

THE HARVEST

Written by

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EXT. DANE COUNTY PENITENTIARY - MORNING

An ALARM wails inside the fenced-in grounds of a prison.

INT. PRISON BLOCK 43 - MORNING

PRISONERS in orange line up outside their cells for roll call. A guard named STU walks down the line and stops in front of an inmate with a black eye.

STU
(to inmate)
Why are you torturing yourself
like this?

INMATE
I'll never give in to you.

STU
Suit yourself.

Stu raises his club to strike the inmate, but an older prisoner, JAMES (age 55) stops the blow.

JAMES
Leave him alone, Stu. What's the
kid ever done to you?

Stu sneers and redirects his club at James, punching him in the gut. James doubles over.

MAX, James' cellmate, is massive with a shaved head and Neo-Nazi tattoos.

MAX
(to James)
Mind your own business, Jimmy boy.
Now stand up and take it like a
man.

Max grabs James' arms from behind as Stu raises his club to strike again.

Stu's swing stops short and he stumbles backward.

STU
What the?

A small slash CARVES ITSELF into Stu's forehead, right between his eyes. He touches it and sees blood on his finger.

STU
You son of bitch, James. You're
gonna pay for this.

JAMES
 (restrained by Max)
 I didn't do that.

Stu calls out in pain.

James and Max watch another slash CARVE ITSELF into Stu's forehead, creating an X.

STU
 It burns!

Stu feverishly touches the bloody mark and has a full on panic attack.

Max releases James.

MAX
 He's lost control. RIOT!!!!

James and the young inmate exchange troubled glances.

INT. KITCHEN - TRAILER HOME - MORNING

SOPHIE, an overworked and underpaid young woman who has seen better days, opens the fridge while on her cell phone.

SOPHIE
 (into phone)
 I'm sorry, but I don't understand
 why we have to pay this.

The fridge is practically empty. Sophie grabs bread and makes a peanut butter sandwich.

OPERATOR #1 (O.S.)
 It says here that your insurance
 coverage ended six months ago.

SOPHIE
 I never got a notice it lapsed. I
 even paid the premiums.

OPERATOR #1 (O.S.)
 I'm sorry ma'am, but you're not
 covered. I may be able to get your
 premiums reimbursed. Hold please.

SOPHIE
 Wait --

Hold MUSIC plays.

SOPHIE
(to herself)
Uhhh! An hour and two transfers!

INT. LIVING ROOM

The front room connects to the tiny kitchen, a bathroom and bedroom. This double-wide trailer hasn't been updated since the 90s.

ALEX, a scrawny ten-year-old boy with inquisitive eyes, lines up toy soldiers on the coffee table.

INT. KITCHEN

Sophie grabs a banana, but its moldy. She throws it away with a heavy sigh and shoves the PB&J into a backpack, followed by chips and a juice box.

Another call comes in on Sophie's cell.

SOPHIE
Crap.

Hold MUSIC plays. She clicks over to the other call.

SOPHIE
(into phone)
Hello?

OPERATOR #2 (O.S.)
You have a collect call from the
Dane County Prison. Do you accept
the charges?

SOPHIE
Nope.

Sophie clicks back to the original call. After a beat, the line goes dead.

SOPHIE
Noooooo!

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex puts the last toy soldier in the row. He looks at them all perfectly aligned and flaps his hands with involuntarily giddiness. Then he picks up a Nintendo Switch.

Sophie walks over from the adjoining kitchen.

SOPHIE

Alex! Come on, we're gonna be late.

Alex doesn't look up. Sophie gathers her things.

SOPHIE

Have you brushed your hair? Your teeth? Get your shoes on. We gotta go.

Alex slips shoes on without looking up from his game. Sophie grabs his backpack, her purse, keys, wallet, phone...

SOPHIE

Stop playing and open the door. Come on, we gotta go!

Alex reluctantly breaks away from his game to get the door.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

The bell RINGS. KIDS pour into classrooms. This isn't Alex's school, it's Sophie's. She's only 17 and so is her cheerleader friend, GINA.

GINA

I can't believe you're gonna miss homecoming.

They slip into class.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sophie's handsome boyfriend, KURT, wraps his arms around her as they walk to her desk.

KURT

Yeah, boo. You can't miss homecoming.

Sophie hides her disappointment as she slides into her chair.

SOPHIE

It's just a stupid football game.

GINA

And a prep rally, and a parade...

KURT

And a dance. Can't you at least get Saturday night off? Gina will babysit the kid for you.

GINA
Hey, I never said that!

SOPHIE
I already asked. No one can take
my shift.

KURT
Call in sick.

SOPHIE
I can't. My jerk boss will call me
out. He never lets up.

Kurt leans in.

KURT
(whispers)
If it's about the money, I can --

SOPHIE
Stop.

KURT
It's not fair you to have to
sacrifice for --

SOPHIE
It's fine!

The TEACHER addresses the class from his desk.

TEACHER
Okay everyone, settle down. We're
going to pick back up with the
oral presentations. Chuck, you're
up.

CHUCK, a kid with thick glasses, reluctantly walks to the front
of class.

CHUCK
Okay so, my topic was on free
trade, and it's, like, super
complicated.

KURT
Duh!

The class laughs.

TEACHER
Rousing opening remarks!
(MORE)

TEACHER (CONT'D)
I can tell this is going to be extremely informative. Please continue, Chuck.

CHUCK
Yeah, so, um...

SOPHIE
Chuck, you're bleeding.

A single trickle of blood drips down the tip of Chuck's nose. He grabs a tissue from the teacher's desk and wipes it.

CHUCK
Stupid nose bleeds.

SOPHIE
It's not coming from your nose...

An X slowly CARVES ITSELF into Chuck's forehead.

The class collectively gasps.

GINA
What the heck, Chuck?

TEACHER
Alright, who's playing tricks?

GINA
Ah!

Gina throws her head in her hands. She looks up to reveal another X on her forehead.

GINA
It hurts!

SOPHIE
Gina, are you okay? What is that?

Gina looks at the blood on her fingers and screams.

TEACHER
Everyone, stay calm.

GINA
(hysterical)
It burns! Get it off! Help me!

Sophie comforts Gina.

SCREAMS come through the wall from the classroom next door.

TEACHER
 Nobody panic. I'll get to the
 bottom of this.

The teacher picks up the classroom phone & dials.

TEACHER
 (into phone)
 We've got a strange incident going
 on --
 (beat)
 Yes, that's right. An X. Two
 students.

Outside the window, a CAR swerves through the parking lot and
 hits a light post. CRASH! The horn WAILS.

The students exchange worried glances.

STUDENT #1 plays a live NEWS STREAM on their smartphone.

STUDENT #1
 Yo, this is going viral.

Sophie, Kurt, and other students crowd around to watch the
 news.

NEWSCASTER
 Joining us now is Chief Analyst
 from Biotechnics. What can you
 tell us about these mysterious
 markings?

CHIEF ANALYST
 While the cause is still unclear,
 our top scientists are
 investigating. If you've been
 marked, we urge you to head to
 your local hospital so we can
 gather as much information as we
 can on the affected.

NEWSCASTER
 Is there a reason to panic?

CHIEF ANALYST
 No. Panic will only make things
 worse.

STUDENT #2 falls to their knees and prays.

KURT
 (to Sophie)
 This has got to be some epic
 prank.

SOPHIE
 What if it's not?

KURT
 (sarcastic)
 Maybe it's the second coming of
 Jesus.

Sophie overhears --

TEACHER
 (into phone)
 The principle's been marked too?

Sophie takes it all in. Her friend cries, the car horn wails, confusion on everyone's faces as they crowd around the news stream or Chuck and Gina.

Sophie grabs her stuff and walks to the door. Kurt grabs her.

KURT
 Where are you going?

SOPHIE
 I have to make sure my brother's
 alright.

KURT
 What? Why? We need you here.

SOPHIE
 I'm sorry. I have to go.

Sophie turns her back on her confused classmates.

INT. PRISON BLOCK 43 - MORNING

The riot is in full swing. Prisoners run, fight, and try to escape. Some are marked with X's, some aren't.

PRISONER #1
 (pointing to his X)
 Who did this to me? I'll kill
 every last one of you.

The guard, Stu, grips a gun as sweat falls past the bloody X between his eyes. With a shaky hand, he swings his gun around at the six angry prisoners surrounding him, only some marked.

Stu backs himself into a corner. He rubs at the X. It's carved in deep. He points his gun at his forehead and blows the strange marking right off.

His lifeless body slumps to the ground as blood drips down his face.

INT. JAMES' CELL - PRISON BLOCK 43 - CONTINUOUS

James splashes his face with water from the sink. He examines himself in a scratched up, non-glass mirror. Wrinkles hug his eyes, but his forehead is free from any branding.

He glances at the blurry reflection of his cellmate behind him. Max is busy hitting the cell wall with a butter knife, trying to escape.

MAX

When I get out, I'm gonna kill my
ex-wife. Then I'mma grab the first
female I see and make her my
bitch.

Max laughs sadistically.

James whips around as Max's laugh turns into a blood curdling scream.

Max falls to his knees and turns to James with bloodshot eyes.

MAX

What have you done to me?

JAMES

Nothing, man. What are you talking
about?

James watches with curiosity as an X slowly carves itself into Max's forehead.

James touches his own head again, but finds no marking.

Max screams again, spit dripping from his enraged face.

JAMES

(to Max)

I'll give you some space.

James turns his attention to the chaos outside his cell.

JAMES

(to himself)

I gotta get outta here.

INT. PRISON BLOCK 43 - CONTINUOUS

Just outside James' cell, teams are forming. X's versus the unmarked.

A group of unmarked prisoners chase after one marked prisoner.

UNMARKED INMATE
Marked by the devil! You're going
to hell!

Prisoner #1 screams as he cuts off his X with a blunt butter knife.

A marked inmate punches an unmarked guard.

The WARDEN enters with more GUARDS in tow. Some are marked, some aren't. The warden sees Stu dead in the corner.

WARDEN
Jesus.
(to guards)
Anyone with an X follow me. The
rest of you, keep these animals in
line. Restore order at any cost.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - MORNING

An old teacher, MRS. WATTS, is marked. She attempts to wrangle an unruly group of young KIDS as concerned PARENTS swarm the campus.

MRS. WATTS
Children, stay calm! Keep to your
groups!

A vintage motorcycle pulls up. Sophie removes her helmet and dismounts the bike.

Sophie pushes past concerned parents taking their children away. Both adults and children are marked with X's.

SOPHIE
Alex?

Sophie scans the schoolyard; crying children, yelling teachers, and the mixing of marked and unmarked people.

She spots Alex being pushed by a much bigger kid, SKYLER.

SOPHIE
Alex!

She puts herself between her brother and his bully, who is marked with an X.

ALEX
Leave me alone, Skyler.

SKYLER
She can't protect you, loser. She doesn't have an X either.

SOPHIE
(to Skylar)
That's enough. No one knows what this means, okay?

She turns to Alex.

SOPHIE
Okay?

He nods.

SKYLER
You're just as stupid as your brother. You're both gonna die.

Skyler moves his thumb over his throat as he squints at Alex.

Sophie rolls her eyes and grabs Alex's hand. They walk toward the street.

The marked Mrs. Watts steps in their way.

MRS. WATTS
Excuse me, where do you think you're going?

SOPHIE
I'm taking Alex home. Do I need to sign him out or something?

MRS. WATTS
Only parents may take their children in an emergency. You're just a teenager.

SOPHIE
You know our situation.

MRS. WATTS
School's rules, not mine.

Alex's eyes fall to the floor.

SOPHIE
 Why are you always trying to make
 things difficult for us?

Mrs. Watts smiles smugly.

MRS. WATTS
 Sorry.

SOPHIE
 You know what? Fuck the school's
 rules.

Alex smiles as Sophie pulls him away.

Sophie turns back to face the teacher, whose mouth is agape.

SOPHIE
 By the way, you have something on
 your forehead, Mrs. Watts. You
 might want to get that looked at.

Sophie leads Alex to her motorcycle and hands him a helmet.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MORNING

Sophie grabs a cart while Alex plays his video game.

SOPHIE
 Alex.
 (beat)
 Alex.

CUSTOMERS rush in past them, grabbing carts and food as fast as they can.

SOPHIE
 Earth to Alex!

He finally looks up from his video game.

SOPHIE
 Let's grab what we need and get
 out of here. Non-perishables, as
 much as we can carry on the bike.
 Okay?

ALEX
 Okay...

Sophie sees a long line of customers with carts filled to the brim. The panic buying has begun.

SOPHIE
Hurry, go.

Alex walks away, eyes glued to his game. He barely looks up to grab a can of ravioli.

GARY
Sophie, I'm so glad you're here.

Sophie turns to her bald boss, GARY, a name tag on his apron.

GARY
It's bonkers around here. I need you on register.

SOPHIE
I can't. I have my brother.

GARY
I don't need attitude. I need results. Okay? Now get on register 3 or else you won't have a job tomorrow.

SOPHIE
But --

GARY
But what? Get your pretty little butt onto register 3. Now!

More people flood into the store, panicked.

SOPHIE
You know what? No. You can't talk to me like that anymore.

GARY
I can talk to you however I want. We both know you need this job to survive.

SOPHIE
You're right about one thing. I'm a survivor. That's exactly what I intend to do. Now you get on register 3 so I can buy my groceries on my day off like everyone else.

Sophie pushes her cart away with conviction, leaving Gary shocked.

INT. AISLE 10 - MOMENTS LATER

Alex meanders, playing his video game. He's oblivious to the panicked customers around him.

A flickering LIGHT emanates from the back room.

It captures Alex's attention. He drops his game and slowly walks toward the light.

INT. STOCK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex is drawn to the flickering light like a moth to a flame. It illuminates his face.

ALEX

I heard you calling me. Have we met?

His body goes limp. His eyes grow wide, reflecting the luminescence of the unseen light source.

INT. AISLE 10 - 20 MINUTES LATER

Sophie turns down the aisle carrying grocery bags. She passes a customer watching a NEWS STREAM on her phone.

MARKED PERSON

(to camera on news stream)

I'm not gonna report to no hospital. Why? So they can experiment on me? Hell no!

Sophie keeps walking.

SOPHIE

Alex?

She finds his game on the floor. He's nowhere to be found.

SOPHIE

Alex?!

INT. STOCK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sophie finds Alex staring at the empty loading dock.

SOPHIE

There you are! What are you doing?

Alex turns around with a smile.

ALEX
Hi sister. Let me help you with
those bags.

He grabs some of the groceries.

SOPHIE
Okay? Thanks. Let's get out of
here before my jerk boss makes me
work.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - MORNING

Sophie ties as many grocery bags to her motorcycle as she can.

SOPHIE
Open your jacket.

She stuffs cans of food inside Alex's jacket and zips it up.

ALEX
We don't need all this.

Sophie bends down to make eye contact with her brother.

SOPHIE
We don't know what's going on. We
might need to hunker down for a
while, okay?

Sophie sits on the overloaded bike and notices her gas tank is empty.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Their motorcycle weaves through cars trying to flee the city.

PEOPLE argue in the street. LOOTERS break business windows.

EXT. SPLENDID GROVE TRAILER PARK - DAY

They pull into a trailer park named Splendid Grove. It's not so Splendid. There's a FOREST just behind the run-down community.

Sophie parks in the driveway of her double-wide trailer home. She dismounts and takes off her helmet.

MS. PARKER, an old woman wearing a nightgown, calls out from next door.

MS. PARKER
 Sophie dear, is everything
 alright?

SOPHIE
 Everything's fine, Ms. Parker.
 Stay inside, will you?

MS. PARKER
 The TV says people are being
 branded. Is it the gays? I warned
 my nephew he was going to pay for
 his lifestyle.

SOPHIE
 No! That's not it at all.

MS. PARKER
 Come pray with me, my dear.

SOPHIE
 Um, sure.

Sophie walks over to Ms. Parker and they hold hands. Alex walks
 over too, making a little circle.

Sophie looks surprised that Alex's joining.

MS. PARKER
 Dear God, whatever you've got in
 your divine plan, blessed be our
 souls to preserve until you say
 it's the end. And show mercy on
 the damned. Amen.

SOPHIE
 Amen.

ALEX
 Amen.

INT. TRAILER HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Alex follows Sophie inside. She dumps the grocery bags on the
 floor and flops onto the couch with a big sigh. She turns on
 the TV.

Alex heads into the adjoining kitchen, essentially the same
 room except for the counter separating the spaces.

NEWSCASTER
 New CDC recommendations for the
 affected just in.
 (MORE)

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

If you've been marked, it's now recommended that you stay home. I repeat, stay home. Do not go to the hospital. Local resources are already at maximum capacity in all metropolitan areas. Luckily, there have been no reported deaths from the affected thus far...

Sophie checks her cell phone. No signal.

SOPHIE

Oh man.

Sophie looks up and sees Alex standing in the kitchen. He's neatly stacked all the canned food into pyramids.

ALEX

We have enough food to last at least a week.

SOPHIE

Wow, look at you! I should have thrown out your video game a long time ago!

Sophie gets up and joins him.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sophie opens some cabinets and pulls out empty water jugs and pitchers.

SOPHIE

Let's fill these water bottles in case we lose access.

Alex follows her command without hesitation. She notices.

ALEX

Why do you think people are being marked?

SOPHIE

I don't know, buddy. It seems so random. My idiot boss didn't have one so that rules out the sadists.

Sophie playfully nudges Alex. He smiles and continues filling the water jugs.

SOPHIE

The better question is who, or what, is doing it.

They listen to the TV from the other room.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

There's still so much we don't know. There are rumors that the President has been marked, but as of now that is unconfirmed.

SOPHIE

Whatever it is, this is big...

Sophie pulls out a first aid kit from under the sink. She looks around, taking stock of everything.

SOPHIE

We're low on gas for the bike so I'm going to pop over to True Value. Stay here and finish filling all the water jugs, okay?

ALEX

Stay here with me. We don't need gas.

SOPHIE

We need to be prepared for anything. We might have to evacuate at some point.

ALEX

Okay, if it makes you feel better.

SOPHIE

Pack a backpack just in case. I'll be home before you know it.

(beat)

Hey, we're gonna get through this. Okay?

Sophie kisses her brother's forehead and grabs her keys.

SOPHIE

Don't open the door for anyone. Even Ms. Parker. I'll see you soon.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Sophie walks up to the cash register.

SOPHIE
Hey man, can I get some gas? My
credit card's not working.

ATTENDANT
Cash only.

SOPHIE
Okay...

Sophie grabs her wallet and sifts through her cash.

SOPHIE
Twenty bucks on pump 2.

ATTENDANT
That'll only get you a gallon. You
might need a little more than
that.

SOPHIE
What? Come on, man.

ATTENDANT
It's surge pricing out here in the
apocalypse. Supply and demand.

SOPHIE
Fine, here's forty bucks. That's
all I've got left.

The attendant grabs the cash and puts it in the register.

ATTENDANT
Good to go on pump 2.

SOPHIE
Thanks.

LOOTER
Hands up! Both of you!

A LOOTER storms in with a gun. He's marked with an X.

Sophie and the attendant throw their hands up. The looter
tosses a bag over the counter.

LOOTER
Empty the register. Come on, let's
go, go, go!

The attendant puts cash in the bag. The looter trains his gun
on Sophie.

LOOTER
What are you looking at?

SOPHIE
N... nothing.

Sophie adverts her eyes as the looter scratches at his X. He grabs a bunch of snacks from a shelf.

LOOTER
Come on, hurry up.

A COP enters.

SOPHIE
(under her breath)
Oh thank god.

The looter aims his gun at the police officer.

LOOTER
Don't be a hero.

The cop raises his hands.

COP
Hey man, it's okay. Let me take
you to the hospital. We'll get
that mark checked out. Okay?

The cop takes a step forward. The looter hesitates so the officer lunges for cover.

The looter SHOOTS and hits a freezer case. The glass SMASHES.

Sophie screams and ducks for cover.

The cop draws his gun from behind the candy bar aisle.

COP
Freeze! Put your hands up.

Cop and looter both with guns drawn in a tense stand off.

LOOTER
It's end of days, man. I have zero
fucks to give!

COP
Neither do I.

The cop cocks his gun and lines up his shot, but then --

COP
Ah! What the --

Sophie watches the cop from a safety mirror in the back corner. He doubles over in pain, lowering his gun. He arches his back as an X carves itself into his forehead.

The cop touches his new X and processes the situation.

COP

No! What does this mean? What does it mean?

LOOTER

It means you and me are on the same team, my friend.

The looter smiles.

The cop thinks.

Sophie braces herself for what's next.

The attendant presses a panic button repeatedly under the counter.

COP

Fuck it.

The cop stands up with gun drawn. The looter trains his pistol back on the officer, but hesitates.

The cop SHOOTs out a surveillance camera.

COP

It's about to be like Grand Theft Auto out here, man. Game over! Wooooo!

The looter grabs the bag of cash while the cop raids the store for as much alcohol as he can carry.

Bags of chips fall onto Sophie as the cop and looter raid the aisle next to her. They giggle like kids unleashed.

Sophie closes her eyes and braces herself.

COP

(to looter)

Let's hit up the Center next!

The looter and cop run out laughing.

Sophie exhales and peeks out from her hiding place. The coast is clear.

She walks up to the stunned attendant.

SOPHIE
I'm sorry, but can I still get
that gas?

ATTENDANT
Get out.

SOPHIE
Please. I don't have any more
money. Besides, money might not
even be worth anything if things
continue to spiral like this!

The attendant thinks.

EXT. GAS STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Sophie's hand shakes as she fills her tank.

An unmarked HOMELESS man walks down the nearby sidewalk.

HOMELESS MAN
It's the mark of the beast!

He pulls out a knife and carves an X into his own forehead. He
laughs as it bleeds down his face.

HOMELESS MAN
Earth's inhabitants will worship
the beast!

Sophie hurries onto her bike and drives off.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sophie weaves through a traffic jam. She slows to a stop at a
CHECKPOINT run by an armed SWAT TEAM.

An OFFICER approaches her.

OFFICER
Ma'am, I need you to turn around.

SOPHIE
I live just down the block.

OFFICER
Let me see some identification.

She pulls out her ID and hands it to him. He examines it.

OFFICER

Alright, you can pass. When you get inside the perimeter, stay there. Got it?

SOPHIE

Loud and clear.

She tucks her ID in her back pocket and weaves through the barrier.

EXT. SPLENDID GROVE - MOMENTS LATER

Sophie drives into the trailer park. Cars peel out, dogs bark, police sirens wail, and a chorus of human screams reverberate from every direction.

Ms. Parker walks around aimlessly, now marked with an X. Blood drips down the old woman's face and onto her nightgown.

Sophie dismounts and intercepts Ms. Parker.

SOPHIE

Are you okay?

MS. PARKER

Sophie, dear. I've been chosen. It's a sign from God.

SOPHIE

I... I'm glad for you. Let's get you back inside. You can wait for God from the comfort of your living room.

A car races toward them. Sophie pulls Ms. Parker back from getting hit.

SOPHIE

It's not safe out here.

MS. PARKER

Look at those low-lifes squirm. They'll all burn in hell.

(beat)

Don't worry dear, I'm sure you'll be marked soon too.

SOPHIE

Let's get you home.

Sophie walks Ms. Parker back toward her house.

MS. PARKER

I can't wait to be Home, back in
my Savior's arms. I'm coming,
Gerry.

INT. TRAILER HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Sophie locks the door and the deadbolt. She sighs with relief
to be home safe.

Alex lines up his toy soldiers in a SHAPE that's still taking
form.

SOPHIE

Hey buddy. Everything okay with
you?

ALEX

I've got my bag packed, just like
you asked.

SOPHIE

Thanks, but I don't think we're
going anywhere for a while. Let's
just stay here for now, okay?

ALEX

Okay.

From the TV -

NEWSCASTER

Marshall law is being implemented,
and the message is clear. Stay
home. Do not leave, not for any
reason. The military is in the
process of barricading all major
town centers.

Sophie paces.

SOPHIE

(unconvincing)

It's okay. Everything is fine.
It's probably better to be
unmarked... We're safe here,
right?

Alex touches Sophie's arm and smiles.

ALEX

Probably.

Sophie forces a smile.

SOPHIE
Yeah. As long as we're together,
we're okay.

INT. PRISON BLOCK 43 - DAY

James cautiously walks the perimeter, avoiding the sea of fights surrounding him. A gunshot FIRES in the background, and he flinches.

James slinks to Stu's body slumped in the corner and grabs the dead guard's gun and keys.

James crawls toward a nearby door and feverishly tries one key after another to unlock it.

JAMES
Come on, come on...

The next key works! James unlocks the door and opens it. As he slides out of the prison block, a voice calls out.

VOICE (O.S.)
Jimmy boy! Where you think you're
going?

It's Max, his Neo-Nazi cellmate.

JAMES
Mind your business, Max. Stay here
and take it like a man.

James slides through the door and quickly closes it behind him, but Max gets his hand through the crack just in time.

The two men struggle; James to close the door and Max to keep it open.

MAX
How dare you leave without me?
After all I've done for you.

James pushes the door with all his might. It slams onto Max's hand, crushing it.

MAX
Ahhh!

Max pulls his hand back and cradles it in his chest. The door slams shut.

MAX
Jimmy boy! Open the damn door,
bro.

JAMES

(through the door)

Sorry man, but the world doesn't need anymore of your shit, okay? You're not god's gift to women, and one race is not superior to the other. Once you clean up your daddy issues, you might be able to let a little love in. I think it's best if you go back to your cell and think about what you've done.

MAX

Thank you Dr. Phil. Now open this door or I will murder you.

James turns to walk away. Max hits the door violently.

MAX

I'm going to destroy you if you don't get back here!

The door BUZZES. Both men simultaneously realize the lock mechanism has been tripped.

Max throws the door open.

James whips around with Stu's gun drawn.

JAMES

Stay back, Max.

Max keeps coming.

JAMES

One more step and I'll shoot!

Max sneers and puts his hands up.

A GUARD calls out from down the hall.

GUARD

Hey, get back here!

James walks backward and then high-tails it out of there as the guard descends on Max.

MAX

You'll pay for this, Jimmy boy!

INT. PRISON CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

James cautiously runs past a security checkpoint. He spots another dead guard in the bay.

With the coast clear, he runs to the next door and fumbles with the keys.

VOICES echo down the hallway. Someone could catch him any second as he tries key after key.

He successfully opens another door and victoriously runs toward the front entrance.

EXT. PRISON - DAY

James steps outside. He squints as the sunlight hits him. He breathes in fresh air and laughs.

A swarm of military HELICOPTERS fly in the distance.

JAMES

Whoa! What the hell is going on?

GUNSHOTS echo from inside.

James looks at the sniper tower, the last thing standing between him and his freedom. He doesn't see anyone on watch.

He surveys the 100 feet to the fenced gate then reexamines the seemingly-empty sniper tower.

James makes a run for it. He slides over to the gate and ducks for cover.

After a beat without gunfire, he relaxes and unlocks the final door.

EXT. PRISON PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

James steps out of the fenced-in grounds a free man. He stops a beat to take it all in.

A CAR skids around the corner at 60 mph and HITS James from behind. He slams to the ground.

James hobbles up and peeps inside the car. The Warden is behind the wheel -- his forehead now marked.

A tense moment between the two men. What's the marked Warden going to do with this escaped prisoner?

The Warden revs his engine and peels out, leaving James to his own devices.

James stumbles away without looking back.

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

James runs with his orange prison orange suit on, past LOOTERS breaking windows.

Unseen by James is a nearby car with a TODDLER in the backseat, marked with an X. She cries out for her parents who are nowhere to be found.

James run up to a group of UNMARKED PEOPLE protesting behind barricades, directly facing a line of militarized SWAT officers. The protestors tout signs saying "No Military, No Martial Law" "Take the marked ones, leave us alone" and "We won't be prisoners in our own homes."

James doubles back and stops in front of a broken clothing store window. He steps over glass to get inside.

A marked PARENT runs past with their marked CHILD. She looks back scared, as if someone - or something - is following them.

A moment later, James emerges, now wearing jeans, a T-shirt, and leather jacket.

James avoids the protestors and military by ducking into an alleyway.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

James turns the corner. A MERKABA SYMBOL is spray-painted on the wall.

The marked parent and child walk toward James, no longer in a hurry. James watches as their marks magically DISAPPEAR.

He stops the parent.

JAMES

Hey, what's going on? Your X, it just vanished. How'd you get rid of it? What do they mean?

PARENT

It's the harvest.

JAMES

What's the harvest?

PARENT

We've suffered enough. It's time to upgrade.

JAMES

Upgrade?

PARENT

You'll see soon enough.

The parent and child leave James dumbfounded.

INT. TRAILER HOME - AFTERNOON

Sophie puts a sandwich in front of Alex. He's busy putting his toy soldiers into the SHAPE he's been working on.

ALEX

Chips?

SOPHIE

We have to ration. We have no idea how long this will last.

From the TV -

NEWSCASTER

One thing is clear. These X's don't discriminate. People have been marked from all races, genders, ages, even income classes. Who is behind this global phenomenon? The president is rumored to be marked, so who declared Martial Law? Is this one giant coup? Are the Freemasons coming to make us all slaves? Will they only take the marked ones? Or is this a disease? Some mass psoriasis? Were the marks always there and we're only now seeing them because of the uptick in 5G technology? We have more questions than answers, but one thing is clear. There is a massive restructuring going on right before our very eyes.

A KNOCK on the door sends Sophie spinning. Alex bolts to his feet.

SOPHIE

(whispers)
Don't answer it!

ALEX
He's here! He's really here!

SOPHIE
Shhhhh! Who's here?

Alex rushes to the door.

SOPHIE
Wait!

Sophie races to pick up a wooden baseball bat tucked behind the frame.

Sophie readies herself in a batter's stance as Alex unlocks the deadbolt.

The front door swings open to reveal James.

ALEX
Dad!

James steps in, and Alex gives him the biggest bear hug.

After their embrace, James checks Alex's forehead.

JAMES
No X. Me neither.

James looks at Sophie still poised with her baseball bat.

JAMES
Put that thing away. Come on,
we're family.

SOPHIE
Not any more.

James closes and locks the door behind him.

JAMES
I probably deserve that.

James looks at her with a warm smile and teary eyes.

JAMES
You look great, Sophie. How ya
holding up?

Sophie lowers the bat.

SOPHIE
(unimpressed)
I'm fabulous. What are you doing
here, dad?

JAMES

I was released on good behavior. I told you, I'm innocent.
(points to forehead)
See, no X.

SOPHIE

I don't think that'll hold up in court.

JAMES

I'll win the appeal. Come on, give your old man a hug.

She doesn't move.

JAMES

I really missed you guys.

SOPHIE

And I really missed being a regular teenager.

ALEX

Homecoming is just a stupid football game anyway.

Sophie runs her fingers through Alex's hair lovingly.

SOPHIE

That's right, buddy.

JAMES

You'll get back to all that soon. We just need to hunker down until this all blows over. You got enough food to last a while?

SOPHIE

Went shopping this morning.

JAMES

Good. Let's fill up some water jugs in case we lose access.

Sophie rolls her eyes.

SOPHIE

Already done.

JAMES

That's my girl. You got gas in case things heat up and we've got to make a run for it?

SOPHIE

Full tank. That one took some doing, but I took care of it. Everything's under control. We don't need you coming in here acting like you're in charge.

James puts his hands up in retreat.

JAMES

Fine. Well then, first things first. I'm gonna take the best shower of my life.

On his way to the bathroom, James grabs the sandwich Sophie made for Alex.

SOPHIE

Great, now I have two people to take care of.

ALEX

Yay, Dad's home!

Alex flaps his arms with excitement.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

James turns the shower on and takes off his shirt.

He gets on his knees and taps on a floor tile. He jiggles the tile loose and pulls it back to reveal a wad of CASH.

He takes the cash out, puts his GUN inside, and returns the tile into its place.

James steps into the shower. He sighs with relief when the water hits him.

JAMES

God that's good.

The bathroom mirror steams up, revealing a MERKABA SYMBOL drawn on it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sophie does dishes from the kitchen while Alex continues to put the toy soldiers into formation.

James walks out wearing Sophie's pink bathrobe.

JAMES
Definitely one of the top ten best
showers of my life.

SOPHIE
Ew, that's my bathrobe. Take it
off!

JAMES
Alright, alright.

There's another KNOCK on the door.

JAMES
You expecting someone?

Sophie walks into the living room.

SOPHIE
No, but we weren't expecting you
either. This day is just full of
surprises.

James slinks over to the window and peeks out between the
blinds.

Sophie picks up the baseball bat and looks through the peep
hole.

SOPHIE
Oh my god!

Sophie drops the bat and unlocks the door.

JAMES
Who is it?

Sophie ignores James and opens the door to her boyfriend, Kurt.

EXT. PORCH - TRAILER HOME - AFTERNOON

Sophie hugs Kurt enthusiastically.

SOPHIE
It's so good to see you!

Kurt hangs his head low, avoiding eye contact. Sophie pulls
back.

SOPHIE
What's wrong? Kurt, look at me.

Sophie nudges his chin up. He pulls his hair back to reveal an
X on his forehead.

SOPHIE
Hurry, get inside.

Sophie looks around to make sure the coast is clear as Kurt enters the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sophie closes and locks the door.

James looks Kurt up and down.

JAMES
Who's this joker?

KURT
(to James)
Nice bathrobe.

SOPHIE
Dad, this is my boyfriend Kurt.

KURT
Dad? I thought you said your dad was dead.

JAMES
Oh, very nice Sophie.
(to Kurt)
Hey, is that what I think it is?

James points at the X on Kurt's forehead. Kurt hangs his head in shame.

JAMES
No! Get out! Now!

SOPHIE
Hey, you're not the boss around here. I am! He's staying.

JAMES
No way.

SOPHIE
I pay the bills now. My house, my rules.

JAMES
You don't have to pay for anything now that I'm here. I promise.

Sophie rolls her eyes.

SOPHIE
Yeah right.

JAMES
Look. We're all unmarked, and I
want to keep it that way.

SOPHIE
We could get X'ed any minute.

JAMES
If we haven't by now --

SOPHIE
We don't know who's branding
people. Or how they're doing it.
Would you kick Alex or I out if we
get one next?

James doesn't know what to say.

SOPHIE
Family is the only thing we have
left. Something you clearly
haven't valued for a long time.

JAMES
Soph --

SOPHIE
I vote he stays. If you don't like
it, you can take your ass back to
prison. Leave my bathrobe on your
way out.

JAMES
Sophie, you don't understand.

SOPHIE
No, you don't --

ALEX
Ahhhhh!

Alex grabs onto his ears and doubles over in pain. Sophie and James both go to him.

SOPHIE
Alex, what's wrong?

The boy wriggles on the ground in agony, holding his ears.

Sophie tries to comfort him, but he's moving too much.

KURT
What's wrong with him?

JAMES
(to Kurt)
Hey, back up. Give us some space.

KURT
Geez, I'm just trying to help.
Alex stops moving. Sophie touches his cheek.

SOPHIE
Alex? Say something.
The boy's eyes fly open and he inhales deeply.

SOPHIE
Oh thank god.
Sophie hugs Alex. James rubs his back.

SOPHIE
How you feeling, Alex? What happened?

ALEX
You guys didn't hear that?

JAMES
Hear what?

ALEX
They're coming.

SOPHIE
Who's coming?

JAMES
Yeah buddy, who? Who's coming?

Static WHITE NOISE suddenly fills the TV screen. Everyone looks at it with concern.

ALEX
Can you hear them?

SOPHIE
Hear who?

The TV BLARES out a weird FREQUENCY. Everyone braces and protects their ears. Everyone except Alex.

Sophie falls to her knees, overpowered by the sound.

Everything sounds MUFFLED, and then an unseen VOICE speaks.

MYSTERIOUS VOICE (O.S.)
Hello. Please, don't be afraid. We are here to help you with the upcoming harvest. Phase one is complete, and we will now implement the second step of the process. To anyone who has been marked, we invite you to kindly step outside. Raise your hands in the air, and someone will attend to you shortly. Please save yourself any suffering by cooperating with us. Your world will never be the same, but what comes next is far better. I leave you now in the love and light of the one Infinite Creator.

Sophie's ears RING as she reels from the message.

The sound ceases, and everyone regains their composure.

JAMES
Everyone okay?

Sophie nods.

James touches Alex's arm and gets down to his level.

JAMES
You okay, kid? Who was that?

ALEX
You hear it now too?

JAMES
Oh yeah. Ladies and gentleman, we now have a man behind the curtain.

SOPHIE
It sounded like a woman to me.

JAMES
Interesting... Whoever it is, they're coming for the marked ones.

KURT
Someone will attend to you... what the heck does that mean? Sounds like a flight attendant or something.

JAMES
 (sarcastic)
 Yeah I'm sure that's exactly what
 it is.

James peeks through the window blinds to check outside.

The TV screen jumps with STATIC before restoring the regularly
 scheduled program.

The newscaster sits dumbfounded.

NEWSCASTER
 Holy shit! Um, I mean, wow. We're
 live, and you've heard it here
 first folks. Someone, we don't
 know who, requested that all
 marked individuals, essentially...
 surrender... Our producers are
 trying to chase the signal to find
 its origins.

ALEX
 They're coming!

JAMES
 (to Kurt)
 Get out.

KURT
 What? No way!

JAMES
 You heard 'em. They'll find you
 anyway. You have to surrender.
 Don't put us in harm's way.

KURT
 (to James)
 Who will find me? What will they
 do to me?
 (to Sophie)
 I don't want to get dissected like
 some science experiment!

Kurt hyperventilates.

KURT
 Sophie... Babe, please.

SOPHIE
 Everyone just be quiet for a
 second. I need to think.

JAMES
I'm gonna go get dressed.
(to Kurt)
When I come back, you better be
gone.

James steps into the bathroom. Sophie hugs Kurt.

SOPHIE
Everything's gonna be alright.

KURT
What did I do to deserve this? I'm
a good guy. I get good grades. I'm
on the football team. I'm too
handsome to die so soon!

ALEX
Don't fear the harvest.

Kurt turns to Alex.

KURT
What'd you say?

ALEX
You can't escape the harvest. No
one can.

Kurt grabs Alex's shoulders and shakes him.

KURT
What does that mean, you weirdo?
What the heck do you know about
this crazy mark on my forehead?

SOPHIE
Leave him alone, Kurt! He's just a
kid.

ALEX
Let go of me!

Kurt shakes Alex more.

KURT
Who are they? What are they gonna
do to me? Huh?

ALEX
Don't touch me!

KURT
Tell me what you know!

James runs out, fully clothed.

JAMES
What's going on?

James pushes Kurt off Alex. Kurt stumbles backward.

JAMES
(to Alex)
You okay, buddy?

Alex nods.

Sophie helps Kurt up, but then pushes him away.

SOPHIE
What the heck, Kurt? He's just a
kid.

KURT
Didn't you hear what he said? It's
like he knows something.

SOPHIE
We all heard it. He's trying to
figure this out just like the rest
of us.

Alex stares at Kurt, deadpan.

Sophie goes to Alex.

SOPHIE
Do you know something about all
this, Alex?

ALEX
It's the synchronicity we've all
been hoping for.

KURT
What the heck does that mean? He's
crazy, man!

Kurt paces.

JAMES
Hey, don't call my kid crazy.
You've overstayed your welcome,
punk.

SOPHIE
Leave him alone, dad!

KURT
Sophie, can we talk in private
please?

SOPHIE
Sure, come on.

Sophie grabs Kurt's hand and walks him into the bedroom.

JAMES
(to Alex)
Come on, kid. Let's play.

James addresses the toy soldiers that are arranged into an indistinguishable SHAPE.

JAMES
Here we go. This looks fun.

James picks up a toy soldier. Alex takes it away.

ALEX
No, that one goes there.

JAMES
Okay. You show me how you like it.

Alex picks up another toy soldier and places it.

JAMES
I know I haven't been around
much... but you can trust me. Tell
me more about this
synchronicity...

Alex shrugs as he mindlessly places the toys. James watches with worry.

INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Sophie sits on the bed with Kurt.

KURT
There's something I have to tell
you. I did something really
stupid.

SOPHIE
Okay...

KURT
My mark... It's fake. It's not
real.

SOPHIE

What?

KURT

Some of the guys from the football team were feeling bad for kids like Chuck and Gina. So we all decided to mark each other to make the others feel better about it. You know?

Sophie wipes a tear from Kurt's cheek.

SOPHIE

That's so sweet of you, but also really stupid. What were you thinking?

KURT

I didn't know what the marks meant. I thought it was a big joke. Now I've got to surrender to some unseen voice? It's not fair, Soph.

Sophie comforts Kurt.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex places the last toy soldier with a smile.

ALEX

There, it's done.

From a bird's eye view, the soldiers are in the shape of the MERKABA SYMBOL seen earlier; spray-painted on the street and in the bathroom mirror.

James doesn't notice.

JAMES

Cool. Now let me show you how it's really done.

James picks up a toy soldier.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sophie holds Kurt's hands.

SOPHIE

It's okay. I'll protect you. We won't let anyone take you.

KURT

How are you gonna do that?

SOPHIE

I'm resourceful. We'll think of something. I promise.

Kurt kisses Sophie. They make out.

Kurt caresses Sophie's breast. She moans softly, but abruptly pushes his hand away as he moves down to her thighs.

SOPHIE

Hey, my family is right outside the door.

KURT

Babe, this might be the end. Don't you want to be with me?

SOPHIE

Of course I do, but...

Sophie looks at the cheap door separating them and her family. She contemplates.

SOPHIE

I've got to keep an eye on Alex.

KURT

Your dad's here now. He's got it covered. You can finally take a break.

Kurt kisses Sophie again. She gives in for a beat, but then pulls away.

KURT

Come on.

SOPHIE

We've got to stay sharp. I'm going to tell my dad that your mark is fake. He can help us strategize keeping you safe.

KURT

He won't believe me! He hates me.

SOPHIE

He doesn't even know you. We've got to try.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

James and Alex play meaningfully with the toy soldiers, bringing them to life.

JAMES
Duck for cover. This thing is
gonna blow. Boooooommm!

James throws a bunch of soldiers in the air as if a bomb went off.

From a bird's eye view, the MERKABA SYMBOL collapses.

Alex picks up the soldiers and begins to rebuild the symbol.

Sophie comes out of the bedroom. She smiles at James and sits down next to him.

ALEX
(to Sophie)
We're planning an attack on the
enemy!

SOPHIE
How fun! See Alex, I told you it's
better to actually play with them
instead of just lining them up all
the time.

Sophie grabs a soldier to get in on the fun.

ALEX
Yeah, let's get all the marked
soldiers and make them surrender.

SOPHIE
Oh. Alright...

James marches a toy soldier across the coffee table.

JAMES
Incoming! Duck for cover. Boom!

Alex laughs as James throws soldiers into the air.

Kurt slinks out of the bedroom and joins them sheepishly.

SOPHIE
Hey, maybe Kurt can play while I
chat with dad in the kitchen?

JAMES
Okay, sure.

Kurt picks up a soldier and joins Alex while Sophie and James walk into the adjoining kitchen.

KURT
Hey little dude, sorry about
earlier. I'm freaking out, man.
Can I play?

Alex ignores Kurt while he rebuilds his MERKABA SYMBOL.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JAMES
What's up buttercup?

There's no wall separating them from the living room so Sophie whispers.

SOPHIE
Kurt's X is fake.

JAMES
Ha! Is that what he told you?

Sophie locks eyes with Kurt from the other room.

SOPHIE
Yeah and I believe it.

JAMES
He's lying.

SOPHIE
Just because you're a liar,
doesn't mean everyone else is too.
We've got to protect him. Cause
that's what families do.

JAMES
... Alright. I hear you loud and
clear. He can stay for now. If
it's really fake, whoever is
making the marks should know that
too. Right?

SOPHIE
Right.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sophie and James rejoin Kurt and Alex. Sophie whispers in Kurt's ear.

SOPHIE
You can stay.

Kurt smiles. Sophie grabs a toy soldier.

SOPHIE
Okay, what's the next plan of
attack?

ALEX
Sophie's on my team!

There's a KNOCK on the door.

JAMES
Shhh. Did you hear that?

KNOCK. KNOCK. Everyone stops cold.

JAMES
Room service?

SOPHIE
(whispers)
Not funny, dad.

JAMES
(to Kurt)
Your ride must be here. You better
hope they believe your little
story.

Kurt paces frantically.

KURT
No! They can't be here already.
How could they find me so fast?

Sophie picks up the baseball bat.

James nods and inches toward the door. He looks through the
peep hole.

JAMES
There's no one here.

SOPHIE
Weird.

JAMES
Stay put. I'll investigate.

James walks into the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

James opens the window and climbs out.

EXT. TRAILER HOME - AFTERNOON

James jumps down from the bedroom window and sneaks around the side of the house.

He looks around the corner to the front door. No one's there.

JAMES
(to himself)
Punk kids playing tricks?

James walks to the front door and looks around the neighborhood. It looks deserted.

MAX (O.S.)
Ding dong.

James whips around. Standing on the roof with gun drawn is his cellmate, Max.

MAX
Miss me?

JAMES
Crap. What do you want, Max?

MAX
I'm here for sweet, sweet justice.

Max jumps off the roof and points his gun at James' chest.

James puts his hands up.

MAX
Let's go inside and talk, shall we?

JAMES
We can talk right here.

MAX
Open the door or I'll blow that smug look off your face.

James reluctantly knocks on the front door.

A beat later, Alex opens the door. James walks in backward with hands up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max steps into the house with gun drawn.

Sophie jumps out from behind the door and slams the baseball bat into Max's back.

Max barely flinches and focuses the gun on her instead.

JAMES

Whoa. Okay, okay. Stay calm, Max.
It was an honest mistake. Sophie,
get over here.

Sophie drops the bat and hides behind her father.

SOPHIE

Dad, who is this? One of your
prison buddies?

MAX

I thought we were friends, but you
never told me you had such a
pretty daughter. You know, now
that I'm out, I'm on the hunt for
a new lady.

JAMES

Let's keep this between you and
me, Max.

Max closes the door behind him without taking his eyes off his new hostages.

MAX

How dare you leave me behind. Did
you really think you'd get away
with that? I warned you...

JAMES

(to Max)

If you need a place to hide out
until things die down, that's
cool, man. But put the gun away.

(to Sophie)

Make our guest a sandwich.

Sophie's lip curls with disgust.

JAMES

Go on.

She inches into the kitchen area.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sophie looks around the cluttered counter, trying not to freak out. She grabs a sharp KNIFE to cut a tomato and contemplates its other uses.

MAX (O.S.)
Hey, no funny business in there.

BACK TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max points his gun at Kurt.

MAX
(to Kurt)
They got you too, huh?

KURT
Did you hear their live stream?
They want us to surrender.
(whimpering)
We're dead, man.

MAX
Speak for yourself, Ferris
Bueller. I survived twenty years
in prison, never got one anal
probe. You know what I'm saying?

KURT
What are you gonna do?

MAX
I'mma kill every last one of 'em
if I have to. I already took out
at least a dozen.

Max leans in toward Kurt.

MAX
(whispers)
They bleed gold.

KURT
Huh?

MAX
(calls out)
Where's my sandwich?

The boom of Max's voice startles Kurt.

JAMES
(to Kurt)
Don't listen to him.

Sophie walks into the living room and puts the sandwich on the counter for Max.

SOPHIE
Here ya go.

As Sophie slinks past Max, he grabs her wrist and pulls her into his big body.

MAX
You're a fine little thing to
spend the apocalypse with.

SOPHIE
Leave me alone.

Sophie rips her wrist out of his grip.

Max feels up Sophie's backside as she walks away. He doesn't notice the KNIFE that's in her other back pocket.

JAMES
Hey, keep your grubby mitts off my
daughter!

KURT
(mumbles, scared)
That's my girlfriend.

Max cocks his pistol.

MAX
Everyone shut up and get on the
couch now!

James and Sophie join Alex on the couch.

MAX
Even you, Ferris Bueller.

KURT
Come on, man.

Max motions with his gun for Kurt to do as he says.

KURT
We're in this together, brother. X
marks the spot. What was your name
again? Max?

MAX
Shut up so I can eat my sandwich
in peace.

Kurt squeezes onto the couch next to James, who is not pleased with their close proximity.

Max puts the gun on the counter and inhales his sandwich like he's never eaten before.

JAMES
(to Max)
What's your end game here? You
don't think they'll find you?

Max finishes his sandwich and picks his gun back up

MAX
Not if they find him first.

Max points the gun back at Kurt.

KURT
Wait, what?

Kurt puts his hands in the air.

JAMES
Put your hands down.

KURT
(whimpers)
I don't wanna die.

MAX
I'll string you up crucifixion
style. That'll distract attention
from me.

JAMES
You go do that. Don't let the door
hit you on your way out.

SOPHIE
Dad! You're not really gonna let
this skinhead string up my
boyfriend, are you?

KURT
(to James)
Yeah what'd I ever do to you? I
took good care of Sophie while you
were... away.

JAMES
 (to Kurt)
 Shut up.
 (to Sophie)
 I'm trying to protect you.

SOPHIE
 I don't need your protection.

MAX
 Family reunion not going so good,
 huh Jimmy boy? Looks like I'm not
 the only one with daddy issues.

SOPHIE
 Kurt's mark isn't even real. He
 carved it himself.

MAX
 (to Sophie)
 Ha! Is that what he told you?
 (to Kurt)
 Nice try, Ferris.

SOPHIE
 He's telling the truth!

MAX
 Enough with the family drama!

James, Sophie, Kurt, and Max all talk over each other.

JAMES
 Sophie, this guy is
 dangerous so just please
 follow my lead.

SOPHIE
 You somehow managed to bring
 prison home to us!

KURT
 (whimpers)
 I'm not ready to die.

MAX
 If I can't find rope, I'll
 nail you to the front door.

No one notices what Alex is up to...

ANGLE ON:

Alex sits on the couch next to Sophie. He notices the KNIFE sticking out of her back pocket. He slowly and silently pulls it out.

Alex slips off the couch onto the floor with the knife. He hides behind the sofa where no one can see him.

Alex holds out his left hand. He drags the knife over his palm, drawing blood. He swiftly cuts an X into his hand.

He moves to the window behind the sofa and presses his bloody hand onto the glass.

Alex removes his hand, revealing a bloody X print on the window. He smiles at his handiwork.

EXT. TRAILER HOME - LATE AFTERNOON

As the sun dips low on the horizon, the BLOODY X PRINT on the window marks their location.

Two beings we'll call the BLONDES are across the street; one FEMALE and one MALE. They're humanoid; tall with bronze skin, white eyes, golden blonde hair, and chiseled jawbones.

The male turns toward their trailer home, sensing Alex's bloody X. He ominously points in their direction, and the female slowly turns to look. Her white eyes glow. A brief glimpse at the dangers that lurk just outside...

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Sophie, James, Kurt, and Max's argument ensues.

MAX

Maybe I'll mark all of ya with an X and string up the whole lot of you, if you don't shut up!

JAMES

That won't be necessary. We'll cooperate, make sure you're not found.

KURT

Can't we all work together? We could set up some Home Alone style booby traps around the house.

MAX

(to Kurt)

You're not too bright, are you?

JAMES

Yeah shut up, Kurt. Let me handle this.

SOPHIE

Don't tell him to shut up. You're just as bad as you're bestie over here. We're not taking orders from an escaped convict.

MAX
(to Sophie)
You'll do whatever I say, and I
have a lot to tell you in
particular.
(to James)
Jimmy boy, go get me some rope.

Alex gets up from behind the sofa and taps Sophie.

ALEX
I hurt myself. Can you help me?

Alex shows Sophie his hand. She looks to see if anyone else saw it. The guys are too engrossed in their own drama to notice.

JAMES
Calm down, Max. We don't have any
rope.

KURT
There's gotta be another way!

Sophie closes Alex's palm and walks him toward the bathroom.

MAX
(to Sophie)
Hey! Where do you think you're
going?

SOPHIE
He's got a cut. I'm going to patch
him up.

She shows the blood on her hands.

JAMES
Let me take him!

MAX
(to James)
You stay here.
(to Sophie)
Leave the door open and make it
quick. Let me get a little kiss on
your way out.

Sophie's eyes silently plead with James to protect her.

JAMES
(to Max with conviction)
Back off.

Max belly laughs.

MAX
(to Sophie, leering)
A real daddy's girl, huh?

SOPHIE
Please, Alex is hurt!

Max rolls his eyes. He waves the gun toward the bathroom, permission for them to go.

INT. BATHROOM - TRAILER HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Sophie leaves the door open just a crack.

Alex sits on the closed toilet while Sophie opens the vanity for first aid supplies. Instead, she finds James' wad of CASH.

SOPHIE
(to herself)
What the? That bastard.

She slides the money in the back of her jeans and pulls out a first aid kit.

Sophie tends to Alex's wound.

SOPHIE
How are you holding up, Alex? I
know this is all a lot to take in.

ALEX
Don't worry, sister. Everything
will be okay once the harvest is
over.

Sophie tapes gauze to Alex's hand.

SOPHIE
Do you know what the harvest
means?

Alex doesn't respond.

SOPHIE
Hey, this isn't some video game.
Okay? This is life or death.

Alex smiles and hugs his sister.

ALEX
Thank you for all the sacrifices
you made on my behalf. I'm so
grateful to be under your care.
(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
You've really shaped the person
I've become.

Sophie is speechless. A tear falls down her cheek.

SOPHIE
You're welcome... but who are you
and what have you done with my
little punk brother?

Alex puts his forehead on Sophie's to comfort her.

ALEX
Come on. It's time.

SOPHIE
Time for what?

Another strange FREQUENCY BLARES, causing Sophie to protect her ears.

SOPHIE
Ah!

Alex isn't affected.

A large SPOTLIGHT floods the trailer home with bright light.
Sophie squints her eyes.

The frequency stops, but the light remains. Sophie exhales and regains her composure.

YELLING escalates from the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sophie and Alex rush in and find Max holding a gun to Kurt's head.

Kurt sobs uncontrollably.

SOPHIE
(to Max)
No! Leave him alone!
(to James)
Dad, do something!

JAMES
I don't know what to do, kiddo.
They're gonna get him one way or
another.

Tears stream down Sophie's face.

SOPHIE
(to James)
You're such a coward. And a liar.
What is this, dad?

Sophie grabs the cash out of her jeans and throws it at James.
It flies everywhere.

SOPHIE
Where'd that come from? Huh?

JAMES
I tried to tell you where it was
so you wouldn't have to struggle
while I was away, but you wouldn't
accept my calls.

With gun still trained on Kurt, Max bends down to pick up some
of the cash and stuffs it in his pocket.

SOPHIE
I don't want your dirty money! You
said you were innocent!

JAMES
Soph --

MAX
Everyone shut up or I'll blow his
brains all over the place.
(to Kurt)
Maybe you'll bleed gold too.

Kurt cries.

KURT
Please don't kill me. I'll do
whatever you say. I'll distract
them so you can get away. Whatever
man, just please don't kill me.

ALEX
(calmly to Max)
You can't hide. They will find you
too.

MAX
(to James)
Shut your bastard kid up or he's
dead.

ALEX
 (to Max)
 Don't you want to survive the
 harvest?

Max turns the gun on Alex.

SOPHIE
 Whoa, chill Max.

Sophie steps in front of Alex, putting herself in the line of
 fire.

SOPHIE
 (to Alex)
 What's the harvest, buddy? Tell
 Max all about it.

MAX
 Yeah tell Uncle Max everyth --

A loud KNOCK on the door shuts Max up. Everyone tenses.

A sweet voice calls from outside.

BLONDE #1 (O.S.)
 We greet you in the love and light
 of the one Infinite Creator. We
 are here to gather the marked
 ones. We know you're in there.

A moment of silence between everyone in the room.

Sweat drips down Sophie's forehead as she looks at the madman
 holding her at gunpoint.

Behind her, Alex looks at Max with a creepy, serene smile.

Kurt struggles to control his sobbing.

Max cocks his pistol.

The ceiling fan whirrs. Everyone on edge, waiting for the next
 move...

The door slowly UNLOCKS ITSELF.

Max pushes Kurt toward the front door and moves swiftly to the
 bedroom.

MAX
 (whispers)
 They can take Ferris Bueller.
 (MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)
 If you tell them I'm here, I'll
 kill the lot of you.

Max slides into the nearby bedroom, closes and locks the door.
 Kurt stands at the front door motionless, speechless, hopeless.
 The front doorknob turns slowly. The door swings open,
 revealing the two Blondes; one female (#1) one male (#2). They
 look like golden gods wearing all white.
 They walk slowly and calmly inside, each step in perfect
 unison. There's a calm confidence to them. They're clearly in
 control.

Kurt stands in front of them like a sacrificial lamb. He pees
 his pants.

KURT
 (whimpers)
 Please don't hurt me.

SOPHIE
 (to Blondes)
 Leave him alone. His... his X is
 fake.

The male Blonde steps in toward Kurt, examining him closely.
 Kurt quivers in its presence.

SOPHIE
 Please...

The female Blonde turns to Sophie, who tenses.

BLONDE #1
 His mark is authentic.

SOPHIE
 What? No...

Kurt avoids eye contact with Sophie and cries.

Sophie reels from this news. James tries to comfort her, but
 she pulls away from him.

The Blonde's facial expressions remain unchanged as their heads
 turn in unison toward Alex. They exchange no words. Instead,
 they speak to the boy TELEPATHICALLY.

Alex nods and points to the bedroom door.

Sophie exchanges worried glances with James. Is Alex really
 able to communicate with these beings?!

The Blondes walk slowly and silently toward the bedroom door.

Kurt takes off running.

The male Blonde looks back at Kurt and reaches out his hand. He pulls Kurt back with an UNSEEN FORCE.

Kurt falls and hits his head on the threshold of the front door. He's knocked unconscious.

SOPHIE

Kurt!

Sophie goes to him.

The Blondes turn their attention to the bedroom door. The knob slowly twists on its own, under their mind control, and the door flies open.

Max lets off four rounds in swift succession. The BANGS of the gun pierce through the tense silence. The male Blonde holds his hands up for protection.

James, Sophie, and Alex duck for cover.

The bullets bounce off the Blondes like paper airplanes. They stand unharmed.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max hunches behind the nightstand. He reloads his gun and kisses it.

MAX

(whispers to himself)

I'll make you proud of your boy by
spilling their tainted blood in
the streets.

(yells out)

I am the superior species! I'll
never give up. I'll never give in!

An invisible FORCE grabs Max and whips him backward.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The force pulls Max back into the main room.

Gun in one hand, Max grips the thin worn carpet with the other. It rips off the floor as he wrestles against the Blonde's mind control.

The male Blonde effortlessly drags Max toward their feet with his mind. They loom over him like golden gods.

BLONDE #1
(to Max)
Oh, how you love to suffer.

Max looks up at the Blondes with disgust. He shoots at them, but the bullets bounce off them and fall to the floor.

BLONDE #1
Your bullets do not affect us. Do you surrender yourself to the harvest?

Max thinks.

MAX
Fine. I give up. You win, you freaks.

Max stands and holds his hands in the air to surrender.

BLONDE #1
Please step outside.

Max walks toward the front door. He pivots and grabs Alex as hostage.

Max pushes his gun into Alex's temple.

ALEX
Sophie, help!

SOPHIE
No, Max! Leave him alone!

Sophie lunges at Max in a desperate attempt to save her brother.

Max easily fends her off with his shoulder. She falls back onto the sofa.

JAMES
(to Blondes)
You two gonna do something about this or should I?

The Blondes exchange glances with each other, but do not respond.

James squares off with Max.

JAMES

Game over, Max. Leave my boy and walk out of here with what little dignity you have left.

MAX

No way I'm letting these mutants scramble my brains for breakfast.

Max, with Alex as hostage, inches toward the front door. James stands in his way.

MAX

Move, old man.

JAMES

I can't let you hurt my boy.

MAX

I'll kill him with great pleasure. No one stands in my way, especially you. I won't make that mistake again.

Sophie moves behind Max. She grabs the baseball bat and swings it at the back of his head.

Max falls to his knees, giving James just enough time to pull Alex away.

MAX

(screams)

Don't mess with me!

BANG! The gun goes off amongst the scuffle.

Sophie flinches. Tears run down her face.

SOPHIE

Alex! Please no...

ALEX

I'm okay!

Alex crawls toward Sophie. They embrace.

James slumps down to the ground.

SOPHIE

Dad!

Sophie and Alex race to James' side as he clutches his gut. Blood rushes out from his fresh wound.

Max tucks the gun in his pants and smiles at his handiwork; James on the floor trying to mask his pain, Sophie and Alex shook with terror.

The male Blonde uses its mind-force to move Max out the front door, where Kurt is starting to wake up.

Max struggles against the Blonde's unseen force, but it's too strong. He complies and walks outside.

The Blondes leave with Max and Kurt. They don't look back.

Sophie examines James' bloody stomach wound.

SOPHIE
 (to Alex)
 Quick, grab all the towels from
 the bathroom.

Alex follows her command.

SOPHIE
 Hang in there, dad. We're gonna
 stop the bleeding, okay?

James nods through the pain.

JAMES
 There's a gun in the bathroom...

James coughs.

JAMES
 Third tile from the back.

SOPHIE
 You're just full of surprises,
 aren't you? Well, it's too late
 for that now.

EXT. TRAILER HOME - SUNSET

Kurt and Max kneel in front of The Blondes. Kurt rubs his head, still coming to.

A large SPACECRAFT looms over them. With the diameter of ten city miles, this thing is not from around here. The circular structure has a smooth white surface with the MERKABA SYMBOL carved into the belly out of pure gold.

BLONDE #1
 The harvest is upon us. Please,
 enjoy the drink of Razelle.

The male Blonde holds up a golden chalice.

MAX

No way I'm drinking your kool-aid.

BLONDE #1

We will not force you, but trust us when we say the drink makes your experience more palatable.

KURT

(whimpers)

I'll take it. I don't want to feel whatever you're going to do to me.

The male Blonde brings the chalice to Kurt's lips. He drinks.

BLONDE #1

Wise choice.

MAX

(to Kurt)

They've got you now, Ferris.

Max flicks dirt up from the ground and flings it at the Blondes. They don't even flinch.

Max runs away toward the nearby woods.

BLONDE #2

That one is willful, isn't he?

BLONDE #1

There's still time to get him too. Let's finish this one first.

The male Blonde holds a pen-like device in front of Kurt that projects a series of cryptic HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGES; the flower of life symbol, the MERKABA, the seed of life symbol, the MERKABA, the fruit of life symbol, the MERKABA...

Kurt stares at the holograms with glazed over eyes.

Sophie stumbles out of the house, covered in blood.

SOPHIE

Kurt! Are you okay?

No response. Kurt stares at the hologram like a zombie.

Sophie sees the spaceship in the sky and takes it in.

SOPHIE

(to herself)

The mark of the beast...

Alex steps out and stands next to Sophie. She covers his eyes.

SOPHIE
(to Alex)
Don't look at their weird symbols.
It could brainwash you.

Alex removes her hands from his face.

ALEX
It's okay, sister. The symbols are
the keeper of secrets. It's the
truth we seek.

Sophie looks at Alex with concern.

SOPHIE
They've gotten to you somehow,
haven't they?

The hologram stops. The Blondes smile.

BLONDE #1
(to Sophie)
You have nothing to be concerned
about.

Kurt suddenly foams at the mouth. He faints and his body convulses on the ground.

SOPHIE
(to Blondes)
What have you done to him?

BLONDE #1
Strange. His body is rejecting the
alignment.

BLONDE #2
Yes. He's a good candidate for
communion.

BLONDE #1
There's too much interference here
to perform the ritual in peace.

The Blondes speak TELEPATHICALLY to Alex. He nods and points to the nearby woods. They nod back.

Sophie watches the exchange in horror.

The male Blonde picks Kurt up and carries his body toward the tree line. The female Blonde walks in unison with the male.

SOPHIE
 (calls after the Blondes)
 Where are you taking him? Leave
 him alone, you monsters!

No response as they whisk Kurt away.

Sophie shakes Alex's shoulders.

SOPHIE
 Where are they taking Kurt? What
 are they gonna do to him?

ALEX
 Don't interfere with the ritual.

Sophie looks inside the house at her father bleeding out on the floor. She looks back at the Blondes carrying Kurt into the forest.

A moment of choice...

SOPHIE
 Come on.

Sophie grabs Alex's hand and starts toward the forest, but Alex digs his heels in.

ALEX
 Sophie, no.

SOPHIE
 I said, come on.

Reluctant, Alex joins Sophie and they follow the Blondes toward the woods.

EXT. FOREST - SUNSET

Sophie cautiously walks through the trees with Alex in tow.

SOPHIE
 (whispers)
 What are they planning? Tell me
 everything you know. Now!

Alex doesn't respond.

SOPHIE
 Please. What are they going to do
 to him? I need to come up with a
 plan.

No response. Sophie tears up.

SOPHIE

Alex, I care about Kurt. I don't want to see him get hurt, okay?

Alex stops walking. He studies a shape that's been carved into the mud. It's the MERKABA SYMBOL.

SOPHIE

What is it? What does it mean?

Alex's eyes glaze over as he stares at the MERKABA in the ground.

He falls to his knees and holds his ears. He's getting another frequency download that Sophie can't hear.

SOPHIE

Are you okay? What's happening?

Alex convulses on the ground.

SOPHIE

Oh my god, not again.
Alex!

Alex continues to convulse.

After a beat, he stops moving and regains consciousness. Sophie swoops him up in her arms and comforts him.

SOPHIE

Are you okay? Tell me what's going on. Please.

ALEX

Time's running out. Everything must be in alignment for the harvest.

SOPHIE

What should we do?

ALEX

We don't have to do anything. You and I... We're ready.

SOPHIE

Ready for what?

ALEX

For the harvest.

SOPHIE

I don't feel ready...

Sophie wipes her tears.

SOPHIE

No. Come on. We have to save Kurt.
We can't leave him with them. Are
you okay to walk?

Sophie helps Alex up and marches onward.

Alex bends down and retraces the MERKABA SYMBOL in the ground
with his finger. He smiles and exhales deeply.

Sophie doubles back for her brother.

SOPHIE

Hurry up! I don't want to lose
them.

Up ahead, the trees shake. A BOOM echoes around them.

Sophie grabs Alex.

SOPHIE

Stay close.

Sophie turns 360, surveying the trees for any potential
threats.

Seeing nothing but trees, she cautiously continues on the path.
They walk into a thicket...

...And come out the other side. A tall pile of freshly fallen
trees blocks the path.

SOPHIE

They must know we're coming for
them. Let's climb over.

ALEX

It's not safe.

SOPHIE

We've got to do something. I'd
never forgive myself if something
happened to Kurt.

ALEX

You will.

SOPHIE

I won't!

ALEX

I can see you're very distressed.

SOPHIE
Distressed? That doesn't even
scratch the surface.

ALEX
I don't want you to suffer,
sister. Stand back if it'll make
you feel better.

Sophie stands behind Alex as he grabs a stick and draws the MERKABA SYMBOL into the ground three times in a row in front of the logs.

Alex closes his eyes and lifts his hands up. He inhales deeply.

With a loud grunt, Alex thrusts his hands forward.

The trees are pushed back by an unseen FORCE coming from Alex's hands.

The trees obey his invisible command. The path is now clear.

SOPHIE
How did you do that?

ALEX
The answer may be distressing.

SOPHIE
Never mind then, let's find Kurt.
You can use that power to tear
those freaky aliens in two.

Another BOOM up ahead. Sophie tenses and listens.

SOPHIE
They're close. Stay here while I
investigate and come up with a
game plan.

Sophie slinks up ahead on her own.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

The male Blonde lays Kurt on a thick, freshly fallen log while the female rolls out a white cloth filled with golden instruments, similar to a dentist's tool kit.

Sophie peeks over a nearby bush and sees them prepping to dissect.

EXT. FOREST - DUSK

Alex sits on a rock. He hums as he carves the MERKABA SYMBOL into the ground with a stick. He speaks in a "native tongue."

ALEX
Merkaba, luxa, coporum, vit a quad
casarum.

A nearby bush moves, but Alex doesn't notice. His eyes are glazed over in a daze as he stares at the MERKABA.

A HAND grabs Alex from behind, covering his mouth. He tries to scream, but is muffled.

Max leans in and whispers in Alex's ear.

MAX
Scream and I'll kill you.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Sophie watches from the sideline as the male Blonde uses a stick to mark the ground.

From a bird's eye view, the Blonde carves a large MERKABA SYMBOL around the log where Kurt lies.

The female Blonde rips Kurt's shirt open. She takes a golden instrument and cuts into Kurt's chest.

Sophie winces from afar. The dissection has begun. What can she do to stop them?

The male Blonde walks over to the female and Kurt. He takes out his pen-like device that projects the series of cryptic HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGES; the flower of life symbol, the MERKABA, the seed of life symbol, the MERKABA, the fruit of life symbol, the MERKABA...

Sophie's eyes are drawn to the images. She tries to look away, but can't. Her eyes glaze over.

The female stops cutting. A MERKABA SYMBOL is perfectly carved into Kurt's chest.

BLONDE #1
Merkaba, luxa, coporum, vit a quad
casarum.

Sophie manages to break her eyes away from the symbols. She stumbles backward.

SOPHIE

Oh no!

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Sophie stumbles through the trees.

From her POV, glitches of a "4D VISION" flash through her sight.

The trees are made of tiny pixels, the leaves refract light, the ground is made of wave particles.

Sophie falls to her knees and vomits.

She shakes her head, and the "4D vision" glitches away.

SOPHIE

(to herself)

Get a grip, Sophie. For Alex. For Kurt...

Sophie gets up and walks back to the rock where she left Alex, but he's gone.

She sees the MERKABA SYMBOL he carved into the ground.

Her "4D vision" glitches back on, and the symbol radiates a beautiful golden LIGHT.

She rubs her eyes, and the vision glitches away again.

SOPHIE

(whispers)

Alex, where are you?

No response.

Sophie looks around the forest, overwhelmed and unsure what to do.

INT. CAVE - EVENING

Max throws Alex against some rocks at the mouth of a cave. A small fire burns in his makeshift camp.

MAX

Hey freak, tell me how to defeat them. I know you know.

Alex laughs.

ALEX
Your fight is futile.

Max smacks Alex across the face. Alex slowly looks back up with an eery smile, unfazed.

Max cocks his gun and holds it to Alex's temple. The boy's face remains unchanged.

Footsteps outside grab Max's attention.

MAX
Wait here. If you run, I'll shoot you on the spot.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Sophie moves through the trees, searching.

SOPHIE
(whispering)
Alex, this isn't funny. Where are you?

Sophie peeks behind a tree and is met with Max's gun.

MAX
Hello again. Miss me, miss me, now you wanna kiss me?

Sophie sighs and puts her hands in the air.

Max grabs Sophie and kisses her. She pushes him away with disgust. He laughs.

MAX
That's just a sneak peek at what I'm gonna do to you.

SOPHIE
Please, we're on the same team. We both want to defeat the aliens. They've got Kurt about two hundred feet that way. They're performing some sort of ritual or something. You can catch them off guard and kill them. We could save Kurt, and you'll finally be free. Please!

MAX
Shut up and walk over there.

Max points his gun toward the cave.

Sophie sighs and follows his command.

INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Sophie walks into the cave where Alex sits by the fire.

SOPHIE

Alex!

She rushes over to hug him.

SOPHIE

You scared me. I couldn't find you.

ALEX

This savage took me.

Max enters with gun drawn.

MAX

Enough with the lovey-dovey family crap.

(to Sophie)

He isn't your brother. He's one of them.

Sophie's "4D vision" glitches back on.

From her POV, Sophie sees Max and Alex's bodily heat maps. Max is red, and Alex is a golden yellow.

She shakes her head and blinks her eyes rapidly, and the scene returns to normal.

Max looks at Sophie suspiciously.

MAX

Did they get to you too? Are you turning?

SOPHIE

What? No. What do you want from us?

Max points his gun at Alex.

MAX

He's gonna tell me how to defeat them.

SOPHIE

Alex, how do we defeat them?

ALEX
You can't.

MAX
Wrong answer.

Max cocks his gun. Sophie steps in front of Alex to protect him.

SOPHIE
Enough! Put the gun away. We can figure this out rationally.

MAX
Shut up. I'm sick of hearing your crap. I should have murdered you all hours ago.

Max charges at Sophie.

Her "4D vision" glitches back on. She sees Max coming toward her in SLOW MOTION. She sees his action as a blur of "probability waves."

Back in real time, she easily weaves away from Max. He falls forward.

MAX
That's it!

Sophie's "4D vision" glitches on and off.

SOPHIE
What's happening to me?

She blinks feverishly and rubs her eyes, trying to get a grip.

ALEX
Sophie, watch out!

As Sophie rubs her eyes, Max's barrels into her with his big burly body.

SOPHIE
Ah!

She tries to fight him off, but he puts all his weight on top of her.

MAX
You're mine now.

SOPHIE
Never!

Max hits Sophie over the head with the gun. She's knocked unconscious.

MAX
(to Alex)
I'll kill your sister if you don't
tell me the truth. How do I defeat
them?

Alex shakes his head.

ALEX
You don't listen, do you?

Max picks up Sophie's unconscious body and licks her face.

MAX
I think I'll have a little fun
with her first.

No reaction from Alex.

Max gets up and charges toward Alex. He grabs the boy by the throat.

Alex's feet dangle above the ground.

MAX
She's not your sister, is she?
You're one of them now, aren't
you?

Max squeezes Alex's throat.

Alex scratches at Max's hands and face. The boy's eyes grow wide as he struggles to breathe.

Alex closes his eyes and pushes Max back with his mind control. An invisible FORCE field throws Max down to the ground.

Alex crawls away, but Max grabs his feet and pulls the boy close. He grabs back onto Alex's throat.

MAX
Ha! You're not as strong as your
alien buddies, huh? Tell me how to
defeat them and I'll let you live.

Alex coughs out a response.

ALEX
I'm... not... afraid.

Max doubles down, strangling Alex with all his might.

Alex gasps for breath. His body goes limp.

James comes in from behind and hits Max over the head with a rock.

JAMES
Leave my family alone.

Max falls on top of Alex as his body slumps to the ground, unconscious and bleeding.

Alex coughs as he takes a deep inhale.

James steadies himself. His wound is still bleeding.

After he catches his breath, Alex pushes Max off himself with his mind power.

ALEX
Dad!

James wraps Alex in the biggest hug.

JAMES
Hey, kiddo. You okay?

James examines Alex's bruised neck.

ALEX
I'm fine. Check on Sophie.

James nods and goes to Sophie. He cradles and rocks her.

Sophie wakes up in her father's arms.

SOPHIE
Dad? What happened? How'd you get here? You saved us!

They embrace.

JAMES
I'll never leave you guys again. You're the most important thing to me. I'm so sorry for everything I put you through. I want you to know that I was guilty of the embezzlement, but I did it to provide for you guys. It felt like a victimless crime...

Sophie cries in James' arms.

JAMES
Can you ever forgive me?

Sophie nods.

SOPHIE

I forgive you. All that matters is you're here now. I love you, dad.

JAMES

I love you too, honey.

SOPHIE

Will you please help me save Kurt? They're performing an alien autopsy on him or something.

JAMES

It's okay. I've got this.

James hugs and kisses Sophie.

She gets up and extends her hand to James. He winces at his still-bleeding wound as he hobbles to his feet with her help.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - EVENING

The Blondes clean blood off their instruments. Kurt sits up and smiles. The fresh MERKABA incision in his chest quickly HEALS and disappears.

Sophie marches into the clearing with Alex in tow.

James winces with pain and rests on a tree before mustering the energy to follow.

SOPHIE

Kurt! You're awake. Are you okay?

Sophie hugs Kurt. He smiles at her.

KURT

I'm perfect. Everything is perfect.

SOPHIE

What did they do to you?

KURT

They prepared me for the harvest. I'm ready now.

Sophie searches Kurt's face. Like Alex, he is eerily calm. The X on his forehead VANISHES.

Sophie's "4D vision" glitches back into view. Kurt, Alex, and the Blondes' bodily heat maps are all a golden yellow. James' is red.

Sophie turns to the Blondes as they roll their golden instruments back into the cloth.

SOPHIE

Where are you from? What did you do to Kurt and Alex?

BLONDE #1

There is no reason to be upset. They are new and improved.

SOPHIE

You've turned them!

Sophie charges at the female Blonde.

JAMES

Sophie, don't!

James races to hold her back, but his wound bleeds out and he collapses.

SOPHIE

Dad!

Sophie goes to James. He coughs as more blood gushes from his open wound.

JAMES

I'm running out of time. I'm sorry, Sophie.

SOPHIE

No!

The Blondes both look up in unison.

BLONDE #1

We sense another marked one nearby.

The Blondes walk away.

SOPHIE

Hang in there, dad. We'll get you to a hospital.

(to Kurt)

Help me carry him.

KURT

The harvest will be here soon.
There's no reason to worry now.

SOPHIE

Forget the harvest! We've got to
save my dad! He came back here to
save you.

KURT

I don't need saving. And neither
does he.

SOPHIE

(to Alex)

Can you grab dad's legs? Maybe
together we can carry him back to
the house.

Alex goes to James.

ALEX

It's time for the harvest. Can you
hold on a little longer, father?

James coughs and sputters.

JAMES

I... don't know, kiddo. I don't...
want... to leave you again.

The WIND picks up around them.

Sophie looks up and sees the spacecraft overhead. The MERKABA
SYMBOL on the bottom lights up with a golden glow.

KURT

It's time.

SOPHIE

No, no, no!

Nearby trees shake. The Blondes return.

Max's unconscious body drags behind them by their unseen
forces. His body floats up onto the fallen log.

The male Blonde rips Max's shirt open as the female unrolls the
golden utensils. She examines Max's tattoos.

BLONDE #1

He's marked with so many symbols
of hate.

The male Blonde nods.

BLONDE #1

We'll give him the power of the
one true symbol.

Kurt and Alex join in by dragging sticks into the ground,
deepening the MERKABA SYMBOL previously marked into the
surrounding dirt.

SOPHIE

Kurt, Alex... what are you doing?
Please, someone help.

(to James)

I can't lose you again, Dad. We're
on our own now.

Sophie cries as Alex and Kurt join the Blondes in their ritual.

The female Blonde brings the golden scalpel to Max's bare
chest. Just as the blade touches his skin, Max's eyes fly open.

MAX

Not today, freaks.

Max punches the female Blonde. The alien is caught off guard
and actually takes the hit. The scalpel falls just shy of
James' head.

SOPHIE

(to James)

Come on. We can't stay here. We
have to get you some real help.

Sophie takes a deep breath. She grits her teeth and picks James
up with every ounce of her strength.

SOPHIE

Ahhhhhhh!

With adrenaline pumping, Sophie carries James away.

Max gets up and squares off with the male Blonde. He swings,
but the Blonde ducks effortlessly.

The female Blonde pushes Max from behind with her mind power.
Max falls, but gets up swinging.

The Blondes, Kurt, and Alex form a circle around Max.

MAX

I am superior and I'll prove it!

Max charges.

MAX

Ahhhhhhh!

The Blondes, Kurt, and Alex all hold their hands up.

An invisible FORCE shoots out from their hands and pummels Max from all sides.

Max's body is lifted above the ground, suspended in air by their combined forces.

BLONDE #1
 (to Max)
 Don't you want to survive the
 harvest?

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

Sophie falls to her knees under James' weight. He coughs and winces.

SOPHIE
 I can't go any further.

JAMES
 It's okay, Sophie. Your days of
 carrying this family are over.
 Let's go.

James struggles to his feet. Sophie props him up, and they hobble through the trees together.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

The invisible FORCE FIELD surrounds Max on all sides. He cannot move and he cannot breathe. One man against four beings with immense mind-power.

Above their heads, the MERKABA SYMBOL on the spacecraft flickers.

In unison, the Blondes, Kurt, and Alex look up toward the sky, listening to an unheard message.

BLONDES, KURT, ALEX
 (in unison)
 It's time.

They all lower their hands. Their force field collapses, and Max falls to his knees.

Max inhales deeply and takes the opportunity to gather his strength.

They all walk away in unison, leaving Max alone.

MAX

That's all you got? Haha! No one in the entire universe can defeat me! Now I'm gonna make you pay.

Max grunts and runs after them.

EXT. SPLENDID GROVE TRAILER PARK - NIGHT

Sophie and James hobble out of the woods.

SOPHIE

Can you get on the motorcycle? Or maybe I can find Mrs. Parker's car keys.

JAMES

The hospitals are probably overrun or shut down by now. I need you to get the bullet out.

SOPHIE

I can't --

JAMES

You can do anything. That I'm sure of.

Sophie and James stumble toward their trailer home.

The Blondes, Kurt, and Alex walk briskly out of the woods behind them.

Sophie looks back and sees them coming.

SOPHIE

Crap, they're back. I don't think Kurt and Alex are on our side anymore.

JAMES

No family member left behind. We've got to save them too.

SOPHIE

How? They've been brainwashed. And god only knows what the harvest actually is.

James struggles to breathe. The spacecraft up above lights up.

JAMES

Whatever it is, it's coming quick.

Sophie looks up at the sky. Her "4D vision" clicks back in.

Behind the spacecraft, she sees a grid of red LASERS that look like a spider web.

SOPHIE

Dad... I think they got me too. I tried not to look at their symbols, but I couldn't help it. Everything's starting to look... different.

JAMES

Fight it, Sophie. Don't give in to it. Whatever happens next, we'll figure it out together.

SOPHIE

I'm trying, but it might be too late for me too.

Sophie and James hug.

The Blondes walk past Sophie and James. They look back and smile at Sophie.

From her "4D POV" the Blondes' golden heat map turns from a golden yellow to black-and-white, like a photographic negative. In this light, their smiles look sinister and dark.

They turn into "waves of probability" and float up into the sky.

Another FREQUENCY BLAST hits. James is affected, but Sophie is not.

JAMES

Ahhhhhh!

She hugs her dad tighter to protect him from the powerful sound.

The frequency ceases. Sophie looks up with normal vision.

The Blondes are gone.

Kurt walks up and caresses Sophie's back. She pushes his hand away.

SOPHIE

Don't touch me!

Alex grabs James' hand.

ALEX
(to James)
No more struggling, okay?

James looks at Sophie and then back at Alex.

JAMES
No more struggling. That sounds
nice.

Max bolts out of the forest brandishing a stick. He runs past
the foursome.

MAX
Where'd they go? I'll kill every
last one of them!

KURT
Unfortunately, not every marked
one could be recovered.

ALEX
That was inevitable. Humans are
willful creatures, aren't they?

Sophie and James look at each other with concern.

The spacecraft up above flickers and DISAPPEARS, leaving
everything eerily dark. No stars are visible, just pollution.

A moment of silence and then the WIND kicks back up.

Kurt, Sophie, James, and Alex stand together amongst the
swirling debris from the neighborhood evacuation.

Max laughs maniacally.

MAX
Ha! No one controls me! I'm free!

Max holds his stick above his head in celebration.

SOPHIE
What now?

ALEX
Now comes the harvest.

SOPHIE
How do you know?

ALEX
They told me.

SOPHIE
Will you finally tell me what the
harvest really is?

Alex smiles.

ALEX
You'll see.

Alex and Kurt close their eyes and smile.

A blinding white LIGHT implodes from nowhere and everywhere at the same time, as if a million atomic bombs landed all at once.

Sophie and James scream, but nothing comes out.

FADE TO WHITE.

EXT. SPLENDID GROVE TRAILER PARK - MORNING

The world refills with color. The scene returns to normal, except now the hues are beautifully saturated. The world is renewed, reprogrammed, rebooted.

Sophie rubs her eyes to adjust to her new surroundings. The blood and dirt from her hands is gone. The debris is gone.

The homes are freshly painted. Splendid Grove Trailer Park looks, well... splendid.

Sophie turns to James. His wrinkles are gone and most importantly, his wound is healed.

James looks down and marvels at his healed stomach. He smiles and lets out a jolly laugh.

He scoops Sophie and Alex up in a big family hug.

Remembering, James looks around for Max. No sign of him or anyone else with an X.

ALEX
Max is gone.

JAMES
(with a sense of knowing)
Anyone who wasn't converted in
time is gone.

SOPHIE
They tried to save them.

Sophie turns to Kurt.

SOPHIE

Why did you lie to me about your mark? Needing a little reprogramming is nothing to be ashamed of.

KURT

I didn't know then what I know now. Can you forgive me?

SOPHIE

Of course.

They hug.

The family looks up into the sky as they all receive a telepathic message from the Blondes.

BLONDE #1 (O.S.)

Welcome to the 4th Dimension. We could not reprogram you all in time, but fear not for those who didn't make it. They will soon be reborn with the proper programming to sustain your upgraded reality. We know you have many questions. Your new, higher consciousness will be your guide. We will forever be looking out for your well-being and are available to help as you transition away from your previous broken systems. We leave you now in the love and light of the one Infinite Creator.

On a happy group hug, zoom out into the sunny blue sky.

INT. SYMBOLS MONTAGE

The cryptic HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGES flicker on screen; the flower of life symbol, the MERKABA, the seed of life symbol, the MERKABA, the fruit of life symbol, the MERKABA...

EXT. OUTER SPACE - MOMENTS LATER

Zoom out of Earth to reveal the Blonde's spacecraft as it flies away.

The MERKABA SYMBOL on the belly of the craft emanates a golden glow.

BLONDE #1 (O.S.)

Reactivate borders.

Red lasers fire and connect to create a chainlink "fence" surrounding our planet. A happy prison of sorts?

THE END