

A futuristic sci-fi scene. In the foreground, a soldier in tactical gear is seen from the back, carrying a rifle. The background features a large, complex alien structure with a glowing green orb in the center, surrounded by various technological elements and a blue-green color palette.

ATLANTICA

WRITTEN BY DONALD SMITH

Survival is tough when you have a world to protect

FADE IN:

EXT. SS ATLANTICA COCKPIT DOORS

From a blockaded metallic entrance, INTENSE GUNFIRE escapes in tandem with thick, black smoke.

Two young female GUARDS create a desperate last stand outside large blast doors.

Through flimsy oxygen masks they look terrified. They try their comms.

GUARD 1

What do we do?

GUARD 2

Keep firing.

The smoke thickens as another gas canister arrives.

They kick it back out.

From the darkness above someone descends. Slowly but surely, a methodical ASSASSIN bears down head-first.

As his arms extend, a sharp metallic point glistens. It penetrates down into the first guard's skull.

Her colleague swivels, ready for vengeance.

She's too late.

Quick as a flash the assassin lands on his feet and THRUSTS THE BLADE SIDEWAYS into the second guard's throat, pinning her to the wall.

INT. SS ATLANTICA COCKPIT

A glimpse of the Spaceship's control room is seen, before -

BOOM!

The doors are BLOWN IN, blending chaos with debris. The crew get back up as the dust settles.

Around the perimeter stands a dangerous gang of rebels.

The leader PEREIRA, 50's, is a tall man in layers of ragged clothing, adorned with metal trinkets. Dreadlocks blanket his heavily-scarred face, inducing visible fear on the bridge.

PEREIRA

At last, we the forgotten gain
control from you privileged few.
Where's our beloved Captain?

ADMIRAL EVANS, 70, a fearsome looking man himself, steps forward courageously.

ADMIRAL EVANS

You won't get away with this - it's
a mutiny!

PEREIRA

No my friend. This is justice.

A red beam CRACKS out of Pereira's blunderbuss, sending a hole through the suddenly-retired Admiral.

He is launched across the room.

SCREAMS fill the air.

PEREIRA (CONT'D)

Who's next in line? Don't worry,
you won't die. Yet.

The slender VICE ADMIRAL GARCIA, early 40's, advances with considerably less gusto than his superior. His eyes convey a both sorrow and fury.

PEREIRA (CONT'D)

You are now responsible for the
fate of these doomed inhabitants.

He swaggers to the man dressed head-to-toe in white.

PEREIRA (CONT'D)

For years we've been denied basic
rights, due to bigots like you.

Pereira grabs Garcia by the collar of his crisp uniform.

PEREIRA (CONT'D)

All while crippling this ship and
steering her into the abyss.

Pereira drags him to the main control panel in the center of the high-tech room filled with screens. All over the ship, his people can be seen gathering supplies.

PEREIRA (CONT'D)

The last thing we need are the
emergency crafts. All of them.

VICE ADMIRAL GARCIA

You can't. Those vessels are a last resort; this is a death sentence.

He slams Garcia's face onto the panel.

PEREIRA

Those deaths are on you and yours.

After the synced thumb / retina scan are over, Pereira HEAD-BUTTS the official, dropping him.

Then he unlocks all the doors ship-wide.

INT. SS ATLANTICA CORRIDORS

Thousands of JUBILANT PROTESTORS celebrate wildly.

Prison cells slide open - convicts depart, with family waiting outside their cells with weapons.

The crowds board small carrier vessels en masse.

INT. SS ATLANTICA COCKPIT

Pereira DESTROYS the console as his gang exits.

The remaining crew look out of the windows helplessly, as dozens of rear boosters blast off into the black.

INT. SS ATLANTICA

Total DESTRUCTION as upper class citizens are torn from luxurious homes. Those on the fringes seek food and fortune before departing. Murder, theft and assaults are rife.

A birds-eye tour of the ship glides up and down through several floors as vengeance reigns.

A sharp ascent travels through levels of metal and wiring, out INTO SPACE.

EXT. SS ATLANTICA

The well-lit cockpit floats by, revealing itself to take up less than 1% of the ship's enormous mass.

A gargantuan structure.

It stretches several kilometers. Layers of metal blocks JUT OUT all along its length.

As the stern finally appears, against the rusting dark hull ENORMOUS WHITE STENCILLED LETTERS stand out.

TITLE - **ATLANTICA**

EXT. DEEP SPACE

The blur of a military ship, the SS BERMUDA, flashes by.

SUPER: "THREE CENTURIES LATER"

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

COLONEL JOHN BRODY, late 40's, sits in the pilot's seat. Dark hair speckled with grey sits atop his broad shoulders. His deftness at the controls shows he's a seasoned campaigner

He is flanked by untold screens and buttons, all linked to an expansive, well-lit central desk.

He doesn't hear his nervous cadet, LUCY CHAN, enter and sidle up over his shoulder.

The 20 year old Asian-American stands firmly to attention - uniform slightly creased, dark hair in a neat ponytail.

LUCY

Should I be seated, Sir?

BRODY

WHAT THE... Fuck. Don't do that.

Brody EXHALES then points her to the co-pilot's chair.

LUCY

My apologies, Sir.

BRODY

If I'd been hungover you'd have been fired.

The cadet glances as she sits, unsure if that was sarcasm.

He laughs, which sets her off. She has an infectious laugh, which makes him go even worse.

BRODY (CONT'D)

And skip the formalities, John or Brody is fine. No airs and graces on this boat.

She nods as BENNY MCDONALD, 30's, resident engineering wizard, strolls in biting a nondescript fruit before talking with his mouth full.

BENNY

Bonjour chaps and chapesses, how goes it?

Brody flashes Lucy a *'see what I mean'* facial.

Benny is not typical military, going by his nonchalance and unique fashion. A vintage sheepskin jacket atop baggy slacks and unlaced boots; shaggy brown hair completing the look.

BRODY

Good, buddy. Feeling fresh today?

BENNY

Lil' bit fuzzy but I'll survive.

BRODY

Made full use of your last night of freedom, I'm guessing?

BENNY

You know me boss, had to say goodbye to my gals at the Flamingo, they're gonna miss me terribly.

BRODY

Miss your money, more like.

Benny shrugs and laughs.

BENNY

Imagine most of my next pay-slip will go there too. The rest I'll probably just squander.

Lucy unintentionally snorts as the joke dawns on her.

BRODY

I trust you two have met?

BENNY

Yeah, at the hangar.

Lucy smiles warmly, before turning her attention back to the views out of the curved, panoramic window.

They're propelled along in a near-transparent intergalactic tunnel at IMMENSE SPEED, judging by unidentified planets on either side that roll by like marbles.

Her peace is interrupted by a SHRILL RINGING.

An encrypted message is sent to Brody's desk. He swipes it to the central screen.

BRODY

Here we go.

The three of them watch nervously as their top-secret mission objective gets laid out to them by an unseen official.

A map shows them their route to a planet Brody and Benny appear to know already - going by their tense dejection.

The voice warns them not to tell anyone the destination, or the highly sensitive cargo they carry.

He lists off a series of weapon names and describes their unique purpose and power values.

THE VOICE

At no time are the weapons to be touched by your crew. Only trained personnel should activate them.

He clarifies the confidential information is not to be relayed to anyone on their arrival to the King's Galaxy station.

The video stops.

BRODY

Let's just get through this one.

Before long a strange darkness washes over the room, as they enter DEAD SPACE between systems.

Lucy is nervous, but tries to hide it. Benny leans on the back of her chair as she stares out, nervously.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Not ideal for a maiden voyage.
Benny, give her the tour now.

Benny and Lucy leave, as Brody dials a number.

INT. BRODY FAMILY HOME - EARLY MORNING

CHRISTINE BRODY, John's wife, 40, walks through a door which opens automatically as she approaches.

From behind she exudes a professional air. A confident walk befits her expensive-looking briefcase and navy trouser suit.

INT. BRODY KITCHEN

The AI system, JEN, speaks.

JEN (V.O.)
Good morning, Christine.

CHRISTINE
Yes, morning. Sorry.

JEN (V.O.)
That's quite alright.

CHRISTINE
Music station; weather screens;
breakfast grill. Thanks.

A raised grill lights up on a metallic central island. Christine throws some bacon rashers on.

The floor-to-ceiling curved wall panel ALIGHTS with unrecognizable oscillating graphs.

As she reads the news ticker, 'John' pops up in the center of the screen. She answers.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
Hey babe. You get away okay?

BRODY
Yeah, got going overnight to skip traffic. How are things?

CHRISTINE
Be better if he'd get moving.

Brody laughs as Christine butters some bread.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
Henry, don't make me come get you.

HENRY (O.S.)
Coming, Mom.

Christine shakes her head and smiles.

CHRISTINE

How's the new girl getting on?

BRODY

Only time will tell. Reminds me of myself at that age though - seems confident, smart.

CHRISTINE

I remember you at that age. Those are not the words I'd choose.

Brody puts his hand to his gut, fakes a laugh.

Running into the room is the hyperactive 7 year old HENRY, the double of his father; short hair, expressive face.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

I better go, we're running late.
Say bye to your Dad.

Henry runs up to the screen.

HENRY

Hi Dad. Bye Dad.

BRODY

Bye kiddo, you be good for Mommy while I'm away, OK?

Henry ignores the request as he grabs his schoolbag.

BRODY (CONT'D)

I'll call whenever I get the chance. Love you guys.

Christine blows him a kiss as they leave.

INT. BRODY'S CABIN - SHORTLY AFTER

John sits, hunched, on his bed. His eyes look dark and heavy.

He takes his boots off and yawns.

The spacious square room is gently lit by a single candle on the bedside table. Brody stares at it for a few seconds.

He slides over and half-opens a drawer.

He hesitates, then pulls out a bottle of vodka.

He plants it on the desk and moves away again. He looks back at it, guilt washing over his face.

INT. SS BERMUDA ENGINE ROOM - LATER

A grid of well-lit panels and turbines surround a large WHIRLING, GLOWING GENERATOR. Going by the thick glass casing and safety cordons, a highly volatile substance dwells.

A bright yellow warning sticker reads 'CAUTION: PIRENZINE'

As Benny and Lucy approach, the viscous blue gel SWIRLS VIOLENTLY.

BENNY

Ship's powered by this. Vital components all have their own backup genny.

A panel with digital readouts dazzles with complexity.

BENNY (CONT'D)

This motherboard is linked to all the sensors, so we know when something goes schizoid.

Lucy spots the gruff veteran mechanic, DIEGO NAZARIO, 60's, dressed in his trademark oily overalls, hunched over a square glass case in the corner.

She gingerly approaches him as Benny walks away, oblivious. Benny jogs back for her, nervously laughing.

BENNY (CONT'D)

I wouldn't speak to him when he's feeding the kids, he'll get cranky.

Lucy watches Diego drop flakes into a fish-tank.

He glances, waves her over. She extends a hand to shake.

LUCY

I'm Lucy.

Diego flips her palm 90 degrees, pours fish food into it.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Oh. I don't know if --

DIEGO

Just sprinkle. I try not to put too much in, but I probably spoil 'em.

A child-like grin grows on her face as assorted fish appear.

BENNY

Wow, he's never let anyone do that before. He must like you.

DIEGO

Nope. I just despise you.

EXT. KINGS GALAXY ARRIVAL GATE - LATER

A sleek, black gun ship hovers at a circular gateway.

An energy force CRACKLES as the Bermuda suddenly appears, immediately slowing to a crawl.

She descends from the metallic, tubular runway into position.

The Bermuda transforms with a few exterior shape changes, readying herself for the return to manual flight.

They wait as another gun ship arrives in their wake.

INT. GUN SHIP 1 COCKPIT

The pilot, a steely eyed GENE PARRY, 40's, checks a monitor.

GENE

All vessels in. Proceed to exit.

They're dwarfed by a 100 story high station, which stretches off for kilometers either side.

The squadron move through a doorway which opens automatically as they approach.

They glide into an empty arrivals hall.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Brody waits outside a locked exit. He sounds tired.

BRODY

Control, this is the SS Bermuda and squadron arriving from Planet GL. Request immediate passage. Over.

Silence.

Brody repeats his request.

Lucy looks nervously at him.

She DARTS to an adjacent booth and loads up several transparent 3-D screens.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Benny, are the comms functioning?

BENNY (O.S.)
Yeah, why?

BRODY
Getting no reply. Get your ass down here. Gene, anything?

GENE (O.S.)
Nothing Colonel. I don't like this - all frequencies are dead.

Benny STORMS IN and jumps into the co-pilot's seat.

BRODY
Stay alert. We're gonna hack their system. Gene, Sam, Diego - engines fully juiced. Lucy, up on the gun.

Brody watches intently as Benny works. Within seconds he's gained access to the station cameras.

He uploads the displays to a main screen, PANIC in his eyes.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Station's empty. No sign of a struggle. Possible evac. Adopt cover-attack formation.

EXT. SS BERMUDA

The front gun ship elevates and moves left; rear ship drops down to the right.

BRODY
We won't get comms back 'til we clear the station. HQ should already be aware.

INT. / EXT. KINGS GALAXY DEPARTURE GATE

Benny gets the inner spirals open, leaving thick steel outer doors as their only safeguard.

Benny shouts back as he leaves.

BENNY

Hit 'YES' on that screen.

BRODY

When the doors open, everyone
advance. Eyes peeled.

Brody waits for Lucy to switch back.

The three ships creep out.

A dim circle of emergency lights in the distance their only
guide to looming dangers.

Bright orange lights scan out from the Bermuda, slowly
surveying dark corners of a vast man-made cavern.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

They see nothing untoward.

LUCY

All clear.

BRODY

Gene, go take a look. See anything,
drop back into cover.

EXT. KINGS GALAXY DEPARTURE GATE

The front ship glides out.

As they venture into the unknown, the lights of their
companions twinkle in the background.

INT. GUN SHIP 1 COCKPIT

They break free from the shadows.

GENE

Clear. Going to do a recce.

BRODY (O.S.)

Don't leave our sight.

They swivel 180 and face back toward the bright curved
exterior of the massive structure.

GENE

No sign of attack. This creeps me
out John.

BRODY (O.S.)
Hold position, we're coming to you.

EXT. KINGS GALAXY GATEWAY EXIT - SHORTLY AFTER

All three vessels cruise along, looking for signs of life.

BENNY (O.S.)
Feels like passing a ghost ship.
Let's get the fuck outta here.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Brody looks increasingly uneasy.

BRODY
Set your courses for Pirenza.

He turns to Lucy.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Contact GL.

LUCY
This is the SS Bermuda reporting
from the Kings Galaxy. Over.

Something catches Brody's eye off to the left.

A FLASH OF LIGHT passes.

It hits the first gun ship, OBLITERATING IT.

BRODY
Mooooove!

EXT. KINGS GALAXY GATEWAY

Brody barely avoids FIERY DEBRIS exploding in all directions.

Above the gateway, movement is visible through the fireball.

INT. GUN SHIP 2 COCKPIT

The young pilot, SAM, looks terrified as AN ENORMOUS WARSHIP emerges.

SAM
Shields up! Brody, get out of here.
We'll hold them off as long as we --

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Another missile launches from the jet black death-machine. An ERUPTION FLARES near Lucy's window, half blinding her.

Brody looks up as a hologram materializes.

Intense dark eyes stare from the scarred, wrinkled face of COMMANDER GANGZHOU. Long, straggly, gray hair sweeps over his muscular frame.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
Greetings Bermuda. Can you see me?

BRODY
We see you.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
Good. I warn you that there's no point in trying to flee, Colonel.

BRODY
What do you want?

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
You know what. Does this seem like a random attack to you?

BRODY
If you know who I am and what I have - you know I won't give it up.

Brody scribbles something down. He passes the paper subtly to the shaking Lucy as he angles the holo-cam away.

She reads it then SPRINTS unseen out of the room.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
Oh, but you will. Or you and your crew will die where you sit.

BRODY
How do you know about us?

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
Friends in the right places John. That's how we continue to survive. To thrive. Now, come to our starboard bay.

BRODY
Afraid not. You'll kill us anyway, so we'd rather go down fighting.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
On the contrary, we need people
like you. Smart, brave, skilled.

Brody stalls, glancing back intermittently.

BRODY
You seem to know me. Who are you?

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
My people call me Commander. As
you'll soon be our guest, I'll
allow you to use Gangzhou.

BRODY
We have objectives, Commander.

Just then Benny appears at the door, gives Brody a thumbs up
and departs again.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
And what about these twelve hundred
captives?

BRODY
They're alive?

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
Of course. I'm not a monster.

BRODY
You murdered four of my men.
Forgive me if I need proof.

A video feed of over A THOUSAND MALNOURISHED SOULS flashes
up. They're packed into a huge steel vault.

As Lucy returns, the video halts her in her tracks.

She has to stop herself from crying as she sits.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
I know what you're thinking - are
their lives worth the cargo? You
assume we'll use it for violence.
We only want what is ours.

BRODY
If you think we'll step aside and
watch you take Pirenza from us --

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
Pirenza is not yours!

Gangzhou pivots as he calms himself.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU (CONT'D)
That was our land. Your forefathers
stole it. We're taking it back!

BRODY
Well, it'll be without our help.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
You don't surrender those weapons
and you have to watch all your
citizens fall away, gasping for air
that they'll never find.

Brody switches off the feed.

LUCY
What are we going to do?

BRODY
Activate rear deflector shields
then get strapped into the blast
room. Anything goes wrong, priority
is to destroy the cargo.

LUCY
(Hesitantly)
Understood, Sir.

She boots up some processes then exits.

Brody straightens himself and recalls Gangzhou's
confrontational image.

BRODY
I need your word that my crew gets
released unharmed, with all of
them. I'll stay back myself.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
I only want you and the weapons.
Nothing else interests me.

The Bermuda begins SNAKING THROUGH the debris.

BRODY
I have your word?

Gangzhou nods as Brody moves towards the Pirate ship.

He TILTS the Bermuda to a 45 degree angle as he turns.

INT. GANGZHOU'S VIEWING GALLERY

A twisted metal platform houses Gangzhou's throne. He watches their approach from on high, like a hawk with its prey.

The smarmy, bald LIEUTENANT SANCHEZ approaches.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
Kill his crew, dump everyone else.

LIEUTENANT SANCHEZ
We should make the Colonel watch.

Gangzhou LAUGHS HEARTILY as he gazes out.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
Wait for me. I want to see him
break when his friends die.

Gangzhou stands and approaches the window. He leans his forehead menacingly on it.

HE SQUINTS.

There's an ever-so-slight MOVEMENT at the top of the Bermuda as she approaches at an unnecessary angle.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU (CONT'D)
No.

INT. SS BERMUDA MAIN GUN CHAMBER

Benny aims the topside cannon straight up.

Holding down the triggers he launches several BRIGHT RED ELECTRIC CHARGES into the starboard entrance.

Immediate darkness befalls the warship as MASSIVE POWER SURGES hit.

Brody changes direction. Benny switches to default cannons.

EXT. PIRATE SHIP

The Bermuda flies yards from the hull.

As they breach, Brody whips her to the right.

He sails by the control tower allowing Benny and Diego, on the underside gun, to unleash their full arsenal.

The Bermuda cripples them to buy time.

They dive down the other side, using the station as cover.

Brody hits FULL SPEED.

Small ATTACK SHIPS materialize from all angles.

Benny and Diego fire thousands of rounds, DESTROYING the targets in their wake. The Bermuda's range and firepower are far greater.

INT. SS BERMUDA MAIN GUN CHAMBER

The volume of opponents, however, soon swamps them.

BENNY

They're everywhere Brody.

BRODY (O.S.)

I'll fly over and under so they
can't get a clean shot.

Brody pulls off evasive maneuvers so the gunners only have five or six combatants at a time to deal with.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

The Pirates keep striking, the RATTLE of shells plentiful.

BRODY

Put your masks on.

As they near the end of the station Brody spies an Allied Grade-1 Military Attack Ship - primed.

MILITARY SHIP

Identify yourself!

BRODY

SS Bermuda, Planet GL.

MILITARY SHIP

We're your Pirenza escort. What are
our orders?

BRODY

Help us get out of here!

MILITARY SHIP

You have our assistance Colonel. Go
under us, we'll take care of them.

EXT. KINGS GALAXY GATEWAY

The Attack Ship unleashes extraordinary firepower.
It EVISCERATES all, giving them a window to flee.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

A damage display has several red alerts.

BRODY
Left and right defenses down,
boosters dead, mecha-electrics too.

Brody pulls up along the inside of the station, out of sight of the battle.

INT. SS BERMUDA CORRIDOR

Fires RAGE, sprinklers SPRAY, sirens WAIL as Diego runs through the ship.

INT. SS BERMUDA ENGINE ROOM

Diego frantically shuts down machines before he's sent flying; an internal ENERGY BLAST rocking the ship.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Emergency lights spin.

BENNY (O.S.)
Gun's gone. I'm gonna help Diego.

BRODY
Switching power to camo screens.
Time to go dark.

As they limp away, the faint glow of the Bermuda's dying engines fade as she blends into the stars.

EXT. SS BERMUDA WING

Small boxes angle up from concealed points along the hull.
A web-like frame of laser panels syncs up to cover the ship.
The Bermuda disappears section by section, making herself invisible by duplicating the constellations perfectly.

EXT. SS BERMUDA WING

Disaster strikes.

The last display port is stuck, leaving an obvious white metal tip exposed.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Brody strains his neck to see the wing.

BRODY
Shit. End screen's bust.

BENNY (O.S.)
I'll go.

BRODY
No, we can't risk you. I can't get
electrics back but Lucy can pilot.

LUCY
I'm not sure I'm ready to --

BRODY
You are. Besides, no auto-recoil
now and I'm the only one here who's
done a walk before.

BENNY (O.S.)
There's no power, but I've an idea.

EXT. SS BERMUDA WING - LATER

Brody double-checks the knot wrapped around his spacesuit as he ventures gently out through digital displays.

Inching his way along cautiously, his toes dip in and out of the faux stars created.

As he reaches the tip he sees the troublesome connection.

He kneels down, feet dangling precariously off the edge.

BREATHING HEAVY, he gently taps at the port until it rotates.

The display immediately turns on.

Brody gets momentarily unnerved, as he suddenly looks like he's FLOATING ALONE in space.

The glow of the hatch is the only visual anchor to his cable.

He stands. To his horror, above the lit square he spots -
PIRATES.

Brody frantically signals to the watching Benny.

INT. / EXT. SS BERMUDA HATCH

As if in slow motion, Brody runs towards the hatch as Benny leaps back, thumping on a vacuum cleaner button.

An innovated pulley YANKS BRODY towards the door, his eye fixed on the rapidly-approaching enemy fighter above.

The shiny black hunter bobs in and out of sight behind the silhouette of the gun chamber.

As Brody reaches the door he signals his braced colleague out of the way.

He SMASHES into the inner wall.

INT. PIRATE CRAFT

The masked PILOT glances down after seeing a glint out the corner of his eye... Nothing there.

INT. SS BERMUDA HATCH

Benny slams the door shut.

LUCY (O.S.)
They're gone.

The two men sit motionless.

INT. SS BERMUDA MEDICAL BAY - LATER

Battery-powered lanterns sit about the room as Benny tightens the splint around Diego's leg.

It's a somber atmosphere.

BENNY
Sorry old timer, it's defo broken.
Gonna be out of action a few days,
it's painkillers and rest for you.

Brody heads for the door.

BRODY

Lucy, keep an eye on him, don't let him do anything stupid.

The dazed mechanic raises his middle finger.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT - SHORTLY AFTER

Benny and Brody are hunched over an old paper map.

BRODY

Best case scenario, ships en route become our rescue party. Means we drift for who knows how long.

BENNY

What if that warship is waiting for them too?

BRODY

Nah, they were after us.

BENNY

So what's the options? No way we make Pirenza - We can't repair shit without power.

Beat.

BRODY

We land. We're here, roughly.

Brody points at a large empty portion of the map then runs his finger along to a tiny sphere, at the edge.

BENNY

Other direction from Pirenza too, they won't be lookin'.

BRODY

Release a coded beacon at the rim.

BENNY

You sure? If they were on us before, could see that too.

BRODY

It's a risk we have to take. May not get back off there unaided.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT - DAYS LATER

The crew sit in near darkness. A lightly-bearded Brody runs them through options on a tablet.

On-screen schematics show a 'Long Range Pulse Gun'.

BRODY

We have a few Pulsers in the hold.
Could we use one to propel us?

BENNY

Theoretically. Never seen it tried.

Benny looks for Diego's input.

DIEGO

Can she handle that power?

BRODY

Dunno.

LUCY

What if the Pirates see it?

BRODY

They'll be halfway to Pirenza.

BENNY

Problem will be rigging it.

The group look a bit stumped.

Lucy pipes up, apprehensively.

LUCY

I'm not sure if this will... that
rear gun is interchangeable, yeah?

Diego nods as he plays with his cap.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Could we install it using an
adapter ring?

Benny raises his eyebrows.

BENNY

Don't see why not?

The three men look admiringly at her.

BRODY

Told you she's made of the right stuff.

The highest praise is received from Diego, who taps her on the head with the end of his crutch.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT - NEXT DAY

Brody starts the ignition sequence.

Emergency lighting kicks in.

He YANKS THE CONTROLS periodically, fighting hard to turn fucked steering as Lucy taps a joystick.

BRODY

Pump boosters every time I move.

The rewards become apparent as the view changes; a little more of the planet's curve shows with each burst.

BRODY (ON RADIO) (CONT'D)

Another minute and it's all yours.

MONTAGE: Lucy types furiously / Diego rolls a cigarette / Benny bolts between engine room displays / Brody lines the ship up / Their destination swallows the windscreen.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Brody looks at the rocky planet directly ahead.

BRODY

When I say, tap the trigger to test how powerful it is... Fire.

EXT. SPACE

The Bermuda is a barely visible dot against the majestic Kings Galaxy.

She leaves a RIPPLE in her wake, upsetting the circular outline of a distant white sun.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

They move along at a decent clip.

BRODY

It works! Diego, give her a 3-second burst to get us going.

Steady momentum builds.

The ship starts to VIBRATE.

DIEGO (O.S.)

Brody we got a problem - it's fuckin' stuck man, won't turn off.

BRODY

Benny, get up there.

Brody swipes control across to Lucy as he SPRINTS out.

INT. SS BERMUDA BACK GUN CHAMBER

When Brody reaches, Diego and Benny are straining hard.

BENNY

We need to change direction.

BRODY

Too late. Can you stop it?

Benny looks up, fear envelops his face.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Seal the blast doors.

INT. SS BERMUDA MAIN GUN CHAMBER

Brody dives in, spins the cannon around and takes aim.

He launches a series of THUMPING rounds at a perfect angle at the protruding pulser.

He annihilates the chamber, the whole contraption spinning out into space.

The Bermuda glides towards the planet.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT - SHORTLY AFTER

Brody and Benny are in survival suits.

The controls VISIBLY SHAKE in Brody's hands.

He fights to keep her steady.

Shoulders tensed. Teeth grit.

Bright orange and white flames SCRAPE UP the glass outside.
The entire vessel ROCKS FURIOUSLY.

BRODY
Come oooooonnnnn.

The ship TWISTS and CREAKS and DROPS.

Brody appears to be losing control, when -

They BURST THROUGH the atmosphere.

Brody reduces their angle to try and find a flat area.

As they get closer to the peaks, SOMETHING MOVES.

BENNY
You see that?

BRODY
Yeah, that ain't rock. Some kind of
static cloud. Fuck.

Brody skims the vapor, looking for a gap underneath.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Diego, Lucy, make sure you're --

BANG!

The power dies.

They plummet.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Get them into brace positions. You
strap in too.

Benny fights gravity as he CLIMBS UP, out of the cockpit.

INT. SS BERMUDA BLAST ROOM

Benny checks Lucy and Diego's fixings then belts himself.

He activates the built-in helmet on his suit and leans
forward. The others follow his lead.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Something calming washes over Brody.

Instinct.

No instruments. No auto-pilot. Their fate in his hands.

The BLARING SIRENS fade from his mind.

Cloud starts to blanket the windows, drowning out light.

Extreme turbulence JOLTS THEM. Static charges FLASH bright.

A crashing, forceful movement FLIPS THEM. Brody rights her again, steepens the descent.

Punches it.

EXT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

They appear under charged clouds to find the next hurdle.

A sea of vibrant red treetops greet the ship's nose.

Leaves and branches CLATTER THE GLASS as the Bermuda sinks further into dense forest.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - EVENING

The Bermuda BUSTS into a clearing.

A trail of wooden destruction is left behind as they HURTLE VIOLENTLY into the ground. Debris and plant life fly.

She skids to an eventual, dusty halt.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT - LATER

Brody slowly comes to. A SLIMY ROUND INSECT sits on the windscreen, staring at him through multiple pairs of eyes.

Brody looks around with a grimace. Dry blood coats his visor.

All around the dark cockpit hang bits of machinery - some SMOLDERING, others SPARKING.

He unbuckles and collapses out.

INT. SS BERMUDA BLAST ROOM

A trail of blood escapes the room.

Only one of the crew are inside. Brody checks Benny's vitals.

BRODY
What happened? Where are they?

Benny's unresponsive, but alive.

Panicked, Brody hobbles out.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Brody grabs a midi-laser which LIGHTS UP as he slots his right arm into the opening.

He places a small hand-held weapon into his waist holster then turns on a helmet torch.

INT. SS BERMUDA CORRIDOR

Brody follows the scarlet river with haste, sticking to the shadows.

He strategically sweeps through the ship.

UNKNOWN (O.S.)
AAAAHHHHHHHHHH!

He follows the screaming to the medical bay.

Quickening his pace he BARGES into the dimly-lit room.

INT. SS BERMUDA MEDICAL BAY

Lucy, suit discarded, stands over Diego trying to stem the gushing blood. She tosses Brody the bandages she's holding.

Brody quickly removes his suit too.

He drops his gun, freeing up both hands to tighten the makeshift tourniquet on Diego's re-broken leg.

LUCY
I tried to wake you. Had to drag
him down myself.

Lucy returns with a syringe. She looks nervously at the irate patient, before CRUNCHING a protruding bone back in.

Diego bolts upright and grabs her lapels, then passes out.

She injects straight into the wound, stemming the scarlet flow immediately as an antiseptic foam seal expands.

Lucy hands Brody another needle.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Give him that for the pain.

Brody looks on as his protégé cleans up the minor wounds.

BRODY
Where did you learn all this?

LUCY
Mom's a nurse, Dad's a disaster...

Brody allows himself a smirk as he pierces Diego's arm.

BRODY
Take supplies to Benny. I'll check
we're still secure.

He gives Lucy the handgun, just in case.

INT. BRODY FAMILY HOME FRONT DOOR - DAY

A knock at Christine's door.

Two SENIOR MILITARY MEN remove hats as she opens up.

Christine REELS BACKWARDS.

SENIOR OFFICER
Mrs. Brody? May we come in?

Christine covers her mouth to stop a whimper escaping.

INT. SS BERMUDA KITCHEN - MORNING

Backup power has been restored. As Brody cooks, Benny slopes in and sits across the table from Lucy.

BRODY
Good timing. How you feeling?

BENNY
Not great. What happened?

BRODY
Brutal landing. You got knocked
out. She needs a heap of work.
Apart from that, all good. Bacon?

Benny nods and looks over at Diego, asleep on an old sofa.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Lucy stopped him bleeding out.
Saved his life.

Benny gives her an emotional look of gratitude.

BENNY
What's the plan?

BRODY
Check what needs fixed out and in.
Fix it. Get samples and footage. Go
to Pirenza. Go home.

BENNY
Sounds good.

INT. SS BERMUDA EXIT HATCH - DAY

Brody and Benny stand, checking weapons. The slick, dark red armored suits they're in are lightweight yet durable.

The door slides up. They jump down into the unknown.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING

The area is roughly the size of a baseball field, densely surrounded by large, looming trees.

THICK, EERIE FOG lingers.

Benny's helmet-cam records the damage.

Brody is back-to-back with him, GUN DRAWN.

They arrive at the rear. The crash buried the boosters into the soil as the front rose high.

Benny climbs down to investigate.

BRODY
(Hushed)
What's going on Benny? Speed it up.

Benny runs up and down; like a hamster on a wheel.

LUCY (O.S.)
The sensors show something weird.
There's no toxins detected. It's
fresh... It's oxygen.

BRODY
That explains all the life.

He flicks a blue bug off his shoulder as Benny returns.

BENNY
All fine. Patch up the outside
fully and we'll be able to leave.

They move swiftly along. Panels dangle everywhere. Debris on the grass.

They need to step back to view the elevated cockpit. As Benny takes notes, there's a RUSTLING from behind.

A HUGE BEAST plods menacingly towards them.

BRODY
Benny.

The straggly-haired, jet black animal has eight stumpy legs that inelegantly carry a chunky frame.

BENNY
Fuck me!

BRODY
Don't startle it. Back away to the
corner slow then run for the door.

Long tusks protrude from under the creature's wide, thin eyes - which haven't moved off these two retreating aliens.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Open the hatch!

INT. SS BERMUDA HATCH

They SCRAMBLE inside and lock the door.

BENNY
Where'd it go?

LUCY (O.S.)
It just left. Didn't seem
interested. Must be female.

Laughing and relieved, Brody slumps against the wall.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - LATER

Benny stands guard with a large assault rifle as Brody SPEEDILY PUNCHES metal sensors into the lush grass.

He activates each then jogs along to set another.

The sensors kick into life, firing small cubes high into the air to create interlocking sections of laser fencing.

INT. SS BERMUDA MAIN GUN CHAMBER

Diego is meant to be covering them. His gaze rises to a huge purple bird circling, black fin-like appendages on its back.

He smiles like a lunatic, still influenced by painkillers.

EXT. / INT. BRODY'S TRANSPORTER

Brody rises quickly over the laser fence in a small chrome transporter, until he sits above the tree-line.

He scans below as he flies; slowing down, he stops above a small clearing, drifting down to ground level.

EXT. FOREST

Brody drops to one knee, gun raised. He crouches towards the trees then moves deeper into the jungle in a zigzag pattern.

LUCY (O.S.)
... Brod... losing yo... ut of
sight...

BRODY
Lucy? Lucy, do you read me?

Brody weighs up his options. He reluctantly carries on.

INT. SS BERMUDA ENGINE ROOM

Benny enters clutching a hand-drill, WHISTLING.

DIEGO
Shut up with that tuneless shit.

Diego hammers away with a despairing lack of subtlety at a rusty steel pipe.

BENNY

That 'tuneless shit' is Elvis, I'll have you know.

DIEGO

Who the fuck is Elvis?

BENNY

You're joking, right? You're not. Elvis Presley was the king of rock and roll, man.

DIEGO

Rock and roll died ages ago. Nobody listens to that crap.

BENNY

Brody does.

DIEGO

Well, then he's an idiot too.

BENNY

I'd like to see you say that to his face.

DIEGO

What's he gonna do, fire me? Doubt it... Could do with the forced retirement mind you.

BENNY

Not really forced though, is it? You'll be there soon, if you don't die first.

Diego cracks up once Benny leaves the room.

Their aggressive form of one-upmanship clearly gets them through these long trips.

INT. BRODY'S HELMET SCREEN

Intricate visuals take up all four corners of Brody's visor.

As he views an open area, he sees a SMALL FURRY BALL on a tree stump. Its back is to him, oblivious.

After scanning, an alert flashes up on his visor:

UNKNOWN SPECIES

The wispy dark blue hide he can see in no way conveys the malicious facial features.

EXT. FOREST FLOOR

The one-eyed creature bares several rows of razor-sharp teeth as it feasts on a spindly green bug.

The animal reacts too late to Brody's shadow. He SLAMS DOWN a ring-headed pole creating a clear plastic bubble on impact.

Terror turns to RAGE as it tries to escape. Brody watches in astonishment at violent thrashing. He uses his helmet to record footage.

Brody detaches the stick and pierces a small hole for the creature to open. He backs away with a smile.

Over his shoulder, an out-of-focus figure RISES. This time, it's Brody that senses something too late.

THUMP.

INT. TENT - LATER

Brody is unconscious in the middle of a large tent. The open fire he's next to illuminates his doubled-over form.

He drowsily awakes, quickly realizing he's fastened to an ornate, high-backed chair.

From the surrounding darkness, a woman speaks:

ANOTNAC
(In Portuguese)
Who are you?

Brody's dazed face looks about in disbelief.

She repeats her sentence.

The tall, mixed race CHIEF ANOTNAC emerges from the shadows, clad head to toe in a beige robe.

The 70 year old's jet-black hair flows out from under a loose hood, encircling a serious face.

BRODY
I can't understand you.

Anotnac's taken aback. She exits hastily.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Wait. Wait!

Brody's head drops again. His attention shifts to the flames.

Beat.

Anotnac re-enters with TWO MALE ELDERS, similarly dressed, to discover charred rope and a shattered chair.

Quick as a flash, Brody LEAPS OUT behind them. He places a sharp wooden shard by Anotnac's jugular.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Over by the fire.

The men obey, with an odd calm.

BRODY (CONT'D)

What's waiting outside?

Anotnac removes a long, thin syringe from inside her robe. She gently STICKS IT BACKWARDS into Brody's thigh.

Brody drops as a sedative instantly takes hold.

EXT. BRODY FAMILY HOME - SHORTLY AFTER

Christine and her son are escorted to a military vehicle outside their futuristic bungalow.

As soon as the doors close the spacious, driverless shuttle moves quickly along tracks.

EXT. PLANET GL - CITY VII

The true scale of the planet's capital is evident as countless vehicles speed over multiple intertwining levels, revealing a vast metropolis and packed skyline.

High above, a MASSIVE DOMED COVER that keeps the population alive shines artificial sunlight down.

INT. MILITARY SHUTTLE VEHICLE

Christine stares blankly at the passing streets.

HENRY

Is Daddy hurt?

She snaps out of it, clutching his nervous hand.

CHRISTINE

No darling, why would you say that?

HENRY

Men took Zoe from class when her
mom went missing.

CHRISTINE

Daddy's fine... I'm just going to
help these men get him home faster.

Henry hugs her. She fights back tears.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Lucy watches the monitors, studying the live footage from
Brody's transporter as Benny enters.

BENNY

I'm going.

LUCY

Brody said --

BENNY

-- Yeah, well he ain't here. Been
gone too long. Who knows what lurks
here at night.

LUCY

He told us to stay with the ship,
no matter what?

Benny can sense the cadet's dread.

BENNY

I'll be back before dark, with or
without him. Promise.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - EVENING

Benny cautiously glances at Brody's transporter alongside.

He attaches a booster to his backpack as he shuts Brody's
craft off.

LUCY (O.S.)

He walked straight ahead.

BENNY

How long 'til the light dies?

LUCY (O.S.)
Estimated 45 minutes. Be careful.

INT. FOREST

Benny follows Brody's tracks until they stop. He switches his helmet view to infrared and scans the surroundings.

Investigating nearby trees, his face contorts as he sees a droplet of blood next to some drag marks.

BENNY
Seeing this?

DIEGO (O.S.)
Yeah.

BENNY
The tracks last a few yards and then nothing - something took him.

DIEGO (O.S.)
Get ba... nothing you ca..

They cut out.

Benny glares in the direction of the tracks, turns around and sprints back out of the forest.

INT. GL GOVERNMENT MEETING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Faceless dignitaries sit, crammed into a long thin room.

The only person standing is GENERAL SUTTON, a heavy set man in his 60's, perspiring heavily as he reads from notes.

GENERAL SUTTON
Due to the sensitivity - and recent leaks - only limited personnel were aware of the SS Bermuda mission.

He looks up to the end wall, at the head and shoulders looming large over the meeting via video feed.

PRESIDENT ANDREA WILSON, a black woman in her 40's with cropped white hair, carries an authoritative air - mainly due to her pissed off expression and scything remarks.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Should be easy to find out who's betrayed us then, shouldn't it?

GENERAL SUTTON
Certainly Madam President.

PRESIDENT WILSON
When did we last hear from them?

GENERAL SUTTON
The station?

She looks flabbergasted.

PRESIDENT WILSON
The bloody ship!

The General nervously searches his papers for the answer.

GENERAL SUTTON
Uhhhh, looks like --

PRESIDENT WILSON
Find out what's going on out there.
What about the cargo, how worried
should we be?

GENERAL SUTTON
The majority of the --

The President stops him with a firm raise of her hand.

PRESIDENT WILSON
I'd rather hear from an actual
scientist. No time for sugar-coated
bullshit today.

General Sutton slumps back into his seat, broken.

He nominates Christine to stand and respond.

CHRISTINE
Madam President. Christine Brody,
Head of Development. The weapons on
board include unique prototypes
built for Pirenza which...

She activates rotating 3-D blueprints on a central display.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
... are among the most effective
conflict ordinances ever created.
Bio-weapons, hundreds of portables
and items like the L RPGs.

PRESIDENT WILSON
What do they do? In plain English.

CHRISTINE

On Pirezza an LRPB - or Long Range
Pulse Gun - would be front-line
ground defense, capable of
destroying entire aerial fleets.

Few of the politicians and military present seem to be aware
of these; intrigued faces stare at her.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Any craft caught in its field of
fire would drop like a stone,
permanently paralysed.

PRESIDENT WILSON

And in our enemy's hands?

CHRISTINE

If they got the entire cargo?
They'd wipe us out in days and gain
control of the entire planet.

The room is silent as the President turns away, seething.

PRESIDENT WILSON

I have to say - the levels of risk
and irresponsibility evident here
are fucking treasonous.

CHRISTINE

Agreed, Ma'am. I, and many others,
argued this. We were overruled.

Christine glances over at a guilt-ridden GOVERNOR ROB MCKAY,
a gaunt gentleman with sinister, pointy facial features
exacerbated by horn-rimmed glasses.

In addition to being Christine's superior as Chairman of The
Fuels Committee, he's General Sutton's right-hand man.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Were there safeguards in place?

CHRISTINE

The crew have orders to destroy the
weapons, and if necessary the ship,
if at risk of capture.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Sacrifice themselves? Wonder how
many in here would have the stones.

CHRISTINE

This squadron will. I guarantee it.

The President laughs, in a derisory manner.

PRESIDENT WILSON
How could you possibly guarantee
that, after this shambles?

CHRISTINE
My husband is Colonel John Brody,
pilot of the SS Bermuda.

The President is startled.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
He may lack many things Madam
President, but integrity isn't one.

President Wilson shifts in her seat. Genuine sorrow in her eyes.

PRESIDENT WILSON
I'm sorry Mrs. Brody. I wasn't
briefed with that info.

CHRISTINE
No need to apologize. That was kept
on a need-to-know basis.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Regardless, you shouldn't have been
put in this position.

CHRISTINE
It was a decision my husband and I
made together. For this very
scenario. We knew the risks Ma'am.

Christine remains standing, proud, as an uncomfortable atmosphere fills the narrow conference room.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Ladies and gentlemen, this seems
like a good time to take a break.

The attendees can't get out quickly enough.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)
Mrs. Brody, would you mind if we
spoke in private?

Beat.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)
I don't trust a soul in that
cesspit.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

But you put your whole world in
harm's way for us. I need your
help. How likely is it the
perpetrators are in the meeting?

CHRISTINE

Highly.

PRESIDENT WILSON

They'll have gone to great lengths
to cover their tracks, as in the
past. I need you to find them.

Christine looks concerned.

CHRISTINE

I wouldn't know where to start.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Is there anyone you 100% trust?

She ponders.

CHRISTINE

With my husband's life? No.

(Pause)

We go after them, and they realize
before we find them, then my boy --

PRESIDENT WILSON

I know what I'm asking, I know. But
if we don't do this, who will?

Christine stands and paces to the end of the room and back.

CHRISTINE

Do you know anybody not from this
world who knows what they're doing?

The President takes a second. She nods, confidently.

PRESIDENT WILSON

There's an old saying from the
first ships: "*Only way to catch a
rat is to set a trap.*"

INT. TENT - LATER

Brody stirs once more. This time he is lying, bound, on a
cold floor with ARMED GUARDS nearby.

Stepping forward is his briefly-held prisoner from earlier.

ANOTNAC
 Sorry I had to put you to sleep.

BRODY
 Hospitality needs work, certainly.

His head clears a little more.

BRODY (CONT'D)
 You speak English too.

ANOTNAC
 We speak many languages. What is
 your name?

Brody answers reluctantly, as he struggles to sit up.

BRODY
 John. Yours?

ANOTNAC
 I am Anotnac Cira.

BRODY
 Pleasure to meet you.

Brody coughs a couple of times, dryly.

ANOTNAC
 Tell me where you came from John?
 Your ship was seen arriving, a
 sight never seen here before.

BRODY
 I'm from the planet GL.

Brody spots Anotnac's nonplussed look.

BRODY (CONT'D)
 Different galaxy. When did your
 people arrive here?

ANOTNAC
 Over three hundred years ago.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - MEANWHILE

Benny rifles through a bag as Lucy waits, gun in hand.

He pulls out a small metal square. Two sharp protrusions jut
 out the side when he turns it on.

BENNY

That's the Fly synced. You getting the feed?

DIEGO (O.S.)

Perfectly. Fire it up.

Benny presses a small button on top and the 'wings' start to pulse quickly, before it ELEVATES and FLOATS FORWARD.

They follow it into the forest.

The Fly glides in and out between trees, emitting a glowing scanner. It arrives at the abduction location and drops to ground level. After some quick forensic probing, it continues past where the tracks end.

The forest grows thicker. The light dimmer.

Before long, the Fly needs regular salvaging by Lucy and Benny as they fight their way through tangled branches.

LUCY

It's no use.

Benny gently removes the gadget from the air, stores it.

INT. TENT - SHORTLY AFTER

Brody's mouth is wide open.

BRODY

The Atlantica? That ship is legendary in our world. It was --

ANOTNAC

Our story is not of importance right now. Why are you here?

BRODY

On a mission to transport items to a neighboring planet when we were attacked, forced to land. Your planet is in grave danger.

Anotnac look nervous.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Trust me when I say this - the threat grows the longer we stay.

The CROWD OF ELDERS look worried.

FEMALE ELDER

If what you say true, how we let
you leave? You tell people of us.

BRODY

No.

They don't look remotely convinced.

BRODY (CONT'D)

I only have two concerns; First is
to evade our enemies. Second, to
get home to my family.

The elders debate in whispers. Anotnac signals to the guards
to take Brody out of the tent.

EXT. ATLANTICAN VILLAGE

As Brody is led outside, he's left speechless by what lies
before him.

In the distance he sees an endless ocean.

In the foreground, a giant man-made valley housing a bustling
town that runs all the way to the sea.

ANOTNAC

We have much to lose too.

Brody turns to her, astonishment giving way to concern.

BRODY

There are others with me. I can
contact them with my helmet, make
sure they don't hurt anyone.

ANOTNAC

We're already watching them. No
harm will come if they stand down.

BRODY

Let me call them, please?

Anotnac leads him through the settlements.

Thick, dark metals intertwine with wood and other natural
materials in each home's structure.

INTRIGUED LOCALS, of mainly african and Latin American
heritage, peek out at the stranger as he is marched by.

INT. ATLANTICAN HUT

Brody is led into a building where some young men are analyzing his equipment and suit.

They step away from the desk as Anotnac approaches.

Brody notices their sophisticated tools. These were not desperate survivors he was dealing with.

After being unshackled, Brody powers up his comms.

BRODY
Bermuda, Brody here, do you read?

DIEGO (O.S.)
Shit, it's good to hear your voice boss. You okay? Where are you?

BRODY
I'm fine. Where are Lucy and Benny?

DIEGO (O.S.)
Trying to find you; been out there a few hours.

BRODY
Call them immediately. Tell them to put down their weapons and surrender to the men who turn up.

Beat.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Diego, do you read me?

DIEGO (O.S.)
What do you mean 'men'?

BRODY
Don't have time to explain, do it.

DIEGO (O.S.)
Okay... my orders?

BRODY
As before. Only ones you let on board are us.

INT. GL GOVERNMENT BUILDING - LATER

Christine nurses a coffee, high up in a public viewing area.

She's monitoring the meeting attendees with fresh impetus as they file back from lunch.

Something below catches her eye.

Governor McKay meanders slowly at the rear.

He's in discussion with TWO YOUNG AGENTS, near-clones with identical black suits, builds and haircuts - impossible to differentiate from this distance.

What can be made out is McKay's rage. He prods one of them in the chest, then goes nose-to-nose.

McKay soon backs off, looks around shiftily and walks away.

The agents go the other direction.

INT. GL GOVERNMENT MEETING ROOM - SHORTLY AFTER

Christine is the last to enter.

PRESIDENT WILSON

I'd like to restart by thanking Mrs. Brody, who declined my offer to take time off. That fighting spirit is what will see us through.

A ripple of light applause filters through the room.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

Now, let's hear our options going forward. Secretary?

DEFENSE SECRETARY RODGERS is a sprightly octogenarian with a chest full of medals.

DEFENSE SECRETARY RODGERS

Thank you Madam President. We have to assume the worst - that the cargo has been stolen.

President Wilson nods in agreement.

DEFENSE SECRETARY RODGERS (CONT'D)

From there our options become quite limited. In my view, we need to fight fire with fire.

GENERAL SUTTON

How do we do that, exactly?

DEFENSE SECRETARY RODGERS
I recommend we rebuild our stock,
get them shipped to Pirenza as soon
as possible.

CHRISTINE
That's madness!

PRESIDENT WILSON
Please, Mrs. Brody. Let him finish.
We'll all get our turn.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

As an ARMED ATLANTICAN approaches, the kneeling Benny and Lucy slowly place their hands behind their heads.

From out of nowhere, SEVERAL MORE SOLDIERS in stealthy military garb pop up.

LUCY
Where the hell are we?

She watches a bag go over Benny's head, just before all goes dark for her too.

INT. ANOTNAC'S RESIDENCE - DUSK

Brody is shackle-free, but still flanked by guards.

BRODY
Then the violence began in every
city. Extremist attacks are on the
rise. Outlying areas are no-go's.

He sits across from the elders, finishing a meal.

ANOTNAC
I feel blessed when you tell us
these tales. Some chose their own
path here, isolated. But it's a
peaceful world - we learned from
Earth's mistakes.

BRODY
You must understand though, there
had to be segregation on GL.

Anotnac motions for Brody to follow her out.

BRODY (CONT'D)

With the immediate evac of Planet Earth, peace on the first ships was impossible - cultures, classes and religions all forced together. Prisoners too. When those that had release dates during the trip were freed, it was carnage.

EXT. ATLANTICAN VILLAGE

Brody holds the door open for Anotnac as they exit and walk through the settlements.

ANOTNAC

There were bad people on Atlantica too. They abandoned ship when all seemed lost.

BRODY

We know the tale. Our attackers are direct descendants of your rebels.

ANOTNAC

I'm sorry to hear they survived.

BRODY

Evil always does.

ANOTNAC

So does good.

INT. / EXT. SS ATLANTICA COCKPIT - FLASHBACK

The original Atlantica flight crew have aged significantly.

They're working on a serene ship now, albeit one running on low power.

ANOTNAC (V.O.)

After the uprising, peace returned.

Apprehensive faces look out.

Warning sirens BLARE.

Looped tannoy messages order crash landing preparation.

The SS Atlantica breaks through clouds, to be greeted by paradise. A vast turquoise ocean rolls into lush green hills.

Admiration quickly gives way to panic as they make a sharp descent towards a watery runway.

Previously calm waters react violently on contact.

The sea offers little resistance; the massive ship SKIMS ALONG towards the rugged coastline.

As they hit tall cliffs FEROCIOUSLY, she buries herself deeper and deeper inland.

They come to a stop after drilling most of her length.

ANOTNAC (V.O.)

There were many casualties, but her
might saved thousands that day.

Fires flare all over.

SCREAMING PASSENGERS flood out of exits.

Some run to the ocean with receptacles for water.

Others carry the wounded away.

EXT. ANOTNAC'S RESIDENCE - DUSK

Anotnac stands alongside Brody, looking out over rows of lanterns twinkling the length and breadth valley.

ANOTNAC

What you see down there is the good
ship Atlantica. As a tribute, our
planet was named after her.

Brody views the scene with wonder.

BRODY

May I get a tour? I'd love to --

ANOTNAC

Tomorrow. You need rest.

Anotnac walks off as Brody stares in awe at the sun setting behind the ocean.

A sight he witnesses for the first time.

EXT. PLANET GL - CITY III - NIGHT

Neon signs flicker.

The undesirables have stirred and loiter with intent.

Seedy individuals peek from every nook and cranny.

Christine looks apprehensive as she pulls up in an inconspicuous one-person shuttle. Taking a moment to check her peripherals, she steps out.

She buzzes the entrance she's stopped by.

Beat.

Christine stands out like a sore thumb, too well-dressed for this landscape. She nervously looks behind.

Ropey characters across the way have noticed her.

As they draw near, the door mercifully BUZZES.

INT. APARTMENT DOOR

The heavily fortified door is opened by a BURLY SECURITY GUARD. He says nothing, steps aside.

Christine nervously walks to a lounge.

It's filled floor-to-ceiling with cables, computer parts, books and take-away tubs.

PRESIDENT WILSON

You weren't followed?

Christine shakes her head with a bemused look, surprised to see the President sitting on a filthy cardboard box.

Alongside her is ANTONIO, a bespectacled computer genius in his 20's of Latino heritage.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

This is my son's friend I told you about. Antonio, this is Mrs. Brody.

CHRISTINE

Nice to meet you.

Antonio smiles shyly, returns to his screens.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Known him his whole life. Turns out he can hack into almost anything. He's been very useful recently.

ANTONIO

It's done. Anyone who types 'LRPG',
'Pirenza' and so on gets logged and
we get alerted. Trackers cross ref
anyone swiping into facilities.

PRESIDENT WILSON

If our traitor was in that meeting,
let's hope they're dumb enough to
go after what they think is another
batch too.

The President stands and gives Antonio a loving hug.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

It's good to see you again my boy.
Be sure to look after my friend.

ANTONIO

I won't let you down.

She guides Christine into the corridor.

PRESIDENT WILSON

I'll leave two men here for
security. Work fast.

As the President exits, Christine leans her head back against
the wall and shuts her eyes.

INT. ATLANTICA DWELLING - MORNING

A KNOCK wakes Brody.

A chipper YOUNG BOY pops his head into the room after Brody
lets out a sluggish 'mm-hm'.

YOUNG BOY

Morning Sir. Your colleagues are at
breakfast.

Brody jumps out of bed.

INT. ANOTNAC'S KITCHEN

Benny and Lucy sit across from Anotnac.

An assortment of fresh fruit, natural cereal and multicolored
juices fill the table.

Benny nods irately at Brody as he enters.

BRODY

We okay?

BENNY

Tired n' cranky. What's new, right?

BRODY

If you wouldn't mind, I'd like to call the ship and update my man.

ANOTNAC

Of course. You should know that we took the liberty of checking the story with your friends. We hope this doesn't offend you?

Brody half-laughs.

BRODY

I don't expect you to trust us yet. Look at him. I wouldn't.

Benny doesn't see the funny side.

INT. COMMUNAL MEETING ROOM - LATER

Brody sits beside his crew. On the other side of the table, Chief Anotnac's deputies are either side of her.

BRODY

Now they've verified the gravity of this, we can agree we have to get out of here as soon as possible.

BENNY

The ship can be fixed, but we need something to lift her out of a hole. You have anything we can use?

Anotnac's looks to her older husband LUKO, a short pale man.

LUKO

We have something. It's at the docks currently.

ANOTNAC

Come, let's walk down. You can meet some of our people on the way.

LUKO

You've created quite the buzz here.

EXT. ATLANTICAN ROAD

They walk towards the coast with the council of elders.

Lucy seems taken in by the beautiful landscape. Benny still looks on edge.

A small crowd of intrigued children follow.

Along the route, each and every Atlantican stops whatever they happen to be doing outside their homes to smile and wave.

Others appear in doors and windows to see the intergalactic visitors with their own eyes.

One over-eager parent forces a toddler into Lucy's arms.

Lucy is shocked at first, then starts laughing as the mother begins photographing the adorable scene.

Brody can hardly take his eyes off the buried Atlantica down the valley to their left, as it glints in the sunlight.

BRODY

You have built a beautiful world.

ANOTNAC

It's been easy, everyone pulled together.

BRODY

In my experience, that ain't easy.

ANOTNAC

We have our ancestors to thank. They realized this was our future and made simple laws to benefit the whole, never the individual.

BRODY

And it works?

ANOTNAC

Of course. There's no money here. I am no richer than this man.

She points to a group of people cultivating crops in a field, at the end of the upper settlements.

Brody and Benny stop to watch. They lean on the wooden fencing, admiring the simplicity of the work.

The farmers guide thin, hovering metallic machines along rows of moist earth.

Miniature shovels rotate and scoop, lifting long, red root vegetables into mesh sieves.

They watch as the earth is filtered out and the produce slides into floating buckets behind.

The ingenious system brightens an amazed engineer's face.

BENNY

What do they run on?

LUKO

A natural fuel, created from tree oils and mucurra dung.

BENNY

Mook what?

This elicits hysteria from those around.

LUKO

I'm sorry. I forgot they didn't come here with us.

Benny pats him on the shoulder.

BENNY

Go easy on me old timer. Where can I see these... mookras?

Luko points up to a small mountain range, barely visible along the coast in the distance.

BRODY

You have to go all the way there?

ANOTNAC

No. There are many tribes there. We share food and materials with them, they send us fuel.

Brody shakes his head in disbelief.

ANOTNAC (CONT'D)

As I said, we're in this together. No matter where you travel on this place, giving is more important to people than receiving.

LUKO

It is not our custom to watch
anyone suffer, or go hungry.

Lucy trots past them with a delighted 'WHEEE'. A different child now getting a piggyback ride.

EXT. ATLANTICAN HARBOUR - LATER

The clear water laps against the support beams of an elevated, thick wooden harbor.

Lucy has boots off, pants rolled up - her feet dangling in the water.

She gazes out over the still waters at the bright yellow beach across the bay.

LUCY

Woah! What the --

She jumps back, as a smooth white sea mammal bobs its head out of the water after nudging her toes.

LUPITA, a friendly black girl of similar age, laughs heartily behind Lucy.

LUCY (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

LUPITA

I'm sorry. They're the most harmless thing on our planet. He just wants food.

Lupita opens up a small basket at the back of the dock and takes out crumbly, chip-like treats, passing them to Lucy.

LUPITA (CONT'D)

This is what he wants, trust me!

Lucy cautiously holds her hand out for the excited mammal, before it licks off the serving in one swipe.

It disappears back underwater.

LUPITA (CONT'D)

That's Moby, he's the most popular of the beachers. Quite a character.

LUCY

They're always here?

LUPITA

They have to be. Out there, they're
as good as dead.

Lucy looks out to sea, where dark choppy waters crash.

LUPITA (CONT'D)

The creatures there aren't as nice.

All along the deck, DOZENS OF ANGLERS shoot out and reel in
baited steel lines from permanently fixed pods.

Benny and Brody watch trading boats come and go.

ANOTNAC

Will that work?

A giant rectangular drone hovers over a vessel.

An electromagnetic base lowers from it, effortlessly lifting
a large container that it has hooked onto.

BENNY

That'll do it alright.

INT. SS ATLANTICA REACTOR CHAMBER - LATER

Lucy, Benny and Brody receive a proper tour of the
shipwrecked Atlantica.

On a metal gangway, Lucy cautiously peers over the edge at
pipes and turbines that disappear into the black chasm below.

She mouths a 'wow' at Benny. He responds, equally impressed
by the sheer scale of the reactor room.

EXT. SS ATLANTICA COCKPIT

The group stand in the small lobby outside the cockpit
entrance. The doors are sealed shut.

Flowers and small statuettes line the surrounding walls.

ANOTNAC

The crew gave their lives in the
crash. The bodies were never found.

There is an eerie silence outside the tomb as Brody and his
colleagues read the remembrance plaque on the wall.

Beat.

ANOTNAC (CONT'D)

After all that befell us, many felt
the room was cursed. People didn't
want to enter it ever again.

INT. SS ATLANTICA CORRIDORS

A human chain has been formed by ATLANTICAN SOLDIERS.

They feed metal sheets, PVC strips, nuts, bolts and more up
the line towards an exit hatch on top of the ship.

EXT. SS ATLANTICA

Benny and some elders direct the labourers with where to
place each item as they sort the materials.

BRODY

Any vehicles that can get us back
and fore quick?

Anotnac and Luko smile at each other.

INT. ATLANTICAN CRAFT

The trees are a blur as they BLAST ALONG in luxury.

Soft leather seats line the elegant craft. Gold accessories
and polished wood panelling raise the opulence levels.

ANOTNAC

We only use this on special
occasions - a prototype from Earth.

Brody looks down, impressed by the fast-moving scenery.

EXT. SS BERMUDA - DAY

The laser perimeter which surrounded the Bermuda is disabled.
Brody leads Anotnac, Luko and a few others to his ship.

Diego exits and stretches.

DIEGO

Mind if I stay out here for fresh
air boss? Getting cabin fever. Have
I always been this irritating?

BRODY

Yes and yes.

Diego shakes the hands of all the friendly newcomers, getting increasingly agitated as they interrupt his attempt to light the rolled tobacco dangling from his lips.

INT. SS BERMUDA CORRIDOR

Brody gives them the tour, showing off the ship's tech.

ANOTNAC

It is impressive. Your technology has advanced faster than ours.

BRODY

A lot of that has to do with the Pirenzine.

ANOTNAC

That's what your weapons were going to protect?

BRODY

That and more.

EXT. PLANET PIRENZA - FLASHBACK

MASSIVE DRILLS break ground on a yellow rocky surface.

BRODY (V.O.)

Last year, a vast reserve of a new energy source was discovered on the planet. We believe it'll fulfil our needs for generations.

Time speeds up. Multiple pipelines appear from an expanding quarry as a huge industrial complex BLOSSOMS.

INT. SS BERMUDA ENGINE ROOM

Brody continues the history lesson en route to the engine.

BRODY

Many times more resourceful than what you see here. This is why our mission was top-secret.

The Atlanticans watch the VIOLENT BLUE SPASMS in wonder.

BRODY (CONT'D)

The original settlers made it all the way to GL. But over the years many ships, like yours, were lost.

EXT. PLANET PIRENZA - FLASHBACK

One of the emergency crafts stolen from the Atlantica, now coated in rust, LANDS VIOLENTLY.

BRODY (V.O.)

Before the gateways were built as shortcuts across the systems, a trip from Earth took decades.

Dust clouds whip up as the battered ship comes to rest.

BRODY (V.O.)

It was your deserters who found Pirenzine. As they searched desperately for water, they accidentally discovered it.

A couple of SPACESUIT-CLAD PIRATES stand beside a chugging automatic drill on an empty plain.

They're BLOWN OFF THEIR FEET.

Blue gel gushes into the air all around them.

INT. SS BERMUDA ENGINE ROOM

Lucy seems agitated.

LUCY

I thought our chemists discovered it?

BRODY

A sample arrived on GL with a trading vessel that was powered by it. A journey that should have taken years took weeks.

EXT. PLANET PIRENZA - EARLIER FLASHBACK

Military ships arrive and begin bombing the Pirates.

BRODY (V.O.)

We knew its worth immediately.

Intense AERIAL and GROUND BATTLES are fought.

BRODY (V.O.)
 Violent, well-armed settlers who
 were already fighting each other
 formed an alliance against a common
 enemy once we showed up.

EXPLOSIONS fill the landscape.

Fuel depots and machines big and small are destroyed.

Both sides suffer massive losses.

BRODY (V.O.)
 The battle lasted months.
 Eventually, the Pirate ships
 scattered to the stars.

Corpses are gathered by the victors.

GL engineers lay new foundations as work begins.

BRODY (V.O.)
 We set up our defenses, started
 mining and the rest is history.

INT. SS BERMUDA CARGO HOLD

The Atlanticans are visibly uneasy with these borderline war
 crime revelations.

BRODY
 Tales of our colonization will be
 in their blood. They're not strong
 enough to overpower us but they've
 been known to attack our ships for
 food, medicine, weapons, fuel.

Brody flips open a large steel case housing an LRPG.

State-of-the-art weapons have been laid out by Diego.

BRODY (CONT'D)
 You should be as worried about our
 forces as about the Pirates.

ANOTNAC
 These tales make me anxious John.

BRODY
 It's best you hear the truth. I've
 seen war my whole life. Now that
 I've seen real peace?
 (MORE)

BRODY (CONT'D)

Help us leave tomorrow and we'll
leave all this, for your
protection.

Anotnac looks at several long rows of shelves, packed with
hundreds of cases.

ANOTNAC

We appreciate your generosity, but
you can't leave yet.

BRODY

You have my word that we won't --

LUKO

It's not that Colonel. You're going
anywhere until those clouds clear.

ANOTNAC

He's right. They're different to
those you arrived through. Those
will slice your ship to ribbons.

BENNY

Fuck. The longer that beacon's
floating out there...

Brody agrees.

EXT. KINGS GALAXY GATEWAY EXIT - MEANWHILE

The rescue squadron pause as they reach the edge.

In front of them, a sea of debris floats.

INT. LEAD MILITARY SHIP

COMMANDER SMITH, 60, stands up front in full dress whites. A
wild, ginger beard is topped by a frown.

COMMANDER SMITH

Can you identify those ships?

DEPUTY COMMANDER BENITEZ, a tall woman in her mid 30's,
stands alongside in the same uniform.

DEPUTY COMMANDER BENITEZ

There are pieces from several, Sir.
Mostly enemy.

COMMANDER SMITH
Did we check for black boxes, see
if the Bermuda is there?

DEPUTY COMMANDER BENITEZ
Negative. We haven't found --

BANG!

An emaciated white body THUDS off the glass in front.

They RECOIL in shock.

SCREAMS and GASPS fill the room as dozens of staff watch the
corpse spin away.

Beat.

Smith looks closer, realizes what much of the debris is.

COMMANDER SMITH
Leave a cruiser behind, start
gathering them.

DEPUTY COMMANDER BENITEZ
There may be hundreds out there,
Sir. That will take days.

COMMANDER SMITH
Then they'll spend days here! I
won't leave them like this.

Commander Smith turns to the pilot and issues his order with
a tone between fury and heartbreak.

COMMANDER SMITH (CONT'D)
Move out.

He steps forward, gives a dignified military salute.

EXT. SS BERMUDA - LATER

Anotnac and the rest of the party stand outside awaiting
their next move, as Brody emerges.

BRODY
Benny, divvy up tools. Anotnac,
could your men help us dig around
it, so there's no extra damage?

She has no need to answer as those gathered step forward,
grab a tool and head towards the cargo ship willingly.

EXT. GL GOVERNMENT LAB - MORNING

Christine is in an empty side room, talking quietly to the video feed on her wrist.

Antonio is on the other end, still in his cluttered domain.

CHRISTINE

Are you sure?

ANTONIO (O.S.)

Multiple coded messages from the General's office to off-world locations. Usually untraceable, but I traced them to the Kings.

Christine looks through the window at her staff, paranoid.

CHRISTINE

Send in a twin-locked file. Make a back-up too, with auto-release if we don't open it the next 48 hours.

ANTONIO

We're entering dangerous territory. If you get caught --

CHRISTINE

Don't worry, we never met.

Antonio looks fidgety.

ANTONIO

Sending it now. Don't show it to her yet, I need to verify location first. Could be a while.

CHRISTINE

Thanks. Call me when you can. The President will want this as soon as possible.

She hangs up and takes a deep breath before exiting.

EXT. SS BERMUDA - LATER

Everyone is a bit grimier, even the senior pair of Anotnac and Luko.

The crowd watch from a safe distance as the lifting drone pivots the Bermuda onto a custom-built wooden platform.

EXT. SS BERMUDA - NIGHT

Brody stands, somber, as LOCAL EXPERTS weld and solder to complete the repair work.

A ring of spotlights illuminates her. She's good as new.

BENNY
Need to let it seal overnight.

BRODY
Thanks.

Brody rubs his watery eyes. A sullenness washing over him.

BENNY
What's that look for?

BRODY
Henry's 8 today.

Benny tries to lighten his mood with a joke

BENNY
Wow, 8. Thought with you being so old he'd have been grown by now.

Brody gives a slight smile, but his face is sad.

BRODY
Our families have no idea if we're even --

BENNY
Hey, you got a birthday to celebrate. Keep the faith.

Benny walks away as Brody whispers the mantra to himself, looking to the stars as he does.

INT. BRODY FAMILY LOUNGE - EVENING

Henry is at the table with SCHOOL FRIENDS, all in party hats, stuffing their faces with colorful cake.

The PARENTS that mingle make an effort to keep the day light for the birthday boy's sake.

Christine is in deep discussion with a friend in the corner when there's a LOUD KNOCK.

She paces quickly to the front door.

As she opens up, President Wilson's PRIVATE SECURITY GUARD moves aside.

A beaming President steps forward.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Mrs. Brody, so nice to finally meet
you in person. May we come in?

Christine is a little startled, but plays along.

CHRISTINE
Um, yes, of course Ma'am. Nice to
meet you too. Please.

Christine guides them in. As she turns to shut the door,
entering from the shadows is -

General Sutton.

He gives Christine a timid greeting as he enters.

She goes white as a sheet.

Christine barely keeps it together as the man she suspects of
initiating her husband's disappearance breezes past.

She leads them into the party. The whole room ERUPTS WITH
EXCITEMENT at the sight of their VIP guest.

The parents line up to shake the President's hand. The
children are star-struck.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Hello everyone, lovely to meet you
all. Now, we heard a very special
young man has a birthday today.

HENRY
Me, me!

He runs up to President Wilson and hops up and down.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Happy birthday young man. I hope
you left me some cake?

She wipes the crumbs off the giggling child's mouth, and
gives him a hug.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)
We put our coins together to buy
you a gift, would you like it now?

HENRY

Uh-huh.

CHRISTINE

Henry, what do we say?

HENRY

Thank you.

PRESIDENT WILSON

You're very welcome.

General Sutton kneels down with the present in front of Henry. President Wilson leads a reluctant Christine away.

EXT. ATLANTICAN MOUNTAINS - DAWN

The LEADERS of the SIX MOUNTAIN CLANS being introduced to Brody and Benny look very different to Anotnac and the elders - more armored warriors than politicians.

Their demeanor, however, couldn't be more relaxed.

A smiling clan chief, SUNDAY OKOCHA, two meters tall and built like a brick wall, warmly embraces their two guests.

SUNDAY

Welcome, welcome. I trust Chief Anotnac has treated you well? We have heard much about you, I hoped we would have the chance to meet.

BENNY

We've heard a lot about you too Chief. Thank you for having us.

SUNDAY

The pleasure is ours. We don't get many visitors in these parts.

A crowd of DIGNITARIES mill around on a glass viewing platform not far from the highest peak in the range.

Brody drinks in the panoramic views of the idyllic coast.

Dozens of small green islands are dotted sporadically along the horizon in both directions.

A family of furry, two-limbed animals dangle from the trees nearby, engrossed with the humans.

Drifting by regularly are different birds of varying sizes and colors, inhabitants of the foliage-covered mountains.

ANOTNAC
Life is plentiful up here.

BRODY
I've never seen...

Brody is lost for words.

ANOTNAC
Now you understand why we've never
sought to leave this planet.

BRODY
Why would you?

ANOTNAC
Why would you, is what you should
be asking yourself.

Anotnac requests that everyone gather around.

BRODY
Thank you all for coming, for your
incredible warmth and generous
gifts. It truly has been a humbling
experience learning your ways.
(Pause)
I wish all planets were like this
one, but as you may have heard the
past few days - not all are.

He walks over to one of the Pulsers, its base fixed rigidly
atop a teetering stone shelf.

BRODY (CONT'D)
There's a lot of evil out there. As
humans drift across galaxies, one
day it will inevitably arrive here.

The gun is pointed out to sea but ROTATES SMOOTHLY as Benny
activates it.

BRODY (CONT'D)
If your enemy is visible, the long
range targeting will lock on.

Benny utilizes HD screens to zoom in on an unmanned target
that can't be seen with the naked eye.

He pulls the right and left triggers.

AN invisible beam FIRES as the group view the target on a
monitor. The drone is evasive, but never escapes the screen.

Seconds later it drops like a stone.

GASPS.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Chief Anotnac will distribute arms
to major towns planet-wide. Our
five Pulsers are our gift to you.
Let us hope they never need used.

Sunday steps forward as the crowd applaud Brody.

SUNDAY

Thank you Colonel. Perhaps one day
you will return to learn more of
our ways too, yes?

Brody smiles, takes one last look at the sunrise.

INT. BRODY FAMILY KITCHEN - LATER

Christine eyes Sutton suspiciously as Henry excitedly unwraps
a miniature Captain's outfit.

PRESIDENT WILSON

I have something to tell you.

Christine is barely listening, nauseous as she watches the
General assist her son with his new jacket.

PRESIDENT WILSON (CONT'D)

We found a signal from the Bermuda.

Christine snaps out of it.

CHRISTINE

They're alive?

Christine almost collapses, overcome with emotion as she
gives the President a bone-crushing hug.

PRESIDENT WILSON

We don't know, sorry. Their locator
beacon was found, so we're hopeful.

Christine pulls back and looks intently at her, teary-eyed.

She turns the President around as she pulls her in again.

CHRISTINE

Pretend to take me out of the room.

President Wilson puts an arm over Christine's shoulder and motions to security she'll be two minutes.

INT. BRODY CORRIDOR

The women speak in hushed tones.

CHRISTINE
We think it's him.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Him who?

CHRISTINE
Sutton.

The President stumbles back, her head in her hands.

PRESIDENT WILSON
It can't... he knows everything.

CHRISTINE
Not verified it yet, but there's
mails from his office to them, and
not just plans. The destruction of
the gateway. Issued a kill order on
all military, my husband included.

The President is now a ball of RAGE.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Fucker! I'm gonna string him up by
his balls.

CHRISTINE
Not yet. Not 'til we know who else
is involved. Keep him close. They
may have John so we can't risk
spooking them.

She agrees.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
But get that piece of shit away
from my son.

EXT. ATLANTICA CROPS - LATE MORNING

Brody and Diego are laughing and joking with Atlanticans.

The two men help pick fruit from plentiful fields for their
leaving feast.

Both sides have genuine warmth and affection for the other.

INT. ATLANTICAN COMMUNAL BUILDING

Lucy assists Lupita as she sets the tables.

The young women NERVOUSLY FLIRT with each other as they laugh at Lucy's cluelessness for the task.

Lupita switches the spoons to the correct order.

LUCY

I'm afraid a top pilot such as myself has no need for this - all my meals are in the same bowl.

LUPITA

You should learn anyway. Incase you ever feel the need to come back.

Lucy smiles.

As they finish up, Lupita signals for Lucy to follow.

They leave unseen.

INT. ATLANTICAN COMMUNAL BUILDING - LATER

Brody looks carefree for the first time, watching Diego smoke shisha pipes around an open fire with some farmers.

The crew EAT and DANCE with their hosts.

LUKO

John, you're empty. Some wine?

Brody covers his glass with his hand.

He politely but firmly refuses as Luko is about to pour.

BRODY

Just water for me, thanks.

His angst brings a knowing look from Luko, who respectfully moves on.

Brody looks around and smiles as he watches their new friends have fun.

EXT. ATLANTICANS LANDING ZONE - AFTERNOON

A large crowd gathers to give them a send-off. Each member of the crew receive a small handmade gift from their hosts.

They say their good-byes before heading for their ship.

ANOTNAC

Farewell John, honored to have met you. Please consider our offer.

BRODY

Thank you. Your planet shall remain our secret, that I promise.

Lucy has an emotional hug and tender kiss with Lupita.

Lupita cries as their fleeting romance ends. Lucy turns and waves goodbye.

INT. ATLANTICAN CRAFT

Brody looks out over the paradise they're leaving.

Way up ahead of them, something small glints in the sky.

Brody leans in for a closer look, when -

A giant Pirate ship BARRELS INTO VIEW!

BRODY

No.

It fires a missile past the one-person craft it's chasing, creating a GIANT FIREBALL on impact with the forest below.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Everybody down, tell them to land!

All hell breaks loose up ahead.

Dozens of ships arrive in unison and light up the sky.

INT. MILITARY ATTACK SHIP COCKPIT

The pilot bobs and weaves through friend, foe and flame.

He hunts down a Pirate craft.

Finally he hits his target, sending a mess of metal tumbling.

As he twists skyward the full scale of the battle is evident. Over a hundred ships of varying sizes litter the skies.

CARNAGE.

INT. ATLANTICAN TRANSPORT COCKPIT

Brody sits by JOAO, the young scared pilot, as they hover and watch the battle unfold from a safe distance.

JOAO

Never seen anything like this.

BRODY

You need to get everyone back to town. Get them prepared. We'll try to stop our guys from finding you. If they prevail.

EXT. FOREST

A lone Atlantican vessel stealthily carries the crew.

They arrive at the Bermuda and descend quickly.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Brody rushes in and starts her up.

BRODY

Once Joao goes we go up, see how it plays out. Benny, Lucy - guns.

The Bermuda rises until she's level with the tree-tops.

The battle RAGES in the distance.

EXT. ATLANTICAN OCEAN

With the GL military and Atlanticans distracted by the Pirate fighters' decoy attack kilometers away, Commander Gangzhou's warship sneaks towards the coast.

Having arrived at a different location, the Pirates' most powerful vessel drifts between small offshore islands.

INT. COMMANDER GANGZHOU'S SHIP

The warship begins to rise, readying herself for attack, as the main Atlantican port comes into view.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU
Now we have you.

Through binoculars Gangzhou views an Atlantican battalion stand defiantly on the dock, refusing to flee.

He begrudgingly respects their bravado.

EXT. ATLANTICAN HARBOR

Chief Anotnac stands center, sporting a headset with digital monocle - zoomed in on their advancing foe.

ANOTNAC
Not yet. Not yet... NOW!

EXT. ATLANTICAN MOUNTAINS

Sunday double-taps the shoulder of his deputy, positioned behind the Pulser. She FIRES.

INT. / EXT. COMMANDER GANGZHOU'S SHIP

In a split second all goes black inside the warship, as their power vanishes and they plummet into a FIERCE SEA.

Water funnels through the windows.

The Pirate horde abandons the fast-sinking ship.

HUNDREDS OF MEN leap from doors along her length.

Their only option is an unfortunate one.

The first ones into the water don't last long. As they swim for land, GIGANTIC SEA CREATURES find them.

While some are instantly devoured by mouths filled with razor sharp teeth, others find their limbs being entwined in multiple tentacles.

PIRATE
Please. No.

He fights for a last breath before disappearing.

Background SCREAMS grow then fade.

Bubbles appear.

The water is alone again.

EXT. ATLANTICAN FOREST

The fight over land begins to thin out as GL's military might overwhelms the outnumbered Pirates.

INT. LEAD MILITARY SHIP

Commander Smith watches the last moments of the battle from a relatively safe position on high.

As a final opposition ship tries to flee they're ANNIHILATED.

DEPUTY COMMANDER BENITEZ
Enemy craft are zero.

COMMANDER SMITH
Scan for survivors below. Rescue
ours, execute theirs.

EXT. PIRATE SHIP

A medium-sized fighter sits in a heap among burning trees.

Fifty meters away, a crowd of fortunate Pirate warriors shelter under a smouldering wing.

They hide, using intense heat to avoid detection from above.

The scanners move on; the combatants flee into the jungle.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Confident that the battle is over, Brody makes a bee-line for the lead ship.

BRODY
This is Colonel Brody of the SS
Bermuda approaching. Who is the
senior officer?

COMMANDER SMITH
Good to see you Colonel - this is
Commander Smith, GL 2nd Unit.
(MORE)

COMMANDER SMITH (CONT'D)

We located your signal but were ambushed on entry. Cargo?

BRODY

Negative. We had to destroy it.

INT. MILITARY COMMAND SHIP

Commander Smith admires the never-ending greenery.

COMMANDER SMITH

What is this place Colonel? Should we investigate?

He observes the Bermuda's approach.

BRODY

Negative Commander, there are security issues which I cannot reveal at this moment. Is there a carrier base above?

COMMANDER SMITH

Affirmative. Pirenza's largest.

BRODY

Good. I need all ships to return at once. I'll do a debrief on board to all personnel.

The military ships begin to leave in formation.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

They ascend towards the massive carrier base behind the rest. Brody's crew gathers around.

BRODY

We have one shot. We fail to keep it a secret, they'll be wiped out. Here's what we're gonna do...

INT. CARRIER BASE - FLASH FORWARD

Brody enters a giant auditorium. Hundreds of men and women are seated.

BRODY (V.O.)

I'm going to announce a fake, highly toxic climate.

The room is buzzing with anticipation.

The EXCITED HUM dies as Brody takes to the stage.

He crouches down to address Commander Smith:

BRODY
Everyone here?

COMMANDER SMITH
All but pilots and essential staff.

A small crew of DOCTORS and NURSES tend to a few wounded troops. Benny stands over Diego's bed.

BRODY (V.O.)
Benny will pretend to check up on Diego, at which point you cause the biggest scene possible.

Diego is restrained by staff as he FLIPS OUT, trying to fight everybody in the vicinity, turning the air blue.

Benny slinks away while backs are turned.

BRODY (V.O.)
That's your cue to grab as much Z-1 formula as you can.

Benny fills a bag, slips out a side door unnoticed.

LUCY (V.O.)
You're going to poison them?

Benny cautiously enters the kitchen.

BRODY (V.O.)
No. The main side effect of small doses of Z-1 are blackouts.

A CHEF is still at work, giving Benny an immediate dilemma.

BRODY (V.O.)
During the briefing the kitchen should be empty.

Benny tip-toes up behind the stocky man, who expertly dices meat with a large, sharp blade.

HE TWISTS THE CHEF'S WRIST behind his back, forcing him to drop the knife.

Benny wraps the other arm around his neck.

The chef gets over the initial shock and jumps backwards, RAMMING BENNY into a wall.

Benny's winded, but tightens his grip. The chef tries to knock him off but his strength has left him.

Benny dabs some Z-1 on the chef's tongue, gets to work.

BRODY (V.O.)

Pour traces over all food possible.

He dispenses a bottle of the clear liquid into a multitude of bubbling pots and pans, then tops up the liquids in fridges.

BRODY (V.O.)

Bin all non-perishables.

Benny opens the first of several larders. Shelves are stacked with tins and packets.

He sighs and grabs a trolley.

BENNY

Aw, for fu --

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

The crew look worried.

LUCY

What's our window?

BRODY

I can only keep them in there fifteen minutes max.

BENNY

We'll need it all.

DIEGO

Will it work?

BRODY

They all gotta eat sometime. We do it right, no-one on the carrier will remember the last 24 hours.

INT. CARRIER BASE HANGAR - NEXT DAY

Brody and his crew stand outside the Bermuda as Commander Smith and other high ranking personnel approach hurriedly.

COMMANDER SMITH
Colonel, apologies. News of your
return only just made it to me.

BRODY
No need to apologize, we wanted our
arrival kept low key for security.

COMMANDER SMITH
Nevertheless, heads will roll once
I find out who's fucked up.

BRODY
I'll leave that at your discretion.

COMMANDER SMITH
Shall we continue on to Pirenza?

BRODY
Negative Commander, the weapons
cache was destroyed. We must return
to GL immediately.

The Commander trades confused glances with his underlings.

COMMANDER SMITH
Very well. Please follow me.

INT. CARRIER BASE MEETING ROOM - LATER

Brody and Benny stare out a window.

The carrier is berthed alongside the Kings gateway they
arrived through; fully functional again.

BENNY
There's a memorial service the day
we get home.

BRODY
Yeah, heard 'bout that.

Shuttles drift back and fore, delivering staff and materials.

Brody activates a screen on the desk in front of them.

BRODY (CONT'D)
If you don't mind, I'm going to try
and call Christine again.

Benny punches his shoulder gently as a dial tone rings.

Christine appears.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Hey, gorgeous.

She immediately BURSTS INTO TEARS.

BRODY (CONT'D)
I never thought I'd...

Brody breaks down too.

Christine struggles to compose herself.

CHRISTINE
Don't ever do that to me again.
They couldn't tell me if --

BRODY
I'm sorry. Thinking of you two was
what got me through. Is he there?

CHRISTINE
He's at my sister's.

Christine looks jittery.

BRODY
Everything alright?

She delivers a fake smile. He knows it well.

CHRISTINE
Just, y'know. Nothing I can't
handle.

BRODY
We'll be there soon. Don't do
anything 'til I get back.

CHRISTINE
And when have you known me to heed
your advice?

INT. GL PRESIDENTIAL BUILDING - LATER

Christine struts along a corridor, ARMED ESCORTS alongside,
clutching her briefcase tight.

She enters President Wilson's office.

INT. GL PRESIDENTIAL MEETING ROOM

A few members of the security service are present, as is Governor McKay and some random suits.

Christine sits at the opposite end of the long table from the President.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Thank you all for coming on short notice. I tasked Mrs. Brody with searching for those colluding with our enemies. She found something.

Christine stands to address the dozen or so attendees.

CHRISTINE

We managed to trace activity from inside this building to Pirate strongholds.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Ladies and gentlemen, what we tell you next does not leave this room. We currently have General Sutton in lockdown. Teams are searching his home and office.

The President's voice becomes background noise for Christine as her comms all go off at once.

Her phone buzzes; several mails appear on her tablet; her wrist display flashes a message. She glances at it:

"SOS!"

Christine calls Antonio.

CHRISTINE

What?

ANTONIO

It's not him!

CHRISTINE

Who?

ANTONIO

Sutton. He was set up. They thought they erased it all - but digital prints never truly disappear.

CHRISTINE

Shit. I'm in the meeting now -
you'll have to explain it, and
you'd better be sure this time.

Christine syncs her tablet up to the big screen.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Madam President, I apologize.
There's an update.

(Pause)

Okay, we can hear you.

Antonio shares some crisp footage of a corridor and door.

ANTONIO (O.S.)

They fucked up. The messages did
come from Sutton's machine. But he
was none-the-wiser.

The CCTV shows the General entering his office.

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

They used mail hacks that activated
when he swiped into his office,
which were immediately deleted.

Antonio uploads a message from that exact time-stamp.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

So it looked like Sutton was
covering his tracks. Neat trick.

He uploads raw footage of the door and an e-mail window.

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

As I matched all his deleted
messages with videos - to gather as
much evidence as possible - there
was a blip.

A secretary walks in and drops a folder. No sign of Sutton.

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

That morning Sutton's wife had a
heart attack. That's when I knew
something was up. So, I dug deep
into the code, and there it was.

Shocked faces surround the table.

PRESIDENT WILSON

Is there any way to trace who's
framing him?

ANTONIO (O.S.)
It'll be tough to know for sure -
they installed it manually.

He loads up another video.

ANTONIO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I worked back for weeks and the
only people I saw enter when he's
been out are these lanky assholes.

Two tall young men in caps keep their faces partly-hidden.

Christine recognizes them immediately - the clones she'd
spotted in the cafeteria argument.

Her mouth drops..

She looks over at Governor McKay, unable to hide it.

President Wilson clicks on, as the guilt-ridden man to her
right LEAPS UP.

PRESIDENT WILSON
Guards.

Too late.

McKay has circled behind and PLANTED A PISTOL to her temple.

GOVERNOR MCKAY
Everyone back. BACK! I'll end her
right here, right now.

McKay retreats out of the room, the President as his shield.
Security tail them slowly.

Beat.

They arrive at a fire exit.

McKay places the President as a blockade in front of the door
as he enters. He locks it, then BLASTS the panel.

He runs.

EXT. PLANET GL - NEXT DAY

A military battalion approach an enormous white dome.

Large scrolling neon text FLASHES: 'City VII'.

Feeding away from the air-tight structure are giant tubes. They link up to similar cities, visible in the distance.

INT. SS BERMUDA COCKPIT

Brody looks on with joy at the dusty blue surface of home.

Gas plumes rise from shallow quarries, as giant industrial machines churn up the ground outside the city.

INT. PLANET GL DEBRIEF ROOM - LATER

Brody is seated in full military uniform in front of an inquiry panel.

BRODY

On entering the carrier base it was apparent something was off. Staff were falling left and right. While our mechanic and I investigated, the others stayed with the cargo.

LEAD INVESTIGATOR (O.S.)

What do you think happened?

BRODY

Gas leak was our initial theory, but it soon became obvious that it was a deliberate attack. I took command of the base and ordered Cadet Chan to release and destroy our weapons cache.

FEMALE INVESTIGATOR (O.S.)

Why did you feel that was the necessary course of action?

BRODY

We had all been in contact with the staff. If this was contagious? I couldn't risk it. Consequences far outweighed inconvenience.

The TEN PANEL MEMBERS who face Brody seem satisfied with his decisions.

The LEAD INVESTIGATOR, a 65 year old stocky fellow with a suspicious aura, poses a final question.

LEAD INVESTIGATOR

Do you believe Commander Smith or his staff were involved?

BRODY

No, Sir. Not one person could recall the previous day.

INVESTIGATOR

Thank you Colonel. If you wait outside, we'll call you back after our verdict.

Brody salutes before leaving the room.

INT. BRODY FAMILY HOME - EVENING

Brody relaxes in the lounge area of the open plan room.

Henry sleeps on his lap as Christine places glasses for several guests on the dining table.

That's Brody's cue.

Gently shifting his child over, he follows his wife out.

INT. BRODY MASTER BEDROOM

Christine pulls a small titanium case from under the bed and hands it to Brody.

He removes a hand-held scanner.

Brody checks all electrical points, plants, ornaments and everything in between, before moving into the corridor.

INT. BRODY DINING ROOM - LATER

They are joined at the dinner table by Benny, Lucy, and Diego and his wife ELLEN.

The opposite of her gruff husband, Ellen is confident and polite. White pearls and shiny earrings complement her dark skin and flowing silver hair.

Brody interrupts the hilarity as he stands.

BRODY

I'm immensely proud to be here with you special, brave people.

He raises a glass.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Here's to you all. Thank you for helping get me back to my beautiful family. At times I thought --

He chokes up as Christine holds his hand.

LUCY

Pussy.

They laugh uncontrollably.

Benny raises a glass as well.

BENNY

To our next adventure.

CHRISTINE

Ha-ha. No chance.

An eerie quiet develops as Brody looks guiltily at her.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

What?

Brody turns the music up to be safe.

BRODY

There's something I've not told you yet. Couldn't until I was sure we weren't bugged. We discovered something after we were attacked.

CHRISTINE

Attacked?

BRODY

We found a new planet.

BENNY

The most beautiful place; Trees, oceans, wildlife - it's unreal.

Christine listens in SHOCK.

BRODY

I want us to move there.

CHRISTINE

Move where? What the hell are you on about?

BRODY

I know this is a lot to take in.
But there are settlers there, the
most kind, gentle people.

LUCY

Life is simple, blissful - the
opposite of this ravaged world.

CHRISTINE

Have you all lost the plot?

She moves away from the table, staring AGHAST at them.

DIEGO

It's a long story Chris, their
ancestors were on the Atlantica. We
were the first to find them and --

Christine checks him with a raised hand.

Ellen approaches her, timidly.

ELLEN

I had the same reaction dear, but
it's all true. We've been preparing
in secret. Booked an off-planet
trip for the four of us and Henry.

DIEGO

They'll believe we need a break,
after what we went through.

BENNY

The kid and I will sneak onto your
cruiser once past security.

Christine sits back down.

She pleads with Lucy.

CHRISTINE

This is madness. What about your
loved ones?

LUCY

I'm an only child Mrs. Brody.
Orphaned at 13. These dickheads are
the only family I have.

Benny shrugs in casual agreement.

BRODY

Just us in this house. That's it.

INT. BRODY DINING ROOM - LATER

The group show Christine photos and videos from their paradise, as she goes through a range of emotions:

Anger. Wonder. Fear.

Acceptance.

INT. HENRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brody and Christine hug as they watch their child sleep.

CHRISTINE

What about his friends? His future?

BRODY

The kids there are happy. Safe. Is his future bright here?

Christine doesn't answer, plays with Henry's fringe.

EXT. PLANET GL - MORNING

MONTAGE: Diego stocks up on packs of tobacco / Christine, Brody and Henry go through civilian departures / Benny looks back at a sleeping woman as he exits his home / Lucy passes through security.

INT. SHIP DEPARTURE DESKS

Henry excitedly shows their documents at the VIP entrance.

SECURITY ATTENDANT

All fine Colonel. Your rental's at Port 19F.

They stroll through, an air of excited joy visible on Brody and his wife.

They don't look back as the security doors shut.

On their old life.

EXT. PORT 19F

Lucy, inconspicuous under a baseball cap, walks by several crafts with a large bag over her shoulder.

Upon reaching a luxury vessel, she looks around and DARTS up the gangway. Brody checks the coast is clear behind her.

He slams the hatch shut.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A door flies open. ARMED SOLDIERS with infrared sights stream through a dark, derelict building.

Eventually they discover their oblivious targets.

Governor McKay's two henchmen.

As they realize what's happening and reach for their guns, the soldiers EXECUTE THEM.

The soldiers advance.

As they delve deeper into the building, they're fired upon.

Sporadic gunshots THUMP into the crumbling walls they hold position behind. The soldiers don't return fire.

A 360 degree projector is placed in the open doorway.

President Wilson's full-color hologram pops up.

She walks straight into the gunman's room.

The filthy ex-Governor cowers behind a steel desk.

PRESIDENT WILSON
It's time to give up. Face justice
for your treasonous crimes.

He looks up with TWISTED WRATH at the flickering President.

GOVERNOR MCKAY
Fuck you!

McKay starts shooting pointlessly at the hologram.

PRESIDENT WILSON
This is your final warning. It
doesn't have to end this way.

McKay starts to weep, then lets out a WAR CRY as he rises.

EXT. ATLANTICA LANDING ZONE - TWO DAYS LATER

Brody's vessel touches down as an overjoyed welcome party run out to greet them.

Brody enjoys a warm embrace with Anotnac and the other elders as he disembarks.

Familiar Atlantican faces surround Christine and Henry, who are completely blown away by the reception.

Lupita approaches nervously, placing her hands over Lucy's eyes from behind.

Lucy smiles warmly, turns and kisses her.

EXT. ANOTNAC'S RESIDENCE - SUNSET

Brody and Anotnac sit together on the grass, watching the sun dip itself slowly into the ocean.

ANOTNAC

You seem at peace my friend.

BRODY

I am. I don't remember ever feeling so happy. This place is special.

ANOTNAC

It certainly is. Let's hope we can keep it this way.

The two sit in silence as they gaze down on the settlements that rest atop the SS Atlantica.

EXT. TOP OF CLIFF

Also looking down on the town from a distance is -

COMMANDER GANGZHOU.

He has vengeance in his eyes.

Behind him stand numerous battle-scarred survivors.

INT. BRODY'S ACCOMODATION - DAWN

A MASSIVE EXPLOSION jolts Brody and his wife awake.

SCREAMING and DISTANT GUNFIRE follow.

Christine looks at her husband, terrified.

BRODY
Get Henry. Lock the door.

EXT. ATLANTICAN VILLAGE

Smoke billows from several points leading down to the coast.

Brody is joined by Benny and Lucy in the small town square.

ANOTNAC
They yours?

BRODY
We wouldn't engage on the ground.

ANOTNAC
The deserters then.

BRODY
Get a vantage point - find out
where they're coming from.

Benny runs off as ATLANTICAN SECURITY arrives to protect Anotnac and the elders.

ANOTNAC
Get crafts in the air. Women and
children to the coastal shelters.

Brody hands a blaster to Lucy, who checks the cartridge.

BRODY
Go with them. Take Diego, Ellen and
my family.

LUCY
But Sir, I --

BRODY
That's an order Cadet. They may
need you and Diego for protection.

Lucy obeys, sprints for the houses.

BRODY (CONT'D)
Strategy?

ANOTNAC
Until we know how many, we defend.

Anotnac addresses the THREE SOLDIERS behind her husband.

ANOTNAC (CONT'D)

Get set up with heavy guns along
the top, buy us time.

Luko and the men depart.

BRODY

They're well armed. No air support.
Must've been here since the battle.

Benny returns.

BENNY

Twenty to thirty, trying to fight
their way down into the Atlantica,
as far as I can tell.

BRODY

Shit. Can it be locked down?

RANDOM ELDER (O.S.)

Takes time, hundreds of entrances.

ANOTNAC

Get started. We'll hold them back.

INT. / EXT. SS ATLANTICA

Atlanticans frantically dart to the nearest openings.

A FURIOUS BATTLE is underway as the Pirates lay siege to the
ramshackle defenses setting up.

Laser blasts fly all around.

EXPLOSIONS and BODIES litter the landscape.

Pirates use the forest for cover, picking off exposed troops.

Before long they spy gaps and SURGE in kamikaze fashion.

Brody and Benny arrive just in time to see GANGZHOU STABBING
someone in the distance.

He pulls the man in tight then launches himself off the edge,
onto the top of the ship.

The corpse BREAKS HIS FALL.

Gangzhou slowly gets to his feet.

Brody takes a pot-shot as he hobbles to cover.

Several of the Pirates copy his method, using soldiers and civilians alike to cushion their landings.

EXT. SS ATLANTICA ENTRANCE HATCH

One of the Pirates finds an unlocked door and beckons the rest over. They file in.

Brody, Benny and Atlantican soldiers work their way down.

BRODY
They've made it inside.

ANOTNAC (O.S.)
They're after the nuclear core.
Don't let them get to it, thousands
of people are in there.

BRODY
Evacuate everyone now.

INT. SS ATLANTICA - CONTINUOUS

Brody and the team CREEP ALONG in the only direction they can.

Warning sirens REVERBERATE. Gunfire too.

Beat.

BLOODIED BODIES are scattered on their route - men, women and children. They up their pace.

Suddenly a Pirate attacks from behind, SLITTING THE THROAT of one of the troops.

Others turn and get bullet-heavy revenge.

Brody spies an access ladder in a corridor - he signals to Benny he'll pass them from above.

He climbs and SPRINTS. No-one else is on this sub-level.

From below, SCREAMS OF CIVILIANS caught in the wrong place.

He arrives at a ladder which descends into the cavernous reactor room.

INT. SS ATLANTICA REACTOR CHAMBER

An ATLANTICAN COUPLE are positioned in front of the reactor.

Hurrying down, Brody sets himself up alongside them.

The first PIRATE FOOT-SOLDIER rushes in.

BANG.

The wife fells him.

The next one enters. He goes down too, killed by her husband.

Someone glances into the room.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU (O.S.)
Hello John.

His BOOMING VOICE fills the room.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Should have killed you when I had
the chance. Fate has given me
another, it seems.

Another PIRATE attempts to reach them. Down he goes too.

Brody moves along to better cover.

BRODY
These people have done nothing to
you. What do you hope to achieve?

COMMANDER GANGZHOU (O.S.)
To become a legend. This ship
created us. From enslaved
beginnings we rose up.

Brody looks for an angle to shoot as he taunts.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Thank you for finding her for us.

Brody puts his rifle down and pulls out a small gun, then
climbs up to a ventilation shaft.

He crawls inside.

INT. ATLANTICAN HOUSE

A depraved-looking Pirate slowly descends on a woman and her
young child that she's shielding.

The man SLICES at her arm, practically amputating it.

As she SCREAMS in agony he raises his axe high, when -

Christine SHOOTS HIM!

Lucy immediately tends to the victim's severe wound.

INT. SS ATLANTICA CORRIDOR

Brody sneaks up behind two unsuspecting Pirates, kills them.

He rolls them over. Neither is Gangzhou.

He WHISTLES to Benny, who ushers the rest into the chamber.

BRODY

Protect it at all costs.

Brody goes into attack mode again, stealthily moving through a dark corridor.

Brody enters a cafeteria, a single flickering light barely allowing for visibility.

Gangzhou EXPLODES OUT from behind an upturned table.

He knocks Brody's gun away.

He's much larger than Brody, filling him with confidence.

Gangzhou produces a serrated blade from a sheath.

Brody DARTS OVER to grab a large kitchen knife.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU

You believe you can stop me?

They circle each other, furniture scattered between them. Gangzhou effortlessly flips a trolley.

Brody is forced backwards.

Gangzhou LUNGES and almost catches him.

Brody spins clear.

Gangzhou strikes again, nicking Brody's shoulder.

The Pirate smirks and arrogantly struts to the side.

Brody tightens his knife grip and moves forward. He swipes at his opponent. Misses.

Gangzhou grabs hold of Brody's wrist and SMASHES AN ELBOW into his face.

Brody hits the floor, busted open.

Gangzhou VOLLEYS HIM in the ribs.

Brody drops his knife as he's lifted by the throat against a wall. He musters all his strength and both hands to keep Gangzhou's weapon away from his mid-section.

It's not enough.

Gangzhou slowly INSERTS THE BLADE into his stomach, twisting it and grinning maniacally.

Brody HEAD-BUTTS him in desperation.

Gangzhou stumbles back, nose splattered.

He eyes his crumpled adversary with begrudging admiration.

COMMANDER GANGZHOU (CONT'D)
Goodbye John.

Gangzhou raises his weapon. His eyes widen. He gasps for air.

Behind him, rising into view, is -

Anotnac!

Without a word she's DRIVEN A SHARP POINT through his heart.

Gangzhou falls.

Anotnac runs to the fading, dying Brody.

ANOTNAC
HELP!

She cradles him as his eyes roll back.

ANOTNAC (CONT'D)
Don't leave us... John!

EXT. ATLANTICAN GRAVEYARD - EVENING

HUNDREDS OF MOURNERS gather on a scenic cliff-top.

ANOTNAC
They will live on through our tales
of their courage.

Anotnac takes a moment to compose herself.

ANOTNAC (CONT'D)

Lastly, we owe a debt to one man.
An outsider who sought redemption.
A friend, who was willing to
sacrifice himself to save us.

Brody's crew sit with their heads bowed.

Christine stands nearby with Henry.

They are both overcome with emotion.

Next to her sits -

Brody.

ANOTNAC (CONT'D)

John, would you like to say a few
words?

The heavily-bandaged Brody struggles to his feet.

BRODY

I brought evil here. You lost loved
ones and for that I'm truly sorry.
And I didn't save you. You saved
me, in more ways than you know.

Brody wipes away a tear as he looks back at his son.

BRODY (CONT'D)

We stuck together and survived.
Should any more trouble find its
way here, we'll be ready.

Brody limps away with his wife's support, as a memorial pyre
is set ablaze.

Smoke drifts out over the turquoise ocean.

FADE OUT.

TO BE CONTINUED...