THAMES - CONTINUOUS

Just before the jet reaches the bridge, a LOCH NESS MONSTER rises from the water and crashes into the Kraken. The Kraken turns its attention to the attacking Nessie and the two fall onto the bridge, collapsing it under their weight.

The jet flies overhead.

INT. PRIVATE JET - MOMENTS LATER

Jack and Lexington try to mentally process the two giant monsters wrecking the bridge.

LEXINGTON
You still want to ditch in the water?

Jack vigorously shakes his head back and forth, "No."

EXT. RIVER THAMES

The jet carrying Jack and Lexington follows the curving river, still followed by the flock of Griffons.

INT. PRIVATE JET

Lexington leans forward, looking at the cityscape ahead.

LEXINGTON
We need to find someplace to land.

JACK
What? Why?

LEXINGTON
Our target's coming up.

JACK
(looking ahead)
Where?

LEXINGTON
(points)
There.

Jack follows Lexington's finger and sees the

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

rapidly approaching.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jack works the plane controls, trying to slow down without crashing.

JACK
Big Ben? The Signet's in Big Ben?

LEXINGTON
Below it. We need to land.

JACK
Where? We can't ditch in the water. We'll be eaten by giant squid and dinosaurs.

LEXINGTON
(thinking)
Westminster Bridge.

JACK
(thinks he's crazy)
You are kidding.

LEXINGTON
Have a better idea?

JACK
Yes. Landing somewhere that won't kill us.

There is a SCREECH outside the plane and both Jack and Lexington look out the cockpit window.

EXT. RIVER THAMES AT WESTMINSTER BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The jet races towards the bridge. The Millennium Wheel and the Houses of Parliament are ahead on either side of the river.

The flock of Griffons have caught up to the jet and have it surrounded. They swarm on the plane in a coordinated attack.

Griffons swipe at the jet, their claws stripping away bits of fuselage and cracking windows. One Griffon targets the

PORTSIDE JET ENGINE

and tears it open.

FLAMES pour out of the engine, setting fire to the Griffon and causing it to plunge into the river.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

ALARMS sound in the cockpit as Jack attempts to keep the jet airborne.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
Those fucking birds got one of our engines!

LEXINGTON
(giving Jack his only options)
Bridge or water?

Jack looks ahead and makes a snap decision.

JACK
Hold on!

He throttles up the remaining engine.

EXT. RIVER THAMES AT WESTMINSTER BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The jet's remaining engine FIRES UP and the plane pulls away from the Griffons, angling toward the city. The Griffons pursue.

EXT. MILLENNIUM WHEEL - MOMENTS LATER

More Griffons are perched on the giant Ferris wheel, tearing at it with their beaks and carrying away bits of metal and cable. A section of the wheel's metal cabling has been torn away, leaving a large gap.

Several of the perched Griffon's look up as the WHINE of the jet's engine grows louder.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Lexington was nervous before, but now he is actually afraid. Jack is determined.

LEXINGTON
Jack, what the hell are you doing?

JACK
Gotta get those things off our back before we can land.

LEXINGTON
This doesn't seem like a good idea.

JACK
It's not. It's insane.

EXT. MILLENNIUM WHEEL - CONTINUOUS

The jet angles at the wheel and FLIES THROUGH the opening in the cabling, scattering the perched Griffons.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The pursuing Griffons fly into the cluster of wheel Griffons at the Millennium Wheel and the two flocks get into a territory fight, forgetting the jet.

INT. PRIVATE JET - MOMENTS LATER

Jack starts to turn the jet around for an approach on Westminster Bridge. Lexington realizes he was holding his breath and exhales.

LEXINGTON

That...was adequate flying.

JACK

(adrenaline high)

Are you kidding? That was awesome! I am awesome!

(sobering up)

You sure you want to land on the bridge?

LEXINGTON

We have to get the Signet.

(re: the Millennium Wheel)

If you can fly through the Millennium Wheel you can land on the bridge.

EXT. RIVER THAMES AT WESTMINSTER BRIDGE

The jet completes its turn and lines up for a landing on Westminster Bridge, heading towards the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben.

INT. PRIVATE JET

Jack checks his instruments, preparing for a hard landing.

JACK

It'll be a miracle if we live through this.

LEXINGTON

And you said *I* was a downer.

Jack glances at Lexington and the two men share a nervous laugh. Jack returns to the controls.

EXT. RIVER THAMES AT WESTMINSTER BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Westminster Bridge is covered in burning debris, but there is a small strip in the middle that is clear. The jet lowers its landing gear as the wings swing back and forth, trying to stay on course.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack concentrates on the controls as Lexington braces himself for impact.

JACK
Here we go.

EXT. WESTMINSTER BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The jet touches down on the bridge at the halfway point and hits the brakes. Tires SQUEAL as smoke pours from the burning rubber.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack and Lexington are shaken about by the rough touchdown.

EXT. WESTMINSTER BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The jet drifts out of the clear area and the nose clips a truck, twisting the plane at an angle as it slides forward.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack and Lexington are knocked around by the impact.

JACK
(trying not to panic)
Okay! We're still okay! Could be worse!

Lexington stares out the cockpit window.

LEXINGTON
It's about to get worse.

Jack looks out the window and his eyes go wide.

JACK
Oh, shi--

EXT. WESTMINSTER BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The jet is skidding towards a pile of crashed and overturned vehicles: passenger cars, a truck carrying rebar, and two tanker trucks leaking gasoline.

The jet slides into the pile of vehicles and the landing gear and wings are instantly torn off, catching the back end of the plane on fire.

The jet body crashes to the ground and continues to slide forward, knocking passenger cars out of it's path and shooting SPARKS from its belly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The fire from the jet body ignites the leaking fuel from the tanker trucks. Fire races up the leaking fuel and into the tankers, causing them both to EXPLODE. The explosion destroys the rebar truck and sends rebar posts flying into the air behind the plane.

INT. PRIVATE JET - CONTINUOUS

Jack is in the grips of a PRIMAL TERROR SCREAM as the jet rushes forward. Lexington is silent but petrified.

EXT. WESTMINSTER BRIDGE AT BIG BEN - CONTINUOUS

What's left of the jet grinds to a halt in front of Big Ben. Seconds later, the plane door is kicked open. Jack and Lexington spill out and stagger away from the wreckage, weapons at the ready.

JACK
(catching his breath)
Well...that...that was lucky...

A cluster of rebar posts fall out of the sky and pelt the body of the jet, leaving it looking like a pincushion. Jack and Lexington look at the plane, expressionless. It's just too much to deal with.

They turn and walk towards the Houses of Parliament.

EXT. HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT COURTYARD

Jack and Lexington cross the grounds cautiously.

JACK
So your clubhouse is *under* Big Ben?

LEXINGTON
More or less.

JACK
How did you guys manage to build a secret basement underneath this place without being noticed?

LEXINGTON
We did it a while ago.

JACK
How long?

LEXINGTON
About 400 years.

Jack is caught off-guard by this revelation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

You know, the more I learn about you people the less I like you. Did you ever stop to think, just for a minute, that you're doing more harm than good?

Before Lexington can answer, there is a BLOOD-CURDLING HUMAN SCREAM ahead of them. Jack and Lexington freeze, aiming their weapons at the sound.

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

a BRITISH MAN IN SUIT bursts out of a door on the far wall. He is pursued by a snarling WEREWOLF - an 8-foot tall man/wolf creature (NOTE: Werewolves in *Pandora* are not human beings in monstrous form, they are animals unto themselves and do not shape shift.). The Werewolf pounces on the screaming man and tears him to shreds. Then it notices Jack and Lexington, lifts its head to the sky, and HOWLS.

Jack and Lexington glance at each other and OPEN FIRE on the Werewolf. Bullets pelt the creature as it rushes toward the men, GROWLING and BARKING. The continual spray of bullets finally overwhelms the Werewolf and it falls dead at their feet.

Jack and Lexington pause to put fresh clips in their weapons.

JACK (CONT'D)

(starting to freak out)
Werewolf? Is that a Werewolf?

LEXINGTON

(checking weapon)
Not sure.

JACK

(freaking out)
It's a big wolf that walks on two legs and eats people, isn't it? Werewolf!

LEXINGTON

Try and remain calm, Jack.

JACK

(trying to get control of himself)
Werewolves, Griffons, dinosaurs, giant squid, and I don't even know what the hell those homicidal charcoal briquettes were supposed to be--

A CHORUS OF WEREWOLF HOWLS echoes through the courtyard. Jack and Lexington look up to see

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WEREWOLF SILHOUETTES MOVING ACROSS THE ROOF LINE

all around the courtyard. Dozens of Werewolves start to climb down the courtyard walls, SNIFFING and SNARLING at the men.

LEXINGTON
(re: the Werewolves)
Rest of the pack.

Lexington sprints for the door. Jack remains in place, staring at the descending Werewolf pack.

JACK
(lost in himself)
One last job, huh, Max? Why did I ever listen to you? I just wanted a little island in the Keys...and Jimmy Buffett records...

Lexington stops at the door and turns to see Jack hasn't followed.

LEXINGTON
(alarmed)
JACK! We have to get inside! Now!

The Werewolves have nearly reached the ground as Jack realizes the danger he's in. He starts to run to the door as Lexington opens up with COVERING FIRE.

Jack runs, pointing his weapon behind him and firing blindly, as the Werewolf pack hits the ground running.

The Werewolves stride forward on all fours, rapidly closing in on Jack.

Lexington chooses his shots carefully, planting BURSTS into the heads of the Werewolves, dropping several.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)
(egging Jack on)
Heads! Shoot for the heads!

Jack keeps running for Lexington and the door, still shooting blindly behind himself.

JACK
(not even trying to aim)
Okay!

Lexington can't kill Werewolves fast enough - they're nearly on Jack's heels.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEXINGTON
And RUN FASTER!

JACK
OKAY!

Jack pours on the speed as Lexington swings open the heavy wooden door. Jack dives in and Lexington

INT. HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

SLAMS the door shut and turns a heavy iron lock. A moment later, a Werewolf CRASHES into the other side of the door, shaking it violently. The door holds.

Jack and Lexington can hear SNARLING and HOWLS on the other side of the door as the Werewolves start SCRATCHING at the door and SLAMMING into it.

LEXINGTON
We need to move.

JACK
(in complete agreement)
Oh, hell yeah.

Jack and Lexington scramble to the end of the hall, where Lexington stops at an alcove and slings his weapon. At the other end of the hall, the Werewolf pack is still trying to break down the door.

JACK (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing?

LEXINGTON
We're here.

JACK
Where?

Lexington reaches over to his left hand, where Jack notices a ring with the same Council symbol from Lexington's collar pin. Lexington twists the face of the ring and a panel on the alcove slides open, revealing two circular scanning devices.

Lexington places his right eye in front of one scanning device and his ring hand in front of the other. Lasers shoot out of the scanners and confirm Lexington's identity. The panel DINGS and the entire alcove slides away to reveal a silver metal elevator car.

JACK (CONT'D)
I was right. Decoder rings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lexington steps into the elevator and looks at Jack.

LEXINGTON
Don't you want to see the Batcave?

JACK
(confused)
Did you just make a joke?

The sound of WOOD SPLINTERING behind him makes Jack turn around to see the

WEREWOLF PACK POURING INTO THE HALLWAY

from the destroyed courtyard door. The Werewolves cover the floor, walls, and ceiling as they charge at the humans.

Jack jumps into the elevator as Lexington pushes the "down" button. The elevator doors close slowly as Jack and Lexington helplessly watch the Werewolf pack rush into the alcove.

Just as the lead Werewolf leaps at the elevator car, the doors close and the elevator starts its descent.

JACK (CONT'D)
(coping with tension)
I think I'm developing a heart condition.

LEXINGTON
(reassuring)
We should be safe for now. The elevator shaft is heavily fortified. The creatures shouldn't be able to get inside.

JACK
(beat)
Shouldn't?

INT. COUNCIL BASE MAIN FLOOR

Metal elevator doors set into a gray stone wall slide open. Lexington strides out of the elevator car. Jack follows, looking out at the as Lexington heads to the far end of the floor.

The floor is bright and utilitarian, covered in large computer monitors and workstations. It is obvious the high-technology has been retrofitted into the much older facility. A dozen COUNCIL MEMBERS, some combat soldiers and some scientist, rush back and forth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Council Scientist #1 looks at a display panel showing footage of a Golem absorbing street debris under superimposed Council data as a battle-weary COUNCIL SOLDIER stands nearby, dressing his own wounds.

COUNCIL SCIENTIST #1
(to the soldier)
Any luck against the Golems?

COUNCIL SOLDIER #4
Negative. Whatever we blow off 'em, they just scoop up a replacement from the street.

COUNCIL SCIENTIST #1
(staring at Golem display panel, thinking out loud)
They give off a strange electromagnetic reading. Maybe a directed EM pulse?

Different monitors play back live footage superimposed with data overlays for Werewolves, Griffons, Kraken, Firedrakes, Loch Ness Monsters, and several other creatures Jack hasn't seen before, including GORGONS.

COUNCIL SCIENTIST #2
(talking to colleagues)
Did we get confirmation on Gorgon vision?

COUNCIL SCIENTIST #3
Yeah, infrared only. Allen's team reported the creatures being confused by cold air and fire extinguishers.

COUNCIL SCIENTIST #2
What else?

COUNCIL SCIENTIST #3
That's it. They didn't make it back.

Jack steps forward, taking in the information scrolling across the monitors. The Council appears to be collecting and analyzing data on the creatures released from Pandora's Box.

LEXINGTON (O.C.)
Jack! Over here.

Jack turns to see Lexington waving him over and standing next to a stern-looking African woman in her 40s, LEONORE KRONEN. She wears the same uniform as the other Council scientists, but is obviously in charge. Jack joins them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

Jack, this is Leonore Kronen. She's in command of this Council cell.

Kronen regards Jack with the detached air of someone analyzing an irritating problem.

KRONEN

(to Lexington, re: Jack)
This is the one responsible?

JACK

Oh, not this again. Look, lady, I didn't know it was full of monsters and I didn't know there were secret clubs fighting over it and if I could go back in time I'd rather have my arm chopped off instead, okay?

KRONEN

(ignoring Jack, looking at his burned arm)
Your arm is injured?

JACK

Yeah. Stupid box burned me.

KRONEN

Let's see to that.
(turns to nearby scientist)
Jacobs?

COUNCIL SCIENTIST JACOBS

Yes, Frau Kronen?

KRONEN

(indicating Jack)
This gentlemen has some rather unusual burns on his arm, suffered at the opening of Pandora's Box. Please see he gets the necessary attention.

COUNCIL SCIENTIST JACOBS

Understood.
(to Jack)
If you'll come with me, sir?

Jack looks at Lexington.

LEXINGTON

Go ahead. I'll secure the Signet.

Jack nods and follows Council Scientist Jacobs off of the main floor, through a glass wall into a laboratory.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

(to Kronen)

I don't like releasing this artifact to Reinard. I don't trust him.

KRONEN

Neither do I, but we have little choice. He knows how it works. We don't. He may be our only chance of stopping this.

LEXINGTON

Maybe.

Lexington looks through

THE LABORATORY WINDOW

where he sees Jack holding his arm inside a scanning device.

Lexington turns back to Kronen.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

(re: Jack's arm)

Are those burns what I think they are?

KRONEN

Possibly. We'll know more after the analysis.

INT. COUNCIL BASE ARTIFACT VAULT - LATER

Large metal doors slide open and Jack enters, scratching at his now freshly bandaged arm.

JACK

(focused on arm)

Lex, Kronen said you were in here--damn, this itches--and we should...

Jack looks up and sees

LEXINGTON PLACING THE SIGNET IN A METAL CASE

The Signet is a metal disk about 5 inches in diameter, large enough to cover the switch opening in Pandora's Box. It is covered with the same kind of intricate creature carvings as Pandora's Box, but these carvings appear to be drawn towards a star-like image at the Signet's center.

Lexington gingerly places the artifact in a foam rubber shell inside the metal case.

JACK (CONT'D)

So, that's the Signet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEXINGTON

Yes.

JACK

And we're just gonna hand it over to...I
guess they're the bad guys?

LEXINGTON

We're not handing it over. *I* am.

JACK

What are you talking about?

LEXINGTON

Your role in this is complete. It's
better if you remain here.

JACK

The hell with that! I said I'd see this
thing through and that's exactly what I'm
going to do!

LEXINGTON

Jack, you should leave this to the
Council. We know what we're doing.

Jack has had enough of the Council's "attitude."

JACK

You *don't*! You couldn't even keep track
of the box in the first place! If you're
so damn sure you know what's best for the
whole planet and have *everything* under
control, then how come an ex-con toilet
cleaner got branded as the asshole who
blew up the planet? I was trying to
disappear. I was trying to change my life
for the better. For once, I wanted to
stop *taking* from people, wanted to find a
way to stop *taking*. And I couldn't do it
honestly, so I wanted to take just enough
to get someplace where I didn't feel the
need to *take* any more.

Jack, finally having had time to process what's happened,
feels the weight of his actions for the first time.

JACK (CONT'D)

Now the whole world is dying because of
me, and I can't ever possibly give enough
back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEXINGTON

(pause)

Perhaps...some forces can never be controlled.

JACK

That's bullshit. I had a choice. And I'm coming with you.

LEXINGTON

Jack, listen to me. Delivering the Signet to Reinard is an extreme risk. We don't know whether or not he can actually use the artifact to close Pandora's Box or if he has other intentions. If this fails,

(beat)

you may be our last hope.

JACK

What the hell are you talking about?

Lexington glances at Jack's bandaged arm. Jack holds his arm up, puzzled.

JACK (CONT'D)

What's wrong with my arm?

Suddenly, there is a huge RUMBLE and the room SHAKES, knocking Jack and Lexington to the floor. ALARMS sound.

JACK (CONT'D)

Now what?

Lexington grabs the Signet case.

LEXINGTON

Stick with me.

Jack follows Lexington out of the vault.

INT. COUNCIL BASE MAIN FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Lexington and Jack arrive at the main floor as more explosions SHAKE the structure, sending Council personnel reeling. Debris falls from the ceiling as small fires break out, filling the floor with smoke.

Lexington and Jack stagger up to Kronen, who is shouting orders from a terminal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRONEN
(ordering personnel)
Transfer all data to portables and
prepare to evacuate! Contingency plan
Gamma! Contingency Gamma!

Council personnel start yanking holographic data cards out of
computer terminals and running for exits.

LEXINGTON
(to Kronen, recognizing
"Contingency Gamma")
We're under attack?

Kronen points at a still-functioning display. It shows three
BLACK ORDER GUNSHIPS, cutting-edge technology Harrier-like
VTOL aircraft, hovering over the Houses of Parliament and
pelting the structure with rockets.

KRONEN
Black Order gunships! They must know the
Signet is here!

LEXINGTON
Impossible! We weren't followed!

KRONEN
They tracked you somehow!

LEXINGTON
There were no bugs on us!

KRONEN
Then they passed something to you that
couldn't be seen. A microdot or nanos.

The word "nanos" grabs Jack. He puzzles on it, then touches
his lips.

JACK
(duped again)
Vivian.

LEXINGTON
What?

JACK
She kissed me before we left.

KRONEN
(considers this)
She could have passed a tracking device
to you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEXINGTON

Doesn't matter now! We've got to get the
Signet away from here!

KRONEN

Agreed. Our Blackhawks are inbound for
evac. Get to the roof!

Lexington nods at Jack to follow. They start to move out.

KRONEN (CONT'D)

(calling after Lexington)
And Lexington!

Lexington turns back.

KRONEN (CONT'D)

(re: Jack's Pandora's Box
burns)
You were right about his arm.

Lexington nods again and takes off. Jack follows, confused.

JACK

(frustrated)
What? What is it about my arm? Lexington!
Damn it!

INT. COUNCIL BASE ESCAPE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lexington and Jack burst into a small room lined with lockers
on three walls. The fourth wall holds several man-sized
tubes.

Lexington pulls weapons and body armor out of the lockers. He
hands a bullet-proof vest to Jack.

LEXINGTON

Put this on.

Jack takes the vest and straps it over his chest.

JACK

(re: Kronen's revelation about
his arm)
What was she talking about? What were you
right about my arm about? What did that
stupid box do to my arm?

Lexington hands Jack a combat shotgun and ammo.

LEXINGTON

Let's go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lexington moves to the tubes and hits a control panel. The tubes slide open to reveal poles with small foot platforms.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)
These will get us to the roof.

He steps into one of the tubes with his weapons and Signet case. Lexington glances at Jack.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)
Why do you think I called it the *Batcave*?

Jack steps onto another tube platform.

JACK
(determined)
You're *gonna* tell me about my arm.

Both tubes activate and the men shoot upward.

EXT. PARLIAMENT ROOFTOPS NEAR BIG BEN - NIGHT, MOMENTS LATER

An air vent panel flies off a large duct and Lexington spills out with the Signet case. Jack follows.

JACK
(re: escape pole ride)
That was interesting. Where the hell are we?

Jack looks up to see the

BLACK ORDER GUNSHIPS HOVERING NEARBY

but facing away from them. They are still targeting a section of Parliament with ROCKET FIRE. Big Ben stands nearby.

JACK (CONT'D)
(his question answered)
Oh.

Lexington recovers and puts on a radio headset.

LEXINGTON
(into radio)
This is agent 434, I have the "item."
Requesting immediate evac from Parliament rooftop, over.

Lexington's radio CHIRPS to life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COUNCIL PILOT #1'S VOICE (O.C.)
(from Lexington's radio)
Copy that, 434. We are inbound to your
position. ETA, three minutes.

LEXINGTON
(into radio)
Roger that.
(to Jack)
We've got to keep out of sight.

JACK
(looking past Lexington at the
Black Order gunships)
Too late for that...

Lexington spins around and sees a
BLACK ORDER GUNSHIP TURNING
to face their position. It flies towards them.

LEXINGTON
They caught our transmission! Find some
cover!

Jack and Lexington race across the rooftop as the gunship
begins a strafing run behind them.

MACHINE GUNS CHATTER on the gunship and BULLETS RICOCHET of
the roof around Jack and Lexington. They dive behind a

HVAC (HEATING, VENTILATION & AIR CONDITIONING) CLUSTER
of machines as the gunship ROARS overhead.

JACK
What do we do now?!

LEXINGTON
Keep your head down!
(into radio)
Kronen, are you still there?! We need
support on the roof right now!

ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS

the gunship slows to a hover. A hatch opens on the backside
and a dozen BLACK ORDER COMMANDOS descend to the roof on zip
lines. They wear cutting edge composite body armor and
cyclopean night-vision goggles.

They spread out in formation as the gunship retracts the
lines and moves forward to support them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AT THE HVAC CLUSTER

Lexington watches the commandos and gunship approaching through a narrow gap in the air conditioning unit.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

This isn't good.

JACK

Of course it isn't good, nothing about this is good!

Jack's attention is grabbed by several metallic BANGS in the opposite direction. He turns around to see

COUNCIL SOLDIERS EXITING AIR VENTS

and taking up positions on the other side of the roof.

AT THE HVAC CLUSTER

Jack taps Lexington on the shoulder and points at the Council soldiers.

JACK (CONT'D)

Looks like reinforcements are here.

LEXINGTON

(grim)

And we're caught in the middle. Terrific.

JACK

(puzzled)

What do you mean?

ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS

the Black Order commandos spot the Council soldiers and OPEN FIRE. The Council soldiers RETURN FIRE, but are pinned down by HEAVY FIRE from the Black Order gunship. BULLET TRACERS streak back and forth across the rooftops, bouncing off the

HVAC CLUSTER

Jack and Lexington are hiding behind. The two men duck for cover as bullets ricochet off the metal structure, causing SPARKS to pop all around them.

JACK (CONT'D)

I thought your guys were supposed to be *helping* us!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LEXINGTON

(to Jack)

They are, they just can't see us!

(into radio)

Council team, this is Lexington! We are pinned down in the H-VAC cluster and taking heavy fire! Repeat, we are pinned down in the H-VAC cluster! Over!

COUNCIL SOLDIER #5 (O.S.)

(via Lexington's radio)

Copy that, sir! We have your position.

Adjusting fire.

The weapons fire hitting the air conditioning unit drops significantly as the Council soldiers regroup.

LEXINGTON

(into radio)

That's better! Now set up covering fire!

We're coming out!

JACK

We are?

Lexington springs up, preparing to move, but is stopped in his tracks by WEREWOLF HOWLS.

The gunfire between the Black Order commandos and Council soldiers stops momentarily as the two groups realize what's about to happen. At the

BLACK ORDER SIDE OF THE ROOFTOP

the BLACK ORDER CAPTAIN scans the roof line as HEAVY SCRATCHING sounds draw closer. Werewolves are running up all sides of the building to reach the humans on the roof.

BLACK ORDER CAPTAIN

Oh,--

While on the

COUNCIL SIDE OF THE ROOFTOP

the SCRATCHING sounds become almost deafening. The COUNCIL CAPTAIN scans the roof line and comes to the same conclusion as the Black Order Captain.

COUNCIL CAPTAIN

(finishing Black Order

Captain's thought)

--shit...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Werewolves POUR ONTO THE ROOFTOP, coming at the humans from all directions. The creatures HOWL and SNARL and charge the Black Order and Council alike. They don't care what side anyone's on.

Both ends of the rooftop ERUPT IN GUNFIRE as the opposing teams start fighting the Werewolves for survival.

The Black Order gunship dips closer to the rooftop, trying to get a bead on the creatures. Several Werewolves use the opportunity to LEAP ONTO AND OFF OF ROOFTOP MACHINERY to reach the hovering vehicle.

The gunship, now covered with a group of angry Werewolves, breaks off in an attempt to shake the creatures loose.

The other creatures surround the two groups of humans and begin pushing them towards each other. The humans can't kill Werewolves fast enough and each group starts falling back towards the

HVAC CLUSTER

where Jack looks around, nearly in a panic, as the mass of humans fighting Werewolves closes in on them.

JACK

(to Lexington)

Okay, okay, so what do we do? What's the plan? What do we do?

LEXINGTON

Not sure.

JACK

What do you mean you're not sure? Gamma! Plan Gamma! You guys plan everything out! What does plan Gamma say to do next?

LEXINGTON

Gamma only accounts for a full-scale Black Order assault on this location. It doesn't include contingencies for Werewolves.

JACK

(beat)

Well, then plan Gamma *sucks!* We need Plan *Werewolf!*

ON THE ROOFTOPS

the Black Order commandos and Council soldiers come in close proximity to each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

A Black Order commando takes the opportunity to gun down a Council soldier, only to be EVISCERATED by the Werewolf the dead Council soldier was shooting at.

Another Black Order commando and Council soldier are knocked to the ground by Werewolves, their weapons CLATTERING to the rooftop. The commando and soldier each jump on the nearest weapon and fight over it. Both are POUNCED ON AND MAULED by Werewolves.

SCREECHES AND CAWS from overhead command the attention of both humans and Werewolves as Griffons swoop down at the rooftops.

The flying creatures dive bomb the crowd, snatching up a number of Werewolves, as well as several SCREAMING Black Order commandos and Council soldiers. Most of the Werewolves scatter, temporarily scared off.

AT THE HVAC CLUSTER

Jack and Lexington exchange glances.

JACK (CONT'D)
Plan Werewolf.

LEXINGTON
Good enough. Let's go.

Lexington grabs the Signet case and moves out. Jack follows him.

ON THE ROOFTOPS

Sporadic shooting resumes between the Black Order commandos and the Council soldiers.

A Black Order commando notices Lexington with the Signet case and OPENS FIRE. Lexington RETURNS FIRE as he and Jack duck behind some vents, running headlong into a WOUNDED WEREWOLF. It SNARLS at them.

Lexington points his weapon at the creature and pulls the trigger, but gets nothing but a CLICK. He's empty.

Jack swings his shotgun up and UNLOADS on the Werewolf, taking it down in three blasts.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)
(remembering the save at the
museum)
Thanks. Again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

JACK

Are you kidding? You're my ride.

Lexington hears WHIRRING HELICOPTER BLADES in the distance and looks out

EXT. ACROSS THE THAMES - CONTINUOUS

where three BLACKHAWK HELICOPTERS are approaching in the distance. MINIGUN TRACERS shoot out from the helicopter bodies, fending off Griffon attacks.

EXT. PARLIAMENT ROOFTOPS NEAR BIG BEN - CONTINUOUS

Lexington pulls a signal flare from his vest, ignites it, and tosses it on the roof.

LEXINGTON

(into radio)

This is 434. Marker flare is dropped.
Repeat, marker flare is dropped.

COUNCIL PILOT #1'S VOICE (O.C.)

(from Lexington's radio)

Copy that, 434. We see it. Standby for pickup.

Black Order commandos move in on the flare. MACHINE GUN FIRE EXPLODES all around Jack and Lexington, forcing them to retreat. They find nearby cover and RETURN FIRE.

OVERHEAD

the Council Blackhawk helicopters arrive. Two move to intercept the Black Order gunships as the third tries to clear the landing zone with its minigun.

The Blackhawk helicopters and Black Order gunships engage in a dogfight around big ben. MACHINE GUN TRACERS criss-cross over the rooftops.

ON THE ROOFTOPS

Lexington pops a fresh clip in his machine gun as Jack loads shells into his shotgun.

LEXINGTON

(into radio)

--repeat, we are pinned down with the item south of the LZ. Need assistance, over!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COUNCIL CAPTAIN (O.S.)
(voice on radio)
Copy that! We're on our way!

AT THE LANDING ZONE

a Black Order commando pulls the pin on a grenade and throws it at Jack and Lexington's position.

The grenade is right on target and clatters to their feet. Lexington pushes Jack to his feet.

LEXINGTON
MOVE!

Jack and Lexington dive in opposite directions as the grenade EXPLODES. Jack hits the ground hard, coughing. Lexington falls and does not move, the Signet case by his side.

Jack recovers and picks a piece of shrapnel out of his vest.

JACK
(lucky to be alive)
Shit.
(calls over to Lexington)
Lex! You okay? Lex!

He spies Lexington lying on the roof about thirty feet away, unmoving.

JACK (CONT'D)
Lex!

Jack springs up and starts to run towards Lexington. The Black Order commandos unleash a barrage of SUPPRESSING FIRE, forcing Jack to run in the opposite direction.

JACK (CONT'D)
Lex, get up!
(to Black Order as he runs
away)
You guys are assholes!

Jack dives behind a skylight and hears the terrible GRIFFON CALLS again. He looks up to see

GRIFFONS SWARMING ALL AIRCRAFT AT BIG BEN

trying to slash at both the Black Order gunships and Blackhawk helicopters. One Griffon swoops too close to a Blackhawk's blades and is SHORN IN HALF. The Blackhawk catches Griffon carcass in its tail rotors and spins out of control, CRASHING into a nearby building and EXPLODING.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The other Blackhawk helicopter takes evasive action, but is SHOT DOWN by the gunships.

ON THE ROOFTOPS

two Black Order commandos snatch up the Signet case from the still unmoving Lexington.

BLACK ORDER CAPTAIN
(into radio, holding the Signet
case)
We've got it! Need dustoff now!

The Black Order commandos run for the far side of the rooftop.

AT BIG BEN

One of the Black Order gunships breaks off from the Griffon fight and heads for the far rooftop. MACHINE GUN FIRE from its pylons drives off the remaining Council helicopter covering Lexington's landing zone.

AT THE SKYLIGHT

Jack notices the Black Order commandos retreating. He runs over to Lexington as several Council soldiers arrive.

JACK
(worried, shaking Lexington)
Lex! Lex!

COUNCIL CAPTAIN
How is he?

Lexington stirs.

JACK
He's waking up. Lex, get up! They've got
the Signet!

This brings Lexington to life. He forces himself to stand.

LEXINGTON
Where?

JACK
There!

Jack points

ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

where the Black Order commandos with the Signet case are boarding a gunship.

Lexington starts to run towards them.

LEXINGTON

We've got to stop them--

Lexington is cut off when the last Black Order gunship appears in front of them, hovering low to the roof to get a clear bead on him, Jack, and the Council soldiers.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

No...

Before it can open fire, GRIFFONS SWARM THE AIRCRAFT. They latch onto the fuselage and start tearing at the body.

The gunship LURCHES as its machine guns SPIT BULLETS in a panicked attempt to scare off the creatures. The Griffons hold fast, determined to tear the vehicle apart.

BULLETS POUND THE ROOFTOPS, forcing Lexington, Jack, and the Council soldiers to dive for cover as the Griffon-covered gunship SPINS OUT OF CONTROL, heading straight for Big Ben.

COUNCIL CAPTAIN

They're gonna hit!

JACK

(poetic justice)

That's what they *get*!

LEXINGTON

Cover! Get to cover!

Everyone starts to move as the gunship HITS BIG BEN AND EXPLODES, blowing the attached Griffons to pieces.

The force of the explosion knocks Jack, Lexington, and the Council soldiers to the roof.

The ordinance on the gunship goes up in a series of SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, tearing a gigantic hole in the clock tower holding up Big Ben.

The tower CREAKS and GROANS before giving in to the stress and BIG BEN COLLAPSES, CRASHING DOWN onto the Houses of Parliament and the street below.

Lexington and Jack recover from the blast and look

ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

where they see the gunship with the Signet retracting its zip lines and racing into the sky across the Thames.

Lexington jumps up and shoots at the aircraft in vain.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

NO!

Jack grabs him.

JACK

(trying to calm him down)

It's not over! We can still stop them!

The last Blackhawk helicopter returns to the LZ and lands on the rooftop.

Lexington bottles his rage and looks at Jack.

JACK (CONT'D)

What are you waiting for? A hug?

Both men smile, then race to the helicopter and jump in.

INT. BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Lexington sticks his head in the cockpit.

LEXINGTON

(to the pilots)

County Durham! A-SAP!

COUNCIL PILOT #1

Yes, sir!

EXT. PARLIAMENT ROOFTOPS NEAR BIG BEN - CONTINUOUS

The Blackhawk lifts off in pursuit of the Black Order gunship.

EXT. COUNTY DURHAM - NIGHT

The Blackhawk helicopter races through the purple sky, towards

EXT. REINARD'S ESTATE - CONTINUOUS

FLAMES engulf a large portion of the mansion's rear as the Blackhawk circles overhead.

INT. BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Jack and Lexington survey the burning estate as the helicopter does a sweep of the grounds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
(squinting)
Perimeter fence looks intact. What happened?

LEXINGTON
Gunship isn't here. It's faster than us. Bet they collected Reinard and took care of loose ends.

JACK
What loose ends?

LEXINGTON
Let's find out.
(to pilot)
Set us down at the entrance.

EXT. REINARD'S ESTATE DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The Blackhawk lands in the entrance drive. Jack and Lexington jump out and cautiously approach the mansion.

LEXINGTON
You should wait in the chopper.

JACK
I'm not letting you go it alone.

Lexington pauses, sees Jack isn't going to back down, and nods.

INT. REINARD'S ESTATE ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

The front door is kicked in and Lexington enters the dark mansion, the beam from his barrel-mounted flashlight cutting through the darkness. Jack follows.

JACK
Well, at least *this* part of the house isn't on fire.

LEXINGTON
It will be soon. Let's make this quick.

JACK
What are we looking for?

LEXINGTON
I don't know.

Lexington moves into the next room. Jack rolls his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
Oh, this should be fun.

EXT. REINARD'S ESTATE LIBRARY

Lexington and Jack enter the library. Lexington examines the computer system Reinard used before. It is smashed beyond repair.

LEXINGTON
This is completely destroyed. No hard drive.

Jack is looking out a library window towards the back of the estate. An orange glow spills in through the glass.

JACK
Fire's getting closer.

LEXINGTON
(frustrated)
This is a dead end. Let's head back and find Kronen--

GLASS BREAKING draws their attention upwards.

JACK
Sounded like upstairs.

LEXINGTON
Stay behind me.

The two exit the library.

INT. REINARD'S ESTATE STAIRCASE

Lexington carefully leads Jack up the staircase. More RUSTLING is heard ahead.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE REINARD'S OFFICE

Lexington spots a large wooden door that is slightly ajar. Light spills from the crack. He signals Jack to hold his position and sneaks up to the door.

Quick and silent, Lexington disappears into the room. Jack holds his breath for a few seconds. Then,

LEXINGTON (O.C.)
(to whomever is in the room)
What the hell are you doing here?

Jack rushes to the door.

INT. REINARD'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Jack enters the room to find Lexington standing over Vivian, who is on the floor, coughing and holding a bloody face.

JACK
Vivian!

Lexington helps Vivian to her feet and plants her in a leather chair. She attempts to nurse her injuries.

LEXINGTON
(could care less how hurt she
is)
Where is Reinard? What's his endgame?

JACK
(pissed)
You planted some kind of tracking device
on me, didn't you? That's how we got
ambushed!

VIVIAN
(taking a deep breath)
Yes, those were Reinard's orders. I'm
sorry, Jack.

JACK
"Just following orders!" You people are
Nazis!

LEXINGTON
(aside to Jack)
Yes. They were.

JACK
(curve ball)
What?

LEXINGTON
Long story. Tell you later.
(back to Vivian)
Talk.

VIVIAN
It's all gone to hell, Lexington.

LEXINGTON
Explain.

VIVIAN
Reinard's taken the Signet to New York.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
To close the box.

VIVIAN
No. He's found a way to control the
creatures instead.

JACK
Is that even possible?

VIVIAN
I think so. The Signet was originally
used as a kind of "tagging" device, to
identify which creatures would be bound
inside Pandora's Box...

LEXINGTON
(understanding)
..and since it still contains the "tags"
of those creatures...

VIVIAN
...Reinard believes removing the Signet
from Pandora's Box after it's begun the
binding sequence, but before its sealed,
will give him dominion over the
creatures.

JACK
That sounds extraordinarily bad.

LEXINGTON
Imagine a world where Adolf Hitler had a
Werewolf army and a Griffon Luftwaffe.

JACK
I can't, that's too insane.
(to Vivian)
How come he left you behind?

VIVIAN
Because I tried to stop him.

LEXINGTON
You're joking.

VIVIAN
Lexington, look around! I was left to die
in this place because I tried to warn the
rest of the Order about Reinard! By the
time they can respond it'll be too late!
Think! Is this how we operate?! Does
Reinard's plan fit into any of the
Order's goals? We're not that mad!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Lexington thinks.

LEXINGTON

No, you're not. This is far too reckless
for a Black Order operation.

JACK

Then how come you led him to us?

VIVIAN

Believe me, Jack, if I had known his
plans then, I never would have.
Lexington's cell could have stopped him
here. That's why he struck first.

LEXINGTON

He used all of us.

JACK

(suddenly enraged)
I say we kill that son of a bitch!

Lexington and Vivian look at Jack, shocked. Jack composes
himself.

JACK (CONT'D)

(explaining)
I'm really getting tired of being double-
crossed.

LEXINGTON

Occupational hazard.
(to Vivian)
Can you walk?

VIVIAN

I think so.

LEXINGTON

Good. We have to get stateside. And we
may need to use your operational
knowledge for a tactical advantage.

VIVIAN

I'm prepared to do whatever it takes to
stop Reinard.

An ELECTRICAL EXPLOSION outside draws their attention.
Lexington looks out an office window.

EXT. OUTDOOR POWER GENERATOR - CONTINUOUS

SPARKS fly from the generator powering the perimeter fence.
With a final PUFF OF SMOKE, it dies completely.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In the distance, Werewolves appear from the treeline, testing the fence at first, then climbing over it. They gallop towards the house, HOWLING.

INT. REINARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lexington turns to Jack and Vivian.

LEXINGTON

The fence is down. We need to leave. Now.

Jack and Vivian follow Lexington out of the office.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE REINARD'S OFFICE

The three run for the stairs. Lexington keys his radio.

LEXINGTON

(into radio mic)

This is 434. Fence is down and we've got incoming hostiles. Repeat, incoming hostiles. Standby for dustoff.

COUNCIL PILOT #1 (O.S.)

(from Lexington's radio)

Roger that! And hurry!

INT. REINARD'S ESTATE ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Lexington, Jack, and Vivian race out the front door of the mansion.

COUNCIL PILOT #1 (O.S.)

(from Lexington's radio)

Oh, holy shit, move it! We've gotta get outta here!

EXT. REINARD'S ESTATE DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

They hit the ground in front of the estate in time to see WEREWOLVES SWARMING THE HELICOPTER, which has started to lift off.

Five Werewolves LEAP and BOUND off the others to reach the helicopter. They climb over the cockpit and jump into the open cabin doors.

COUNCIL PILOT #1 (O.S.)

(from Lexington's radio)

They're inside! Christ, they're inside!

HUMAN SCREAMS spill out of Lexington's radio as BLOOD SPATTERS on the inside of the helicopter cockpit windows. The Blackhawk SPINS OUT OF CONTROL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The pilotless helicopter sails over Lexington, Jack, and Vivian and clips the corner of the mansion. A couple Werewolves fall out of the cabin to the ground.

The helicopter vanishes behind the mansion and EXPLODES. A fireball rolls over the mansion rooftop.

As the explosion subsides, the remaining Werewolves on the ground turn on Lexington, Jack, and Vivian. They start HOWLING and BARKING.

VIVIAN

(to Jack)

Tell me you have another helicopter.

JACK

No. We're screwed.

Lexington produces a Desert Eagle pistol and a handful of clips. He tosses them to Vivian.

LEXINGTON

Upstairs. Back to the office.

JACK

Why?

LEXINGTON

Or you can stay here.

Lexington and Vivian start to run back to the mansion entrance.

JACK

I'm really more of a cat person.

Jack runs for the mansion.

The throng of werewolves tear after them.

INT. REINARD'S ESTATE ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Lexington and Vivian rush into the mansion with Jack right on their heels.

Seconds later, Werewolves flood through the doorway. The creatures trample each other to get through the door, which slows them down a bit.

INT. REINARD'S ESTATE STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Lexington, Vivian, and Jack race up the stairs. Lexington pauses, letting Jack and Vivian pass. Then he tosses a grenade down the steps and keeps running.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Werewolves reach the stairs just as the grenade clatters to the bottom. It EXPLODES, blowing apart the lead cluster of Werewolves.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE REINARD'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Vivian, Jack, and Lexington run back into the office.

INT. REINARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They close the heavy wooden door, lock it, and proceed to pile heavy furniture in front of it (bookcases, desk, sofa, etc.). On the other side of the door they can hear MUTED GROWLING.

JACK
(to Lexington)
Great plan. What do we do now?

LEXINGTON
This was just to buy us some time.
(to Vivian)
Anything in here that can help us?

VIVIAN
No. Not on this side of the estate.

JACK
So it's eaten and burned to death or
burned to death and eaten?

LEXINGTON
(worried)
I *am* open to suggestions.

Outside the office, Werewolves start to SLAM into the door. It BUCKLES and holds, but obviously won't for long.

JACK
Any more grenades?

LEXINGTON
No.

VIVIAN
Sonic weapon?

LEXINGTON
Negative.

JACK
Snausages?

Lexington looks at Jack quizzically.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK (CONT'D)
(explaining)
It's a dog treat, like a little sausage--
forget it.

The door starts to SPLINTER under the relentless Werewolf assault. The GROWLING and BARKING gets louder.

Lexington's radio BUZZES.

KRONEN (O.S.)
(from Lexington's radio)
--in, 434. Lexington, do you read?

LEXINGTON
(keys his radio, into mic)
Copy, copy! This is 434! Where are you?

KRONEN (O.S.)
(from Lexington's radio)
Above Reinard's estate. Your pilot
radioed his last position. What's your
20?

LEXINGTON
(into radio mic)
Three pinned in upstairs room--

Lexington goes to window, looks out and down.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)
(into radio mic)
--Window on south side. Small drop to
lower roof for pickup.

KRONEN (O.S.)
(from Lexington's radio)
Copy that! Start moving, we're already
there!

Lexington looks up.

EXT. REINARD'S ESTATE, SOUTH SIDE - CONTINUOUS

A Council Blackhawk helicopter appears above the lower roof,
about 30 yards away.

INT. REINARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lexington breaks out the glass from the window and turns
around.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEXINGTON

It's about fifteen feet down to the roof.
Once you're down, break for the chopper
and don't look back.

He helps Vivian up to the window. As she is preparing to drop, there is a HUGE CRASH at the door. The top half of the door SPLINTERS and a Werewolf scrambles through. The hallway outside is full of the creatures.

Jack BLASTS the intruder with his shotgun, dropping it.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

(to Vivian)

GO!

Lexington turns back and opens up FULL AUTO on the opening in the door as Jack tries to reload.

LEXINGTON (CONT'D)

Jack! GO!

Jack finishes reloading and starts shooting at the door. More Werewolves are forcing their way into the room.

JACK

Forget it! We're not leaving you!

LEXINGTON

You have to! Your arm--

JACK

I don't care about my arm!

LEXINGTON

Your arm is needed to build a new box!

JACK

What?

Lexington realizes Jack will not leave on his own. He empties his weapon at the Werewolves in a HUGE BURST, briefly forcing them back.

Then Lexington grabs Jack and swings him into the open window. Jack dangles out over the roof.

JACK (CONT'D)

Lex! What the hell are you doing?!

Out of Jack's sight, Lexington stuffs his Council ring in Jack's front breast pocket.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEXINGTON

Like it or not, you carry the hope for us
all.

(looks Jack in the eye)
Save the world!

And Lexington drops Jack out of the window.

EXT. REINARD'S ESTATE, SOUTH SIDE ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Jack falls to the roof, hard. Vivian helps him up. He tries
to climb back up to the window, but can't.

JACK

LEXINGTON! LEXINGTON! DAMN IT!

VIVIAN

Jack! Come on! We have to go!

JACK

He's still up there!

VIVIAN

I know! He's giving *us* a chance!

Jack is stunned. Vivian starts to drag him towards the
waiting Blackhawk.

INT. REINARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lexington turns to face the Werewolves crawling through the
smashed door. He replaces the clip in his machine gun and
SPRAYS THE ROOM, dropping a cluster of Werewolves. More pour
into the office. His weapon jams.

Lexington tosses it aside and draws his machete. It gleams as
Werewolves encircle him. He summons a PRIMAL SCREAM and leaps
at the nearest Werewolf, burying the blade in it's neck.

WEREWOLF BLOOD SPRAYS into the air as the creature YELPS and
falls. Lexington raises his blood-soaked machete into the air
as the rest of the Werewolves descend on him.

EXT. REINARD'S ESTATE, SOUTH SIDE ROOF - MOMENTS LATER

LEXINGTON'S DEATH SCREAMS stop Jack in his tracks, halfway to
the Blackhawk. He and Vivian turn to the window.

JACK

(quiet)
No...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Werewolves explode from the broken office window, some covered in fresh blood, and scramble across the rooftop towards Jack and Vivian.

Vivian raises her pistol and UNLOADS at the oncoming pack as she and Jack run for the helicopter.

MINIATURE ROCKETS, in clusters of three, spiral out of the open Blackhawk doors. Each rocket seeks out an individual Werewolf and BLOWS IT IN HALF. The rockets buy Jack and Vivian just enough time to jump into the helicopter.

The Blackhawk takes off before the Werewolves can reach it and rises into the sky.

INT. BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER - MOMENTS LATER

Jack and Vivian, collapsed on the deck of the helicopter, look up to see Frau Kronen and two Council soldiers changing out magazines on Individual Guided Missile Weapons (IGMW) - cutting-edge military rifles that fire 20mm missiles which lock onto and track different targets.

Kronen puts her IGMW down.

KRONEN
(to Jack)
Lexington?

JACK
...he's gone.

Kronen turns an icy gaze on Vivian.

KRONEN
Since Lexington sacrificed himself for you I can only assume you were not aware of Reinard's intentions.

VIVIAN
(quietly)
No. I was going to help him.

KRONEN
You still can. I've secured transportation to New York. With luck, we may yet stop Reinard.

Jack listens to this in a daze, still trying to understand Lexington's death.

JACK
Why...why--?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRONEN

Why did he save you?

Jack looks at Kronen, speechless.

KRONEN (CONT'D)

Because the brands on your arm contain the blueprint for creating a new Pandora's Box, a safeguard in case the original was ever opened. Lexington knew if Reinard couldn't be stopped, you'd be needed to build a new container. That's the hope that was built into Pandora's Box. That's what he died for.

JACK

I don't understand.

KRONEN

(re: Lexington's past)

You're not the first criminal to find a higher purpose. History is full of people who found it easier to act with moral clarity in times of war rather than in times of peace.

JACK

So we're at war?

KRONEN

Yes. And the cost of losing this war is humanity's very survival.

Jack absorbs this and looks out the Blackhawk window.

JACK

(quietly, to himself)

End is near, Jack.

EXT. SKY ABOVE COUNTY DURHAM - CONTINUOUS

The Blackhawk helicopter disappears into the night.

EXT. UPPER NEW YORK BAY - DAWN

A speedboat races across the water.

JACK (O.C.)

Are you sure this is a good idea?

KRONEN (O.C.)

Bridges and tunnels to Manhattan have been destroyed and Griffons own the air.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRONEN (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Satellite images indicate the Golems in
the city chased off the Kraken in the
bays. It's our only viable approach.

JACK (O.C.)
My original question still stands.

INT. SPEEDBOAT - CONTINUOUS

Jack sits in the back of the speedboat with Vivian. Frau
Kronen drives the boat, addressing Jack.

KRONEN
Reinard was several hours ahead of us. No
time to play it safe.

She picks up a IGMW rifle from the deck and hands it to Jack.

KRONEN (CONT'D)
(re: rifle)
You comfortable with this?

Jack takes the weapon and looks it over.

JACK
(pointing out features)
Yeah. Safety here, straight shot/guided
shot toggle here. Paint targets with the
scope, wait for tone, then fire to
release guided.

KRONEN
Good.

Kronen hands another IGMW to Vivian.

KRONEN (CONT'D)
You're already familiar with this?

Vivian takes the rifle.

VIVIAN
(slightly embarrassed)
Individual Guided Missile Weapon.
Intercepted the blueprints two months
ago.

Kronen snorts in disgust.

KRONEN
Of course. The eternal game.
(switches gears, addresses Jack
and Vivian)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRONEN (CONT'D)

On the flight over I was able to make contact with several agents still in Manhattan. We'll rendezvous at the Ferry docks and make our way to the museum. One way or the other, this will be finished soon.

Kronen turns around and activates a laptop. She begins reviewing satellite images, searching for fresh intelligence.

Jack leans back in his seat, trying to focus his mind. He looks out over the bay and sees

EXT. STATUE OF LIBERTY - CONTINUOUS

the Statue of Liberty, collapsed next to her pedestal.

INT. SPEEDBOAT - CONTINUOUS

Vivian notices Jack's gaze.

VIVIAN

It can be rebuilt. It can all be rebuilt.

JACK

The dead can't be brought back.

VIVIAN

Every war has casualties.

JACK

(pause)

Yeah.

Vivian checks her weapon. Jack looks at her, unsure.

EXT. UPPER NEW YORK BAY - CONTINUOUS

The speedboat bounces across the water towards

MANHATTAN

where COLUMNS OF SMOKE rise from the city. The skyline has changed significantly. Numerous skyscrapers have been knocked over, creating huge gashes in the streets.

Several giant Golems can be seen grazing on the buildings that still stand. Flocks of Griffons swarm overhead. New York City no longer belongs to Man.

EXT. STATEN ISLAND FERRY DOCKS

The speedboat pulls up to the docks. Three battle fatigued COUNCIL SOLDIERS stand nearby. Kronen leaps out of the boat to meet them.

KRONEN

I thought there were six?

The lead soldier, HALL, steps forward.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL

Me, Livingston, and Bricker are it. We lost Dearing, Schuler, and Rowe getting here. Where are your men?

KRONEN

Guarding the plane.

Jack and Vivian step onto the dock. The Council soldiers tense up when they see Vivian.

KRONEN (CONT'D)

(to the soldiers)

At ease. She's with us.

(indicates Jack)

He's got the brand.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL

You're kidding.

KRONEN

Nope. Let's move.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL

Yes, ma'am. Ride's this way.

Hall leads Kronen, Jack and Vivian off the docks. Livingston and Bricker bring up the rear.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS

A black Council HUMVEE tears down the middle of the debris-filled street. It has bits of metal welded all over the body and windows. Small slits allow the driver and passengers to see out.

A makeshift "cow catcher" on the front of the vehicle knocks curious Werewolves and Firedrakes out of the way. Livingston mans a machine gun turret in the roof, periodically firing BURSTS at the creatures.

INT. HUMVEE - CONTINUOUS

Frau Kronen sits in the passenger seat while Hall drives. Jack, Vivian, and Bricker sit in the back.

KRONEN (O.C.)
Did you find a route to the museum?

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL (O.C.)
Yeah. We'll have to detour through some less active streets, but we can get there.

EXT. METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

The Humvee speeds toward the museum and turns sharply, heading toward the underground parking entrance.

INT. MET PARKING GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The Humvee races down the parking garage ramp. Livingston hugs the roof to avoid the low ceiling. The vehicle screeches to a halt.

INT. HUMVEE - CONTINUOUS

Jack leans forward, looking out the front window slit.

JACK
(re: what he sees)
What the hell is that doin' here?

INT. MET PARKING GARAGE - JACK'S P.O.V. - CONTINUOUS

Jack's janitorial van is back, but now one rear wheel looks like it was torn off.

INT. HUMVEE - CONTINUOUS

Jack glances at Kronen and Hall, who are eyeing him quizzically.

JACK
I used to be in the custodial arts industry.

INT. MET BASEMENT HALLWAY

Hall, Livingston, and Bricker move through the hallway and fan out to secure the area.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL
Standard sweep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The floor is littered with Firedrake corpses left over from Jack's earlier escape.

Kronen, Jack, and Vivian climb down into the car through the elevator ceiling's emergency door.

COUNCIL SOLDIER BRICKER
(calling out from one side of
the floor)
Clear! Nothing living.

COUNCIL SOLDIER LIVINGSTON
Same here!

A number of the dead Firedrakes don't have bullet holes - they're frozen in poses of agony with shards of bone jutting out of every joint, almost as if their skeleton had exploded from within.

Jack exits the elevator and examines one of the odd corpses.

JACK
Strange. I don't remember this from
before...

Vivian and Kronen join Jack.

KRONEN
(looking over the Firedrake
corpse)
That's because it probably happened after
you escaped.
(looks up)
Hall! Over here!

Council soldier Hall runs over to Kronen, followed by Bricker and Livingston. Kronen points at the corpse.

KRONEN (CONT'D)
Is that what I think it is?

Hall sees the bone growth and nods grimly.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL
Our situation could get worse.

JACK
How could it get *worse*?

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL
We've seen Gorgons in this area before.

JACK
Gorgons? Turn-people-to-stone Gorgons?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KRONEN

(correcting Jack)

Real Gorgons lack the ability to turn people to stone. But it appears they can project a venom that has a negative effect on bone matter.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL

We think it's how they incapacitate their prey for feeding.

Jack stares at them, dumbfounded by their clinical detachment.

JACK

Well, that puts my mind at ease. Thanks, everybody.

Bricker leans in to Hall.

COUNCIL SOLDIER BRICKER

(indicating over his shoulder)

Sir, doors to the middle room are locked.

JACK

Pandora's Box was in there, way in the back. When we left, those doors were wide open and full of these giant fire frogs.

VIVIAN

Perhaps Reinard's inside?

KRONEN

(to Hall)

Hall, blow the door and go in fast. Kill anyone near the box.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL

Yes, ma'am.

(to Livingston and Bricker)

You heard her. Livingston, you're right. Bricker, left. I'm the middle.

COUNCIL SOLDIER LIVINGSTON

Roger.

COUNCIL SOLDIER BRICKER

Copy that.

Hall, Livingston, and Bricker take up positions near the center room doors. Hall pulls a door charge from his vest and arms it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK
(re: Vivian, Kronen, and
himself)
What should we do?

Hall slaps the charge on the door and runs for cover.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL
Grab some cover and stay out of our way.

Jack, Vivian, and Kronen run to the far side of the floor.

The door charge detonates in a BURST OF FIRE, knocking the doors open. Livingston and Bricker charge inside, followed by Hall.

Jack, Vivian, and Kronen step forward, watching the smoking doorway and waiting. After a few moments:

MAX (O.S.)
Don't shoot! DON'T SHOOT!

JACK
(can't believe what he's
hearing)
...Max?

Jack runs into the doorway.

VIVIAN
Jack, wait!

Vivian follows Jack.

KRONEN
Wait for the all clear! Wait for the--oh,
the hell with it.

Kronen chases after them.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jack races through the storage room, which is littered with the charred debris and Firedrake corpses from his first encounter with Lexington and Pandora's Box.

MAX (O.S.)
Please! I'm unarmed! Wait, okay, I am
armed but I don't want to shoot you or
anything!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jack reaches the end of the storage room to find the Council soldiers pointing their weapons at Max, who is kneeling next to their old robbery equipment and an empty wooden palette - Pandora's Box IS MISSING.

JACK
(the ultimate insult to injury)
I don't believe this!

Max sees Jack and stands up.

MAX
(relieved)
Jack! Thank God you're alive!
(re: the Council soldiers)
Tell them you know me!

Jack takes three steps and PUNCHES MAX IN THE FACE, knocking him back to the ground. Jack turns to the Council soldiers.

JACK
I know him.

Max picks himself up, cradling a bleeding mouth.

MAX
I deserved that, Jack! I know. I'm sorry.
I'm so sorry.

JACK
Shut up, Max. I still haven't decided
whether I'm gonna shoot you or not.

Max winces.

MAX
Take your time. Don't make any rash
decisions.

JACK
(re: the whole mess)
Little late for *that*!

Vivian and Kronen arrive.

VIVIAN
(notices Max)
Mr. *Ritter*?

Max waves at Vivian.

MAX
(jovial)
Ms. Kane, how are you? Good to see you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VIVIAN
You're bleeding.

MAX
Jack hit me.

KRONEN
(re: Max, stress beginning to
show)
Who the hell is this?

JACK
My partner-in-crime. More accurately, my
*partner-in-crime-who-has-no-concept-of-
honor-among-theives.*

MAX
(appeasing)
Jack is absolutely right. I can't deny
that. I've been a terrible--

VIVIAN
Shut up, Max.

KRONEN
(prioritizing)
Where's the box?

JACK
Gone.

KRONEN
What?

Jack points at the empty wooden palette.

JACK
Last time I saw it, it was right here.

MAX
(meekly)
Jack...

KRONEN
(ignoring Max)
You're sure?

JACK
(ignoring Max)
This is where it all started. Where I
turned the switch, where...Lexington
tried to chop my arm off, where it all
went to hell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MAX
(a little more forcefully)
Jack.

VIVIAN
(ignoring Max)
Reinard must've gotten to it. Moved it.

KRONEN
(ignoring Max)
Where?

MAX
(won't be ignored)
JACK!

Jack turns to Max.

JACK
Jesus, what? What do you want?

MAX
The box. You guys are looking for the
box?

JACK
(focuses on Max)
Yeah, Max. You know where it is?

MAX
Why do you want the box?

JACK
(sarcastic)
'Cause I think it'll look *great* in my
sitting room.

VIVIAN
(voice of reason)
We know how to close it - to force the
creatures back inside.

MAX
Really?

JACK
(deadly serious)
Where is it?

MAX
(scared)
Okay, okay! A bunch of guys were here a
few hours ago. They wrapped up the box
and hauled it out of here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KRONEN

Who were they?

MAX

How the hell should I know? They looked like you. Military gear, machine guns.

JACK

(skeptical)

And they just left you here?

Max points at a pile of Firedrake corpses across the room.

MAX

I hid in there. Thought they were monsters at first.

VIVIAN

Where'd they take the box?

MAX

Dunno. Tried to follow 'em, but they spotted me and started shooting, so I ran back here. I think they were heading to a building across the street - the one under construction.

Jack looks at Vivian and Kronen.

VIVIAN

Why would Reinard move it?

JACK

In case any of us survived? To throw us off the trail?

KRONEN

And if they've moved it to the top floors, they'll have high ground. Easier to defend. Against humans, anyway.

JACK

It's our only lead. Let's get over there and check it out.

Max stiffens, frightened.

MAX

Whoa! You're not going out on the streets?

JACK

Yes. You have a *problem* with that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Max checks his watch.

MAX

(a little tense)

It's after three. Streets are full of 'em
in the afternoon. Like clockwork. They'll
be everywhere.

JACK

What? What will be everywhere.

MAX

(scared)

I locked myself in here to hide from them
- the Medusas. I was hiding from the
Medusas.

JACK

(correcting him)

Gorgons. They're *Gorgons*. Medusa was--

MAX

(losing it)

DOES IT MATTER NOW?! DOES IT *REALLY*
MATTER NOW?! You can't go outside, okay?
They'll get you if you go outside!

Jack, Vivian, Kronen, and Hall convene.

VIVIAN

(adamant)

We have to risk it.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL

I wouldn't advise facing multiple Gorgons
on open ground.

Jack's furrows his brow - something's on the tip of his
tongue.

KRONEN

(re: Max)

We don't even know for sure if Pandora's
Box is where he says it is.

VIVIAN

Well, staying here will only waste time
we don't have.

Jack snaps his fingers.

JACK

(remembering)

Maintenance tunnels!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

The others look at him.

VIVIAN

What?

JACK

There are maintenance tunnels connecting the four main buildings on this block. The building under construction is one of 'em. They were in the floor plans when Max and I were planning the heist.

MAX

(remembering)

Yeah, yeah! Jack's right! The tunnels will take us right under the street!

KRONEN

How do we get to them?

MAX

Museum connection is by the parking garage!

Jack looks to Kronen.

KRONEN

All right, let's do it. Hall, you lead the way.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL

Yes, ma'am.

The Council soldiers, Jack, Vivian, and Kronen start to move.

MAX

(alarmed)

What about me?

Jack angrily turns on Max.

JACK

What *about* you?

MAX

(worried)

You're not gonna just--

JACK

Leave you here?

Max is shocked to his core.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

MAX
(helpless)
Jack...please...I can't make it on my
own...

Jack stares coldly at Max for several long seconds, but is
unable to abandon his former friend.

JACK
(stern)
You stick with me, understand? You're my
shadow.

MAX
(relieved)
Absolutely, Jack, you got it! I'm with
you one-hundred percent!

JACK
Shut up and move.

The two men follow the others out.

INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNELS

The maintenance tunnels below the building are a series of
narrow passages lined with pipes and conduits. The only light
comes from fading emergency lighting.

Council soldiers Hall, Livingston, and Bricker lead the way,
beams from their machine gun-mounted flashlights sweeping
across the tunnels. Vivian and Kronen follow. Jack and Max
bring up the rear.

JACK
Emergency light batteries are running
out.

MAX
City lost power yesterday. One of those
junk giants ate a power station. Knocked
out everything.

Max looks ahead.

MAX (CONT'D)
We should hang a right, then the next
left. Then it's a straight shot across
the street, right?

JACK
(considering)
That sounds right.
(shouts ahead to the others)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK (CONT'D)

Take a right, then the next left! That'll
get us across the street!

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL

Copy that!

The group bears down a tunnel to their right.

MAX

(quietly, to Jack)
Jack, who are these people?

JACK

They're the people who want to get rid of
the monsters and are trying to stop the
other people who want to keep the
monsters around.

Max looks at Jack like he's crazy.

JACK (CONT'D)

(simplifying)
Good guys. They're the good guys who are
trying to stop the bad guys.

MAX

Okay.

The group reaches the first left branch of the tunnel and
turns into a

INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - GORGON FEEDING NEST - CONTINUOUS

A huge section of the tunnel has been smashed out to make a
circular room. Along the far wall are the remains of support
pylons. An emergency fire extinguisher is strapped to the
center pylon.

DOZENS OF CORPSES litter the space, some Werewolf and
Firedrake, but most are human. All the bodies are frozen in
contorted poses, like they were desperately trying to crawl
to safety. Massive bone overgrowths jut through mummified
skin at every joint, forming a cage of bone. Every corpse's
face is frozen in a horrible death scream.

The group is stopped dead by the sight.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL

We just walked into some bad shit.

KRONEN

What is this place?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL
Gorgon feeding grounds.

Kronen, always the scientist, examines a bone-frozen and desiccated human corpse. She pokes at some round holes in the neck.

KRONEN
Looks like they feed through some kind of
fang, like a spider...

Jack steps up to her

JACK
That's fascinating. Let's go.

Kronen snaps back to reality and is about to speak when the chamber fills with a low HISSING. The group forms a circle with weapons up, trying to determine the direction of the sound.

COUNCIL SOLDIER HALL
(confirming everyone's worst
fear)
Gorgons. Probably three. Closing fast.

Jack checks his IGMW rifle, bracing for an attack, and looks across the chamber.

JACK
Tunnel continues on the other side of
this room.

KRONEN
We'll move for it together.

PISTOL SHOTS ring out. Hall and Livingston fall to the ground dead. Jack turns in the direction of the shots to see Max pointing a gun at him and the others.

MAX
Sorry, Jack. Can't let you screw up a
winning hand.

JACK
(can't believe it)
Max, we're trying to save the world!

MAX
You're trying to save a world where I was
nothing. In the new world, the Black
Order will reward loyalty--

Max glances at Vivian.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAX (CONT'D)
--and punish disobedience.

The Gorgon HISSING grows louder - they're getting closer.

Jack snaps and swings his rifle towards Max. Max FIRES, hitting Jack in the left shoulder. Vivian snaps her rifle up and fires an unguided missile at Max. It misses as Max dives behind a row of frozen corpses and EXPLODES on the far wall.

Kronen helps Jack up as Bricker covers them.

JACK
(enraged)
I'm gonna kill him! I'M REALLY GONNA KILL HIM!

Kronen drags Jack as she, Vivian, and Bricker start moving toward the far exit.

KRONEN
Jack! We have to go! Forget him!

JACK
SON OF A BITCH!

Three GORGONS arrive in the chamber.

They are snake-like creatures approximately 15 feet in length. A Gorgon body is made up of a long tail that ends in four slender appendages and an egg-shaped head. The head is the base of the Gorgon's sensory and feeding organs: a mass of fluttering tubes that resembles a head of hair made of snakes.

The creatures slither into the chamber and spread out, attempting to encircle the retreating humans.

KRONEN
They're here!

Kronen releases Jack and raises her IGMW rifle, taking aim on a Gorgon. She gets tone and FIRES SEVERAL MINIATURE ROCKETS.

The missiles spiral across the chamber and hit the first Gorgon with THREE SMALL EXPLOSIONS. The Gorgon's torso blows apart and the creature falls down dead, it's BLOOD SPATTERING all around it.

COUNCIL SOLDIER BRICKER
Nice shooting, ma'am!

The dead Gorgon's spilled BLOOD BEGINS TO FROTH. A dozen BLOOD BUBBLES form and expand to the size of beach balls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The bubbles BURST and a dozen BLOOD TICKS, mindless spider-like acid bombs, race toward the group.

Jack is jarred out of his rage.

JACK
You gotta be kidding me.

Bricker OPENS FIRE on the Blood Ticks. The first one he hits BURSTS and SPRAYS ACIDIC MUCOUS over several corpses, which begin to SMOKE AND DISSOLVE.

Jack's eyes go wide as the Blood Ticks advance, appearing and disappearing behind corpses.

COUNCIL SOLDIER BRICKER
(yelling at his companions)
For God's sake, *SHOOT THEM!*

Jack, Kronen, and Vivian start shooting at the oncoming Blood Ticks. Their rocket ammunition is overkill and incinerates the ticks before they can get close.

Bricker's machine gun JAMS as the last tick reaches the group. It LEAPS UP and LATCHES ONTO Bricker, releasing a TORRENT OF ACID directly onto him.

Bricker SCREAMS as his torso dissolves. It's acid spent, the tick releases what's left of Bricker's body and falls over dead.

JACK
We have to run now!

Jack, Vivian, and Kronen start racing for the chamber exit as the remaining two Gorgons chase after them. Jack looks back to see one of the creatures INTENTIONALLY CUTTING ITSELF with claws on its arms. More Gorgon blood spills to the chamber ground and starts to bubble.

JACK (CONT'D)
(re: Gorgon's tactics)
Now that's pretty clever!

Jack stops running and aims his rifle at the bleeding Gorgon.

VIVIAN
Jack, don't! It'll just bleed more!

JACK
It can bleed all it wants.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Jack fires several rockets at the bleeding Gorgon, which fly across the chamber and hit the ceiling directly above the creature. The rockets EXPLODE and the ceiling COLLAPSES, burying the Gorgon and its Blood Ticks in rubble.

VIVIAN

Well done, Jack.

The rest of the weakened ceiling starts to crumble, causing a CAVE-IN.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Look out!

Rubble collapses between Jack and Vivian, cutting Jack off from the exit. A hole to another tunnel is exposed across the chamber.

Jack starts for the new exit and is tackled by Max. Jack's weapon slides across the chamber and under some corpses. The two men struggle amid the bone corpses.

JACK

Dammit, Max! Stop it! What the hell's wrong with you?

MAX

Sorry, Jack! Survival of the fittest.

Jack kicks Max off.

JACK

Then you're in a lot of trouble.

Jack is about to leap onto Max when the last Gorgon appears behind a row of corpses, just several feet away from the fighting men.

MAX

(terrified)
Oh, Christ...

Jack starts to step away but backs into the center support pylon. The Gorgon turns to him and advances.

Unable to take his eyes off the advancing creature, Jack's hands search the pylon for a weapon. He finds the fire extinguisher. The shape triggers a memory - something he overheard back at the Council base.

The Gorgon rears up in front of Jack, it's eyes starting to glow. Jack tears the extinguisher off the pylon and fires it at the monster.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

The Gorgon SHRIEKS as a cloud of fire retardant foam engulfs it's head. Jack dives out of the way as a STREAM OF VENOM shoots out of the cloud and SPLATTERS on the pylon.

Jack dives into a row of corpses as the Gorgon shakes off the foam. He starts to crawl through the old Gorgon meals, trying to reach the exit.

A IGMW rocket races past his head and EXPLODES nearby. Jack looks up to see Max with his weapon, trying to get a bead on his old partner.

JACK

Are you crazy? Shoot the thing, you moron! Shoot the thing!

MAX

If it's all the same to you, Jack, I think I'll shoot you first. Then, the Medusa.

The Gorgon appears from behind a pylon near Max. He turns to shoot it, but a BRIGHT FLASH OF LIGHT pulses from the Gorgon's eyes, blinding Max. He YELLS and drops the weapon.

JACK

Max!

A duct on the Gorgon's head opens and it spits a ribbon of venom that splashes over Max's exposed skin. Max GASPS and falls to the ground. The Gorgon moves into the shadows, crushing the discarded weapon under its weight.

Jack circles around and reaches the exit to the new tunnel. He turns to see Max struggling to his feet, trying to run after Jack.

MAX

(feeble)

Jack...don't leave me...

Max tries to walk. His legs turn rigid and he falls down again. Max starts to drag himself toward the chamber exit. His limbs freeze as SHARDS OF BONE SPROUT from the joints in his fingers, arms, and torso. Max SCREAMS as bone shards erupt from his jaw and enclose his face.

Jack locks eyes with Max for a moment.

JACK

(horrified)

Sorry, Max. Survival of the fittest.

Then he leaves the chamber.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

The Gorgon slithers behind the immobilized Max. Max WHIMPERS as the creature moves closer. HOLLOW SPIKES emerge from the feeding tubes on the Gorgon's head and LANCE MAX'S NECK.

Trapped in a cage of his own bones, Max SCREAMS IN AGONY as the Gorgon starts to feed...

INT. 2ND BUILDING BASEMENT

Kronen enters a basement room from the maintenance tunnel with a pistol drawn and her IGMW rifle slung across her back. Directly across from her two BLACK ORDER COMMANDOS lounge at an operating emergency power generator.

Before they can fully register surprise, Kronen SHOOTs both of them. She scans the room for other threats, then examines the generator. Cables from the machine run across the floor to an elevator.

Vivian arrives in the basement, ready to fight.

VIVIAN
Who's shooting? What's happening?

KRONEN
I was. Nothing now.

Vivian see the two bodies. Jack arrives.

VIVIAN
Max?

JACK
Didn't make it.

VIVIAN
Here.

Vivian hands her IGMW rifle to Jack, then picks up a machine gun from the dead Black Order soldiers. Kronen looks over the generator.

KRONEN
They're using this generator to power the elevator system.
(re: the dead commandos)
They were likely under orders to destroy it if there was trouble.

JACK
They should have been paying more attention.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRONEN

Indeed.

Kronen crosses to the elevator and hits the "up" button.

KRONEN (CONT'D)

At least it appears we are in the right place.

The elevator DINGS and the doors slide open. The three get in and the doors close.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Jack, Vivian, and Kronen stand in the elevator like bored office workers. A bad, orchestral version of "Margaritaville" plays over the elevator's crappy speaker.

KRONEN

(pause, re: the music)
Is this...?

JACK

"Margaritaville."

Pause.

KRONEN

I like Jimmy Buffett.

Beat. Jack looks at Kronen, confused.

INT. 2ND BUILDING UPPER FLOOR

The lobby of the floor is bare. There has obviously been recent construction.

Elevator doors open and Kronen, Jack, and Vivian cautiously step into the lobby. It is deserted.

JACK

Now where?

KRONEN

(thinking)
Give me a moment.

Jack looks around and spies a door labeled "Danger: Construction."

JACK

(pointing at sign on door)
How 'bout there?

EXT. 2ND BUILDING ROOFTOP - UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Jack, Kronen, and Vivian spill out of the door onto the building roof. Steel scaffolding rises above them, more building floors under construction. Griffons flock overhead, but are too large to land inside the building skeleton.

KRONEN
(eyeing the construction
overhead)
Reverse birdcage. Keeps the Griffons out.

Vivian spies Reinard across the roof next to the open Pandora's Box. The lid lies nearby. Reinard carries the Signet case. A half-dozen BLACK ORDER COMMANDOS guard his perimeter.

VIVIAN
(pointing)
There's Reinard!

The commandos notice the three and OPEN FIRE. Jack, Vivian, and Kronen separate and dive for cover. Reinard is startled when he recognizes them.

REINARD
(ordering his troops)
Kill her! Kill them all!

The commandos spread out while laying down a BARRAGE OF SUPPRESSING FIRE.

Reinard turns his attention back to his work, and hurriedly opens the Signet case.

Jack is pinned down by heavy fire, and can't look up to get a bead on the approaching commandos. From her position, Kronen sees Jack is in trouble.

KRONEN
(pointing at his IGMW rifle)
Jack! Twist the scope!

Jack frantically jiggles the scope on his rifle until it twists to the side with a SNAP. He juts his weapon around his cover and looks into the scope.

P.O.V. JACK'S RIFLE SCOPE

as he gets LOCK-ON TONE on the two commandos pelting his cover with machine gun fire.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Two rockets launch from Jack's rifle. The approaching commandos attempt to take cover, but the missiles adjust course and slam into their targets in TWO EXPLOSIONS.

JACK
(re: the scope trick)
Okay, that was pretty cool.

AT PANDORA'S BOX

Reinard attaches the Signet to the switch opening on the front of Pandora's Box. TENDRILS OF ENERGY are drawn to the Signet, which begins to glow and feed power into Pandora's Box.

VIVIAN
It's starting!

Vivian tries to get a bead on Reinard with her rifle, but he is obscured by girders.

The two remaining commandos prepare to resume firing but are stopped by GRIFFON SCREECHES. They look up.

A HUGE THROG OF GRIFFONS, attracted by the activation of Pandora's Box, swarm the sky around the rooftop. Many of the creatures clutch debris in their paws - phone booths, mailboxes, parts of cars, etc. - and start to DIVE BOMB THE ROOFTOP.

A RAIN OF DEBRIS starts crashing through the girders, CRUSHING the two commandos. Jack, Vivian, and Kronen are forced to run in different directions.

AT PANDORA'S BOX

The Signet glows brighter as more ENERGY TENDRILS, the life-essences of the creatures, are drawn to it. Pandora's Box lid glows. Reinard holds his hands in front of the Signet.

REINARD
(almost in awe)
Yes...yes...

Jack and Kronen link up, dodging debris while trying to make their way to Reinard.

JACK
(re: the Griffons)
These things are *pissed!*

KRONEN
We have to get to Reinard before he can remove the Signet!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK
Where's Vivian?

KRONEN
(points in opposite direction)
She ran that way! I lost her!

JACK
We have to--

Jack is cut off by chorus of GOLEM BELOWS. He and Kronen turn to see

EXT. MANHATTAN - CONTINUOUS

Five Golems slowly closing in on the rooftop, demolishing other buildings that stand in their way.

EXT. 2ND BUILDING ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Jack turns back to Kronen.

JACK
(adjusting and finishing his
thought)
We have to stop Reinard.

AT PANDORA'S BOX

There is a CRACK of power as the energy tendrils double in size, now RUSHING into the Signet. Pandora's Box starts to GLOW WHITE HOT and the lid FLOATS INTO THE AIR.

Jack and Kronen make a mad dash towards Reinard as the debris rain from the Griffons intensifies.

JACK (CONT'D)
Keep going! Keep going!

Overhead, three Griffons release their bombs simultaneously. The debris crashes to the rooftop in a cluster and SLIDES into Jack and Kronen, knocking them down only yards from Reinard and Pandora's Box.

Jack, dazed from the impact, finds his leg trapped under debris and his weapon barely out of reach. He looks across the roof and sees Kronen sprawled out on the ground, unconscious.

Jack tries to reach his rifle, but can barely touch it with the tips of his fingers.

JACK (CONT'D)
Reinard! You son of a bitch!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Reinard regards Jack with pity.

REINARD

You simpleton! You have no idea what this has all been about.

The glowing lid of Pandora's Box hovers in the air above the box. Jack struggles for the rifle again. The debris trapping his leg tearing a large gash in his calf.

REINARD (CONT'D)

You've been manipulated from the start. You're nothing more than a pawn in this game, a game I will now bring to it's conclusion.

Jack looks over Reinard's shoulder and laughs. Reinard turns.

VIVIAN stands on the other side of Pandora's Box, pointing her pistol at Reinard.

REINARD (CONT'D)

No...

Vivian SHOOTS Reinard in the chest. He falls to the ground, GASPING.

JACK

(overjoyed)

Now, *that's* how you take out a bad guy!

Reinard holds his bleeding chest and turns to Jack.

REINARD

(to Jack, gasping for breath)

You...*fool!* ...I...was trying...to *seal* it!

JACK

(stunned)

What?

Reinard dies. Jack looks up at Vivian, who has moved to Pandora's Box and is eyeing the Signet.

JACK (CONT'D)

Vivian...what's going on?

VIVIAN

(eyes on the Signet)

We have an historic opportunity here, Jack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK

I don't understand. Max said *Reinard* promised him--

VIVIAN

(interrupting)

Max said nothing of the sort. I've been planning this ever since Reinard discovered the connection between the Signet and Pandora's Box.

Pandora's Box lid begins to descend.

EXT. MANHATTAN - CONTINUOUS

The Golems have nearly reached the rooftop and are tearing buildings apart in a frenzy.

EXT. 2ND BUILDING ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Griffons smash themselves into the steel framework, desperately trying to reach Pandora's Box.

Vivian notices the descending lid.

VIVIAN

Sorry, Jack. I'd love to stay and chat, but the whole world is waiting for me.

She turns away.

JACK

Wait! Vivian, how can you do this? I thought we--

Vivian looks back.

VIVIAN

(condescending)

What? You thought we were friends? In love? We met barely a week ago. I've killed people I've been more fond of than you.

Vivian strides to Pandora's Box, where the lid has nearly come to rest, and SNATCHES THE SIGNET OFF. The glow surrounding Pandora's Box and lid switches off like a light - and Pandora's Box CRUMBLES INTO DUST.

All the energy from Pandora's Box rushes back into the Signet and begins to flow into Vivian. She GASPS IN PAIN, then adjusts to the power flowing into her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jack watches helplessly. A girder blocks his view of Vivian, but he can clearly see her hands grasping the glowing Signet.

KRONEN (O.S.)
(weakly)
Jack...

Jack looks across the rooftop and sees Kronen has come to. Blood runs down the side of her face.

KRONEN (CONT'D)
(groggy)
Jack...stop her...stop her...

Jack turns to his rifle and summons ONE FINAL LUNGE. He SCREAMS as the debris tears at his trapped leg - but his FINGERS REACH THE RIFLE. He pulls it to him and takes aim.

JACK
End is near.

P.O.V. JACK'S RIFLE SCOPE

The scope is trained on the glowing Signet. Jack gets LOCK-ON TONE.

JACK (CONT'D)
End is here.

Jack FIRES THREE ROCKETS. They race across the rooftop, HITTING THE SIGNET AND EXPLODING.

A HUGE BALL OF ENERGY ERUPTS as THE SIGNET VAPORIZES. The explosion is the same as when Pandora's Box was opened.

LIGHT EXPLODES FROM THE SIGNET. Lightning arcs into the air as a WAVE OF ENERGY expands across the rooftop.

EXT. MANHATTAN - CONTINUOUS

The energy wave spreads across Manhattan and disappears across the horizon. Dark clouds gather in the sky. Flashes of purple lightning dance from cloud to cloud.

The Golems cease their advance and return to grazing on the city. The Griffon flocks disperse and return to their territories.

EXT. 2ND BUILDING ROOFTOP

Jack pulls his injured leg from the debris. He picks up his rifle and limps over to the crumbled Pandora's Box. There are scorch marks on the ground, but no sign of Vivian or the Signet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRONEN (O.S.)
...Jack...

Jack goes to Kronen and pries her out from under debris.

JACK
Signet's gone. Vivian's gone.

Kronen sits up.

KRONEN
(holding head)
Probably vaporized.

JACK
Creatures don't seem to care about us
anymore.

KRONEN
They will when they get hungry.

JACK
(pause)
The box...is gone.

KRONEN
Yes.

Jack and Kronen limp to the rooftop edge. Jack pats down his shirt pockets and finds first-aid dressing. He hands it to Kronen for her head.

Jack goes to close the pocket and feels something else inside. He reaches in and pulls out

LEXINGTON'S COUNCIL RING

Kronen notices Jack considering the ring. He hands it to her.

JACK
Lexington's ring.

Kronen doesn't take it.

KRONEN
I think he meant for you to have it.

Jack pauses, then puts the ring on his branded left hand. He stares at the burns.

JACK
(re: his burns)
You said these brands are a *blueprint* for
making a new box?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KRONEN

Yes.

JACK

(wants to be absolutely clear)
We can make a new box to get rid of the
monsters?

KRONEN

In theory, yes.

Jack thinks this over.

JACK

(to himself)
Hell with the island.
(to Kronen)
Wanna help?

Kronen smiles.

KRONEN

It would be an honor.

Jack accepts this and chuckles.

JACK

(looking out over the city)
Everything old is new again.

Jack and Kronen look out over the devastated city as

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - CONTINUOUS

Griffons fly overhead, Golems lumber between buildings, and
the HOWLS of Werewolves echo through the streets. The world
belongs to creatures of myth.

JACK (O.S.)

(practical question)
Hey. How are we getting out of New York?

For now...

THE END