

THE GORGE

Written by

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FADE IN:

On the screen we see AN ARCHIVAL, BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH IMAGE OF...

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, SOVIET PRIME MINISTER JOSEPH STALIN, AND BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL - THE 'BIG THREE' ALLIED LEADERS SIT BESIDE ONE ANOTHER, ENGAGED IN THOUGHTFUL CONVERSATION AT THE HISTORIC TEHRAN CONFERENCE IN FINAL DAYS OF NOVEMBER, 1943.

For a moment, we HOLD CLOSE ON THEIR ICONIC FACES frozen in a moment long in the past...

FADE TO BLACK.

Absolute blackness.

We hear the VOICE OF LEVI, a young man reciting a POEM...

LEVI (V.O.)
*I know to you,
I am not,
what I am,
to myself...*

We hear the faint BEEP ALARM ON A TACTICAL WRIST WATCH...

INT. UNKNOWN SUBTERRANEAN LOCATION - 05:00 HOURS

A WRISTWATCH illuminates in the pitch black darkness as the alarm quietly BEEPS.

The watch display reads: **05:00 AM.**

An instant later the alarm is extinguished as a HEADLAMP is SWITCHED ON...illuminating a dark, extremely cramped space.

Wearing the headlamp is LEVI, a young man in his mid-twenties with short, buzzed hair and ten days of bearding.

Levi lies in a sleeping bag. His face is filthy and his neck is dotted with insect bites.

With sleep still in his eyes, Levi glances with indifference at his 4'x5'x6' claustrophobic surroundings...

ROOTS extend sinuous fingers from dirt walls enclosing him. MILLIPEDES and FIRE ANTS move in the soil he sleeps on.

A black synthetic material creates a ceiling ten inches above his head. It's as if he's been buried alive...

INT. UNKNOWN SUBTERRANEAN LOCATION - MOMENTS LATER

Lit by headlamp, Levi unzips his sleeping bag, rolls on his side, and URINATES into a two-gallon PLASTIC STORAGE BOTTLE.

Levi screws the lid back on the bottle tightly and fishes in his PACK, retrieving a small NOTEBOOK.

He opens the notebook to the CALENDAR PAGE...CLOSE ON NOTEBOOK- TEN successive DAYS have been marked off with red sharpie marker.

LEVI DRAWS A RED DIAGONAL LINE THROUGH ANOTHER DAY.

He turns a few more pages in the notebook to an UNFINISHED POEM he's composing. He skims the lines as...

LEVI'S V.O. CONTINUES...

LEVI (V.O.)

*To see me
is to see nothing.
I am merely a dry leaf
on a dry day.
But when you hear my song
you will know me like no other...*

Levi's V.O. pauses as HE HEARS A FAINT SOUND in the distance.

He listens intently as the sound grows louder, nearing...UNTIL WE RECOGNIZE THE SOUND AS A JET AIRCRAFT ON LANDING APPROACH.

EXT. REMOTE AIRFIELD - VENEZUELA - DAWN - SECONDS LATER

As dawn breaks over the lush landscape, a private GULF STREAM JET touches down on a remote runway, surrounded by blowing grass fields with thick cloud forest jungle beyond.

THREE WHITE SUV's bearing GOVERNMENT FLAGS greet the aircraft's arrival as...

WE HEAR LEVI'S V.O. CONTINUE...

LEVI (V.O.)
*For I am the thunder in the hills,
 I am the flame taker,
 the eater of flowers,
 the beast in the tower...*

A moment later, a well-dressed CARTEL LEADER and his YOUNG WIFE in a cream-colored dress step out of the jet, exiting down the folding stairs...

As a DRIVER opens a rear SUV DOOR for the couple, the Cartel Leader's Wife turns, laughing at something her husband has said. She leans in, KISSING HIM on the cheek...

LEVI (V.O.)
*The toll
 Of the bell
 in your last hour...*

In that instant, THE FORCE OF A BULLET MOVING AT 2900 FEET-PER-SECOND SNAPS THE CARTEL LEADER'S FOREHEAD BACKWARD, FLECKING HIS YOUNG WIFE'S FACE AND DRESS WITH BLOOD.

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. GRASSY HILLSIDE - 1800 METERS AWAY - A SECOND LATER

In a blowing grass hillside over a mile away, we see the MUZZLE OF A SNIPER RIFLE discreetly retract beneath the grassy earth...

INT. UNKNOWN SUBTERRANEAN LOCATION - A SECOND LATER

Levi quickly sets his rifle aside.

He inserts a clump of grass into THE TINY SHOOTING OPENING IN HIS BLIND, extinguishing the light of the rising sun. Once again, he is enveloped in darkness.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPERTITLE:

FOUR MONTHS LATER

HARD CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE - NIGHT

Fluorescent lights hum in the ceiling.

Levi, now in jeans and a black hoodie, shifts his weight from foot-to-foot. The words, 'INTRO TO POETRY', are scrawled on a classroom WIPE BOARD behind him.

We SHIFT ANGLES TO REVEAL a CLASSROOM FULL OF ADULT EDUCATION STUDENTS of all ages and ethnicity's.

JANET, the instructor, a white-haired woman in her late fifties, nods encouragingly to Levi...

JANET
(to Levi, re: the pause)
Please...continue...

It's clear the students are listening intently as Levi looks down at the NOTEBOOK in his hand. He clears his throat...

LEVI
(reading aloud)
*The wishing well
has swelled
and swelled...*

Levi stops reading mid-poem.

He looks at the roomful of eyes falling on him...

LEVI (CONT'D)
(addressing the group)
Look...I'm sorry. This...this whole thing, it just isn't probably right for me...

The teacher makes a face.

JANET
(interjecting)
Levi, I think I can speak for the entire class, when I say that we very much want to hear the rest of your poem...

The students in the room SMILE AND NOD.

JANET (CONT'D)
(to Levi)
This is a writing workshop. This is a *safe place*...

Levi holds her gaze for an instant...then closes his notebook and grabs his bag.

JANET (CONT'D)
Levi...where...where are you going?

Levi walks silently toward the classroom door.

JANET (CONT'D)
 (with an edge)
 Levi, could you please dignify my
 question with a response...

Levi pauses in the door. He looks at the well meaning
 instructor, then at the classroom of Students.

LEVI
 (to the instructor)
 No such thing as a safe place.

INT. LEVI'S STUDIO APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

A fan spins in the barred window.

Alone in his hot, empty, one room apartment, Levi sits
 shirtless at a cheap card table with a pen and his notebook,
 writing A NEW POEM.

He pauses between lines, speaking aloud, attempting to
 articulate something in verse...

LEVI
 (quietly to himself)
*...With my boyhood knife,
 I will cut the sun from the sky,
 and give it...(pause)...to the
 night...*

His IPHONE VIBRATES on the table top.

Levi's eyes dart to the phone screen, silently reading the
 UNSEEN TEXT MESSAGE.

EXT. CHECK POINT - CAMP PENDLETON MARINE BASE - NEXT MORNING

The August sun rises over the San Diego mountains as a BLACK
 MILITARY SUV passes through a security checkpoint entering
 the expanse of Camp Pendleton Marine Base.

INT. MILITARY SUV - SAME MOMENT

As a DRIVER clears the security gate, Levi sits silently in
 the back of the SUV wearing pressed MARINE DRESS BLUES.

A FIRST SERGEANT STRIPE INSIGNIA is embroidered on the left
 arm of Levi's uniform.

Hung on the left side of his chest is myriad of COMBAT RIBBONS AND MEDALS.

INT. WAITING ROOM - CAMP PENDLETON COMMAND - MOMENTS LATER

Thin slats of morning sunlight cut through the blinds of an empty waiting room.

Alone, Levi stands at attention, staring straight ahead with his white MARINE HAT tucked under his arm...

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - CAMP PENDLETON COMMAND - MOMENTS LATER

As she enters, Levi salutes Marine COLONEL LOOMIS, a stoic woman in her late forties...

COLONEL LOOMIS
(to Levi)
At ease, First Sergeant.

MAJOR STOWE, the Colonel's subordinate, quietly shuts the door behind Levi and motions to the conference room table preset TRAY OF BAGELS, PASTRIES, COFFEE AND JUICE.

MAJOR STOWE
(to Levi)
Please, have a seat.

As Levi sits, he glances down a long table at BARTHOLEMEW, an older, white-haired man with unusually pale eyes. He is dressed in a sharp suit.

MAJOR STOWE (CONT'D)
(to Levi)
First Sergeant, would you like a
pastry? Coffee?

LEVI
No, sir. I'm fine, sir. Thank you,
sir.

There's a prolonged silence in the room as Bartholemew stares critically at Levi, clearly sizing him up...

After a moment, the man turns to the two officers.

BARTHOLEMEW
Colonel. Major. Would you please
let us have the room.

Levi salutes again, watching silently as the Colonel and the Major stand and exit without a word of protest, shutting the door behind them.

Now just the two of them, Bartholemew levels his stare back at Levi...

BARTHOLEMEW (CONT'D)

Let's you and I have a talk...

EXT. BUNGALOW - UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS - SAN DIEGO - AFTERNOON

The sun hangs in the afternoon sky.

Levi, still in dress blues, walks up the sidewalk of a residential neighborhood in San Diego.

The mixed houses and lots are small. Some are well kept while others are fenced and dilapidated.

Levi turns a corner and steps up to a SMALL CALIFORNIA BUNGALOW with patch of flowers in the tiny front yard.

Levi KNOCKS ON THE DOOR.

A moment later the door opens and...

RENÉE, a young woman in her mid-twenties stands with her THREE-MONTH-OLD DAUGHTER in a BJORN CARRIER strapped to her chest. Deep in the weeds of newborn parenting, it's clear she wasn't expecting anyone.

LEVI

Hello, Renée.

By her expression, it's clear seeing Levi in uniform brings her mixed emotions.

RENÉE

Levi...what...what are you doin' here?

LEVI

I heard you had your baby.

Renée gazes down, smiling at the infant on her chest.

RENÉE

I sure did.

Renée turns to the side so Levi can see her daughter's little sleeping face.

Levi speaks quietly, to not wake her...

LEVI
 (re: the baby)
 Oh, man. Isn't she something.
 Beautiful...

Clearly in bliss with her child, Renée nods and kisses the top of her daughters head.

RENÉE
 (tender to her baby)
 You're a keeper, aren't ya, bug?

LEVI
 Can we talk a minute?

Renée's smile fades as she looks at Levi. She pauses, clearly considering...

RENÉE
 Levi, I can't invite you inside. I got a new baby. My husband's at work. I'm not going to explain to him what my ex was doing in the house...

Levi looks at her and nods.

LEVI
 How about we talk outside?

EXT. YARD - BUNGALOW - MOMENTS LATER

Renée, Levi, and the baby sit on a picnic blanket in a small, postage-stamp yard.

Renée holds her baby, now awake, upright on her lap.

The child's eyes track a iridescent HUMMINGBIRD darting from a sugar-water feeder to the flowers planted in the yard.

LEVI
 I'll be gone at least a year.

RENÉE
 Where?

LEVI
 Honestly, I don't know. Mission details are classified. They didn't tell me much of anything.

RENÉE
They're making you go?

Levi shakes his head.

LEVI
No. They gave me the choice.

RENÉE
I didn't think they did that.

He looks at her.

LEVI
They don't.

Levi sets an MANILA BUSINESS ENVELOPE on the blanket.

RENÉE
(re: the envelope)
What's that?

LEVI
Some paperwork I want you to
have...

Renée shoots him a questioning look.

LEVI (CONT'D)
I named you as my beneficiary.
You'll get my veterans benefits,
pension, and death pay...

Renée makes a face and shakes her head.

LEVI (CONT'D)
It's all set. You don't have to do
anything...

RENÉE
Levi, I don't want your money...

He looks at her.

LEVI
Look, it's not a lot, but if
something happens...

Renée looks at him, cutting him off.

RENÉE
Levi...what is this? What am I
supposed to say?

LEVI
Renée, come on...

Levi motions to her baby.

LEVI (CONT'D)
I just thought if something happens, you know...you guys could use the money. I don't have anybody else. You know that.

She looks at him with a hint of softness...

RENÉE
Levi...*you don't have me.*

Levi pauses, nodding.

LEVI
I know. I know that. And maybe...if things would have been different...

RENÉE
(sternly cutting him off)
Don't. Just...*don't.* (pause) Levi, we cared about each other once. I'm not denying that. But you're messed up. You're all full of monsters. You scare me.

Renée holds her baby's little hands in hers...

RENÉE (CONT'D)
(re: her baby)
I never could have done...*this...*with you.

Levi pauses, then nods silently.

LEVI
I understand.

Renée is about to say something more, when her baby STARTS TO CRY...

RENÉE
I...I need to feed her.

Levi nods and stands, INTENTIONALLY LEAVING THE ENVELOPE ON THE BLANKET.

Renée tries to hand the envelope back to him but he shakes his head.

LEVI
 (re: the envelope)
 Keep it.

Renée starts to say something but Levi cuts her off...

LEVI (CONT'D)
 Please.

She nods.

RENÉE
 Okay.

Levi looks at Renée and her child.

LEVI
 I'm happy for ya, Renée.

Renée watches Levi as he steps off the lawn and disappears down the sidewalk.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPERTITLE:

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

EXT. CATHEDRAL SQUARE - VILNIUS, LITHUANIA - DAWN

Pigeons cull in the early morning chill.

DRASA, a young woman in her twenties, smokes a cigarette while watching the sun rise over Cathedral Square in old town Vilnius.

Her hair cut short, clad in a black leather jacket, with a LION tattooed on her neck...Drasa sits alone on the polished granite base of a TOWERING MONUMENT.

Cast in bronze high above her, the 14th century Grand Duke Gediminas, the pagan founder of Vilnius, is depicted as a towering black rider, gripping the blade of his sword in one hand and reins of his armored horse in the other.

Lost in thought, Drasa takes a final drag, exhaling smoke into the cold morning air. She crushes the cigarette tip between her fingers extinguishing it.

EXT. PILIES STREET - VILNIUS - LATER

With TWO CUPS OF TAKEAWAY COFFEE in her hands, Drasa walks up the medieval cobblestones of Pilies Street as the morning cafes come to life.

Somewhere in the distance we can hear an ACCORDION playing a mournful song.

EXT. PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

As Drasa turns down a narrow passageway, the sound of the music grows louder.

Rounding a bend in the passageway we see ERIKAS, a STREET MUSICIAN in his fifties, sitting in a doorway playing his instrument.

There's a cluster of EMPTY WINE BOTTLES and CIGARETTE BUTTS on the ground surrounding him. It's clear he's been there playing all night.

Erikas' graying hair is matted. His skin is deep red from years of alcohol abuse and sun exposure...but he plays beautifully.

As Drasa approaches, Erikas sees her and GRINS.

MID-NOTE, ERIKAS INSTANTLY CHANGES THE SAD SONG HE IS PLAYING TO A PLUCKY, JOYFUL TUNE TO PUNCTUATE HER ARRIVAL.

Drasa smiles at her whimsical musical score and sits down in the doorway beside him.

She hands him one of the coffees.

DRASA
(in Lithuanian, subtitled)
Three sugars.

Erik smiles and sets his instrument aside.

DRASA (CONT'D)
(raising her coffee cup)
To music.

They touch their paper coffee cups together in toast.

ERIKAS
(in Lithuanian, subtitled)
To music...

Erikas has a deep gravelly voice as he speaks.

ERIKAS (CONT'D)
(in Lithuanian, subtitled)
Where have you been, little Lion? I
haven't seen you in weeks...

DRASA
(in Lithuanian, subtitled)
I was called to a briefing in
Moscow.

Erikas makes a distasteful face as he easily pivots to speaking English with a thick Lithuanian accent...

ERIKAS
(in English)
A briefing in Moscow? (a pause)
Fuck Moscow!

Drasa smiles, looking at the haggard man. She tenderly tucks a tuft of scruffy graying hair out of his face.

DRASA
(in English)
Daddy, I'm leaving.

Erikas looks at her.

ERIKAS
Leaving? But your birthday is
coming soon. Who...who will make
your birthday dinner?

She smiles at him warmly.

DRASA
I came to say goodbye to you.

There's a silence as Erikas absorbs the moment.

ERIKAS
It's the way it should be. Vilnius
is too small for a lion like you.

Erikas looks at his daughter.

ERIKAS (CONT'D)
Drasa, your life is your life.
You...are yours. Some poor fuckers
never understand that. But
you...you've known it since birth.
Whatever you do...whatever your
path, I will love you without
judgement, like you have loved me.

Drasa touches her father's leathery face.

ERIKAS (CONT'D)
 But you listen to me now and you
 listen well...you beware the
 invitation to dinner, where the
 main course is you.

CUT TO BLACK.

Blackness.

We hear the white noise droning sound of A LONG RANGE
 AIRCRAFT ENGINE...

SUPERTITLE:

SEPTEMBER

SOMEWHERE NORTH OF THE 64TH PARALELL

INT. UNMARKED TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT - UNKNOWN LOCATION

Alone, wearing a parachute and military jump gear, Levi
 sleeps on a cot inside the long, windowless fuselage of an
 unmarked TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

Lit by the red interior aircraft light, Levi stirs awake as
 the forward door suddenly opens and an AIRMAN emerges from
 the cockpit.

His mind slightly foggy from sedation, Levi sits up on the
 cot as the Airmen approaches deliberately, carrying an
 ARMORED CASE in his hand.

All business, the Airman does not look directly at Levi...

AIRMAN
 (re: the armored case)
 Place your right hand on the
 biometric pad...

Levi places his hand on the attaché case SCAN PAD.

An instant later, Levi's hand is scanned, and a light on the
 case ILLUMINATES GREEN.

The armored case UNLOCKS.

The Airman quickly removes a sealed INTELLIGENCE PACKET from the interior of the case...

AIRMAN (CONT'D)
Put your ID, your smartphone, and
your watch in the case.

Levi does as he's told, placing his ID, IPHONE, and his IWATCH inside the case.

The airman locks Levi's personal items inside.

AIRMAN (CONT'D)
No insignias. The colors on your
shoulder. Take em' off.

Levi glances at the AMERICAN FLAG PATCH on the shoulder of his jump gear. He shoots the Airman a look.

The Airman meets Levi's gaze for the first time.

AIRMAN (CONT'D)
You heard me. Take it off.

Levi rips the American flag patch off his shoulder and hands it to the Airman.

AIRMAN (CONT'D)
In three minutes we reach the edge
of the no fly zone. That's as far
as we can take you. From the drop,
you'll hump another 75 kilometers
north on foot. You're expected by
16:00 hours tomorrow...

The Airman HANDS LEVI THE INTELLIGENCE PACKET.

AIRMAN (CONT'D)
(re: the Intel Packet)
...Open that on the ground.

As the Airman turns, heading back toward the cockpit, Levi calls after him...

LEVI
(calling after him)
Hey...

The Airman glances back at Levi.

LEVI (CONT'D)
Where are we?

AIRMAN
That information's classified.

INT./EXT. - UNMARKED TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT - MOMENTS LATER

At 3000 feet, Levi watches the HYDRAULIC JUMP-DOOR SLOWLY OPEN, REVEALING A VISUALLY IMPENETRABLE WALL OF GRAY RAIN CLOUDS.

We hear the HIGH-PITCHED RING of the JUMP SIGNAL.

LEVI METHODICALLY RECHECKS HIS HARNESS, THEN STEPS OFF THE AIRCRAFT INTO THE NOTHING...

EXT. FREEFALL - SECONDS LATER

Free-falling through the dense cloud layer, Levi controls his breathing as his heart beats in his ears.

We feel the rush of air as Levi checks the ALTIMETER strapped to his vest and PULLS HIS D-RING.

His CHUTE DEPLOYS above him, jerking his body upright, instantly slowing his descent to a peaceful drift...

Somewhere in the clouds above him, Levi hears the hum of the aircraft engine banking, changing directions at the edge of the no-fly zone.

The aircraft sound becomes faint, then fades in the distance.

An instant later, Levi drops out of the low hanging cloud layer REVEALING...

A VAST, UNTOUCHED LANDSCAPE OF PRISTINE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.

1200 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND, LEVI SCANS THE HORIZON IN ALL DIRECTIONS...THERE'S NOTHING BUT DENSE FOREST VALLEYS AND JAGGED ROCKY PEAKS.

THERE'S NO SIGN OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Below, Levi eyes A RIVER, snaking through the landscape, as a landing site...

EXT. RIVER BANK - UNKNOWN WILDERNESS - MOMENTS LATER

Levi lands on his feet on the gravel river bank.

Light rain falls on the river surface as he quickly removes his harness and gathers his chute.

The air is cool as Levi kneels, pulling the sealed intelligence packet from his vest. He tears the packet open REVEALING a TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP, an ORIENTEERING COMPASS on a lanyard, and an ANALOGUE WRIST WATCH.

Levi puts on the watch, places the compass around his neck, and unfolds the map...

CLOSE ON MAP: A SPECIFIC POINT IS MARKED IN RED ON THE FAR NORTHERN EDGE OF THE MAP...75 KILOMETERS FROM HIS POSITION.

He checks the compass, then LOOKS TO THE NORTH AT THE SEA OF JAGGED MOUNTAIN PEAKS RISING ON THE HORIZON.

Levi stows the map in his vest, adjusts his pack, and begins hiking north up river...

EXT. SERIES OF SHOTS - UNKNOWN WILDERNESS - PASSAGE OF TIME

As the rain's intensity ebbs and flows, we see a SERIES OF SHOTS TRACKING LEVI'S JOURNEY NORTH...

-LEVI FOLLOWS THE RIVER INTO THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS...

-WITH HIS PACK HELD OVER HIS HEAD, LEVI FIGHTS TO KEEP HIS BALANCE IN THE SWIFT CURRENT AS HE FORGES ACROSS A RUSHING RIVER...

-THE RAIN POURS HARDER AS LEVI CLIMBS UP A NARROW ROCK FISSURE TO HIGHER GROUND...

-NIGHT FALLS, LEVI, IN A MAKESHIFT SHELTER, BRACING AGAINST THE PENETRATING DAMP COLD BY A SMALL CAMPFIRE...

-DAWN THE FOLLOWING DAY - LEVI TAKES A COMPASS BEARING AND CHECKS THE MAP...

-LEVI HIKES ALONG THE NARROW, KNIFE-EDGE RIDGE OF A VAST MOUNTAINSCAPE...

EXT. CONIFER FOREST - UNKNOWN WILDERNESS - AFTERNOON

The rain has eased.

CROWS call in distance as Levi silently walks through a dense forest of towering pines.

As Levi nears the edge of the forest, he stops mid-stride, as if SENSING SOMETHING...

Levi drops to one knee and scans his surroundings for movement.

He sees nothing.

A moment passes as the sun finally breaks out of the low hanging rain clouds, BATHING THE EDGE OF THE FOREST IN WARM SUNLIGHT...

SUDDENLY, LEVI NOTICES A GLINT OF LIGHT CAUGHT IN THE TINY WATER DROPLETS HANGING OFF A MATRIX OF NEARLY INVISIBLE TRIP-WIRES.

Levi eyes the trip-wires, carefully stepping over them...

EXT. THE GORGE - WESTERN EDGE - MOMENTS LATER

As Levi emerges out of the pine forest, he stands on the western edge of a MASSIVE GORGE.

SPANNING 600 METERS ACROSS TO THE FAR EASTERN SIDE, THE GORGE'S UNBELIVABLE SIZE IS DIZZYING.

A DENSE LAYER OF FOG LIES IN THE GORGE BELOW, SHROUDING WHATEVER LIES AT THE DISTANT BOTTOM.

LEVI TAKES A TENTATIVE STEP FORWARD, GLANCING OVER THE EDGE, REVEALING...

TWENTY-FEET BELOW THE LIP OF THE GORGE, LEVI SEES A MAN-MADE, EXPANDED STEEL CONTAINMENT FENCE ANCHORED AND CANTILEVERED OUT FROM THE GORGE WALL.

THE OUSTRETCHED CONTAINEMENT FENCE EXTENDS NORTH TO SOUTH ALONG THE GORGE LIP AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.

COILS OF RAZOR WIRE TOP THE FENCE.

LIKE DEADLY ORNIMENTS, HUNDREDS OF OMINOUS, SPHERICAL COMBAT MINES HANG FROM THE BARRIER ON STEEL CABLES, DANGLING DOWN AT VARYING DEPTHS INTO THE THICK FOG BELOW.

LEVI
(Re: the gorge, to
himself)
What the hell is this...

Suddenly Levi hears a MAN'S VOICE in the distance...

J.D. (O.S.)
(Australian accent)
At long last, my sweet prince has
come!

Levy pivots toward the voice...

J.D., a young man in camouflage with a S.A.W. (M249)LIGHT MACHINE GUN slung on his shoulder, makes his way along the lip of the gorge toward Levi.

J.D. (CONT'D)
Punctual, even! Spot on time. What a guy...

Levi raises his right hand to his eye-line in salute...

J.D. (CONT'D)
Oh fuck, don't salute me, mate.
We're not even in the same fuckin' army.

Levi appears thrown for an instant, as J.D. extends his hand.

Levi shakes it.

J.D. (CONT'D)
J.D. Tillman, Aussie S.A.S. Second Sabre Squadron.

LEVI
Levi Rush, USMC Special Operations Group Scout Sniper.

Theres a brief pause...

J.D.
So...what'd they tell you about this mission?

LEVI
Nothing. Not a thing. (pause) I've got an unmarked topo map. I don't even know where I am...

J.D. nods and smiles...

J.D.
I've been here an entire year and I don't know where I am.

Levi shoots him a look.

J.D. (CONT'D)
(off Levi's look)
Fucked up, right? We'll that's just the very tip of the iceberg of *fucked-up-ed-ness*. (pause) Come on, let's head to the O.P..

EXT. WESTERN RIM TRAIL - MOMENTS LATER

The sun sinks low on the jagged, mountainous horizon.

Levi and J.D. hike along the western edge of the gorge in mid-conversation...

LEVI

So...I'm sorry...what are you saying?

J.D.

I'm saying, you're the first fucking person I've spoken to face to face in a year...

LEVI

You're all alone out here?

J.D.

That's right. And my tour rotation is officially over at midnight, and yours is about to begin.

LEVI

I'm essentially your...*relief*?

J.D.

Affirmative.

For a long moment the men hike in silence as Levi absorbs the information.

LEVI

I have a shit-ton of questions...

At that moment, they round the bend REVEALING...

EXT. WESTERN RIM TOWER OBSERVATION POST - GORGE - CONTINUOUS

A decades old, heavily fortified, 20-meter high concrete TOWER OBSERVATION POST (O.P.) perches on the western rim of the gorge.

A CIRCULAR OBSERVATION PLATFORM rests atop the tower looking out over the vast gorge.

J.D.

(re: the tower)

There she is...*West Tower*. Your home away from home for the next 365 days. Completely self-sufficient.

(MORE)

J.D. (CONT'D)

Solar with a generator backup. Rain cistern. Wild game is plentiful. There's a garden out back and a bath house. Everything you need...

600 meters directly across the abyss-like Gorge, on the eastern rim, RESTS A SECOND OBSERVATION TOWER.

LEVI

(re: the far tower)

What's that on the other side?

J.D. glances across the gorge.

J.D.

That's East Tower. Don't worry about them. They're not your problem. (pause) I saw some movement over there early this morning. I think they just did their annual rotation, too.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - LATER THAT NIGHT

Levi and J.D. sit in hand-made Adirondack chairs on the tower observation platform.

There's a long range SPOTTING SCOPE and a .50 CALIBER SNIPER RIFLE on a bipod rest nearby.

Mounted to the platform rails are several 10k DIRECTIONAL SEARCH LIGHTS.

They eat a home-cooked meal of ELK STEAK AND GARDEN VEGETABLES as they watch the last of the daylight fade in the mountains.

J.D.

Theoretically, your job is simple...everyday you walk the western rim. The gorge runs eight clicks to the south and nine to the north. You check the containment fence, the Cloakers, and the suspended mines. (pause) You ever work with contact mines before?

LEVI

A bit.

J.D.

They couldn't be more basic. Hang em', arm em', and then you touch em'...they blow the fuck up. By the way, there's an armory in the basement bunker. Weapons. Tools. Replacement mines. Whatever you need. Radio check every 30 days. And you have to keep a tower log, each day of the mission for the year...

LEVI

(interjecting)

Hold on, what's a *Cloaker*?

J.D.

Cloakers are a type of...satellite transmitter. There's one every kilometer or so on the rim.

LEVI

What do they do?

J.D.

They...*cloak*.

J.D. smiles....

J.D. (CONT'D)

They send a false signal to all the satellites that pass over head in a given day. They're designed to render the gorge invisible to spy satellites, but also work on shit like google earth. (pause) There's no outside contact here. No cell, no SAT, no nothin'. In the event your position is overrun, there's a panic button on the dedicated shortwave radio you use for your monthly radio checks. Button triggers a beacon that lets them know...

LEVI

Lets who know?

J.D.

*The powers that be, mate.
Whoever...*

Levi's expression grows more skeptical.

J.D. takes a deep breath, as if gearing up to explain...

J.D. (CONT'D)

Look, here's the deal...this place is old. Like end of World War II early cold war shit. It's a secret. Way back then, an agreement was made and a coalition was formed to keep it a secret. So every year, a representative from one of the original western nations patrols the western rim. And someone from the other side patrols the eastern rim. They're your counterpart.

Levi is silent for a beat.

LEVI

You're telling me the leaders of the east and west have secretly been working together for the last seventy-five years?

J.D.

Nope. I'm telling you, there's been nine Soviet-Russian heads of state and thirteen U.S. Presidents since the coalition was formed...and not one of them has known about the gorge.

J.D. pours LIQUOR from a suspect-looking canister into a tin cup for Levi.

J.D. (CONT'D)

(re: the liquor)

Here, mate. Give that a spin.

Levi smells the cup, then takes a swallow.

LEVI

That's...that's actually pretty decent...

J.D.

(nodding)

Am I right? The still is in the bunker. Recipe's been passed down for decades. Don't fuck it up.

Levi smiles.

LEVI

Listen, man. I'm sorry, but I'm missing something. Other than keeping this place a secret...what the fuck is the actual mission? I'm trying to keep people from going in the gorge?

There's a beat as J.D. looks at Levi.

J.D.

No, mate. You're trying keep what's in the gorge...**from coming out.**

There's a loaded silence as Levi stares blankly at J.D.

J.D. (CONT'D)

(off Levi's look)

One year ago, I was in your shoes. My predecessor gave me the same speech. And how did I respond?

LEVI

Go fuck yourself.

J.D. laughs...

J.D.

Exactly!

WITHOUT WARNING, J.D. STABS HIS FORK INTO THE ELK STEAK ON LEVI'S TIN PLATE AND PITCHES IT OFF THE OBSERVATION DECK FAR OUT INTO THE GORGE...

LEVI

Hey, I was...

The falling meat disappears into the fog layer below...

J.D.

Shush! Listen!

Levi falls silent as both men listen...

J.D. (CONT'D)

Takes about eight seconds to reach the bottom...

There's a brief beat of silence, then from somewhere below the fog layer...

A SUDDEN SYMPHONY OF HIDEOUS, CHILLING, INHUMAN SHRIEKS ERUPT FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE GORGE, ECHOING THROUGH THE VAST, DARK LANDSCAPE...

Levi looks at J.D..

LEVI
 (re: the sound)
 What the fuck is that?

J.D. looks at him.

J.D.
 We call them *Hollowmen*. (pause)
 Nobody really knows what they are.
 I don't even know why they're
 called that...

LEVI
 (interjecting)
 That's the name of a poem written
 like, a hundred years ago...

J.D.
 (cutting him off)
 Well, I don't know anything about
 that. All I know is somebody who
 had our job called them that a
 long, long time ago, and the name
 stuck...

J.D. refills their tin cups with his home distilled liquor.

J.D. (CONT'D)
 What *I can tell you* is in the mid-
 1950's, they sent an entire
 battalion down into the gorge to
 clean them out. (pause) Not a
 single man returned. After that,
 they shifted to a purely
 containment strategy.

Levi stares at J.D..

LEVI
 J.D...come on, man. What the fuck
 is really going on here?

J.D.
 Well, there's been a lot of
 theories over the years about *what
 the fuck is really going on here...*

LEVI
 And?

J.D.

And the theory I think summarizes
the situation most succinctly is...
the **Gorge is a door to Hell...and
we are standing guard at the gate.**

EXT. WEST TOWER - 05:00 HOURS - THE NEXT MORNING

First light rises over the eastern rim.

J.D.'s breath is visible in the cold morning air as he
shoulders his heavy pack, preparing to depart.

Levi stands a few feet away in the sand-bagged entrance to
west tower seeing him off.

J.D. reads Levi's pensive expression...

J.D.

Keep it simple, mate. Day by day.
Anything that tries to crawl outta'
there, just put a hole in it and
send it back in.

Levi nods.

LEVI

You must be pretty psyched to get
back to the world...

J.D. pauses, clearly hesitant.

J.D.

Levi...there's one other thing. I
don't know whether to tell you or
not. When my predecessor told me,
it really fucked with my head. But
I think you have the right to
know...

Levi looks J.D. in the eye.

J.D. (CONT'D)

Maintaining the secrecy of the
gorge is clearly of paramount
importance. The logs of the
previous tower sentries are full of
theories and rumors. In some cases,
they're more like diaries. If you
read some of them, you may feel a
kinship with them. I know I did.

(MORE)

J.D. (CONT'D)
People have even written about
wanting to look up previous
sentries after their tour, but...

LEVI
(interrupting)
I feel like you're burying the lead
here, J.D...

J.D. pauses.

J.D.
There's a running theory that when
our tours are done...they kill us.

Levi falls silent, absorbing J.D.'s comment.

J.D. (CONT'D)
Don't know if it's true...or it's
just people left alone with their
thoughts too long.

J.D. adjusts his pack straps and SLIDES A FULLY LOADED
MAGAZINE INTO HIS COMPACT M-4 RIFLE.

J.D. (CONT'D)
I reckon I'm gonna' find out.

J.D. extends his hand.

J.D. (CONT'D)
Good luck, mate.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Moments later, Levi watches from the outside the tower as
J.D., wearing his heavy pack and rifle, disappears into the
distant tree line.

CUT TO BLACK.

Blackness.

We hear the ROLL OF THUNDER AND HOWLING OF WIND...

EXT. WEST TOWER - A WEEK LATER- NIGHT

Lightning illuminates the heavens.

Hard rain lashes West Tower as a powerful storm system rolls over the wilderness landscape.

The dark tree line sways wildly in the wind as if it were alive...

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - WEST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Rain strikes the tower window.

The open room is spotless and well kept in military fashion.

The small kitchen is clean and dishes put away.

In the opposite corner is a neatly made bunk.

A long bookshelf lines the wall, filled with 75 years of annual LOG BOOKS dating back to the mid-1940's.

The books are nearly identical, with the styles of the book evolving slightly over the decades.

Each individual log has the spine LABELED WITH THE YEAR, THE NAME OF THE SENTRY ON DUTY, AND THEIR VARIOUS HOME COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

The MOST RECENT LOG BOOK is J.D.'s.

Levi stands at the bookshelf. He hasn't shaved in a week.

Slowly he runs his hand down the long row of log books, scanning the spines, going back decades further and further in time...

CLOSE ON A SAMPLE OF LOG TITLES:

COTTER - 1999-00 - IRELAND

SOJKA - 1985-86 - POLAND

GAGNE - 1973-74 - FRANCE

KRAMER - 1964-1965 - UNITED STATES

SHESHUNOFF - 1957-58 - WEST GERMANY

WHITE - 1948-49 - UNITED KINGDOM

At random, Levi selects: **WHITE - 1948-49 - UNITED KINGDOM...**

Levi sits in a chair by the window and opens the log to a random page.

As he begins to read to himself we hear the VOICE OF WHITE from the entry...

WHITE (V.O.)
 (British accent, reading entry)
September 21, 1948. Like many creatures in the wild, they seem most active in the transition period between day and night. Perhaps they hunt in the twilight and bed-down midday and dead of the night. But this is, of course, conjecture. Considering the relentless fog layer, it's difficult to imagine how much sunlight ever enters the gorge below...

White's voice ceases as Levi pauses from reading.

He skips ahead several months and opens to an entry later in the log...

WHITE (V.O.)
April 22, 1949. After four months of silence, the Hollowmen began again last night. By 21:00 hours the noise was deafening. I thought I was going mad. I took two Bensedrine tablets, filled my ears with bandage cotton, and hauled an additional 1000 rounds of .308 ammunition to the platform. I watched the rim until day break. I never fired a shot. I never saw a thing.

Levi pauses. The rain strikes the tower window.

Levi turns, staring out the wet glass into the stormy night, tracking his gaze far out across the abyss of the gorge to...the distant, TINY YELLOW WINDOWFRAME OF LIGHT IN THE EAST TOWER.

EXT. WEST TOWER - THE NEXT MORNING

The storm has passed.

Thick fog blankets the gorge as Levi steps out of the tower dressed in military bush fatigues.

Prepped for his morning patrol, he is armed with the S.A.W. (M249) and a pair of FIELD BINOCULARS.

EXT. WESTERN RIM TRAIL - MID-MORNING

Wind blown branches and leaves scatter the trail as shafts of sunlight break through the moody morning sky.

Levi hikes south along the jagged western rim of the gorge, checking the suspended mines and containment fence.

EXT. CLOAKER 9 - WESTERN RIM TRAIL - MOMENTS LATER

Rounding a bend, Levi approaches a five-meter diameter SATELLITE DISH INSTALLATION, painted camouflage and obscured by radar netting. This is a CLOAKER, one of 16 situated along the western rim.

Levi inserts a TITANIUM KEY on a neck chain into the Cloaker's control panel and TURNS IT TO THE LEFT to "SYSTEM CHECK" POSITION.

A GREEN LIGHT ILLUMINATES ON PANEL, INDICATING THE CLOAKER IS FULLY OPERATIONAL AND FUNCTIONING CORRECTLY.

Levi turns it back to "ON" position, slides the key around his neck, and continues down the rim trail checking the containment fence.

EXT. WEST TOWER - AFTERNOON

Returning from his patrol, Levi emerges from the wooded, northern end of the rim trail with his S.A.W. slung over his shoulder.

The autumn day has turned warm, and Levi's tee-shirt is soaked in sweat from the long hike.

As Levi crosses the clearing to West tower, he suddenly hears the SOUND OF A CHAINSAW somewhere far off in the distance.

Levi pauses, following the sound, peering far across the gorge toward East Tower...where he sees the TINY SILHOUETTE OF A PERSON moving in the afternoon sun...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Levi steps deliberately out onto the West Tower observation platform and reaches for the long range SPOTTING SCOPE, as we SHIFT TO...

LEVI'S P.O.V. THROUGH SPOTTING SCOPE: Magnified by a power of 50x, Levi adjusts the scope's FOCAL RING, bringing EAST TOWER INTO CRISP FOCUS...

After a moment of scanning the east rim, Levi locates the person...HIS UNSEEN EAST TOWER COUNTERPART.

With their back turned away from Levi, the Counterpart leans with a heavy chainsaw, cutting the thick branches of a tree that fell during the previous nights storm, blocking their shooting lane to the south.

After a long moment of sawing, the Counterpart PAUSES MID-CUT...AS IF SOMEHOW SENSING THEY ARE BEING WATCHED...

The Counterpart kills the saw engine and suddenly turns toward the western rim REVEALING THEIR FACE...

We see DRASA, THE LITHUANIAN, STARING BACK AT LEVI ACROSS THE GORGE...

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPERTITLE:

OCTOBER

Blackness.

We hear the amplified crackle of a RECORD PLAYER NEEDLE being gently placed on a spinning TURN TABLE...

HARD CUT TO:

INT. EAST TOWER - KITCHEN - EASTERN RIM - MORNING

CLOSE UP ON: TWO STICKS OF BUTTER land in the bottom of a heavy, stainless steel COOKING POT and immediately beginning to melt as...

WE HEAR THE SUDDEN, SEARING ELECTRIC GUITAR INTRODUCTION to the Iggy and the Stooges, 1973 punk rock anthem, *SEARCH AND DESTROY**.

We SHIFT ANGLES TO REVEAL...

Drasa THRASH DANCING to the music over the kitchen stove in a tank top, camouflage fatigue pants, and a loaded SIDEARM.

A decades old, HI-FI STEREO RECORD PLAYER BLASTS MUSIC as...Drasa ADDS TWO CUPS OF SUGAR to the pot, belting out the lyrics, word for word, with the gravelly voice of Iggy Pop...

DRASA
 (at the top of her lungs)
*I'm a streetwalking cheetah with a
 heart full of napalm...*

As she sings, Drasa adds A CUP OF HONEY to the butter and sugar simmering in the pot...

DRASA (CONT'D)
 (singing)
*I'm the runaway son of a nuclear A-
 bomb...*

Drasa pitches in a pinch of CINNAMON, SALT, quickly removes the pot from the stove and begins to WHISK IN EGGS, AND FLOUR...

DRASA (CONT'D)
 (singing)
*I am the world's forgotten boy,
 the one who searches and destroys!*

She pours the cake batter into a circular BAKING PAN and slides it into the oven.

DRASA (CONT'D)
 (singing the chorus)
*Honey gotta help me please,
 somebody gotta save my soul,
 Baby detonate for me!!!*

INT. EAST TOWER - ALCOHOL RESERVE - MOMENTS LATER

The MUSIC CONTINUES as...

Drasa opens a locked cabinet, revealing a reserve of various ALCOHOL BOTTLES.

She selects a dusty BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE. She shuts the cabinet and roars out the chorus into the neck of the champagne bottle like a microphone...

DRASA
 (singing into bottle)
*Honey gotta help me please,
 somebody gotta save my soul,
 Baby, penetrate my mind!*

We hear the POP OF THE CHAMPAGNE CORK as we CUT TO...

INT. TABLE - EAST TOWER - EASTERN RIM - AN HOUR LATER

The music has ceased.

East tower is quiet as Drasa sits alone at the small table.

In birthday tradition, she has DECORATED HER CHAIR WITH A HAND MADE GARLAND OF AUTUMN LEAVES AND FLOWERS.

A SINGLE CANDLE BURNS in the layered LITHUANIAN HONEY CAKE she's baked...

DRASA
(singing to herself, in
Lithuanian, subtitled)
May you have a very long life,
may you have a very long life,
we wish you a very long life.
Valio, Valio, Valio.

In the lonely silence following the absence of her voice, Drasa leans forward and BLOWS OUT THE CANDLE.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Levi sits in an Adirondack chair on west tower platform reading from a former sentry log.

The spine of the log reads:

SHESHUNOFF - 1955-56 - WEST GERMANY

As Levi reads a random entry we hear the VOICE OF SHESHUNOFF...

SHESHUNOFF (V.O.)
(German accent, reading
entry)
November 2, 1955. It has been five weeks since the battalion embarked on horseback down into the gorge. With the exception of the aforementioned small arms fire I heard the initial week following their departure, it has been all but silent. I have no information. Not one has returned. How can 900 armed men simply disappear?

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

A brisk October breeze blows in the trees as Drasa steps out onto the East Tower observation platform.

A Russian DShK (Dushka) HEAVY MACHINE GUN and SPOTTING SCOPE are mounted on the deck rail nearby.

Drasa takes a swallow from the champagne bottle. She watches the yellow autumn leaves scatter on the breeze, tumbling downward and disappearing into the foggy gorge below.

As she fishes A CIGARETTE from her pack, Drasa notices distant movement on the Western Tower observation platform.

She lights the cigarette and steps over to the spotting scope, peering through the view finder as we SHIFT TO:

DRASA'S P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE: She sees Levi, her western counterpart, sitting in an Adirondack chair, reading a log book.

Drasa steps back from the scope and takes a long drag on her cigarette, clearly considering something.

She sets her cigarette on the rail, and quickly steps back inside East Tower for something...

Drasa reemerges a moment later with SOMETHING UNSEEN under her arm.

She picks up her smoke off the rail and takes a final drag, then pinches it out, saving the rest for later.

Drasa draws her SEMI-AUTOMATIC HANDGUN from her hip holster, raises the muzzle to the sky, and FIRES A SINGLE SHOT.

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

At the sound of the DISTANT GUNSHOT, Levi immediately sets aside the log.

Levi stands from his chair and steps over to his spotting scope. He peers at East Tower...

LEVI'S P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE - Arms crossed, Drasa stares stone-faced back at Levi...then suddenly she SMILES.

She HOLDS UP A PIECE OF PAPER in front of her.

Levi quickly ADJUSTS THE FOCAL RING to focus on the paper, REVEALING A HAND WRITTEN MESSAGE in English in marker...

CLOSE ON PAPER:

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

Reading the message, Levi SMILES.

Levi steps back from his scope, pausing to think, then RAISES HIS INDEX FINGER, as if to indicate...*hold on a second.*

Levi hurries inside West Tower, only to return a moment later with a DRY ERASE WIPE BOARD from the kitchen.

Levi scribbles something unseen on the wipe board and holds it up for her view...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - A SECOND LATER

Drasa GRINS as she peers through her scope view finder at Levi's message...

LEVI'S WIPE BOARD READS:

I'M NOT THAT EASY.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Drasa writes on another piece of paper and holds it up...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - A SECOND LATER

Through the scope, Levi reads her message...

CLOSE ON PAPER:

MY NAME IS DRASA.

TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY.

Levi pauses to think, then reaches for J.D.'s suspicious LIQUOR CANISTER and POURS AN INCH into his cup.

He writes on the wipe board and displays it...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - A SECOND LATER

Drasa peers through her scope at Levi's message...

LEVI'S WIPE BOARD READS:

MY NAME IS LEVI.

HOW ABOUT WE RAISE A GLASS

FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY.

Drasa sees Levi RAISE HIS TIN CUP in cheers.

Drasa GRINS and raises her CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE as the two TOAST ACROSS THE VAST 600 METER EXPANSE OF THE GORGE.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SUNSET

The sun sinks on the horizon, bathing the autumn evening in a rich, golden light.

Drasa has dragged the stereo SPEAKERS out onto the East Tower platform...

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Drasa quickly rifles through East Tower's huge collection of VINYL LP RECORDS - mostly old Eastern European and Soviet era pirated copies of western music.

Drasa selects an album, places it on the spinning HI FI TURN-TABLE, and sets the needle...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SECONDS LATER

As Drasa DANCES out onto the platform with a SECOND BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE...

The stereo SPEAKERS IGNITE with the OSCILLATING STRUM of an F and C chord on electric guitar, joined by drums and bass..leading into the thunderous intro to The Clash's 1979 song, *DEATH OR GLORY**...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

The SKA PUNK music echoes across vast gorge to West Tower platform.

Levi grins and refills his tin cup with J.D.'s moonshine, setting the canister on the platform rail.

With a solid liquor buzz, Levi checks the scope viewfinder.

Dancing, Drasa HOLDS UP A NEW MESSAGE.

P.O.V. THROUGH THE SCOPE, Levi reads it...

CLOSE ON PAPER:

LET'S SEE YOUR MOVES, LEVI.

Levi smiles and shakes his head.

He scribbles on his wipe board and displays it...

CLOSE ON LEVI'S WIPE BOARD:

NO CAN DO. I'M A TERRIBLE DANCER.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Drasa makes a face and HOLDS UP A NEW MESSAGE.

CLOSE ON PAPER:

WELL YOU MUST BE GOOD AT SOMETHING?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - SECONDS LATER

Levi pauses thinking, then scribbles on his wipe board and displays it...

CLOSE ON LEVI'S WIPE BOARD:

I'M A PRETTY GOOD SHOT.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Reading his message, Drasa pauses, then SETS HER CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE ON THE PLATFORM RAIL.

She quickly writes and HOLDS UP A NEW MESSAGE.

CLOSE ON PAPER:

HOW GOOD?

With the music rocking from the speakers, DRASA MOTIONS DRAMATICALLY TO THE BOTTLE ON THE RAIL BESIDE HER, AS IF TO SAY...SHOOT IT.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - A SECOND LATER

Realizing what Drasa is implying, Levi MAKES A FACE.
HE SHAKES HIS HEAD AS IF DRASA IS OUT OF HER MIND...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Drasa sees Levi's sheepish reaction through the her scope.
Without hesitation, she REACHES FOR THE RUSSIAN TOCHNOST RIFLE leaning beside her, RACKS A LIVE ROUND INTO THE CHAMBER, TAKES AIM CROSS THE GORGE AND FIRES...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Levi flinches as a .338 BULLET PUNCHES CLEAN THROUGH J.D.'S ALUMINUM LIQUOR CANISTER nearby on the railing, sending it end over end onto the platform floor.

Levi stares wide eyed at the PUNCTURED CANISTER AS THE LIQUOR DRAINS OUT ONTO THE PLATFORM FLOOR.

LEVI
What the fuck...

Levi looks out across the gorge at Drasa as the MUSIC BLASTS...

LEVI (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Oh...Okay...I see...

Levi SEIZES HIS BARRET M82 RIFLE, racks the action, rests the barrel on the rail, exhales as he aims, and FIRES...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - A SPLIT SECOND LATER

The CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE EXPLODES on the rail, sending fragments of glass and Champagne foam everywhere.

The Clash song ends and theres a beat of sudden quiet as champagne runs down the platform railing.

Drasa suddenly BURSTS INTO HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER.

GRINNING EAR TO EAR, she picks SMALL SHARDS OF GLASS OUT OF HER FOREARM and HAIR.

Drasa giggles to herself as reaches for the FIRST EMPTY BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE she drank.

Drasa carefully BALANCES THE EMPTY BOTTLE ON TOP OF HER HEAD.
She smiles at Levi across the gorge...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Levi stares at Drasa through his rifle scope...

LEVI
(to himself, re: the
bottle on her head)
This chick is fuckin' crazy...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - A SECOND LATER

Watched through the scope, Drasa smiles coyly with the bottle on her head, clearly curious about her counterpart's reaction, when...

SUDDENLY DRASA'S PLAYFUL EXPRESSION VANISHES, INSTANTLY TURNING TO VISCERAL FEAR...

She SCREAMS...

DRASA
(screaming)
BENEATH YOU!!!!

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Through the scope, Levi can't make out Drasa's words, but he READS THE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE...

HE INSTANTLY PIVOTS FROM THE SCOPE, PEERING DOWN OVER THE EDGE OF THE GORGE BELOW HIM...

HE SEES SIX '**HOLLOWMEN**' CLIMBING UPWARD OUT OF THE FOG LAYER...AGGRESSIVELY SCALING THE WESTERN GORGE WALL BENEATH HIS POSITION.

They are nightmarish creatures, resembling something that were once perhaps human, but no longer...RIB-THIN AND VEINED, WITH GHOULISH DEAD GREY FLESH AND RABID, FRENETIC EYES AND BONE WHITE PUPILS.

LEVI SWINGS HIS RIFLE, TAKING AIM, BUT...

IN THAT INSTANT, ONE OF THE CONTACT MINES SUSPENDED IN THE GORGE BELOW IS DISTURBED, DETONATING WITH UNBELIEVABLE FORCE.

A BLAST WAVE SURGES UP THE CANYON WALL, KNOCKING LEVI OFF HIS FEET AND NEARLY OFF THE WEST TOWER PLATFORM.

Four of the creatures are BLOWN OFF THE GORGE WALL by the mine's concussion...their shrapnel tattered bodies plummet back into the dense fog layer below.

But two Hollowmen continue to scale upward, quickly closing the distance to the gorge containment wall...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Pitching the champagne bottle aside, Drasa surges for the DUSHKA HEAVY MACHINE-GUN mounted on the platform.

She racks back the action, grips the two V-SHAPED BUTTERFLY TRIGGER with both hands, and OPENS FIRE...

The fierce recoil of the heavy gun shakes Drasa's body as SHE BENDS AN ARC OF FULLY AUTOMATIC .50 CALIBER FIRE ACROSS THE GORGE...

EXT. WESTERN GORGE WALL - A SECOND LATER

The GREEN TRACER STREAM OF LARGE CALIBER ROUNDS STRIKE the western gorge wall, CUTTING APART the two remaining Hollowmen...shooting them off the wall before they reach the containment fence.

Their SHRIEKS fade as they fall downward into the mist.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SECONDS LATER

There is a beat of silence as Drasa stops firing. Her heart pounds as she takes a breath.

Her ears ring from the Dushka's deafening sound.

Exhaling, she scans the distant western wall for movement as the last of the sun slips behind the mountains.

She sees nothing.

Suddenly Drasa hears a nearby, guttural RASPING SOUND.

She shifts her gaze from the far western wall to the Eastern containment fence directly below her, REVEALING...

NINE more HOLLOWMEN, clinging to the Eastern Gorge wall below her.

THEIR MACABRE, DECAYING BODIES SLOWLY CRAWL AROUND THE SUSPENDED CONTACT MINES, ATTEMPTING TO AVOID THEM...

DRASA
(to herself, in
Lithuanian)
Mother of god...

As the lead creature reaches the fence, A HIGH VELOCITY SNIPER BULLET FROM WESTERN TOWER PUNCHES THROUGH IT'S HEAD.

Drasa glances up, seeing Levi ACROSS THE GORGE WITH HIS RIFLE POISED...

The creature's body goes slack, falling backward off the rock face, BRUSHING AGAINST A HANGING CONTACT MINE.

THE MINE IS TRIGGERED, EXPLODING, SETTING OFF A CHAIN REACTION, DETONATING TWO MORE MINES...

Drasa is STRUCK with a piece of HOT MINE SHRAPNEL, knocking her body to the floor.

Blood flares from her shoulder as Drasa SCREAMS in pain, writhing as the fragment of HOT METAL SIZZLES IN THE WOUND.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - SECONDS LATER

In that instant, from across the gorge, Levi sees another WAVE OF CREATURES on the Eastern wall, climbing out of the fog layer...

Levi sets his sniper rifle aside and seizes his S.A.W. MACHINE GUN.

Methodically he checks the high capacity drum magazine, rests the muzzle on the railing, and OPENS FIRE WITH A FULLY AUTOMATIC BARRAGE...POCKING THE ASCENDING TARGETS ON THE EASTERN WALL WITH RED TRACER FIRE...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Bleeding, Drasa staggers to her feet, tilts the Dushka barrel, BLINDLY FIRING DOWNWARD...

EXT. FAR ABOVE - SAME MOMENT

FROM AFAR ABOVE IN THE NIGHT HEAVENS, THE CRACKLE OF RELENTLESS MUZZLE FIRE AND VIVID TRACERS OF LEVI AND DRASA LIGHT UP THE VAST, LONELY, DARK LANDSCAPE BELOW...

CUT TO BLACK.

We hear the sound of BIRDS at first light...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - DAWN

A small, yellow FINCH lands on the railing of West Tower platform, singing it's song to the new day.

Below the Finch on the platform floor, Levi lays on his belly with his S.A.W. Machine gun at the ready.

It's clear he hasn't slept.

THOUSANDS OF SPENT AMMUNITION CARTRIDGES are scattered all around him.

Exhausted, he stares at the Eastern Wall of the gorge looking for movement, but sees none.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Drasa, her tank-top caked with dried blood, sits upright against the wall of East tower.

She reaches for the TACTICAL KNIFE strapped to her ankle and FLASHES OPEN THE BLADE.

DRASA INSERTS THE BLADE TIP INTO HER LEFT SHOULDER WOUND AND PRIES THE CHUNK OF MINE SHRAPNEL FROM THE FLESH.

BITING BACK A NAUSEOUS WAVE OF DIZZYNESS, SHE TOSSES THE METAL SHARD ASIDE and squirts ANTIBACTERIAL GEL INTO THE WOUND.

She shoves STERILE BANDAGE WADDING into the hole and covers it with SURGICAL TAPE.

Crawling on all fours, Drasa reaches for a stray PIECE OF PAPER and a MARKER lying amongst her own sea of BULLET CASINGS.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Levi sees Drasa HOLD UP A MESSAGE on the East Tower.

He scans both sides of the gorge again.

All is clear.

Stiffly he gets to his feet and peers through the spotting scope, adjusting the focus.

Suddenly Levi LAUGHS ALOUD, reading her message.

WE SHIFT TO HIS P.O.V. THROUGH THE SCOPE...

DRASA'S MESSAGE:

BEST. FUCKING. BIRTHDAY. EVER.

EXT. WESTERN RIM - LATER

Making a list, Levi peers over the gorge rim at the containment fence, counting the number of contact mines that need to be replaced.

INT. WEST TOWER ARMOMRY - MOMENTS LATER

String lights glow overhead as Levi steps down into the large underground armory beneath West tower.

An abundance of various LETHAL WEAPONRY hang on a wall...MACHINE GUNS, TACTICAL SHOTGUNS, ROCKET POWERED GRENADE (RPG) LAUNCHERS...

Industrial shelving is lined with scores of spherical replacement MINES and endless CRATES OF AMMUNITION.

A RIGGING AND CLIMBING EQUIPMENT locker for mine repair is stocked with SAFETY HARNESES and PARACHUTES.

There's a comprehensive tool area, with an broad assortment of HAND AND POWER TOOLS, a MIG WELDER, and huge wall mounted SPOOLS holding thousands of meters of BULK STEEL CABLE for mine suspension.

At the far end of the armory lies the elaborate home MOONSHINE STILL.

Levi eyes the shelves of replacement MINES...

EXT. WESTERN WALL - BENEATH CONTAINMENT FENCE - LATER

Using an motorized AUTO-ASCENDER DEVICE, Levi lowers himself on a cable in a climbing harness below the containment fence and begins to rig a series of REPLACEMENT MINES.

The nearby gorge wall is charred from mine blasts and stained with Hollowmen BLOOD and BULLET IMPACT MARKS.

Yellow October leaves fall past him as he repeatedly scans the fog layer 80 meters below his dangling feet for movement.

With a CABLE CUTTER and NICRO-PRESS CRIMP TOOL, Levi loops the hanging end of steel cable fastened above through the bolt-eye of a bowling-ball size replacement mine.

Using the crimp tool, he crushes the SOFT COPPER CRIMP around the cable loop, securing the mine.

With the utmost care, Levi gently inserts a KEY into the base of the hanging mine, carefully turning it counterclockwise, ARMING THE MINE.

Hanging and completely vulnerable, Levi looks across the gorge at East Tower.

He sees Drasa's distant silhouette on the platform...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Her shoulder properly bandaged, Drasa stands on the East tower platform with her Tochnost rifle raised.

She peers through the scope, slowly scanning the fog layer below...PROVIDING SNIPER COVER FOR LEVI AS HE WORKS.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - LATER

Levi does the same for Drasa, scanning the Eastern wall for movement through his sniper scope as she hangs suspended over the gorge in an AUTO-ASCENDER climbing harness, replacing contact mines.

INT. WEST TOWER - LATER

Sitting at the small table, Levi depressing the TRANSMIT BUTTOM on a portable MILITARY RADIO...

LEVI INTO RADIO MIC
This is western tower performing
October radio check, do you copy?

He removes his finger from the button and listens to the white noise of the channel, awaiting a response...

LEVI INTO RADIO MIC (CONT'D)
I repeat, this is western tower
performing October radio check. DO
you copy, over...

Suddenly a DIGITALLY GENERATED VOICE - Not a live person, responds on the airwaves...

DIGITIZED VOICE
Authentication code?

Levi quickly references a nearby CIPHER-CODE GRID, aligning the date with the correct code.

LEVI INTO RADIO MIC
(referencing the code)
ZULU-DELTA-SEVEN-SIX-OMEGA

DIGITIZED VOICE
Enemy contact?

LEVI INTO RADIO MIC
Affirmative. One.

DIGITIZED VOICE
Status?

LEVI INTO RADIO MIC
Green.

There is a brief, silent pause.

DIGITIZED VOICE
Procedure is complete. 30 days
until next Radio check.

LEVI INTO RADIO MIC
(interjecting)
Wait...please, I have some
questions...

DIGITIZED VOICE
Procedure is complete.

The signal ceases.

For a long silent beat, Levi stares at the dead radio transmitter in his hand.

EXT. THE GORGE - SUNSET

The autumn clouds are under-lit with brilliant red and purple hues as the red sun sinks toward the western mountains.

We hear J.S. Bach's CELLO SUITE #1 in G Major on the evening breeze...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

As the sun sets, weapons at the ready, Levi eats dinner on the West tower platform.

He listens to the sublime cello music echoing across the gorge as he gazes at East tower...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

Drasa eats dinner on the East tower platform as the hi-fi speakers project Bach out into the evening.

She peers through her spotting scope, and sees Levi looking back at her through his scope, holding up his wipe board...

THE WIPE BOARD MESSAGE READS:**LOVELY CHOICE OF DINNER MUSIC**

Drasa SMILES TO HERSELF and writes a response on paper...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

LEVI'S P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE: He reads her message...

CLOSE ON PAPER:**MAYBE SOMEHOW, SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE****WE COULD HAVE A PROPER DINNER DATE TOGETHER.****INT. LIVING QUARTERS - WEST TOWER - DAWN THE NEXT MORNING**

Lying in bed, Levi opens his eyes at first light. He listens to the sounds of birds outside the open tower windows.

He reaches for another logbook in a stack beside his cot, selecting:

GAGNE' - 1973-74 - FRANCE

We hear the VOICE OF GAGNE' as Levi reads an entry...

GAGNE' (V.O.)

(French accent)

June 28th, 1974. The steady rain this morning is helping with my hangover, but that is all I can state in the positive. I am a man of only 25 years, but in recent days, I feel acutely old. My thoughts constantly betray me and I'm finding more and more that I do not enjoy my own company. Perhaps the bitter truth of the matter is that I've never known myself at all. Perhaps I have always craved the presence of others to distract me from the ugliness of myself. I do not believe man is intended to live in this manner. As a species, we are social beings. We are meant to cavort and laugh and love and make our grand mistakes together...

Levi pauses, thinking.

The sound of the birds continue outside the window, but he pays no attention.

It's clear by Levi's expression that his mind is racing...

INT. WEST TOWER ARMORY - MOMENTS LATER

Shirtless, with a cup of morning coffee, Levi walks down the steps into the West Tower armory.

He slowly walks through the packed room, scanning the surplus as his eyes dart to various WEAPONS, TOOLS, AND GEAR.

Levi pauses, gazing at the HUGE 4' FOOT DIAMETER SPOOLS of 3/16" STEEL MINE RIGGING CABLE mounted on the armory wall...

INT. WEST TOWER ARMOMRY - SERIES OF SHOTS - MOMENTS LATER

SERIES OF SHOTS:

-Levi opens the ARMS LOCKER. From a PROTECTIVE ORDINANCE CRATE, Levi withdraws a 37"-inch, conical, ANTI-TANK ROCKET...

-He carries the rocket to the tool area WORKBENCH, and gently cinches it in the bench-mounted VISE...

-With a tiny, star-head SCREWDRIVER, Levi carefully unscrews the front section of the rocket...

-Ever-so-gently, Levi UNTHREADS AND REMOVES THE ROCKET'S EXPLOSIVE WARHEAD, leaving the ROCKET HOUSING AND PROPELLENT CELL INTACT...

-Levi SETS THE EXPLOSIVE WARHEAD SAFELY ASIDE and FOCUSES ON THE REMAINING ROCKET HOUSING...

-Levi pulls on WELDING LEATHERS, A MASK, and GLOVES.

-A CRACKLING FLASH OF INTENSE BLUE SPARKS illuminate the armory as Levi WELDS A STEEL ROCK CLIMBING CARABINER to the EXTERIOR OF THE ROCKET HOUSING...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

In a camouflage jacket, Drasa steps out on the East Tower platform and lights her first cigarette of the day.

Exhaling in the brisk morning air, she notices movement on the western rim of the gorge beside West Tower. She steps over to the spotting scope to investigate...

DRASA'S P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE: She sees Levi, rolling the heavy 4"-FOOT DIAMETER SPOOL CYLINDER OF STEEL RIGGING CABLE out the lower door of west tower toward two nearby trees.

She makes a curious face as she peers through the scope...

DRASA
(as if to Levi, in
Lithuanian)
What...are...you...doing...

CUT TO:

EXT. WESTERN RIM - MOMENTS LATER

Sweating as he reaches the two trees, Levi slides a LONG SECTION OF PIPE through the center of the cable spool.

Using his legs, Levi lifts the several-hundred pound spool, resting the ends of the long pipe on the thick branches of the two trees, suspending the spool between them...ALLOWING THE SPOOL TO SPIN FREELY.

A second later, Levi slides a copper CRIMP FASTENER over the loose end of the cable on the spool.

He creates a small loop in the cable's end, and threads it back through the fastener, and then crimps the fastener closed, SECURING A LOOP IN THE END OF CABLE.

He quickly disappears back into west tower, only to emerge seconds later with a shoulder fired ROCKET POWERED GRENADE LAUNCHER and the MODIFIED ROCKET he made...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

DRASA'S P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE: She sees Levi emerge with the rocket launcher...

DRASA
(To herself, re: the RPG)
Oh shit...what are you doing?

EXT. WESTERN RIM - SECONDS LATER

LEVI SLIDES THE MODIFIED ROCKET INTO THE HEAD OF THE LAUNCHER, THEN CLIPS THE LOOP END OF THE SPOOLED CABLE TO THE STEEL CARABINER HE WELDED TO THE MODIFIED ROCKET...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

DRASA'S P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE: She watches as LEVI RAISES THE SHOULDER FIRED ROCKET LAUNCHER TO A 45 DEGREE ANGLE, AIMING ACROSS THE GORGE...

She GRINS...

DRASA
(To herself)
Oh...my...my...my...

EXT. WESTERN RIM - SECONDS LATER

The anti-tank rocket ROARS AS IT LEAVES THE LAUNCHER, CUTTING A LONG ARCING VAPOR TRAIL INTO THE EARLY MORNING SKY.

THE CABLE SPOOL SPINS WILDLY, STRIPPING-OFF HUNDREDS OF METERS OF 3/16" CABLE AS THE ROCKET CLIMBS HIGHER AND FURTHER OUT OVER THE GORGE.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - A SECOND LATER

Grinning as she watches the rocket arc across the sky toward her on the eastern rim, Drasa crushes out her cigarette and runs inside East tower...

EXT. MID AIR - ABOVE THE GORGE - SECONDS LATER

Reaching the end of its propulsion fuel cell, the ANTI-TANK ROCKET BEGINS TO ARC DOWNWARD TOWARD THE EASTERN RIM OF THE GORGE...

EXT. PINE TREE - EASTERN RIM - SECONDS LATER

The rocket STRIKES THE LIMBS OF A SPRUCE TREE on the edge of the tree-line about fifteen feet off the ground, starting a SMALL FIRE.

Within seconds, Drasa runs toward the tree carrying a FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

Despite her shoulder wound, Drasa quickly scales the pine branches and with a few BLASTS OF WHITE FOAM, extinguishes the fire.

She pulls the rocket casing from the branches, noticing Levi's custom welded CARABINER...THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME...SHE SEES THE 3/16" STEEL CABLE ATTACHED TO IT.

DRASA'S EYES QUICKLY FOLLOW THE THIN CABLE GLINTING IN THE MORNING SUNLIGHT...

SUDDENLY REALIZING IT STRETCHES ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE VAST, 600 METER GORGE TO THE WESTERN RIM.

Her eyes widen with excitement.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Drasa looks through her spotting scope at Levi, holding up his wipe board on the West Tower Platform...

DRASA'S P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE...

THE WIPE BOARD MESSAGE READS:

HOW ABOUT DINNER TONIGHT?

Drasa GRINS.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - WEST TOWER - SECONDS LATER

LEVI'S P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE...Levi smiles as he reads her response...

CLOSE ON PAPER:

MY PLACE.

19:00

EXT. EAST TOWER - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Drasa wraps the cable around a reinforced concrete support column beneath East Tower platform.

Using a micro-press tool she crimps the cable fastener, firmly securing the eastern end of the cable.

EXT. WEST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

With the other end of the cable looped around the thick trunk of a tree, Levi pulls it as tightly as he can, then works a CABLE RATCHET back and forth over and over, further tightening the cable...TAKING ALL SLACK OUT OF THE LINE before crimping it closed.

INT. WEST TOWER ARMOMRY - MOMENTS LATER

Levi selects his gear: A TACTICAL VEST and GLOVES, a hanging GEAR BAG, a HK-UMP COMPACT SUBMACHINE GUN with SIX EXTRA MAGAZINES, a CLIMBING HARNESS and ZIP-PULLEY ASSEMBLY, a low-profile backup PARACHUTE...

EXT. EDGE OF THE WESTERN RIM - EARLY EVENING

As the red sun sinks lower on the horizon, Levi picks a SMALL BOUQUET OF WILDFLOWERS and tucks them into his tactical vest.

With his assorted gear hanging off him, Levi clips his REAR SAFETY LINE to the cable behind him, and securely locks his ZIP PULLEY ASSEMBLY onto the outstretched cable ahead.

With red sunlight on his face, Levi pauses for a moment, breathing deeply, staring out at the VAST DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE EASTERN RIM FAR ACROSS THE GORGE.

SUDDENLY LEVI BREAKS INTO A SPRINT, RUNNING FULL TILT AT THE EDGE OF THE GORGE, BUILDING AS MUCH MOMENTUM AS POSSIBLE...

LEVI'S HEART POUNDS AS HE LEAPS OUT OVER THE ABYSS...

The zip-line pulley buzzes as the cable sags more than he calculated...picking up more and more speed, riding the line faster and faster toward the center of the gorge...

His veins run cold as he glances down at the ominous fog layer 80 meters beneath his feet...

With gravity on his side, Levi blurs past the center point of the gorge...but his pace begins to slow as the sagging cable now begins to flex uphill toward the Eastern rim.

Levi eases to full stop about two hundred meters from the Eastern side of the gorge, then BEGINS TO GLIDE BACK DOWN THE LINE TOWARD THE CENTER.

Levi immediately seizes the thin cable with his gloved hands to stop his reverse movement.

Slowly, hand over hand, meter by meter, Levi starts to pull himself the rest of the way to the Eastern rim...

EXT. EASTERN RIM - 30 MINUTES LATER

Drenched in sweat, his arms trembling with adrenaline, Levi drags himself the final few uphill meters over the rocky edge of the eastern rim and collapses on the ground.

Red-faced, he sits on the ground breathing heavily, trying to catch his wind.

EXT. EAST TOWER ENTRANCE DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Strapped with his heavy gear with damp sweat under his arms and shirt neck, Levi attempts to fix his hair as he approaches the East tower entrance.

He pauses for a moment, exhaling, the KNOCKS on the plate steel door.

A moment later the door opens and Levi sees Drasa.

His heart races as she smiles at him.

Drasa wears a men's XXL WHITE TEESHIRT which falls at her knee. She's cut the crew neckline into a 'V' and added a belt at the waist, fashioning it into a white mini dress.

She has accessorized the outfit with her combat JUMP BOOTS and 9MM SIDEARM.

LEVI

Good evening, Drasa.

DRASA

Good evening, Levi. Do you like my dress?

Levi eyes her impromptu dress.

LEVI
Very much.

She smiles.

DRASA
(re: the flowers)
What's that you're growing?

Levi looks down, seeing the SEMI-CRUSHED WILDFLOWERS poking out of top of his tactical vest.

He quickly unzips his vest and removes them.

LEVI
I brought you flowers.

DRASA
Of course you did.

Drasa smiles and accepts them.

DRASA (CONT'D)
I made rabbit pie. (pause) Do you like rabbit pie?

LEVI
I intend to.

She grins, looking at his sweat-pitted shirt and appearance.

DRASA
You smell...*terribly*.

Levi smiles.

LEVI
I do. It's really bad. (pause)
Somehow I neglected to bring an auto-ascender, so I had to do the end part by hand...

Drasa gives him a look.

DRASA
I don't think I can allow you to come in smelling that way...

Drasa motions to the CONCRETE OUT BUILDING about thirty meters away on the eastern tree line.

DRASA (CONT'D)
Go wash up quick at the bathhouse.
I'll hang some fresh clothes of my
predecessor's outside the door.

INT. SHOWER ROOM - EASTERN BATHHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Alone in the bathhouse, Levi soaps up. He closes his eyes, letting the hot water run over him...

EXT. EASTERN BATHHOUSE - SECONDS LATER

Walking through the tall autumn grass, Drasa approaches the bathhouse carrying a dated MAN'S SUIT on a HANGER.

Drasa eyes Levi's TOWEL and CAMOUFLAGE CLOTHES hung on the hooks outside the shower room door...

EXT. EASTERN BATHHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Levi, wet and nude, opens the shower room door reaching for the towel, but the TOWEL IS GONE...ALONG WITH ALL HIS CLOTHES AND GEAR.

Levi takes a few hesitant steps outside looking for his clothes.

Suddenly he MAKES A FACE as he sees HIS TOWEL and a MEN'S SUIT...HANGING ON A TREE LIMB 40 METERS AWAY.

INT. EAST TOWER KITCHEN - SECONDS LATER

Drasa stands at the kitchen window putting the wild flowers in water.

She GRINS as we FOLLOW HER GAZE through the kitchen window...WATCHING LEVI RUN NAKED THROUGH THE TALL YELLOW GRASS TOWARD THE TREE WHERE THE CLOTHING IS HUNG.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - LATER THAT NIGHT

Shadows are long as the sun sets in the mountains, casting the gorge in a rich, crimson light.

Drasa, in her impromptu dress, and Levi in an ill-fitting suit, sit at the candle lit table eating the savory pie and drinking wine...

LEVI
Yukon. Northwest Territory.
Siberia. Remote Scandinavia, maybe?
They sedated me on the flight. I
don't know how long I was out.

DRASA
(nodding)
Same.

LEVI
We're somewhere in the far northern
hemisphere. We know that much.

DRASA
How are you so sure of that?

LEVI
Seasons. It was turning autumn when
I left the states. It's still
autumn here.

Drasa smiles.

DRASA
Clever.

She takes a sip of wine.

DRASA (CONT'D)
What's the longest kill shot you've
ever made?

Levi pauses.

DRASA (CONT'D)
And don't say you don't know. Every
top-shelf sniper knows the distance
of every ticket they've ever
punched.

He smiles.

DRASA (CONT'D)
Come on. Spit it out...

LEVI
2,341 meters.

DRASA
2,341? A kill shot?

Levi nods.

DRASA (CONT'D)
Doesn't that put you in...

LEVI
Top five in the world.

Drasa pauses, thinking. She suddenly SMILES WITH A LOOK OF RECOGNITION...

DRASA
Did you make that impossible shot
in Yemen? May of last year...

Levi looks at her.

LEVI
(with tone)
*I did not participate in, nor do I
have any knowledge of any operation
in Yemen in May of last year...*

Drasa smiles.

DRASA
Rumor was it was windy. 25 knots
East to West with gusts to 40. That
would have been a very, very good
shot.

Levi smiles as she looks him in the eye.

DRASA (CONT'D)
I'd kiss the ring of whoever made
that shot. (pause) Too bad it
wasn't you.

Levi smiles, changing the subject.

LEVI
You know what I keep asking myself
evening after evening while I sit
over there on my platform?

DRASA
(interjecting)
How you're going to get in my
pants?

Levi laughs aloud and takes a quick swallow of wine to mask a wave of boyishly self-consciousness.

LEVI
Well...*after that*...

DRASA

Yes...*after that*...please, tell me,
what do you think about?

LEVI

I ask myself...what's the whole
truth? Right? What is this place?
And what the hell are those things
down in the gorge?

Drasa looks at him, pausing a silent moment, thinking.

DRASA

Can I tell you a story?

LEVI

(nodding)
I do love stories.

She smiles.

DRASA

A long time ago, before I was
born...before independence was
restored in my country, my father
was KGB. He has often said that
early period of his life...both
created and destroyed him. And
years later, as a child, he would
tell me...(imitating her Erikas's
gravelly voice) *Drasa, my little
Lion, you don't want to know the
whole truth. It's better to only
know part of the story...*

Levi listens as she speaks...

DRASA (CONT'D)

And I would bitch and whine and
ask...*Why Daddy? Why wouldn't I
want to know the whole truth?*

Drasa pauses, her gaze shifting to meet Levi's eyes across
the table.

DRASA (CONT'D)

Levi...do you know why?

Levi looks at her, then slowly NODS.

LEVI

Because if you know the whole
truth...you're dangerous. You
become a threat.

She looks at him.

DRASA

Maybe we already know everything we want to know about those unholy things down in the fog...and that's that a well-placed bullet will kill them.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - LATER

Night has fallen on the gorge.

A CANDLE burns low on the small table where the UNCLEARED PLATES AND GLASSES from Levi and Drasa's dinner remain...

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

CLOSE ON: A RECORD NEEDLE is gently placed on a spinning VINYL RECORD...

WE HEAR THE DARKLY ATMOSPHERIC, VIBRATO CHORDS OF A HAMMOND ORGAN, joined by the MELODIC, DESCENDING NOTES of a HOLLOW-BODY ELECTRIC GUITAR...

BLUE LIGHT, the hypnotic 1993 single by Mazzy Star*, echoes through the East Tower.

Swaying to the ether-like music, Levi and Drasa look at each other, slowly touching, intimately dancing in the half light.

Drasa rises on her toes in her jump boots, KISSING NECK, HIS CHIN, THEN HIS LIPS.

He kisses her back.

Drasa starts to unbutton his shirt when Levi pauses self-consciously, looking away from her gaze...

LEVI

(quietly)

Look...I...I'm kinda fucked in the head, you know? (pause) Trauma shit. Sometimes I can't...you know...do this...

Drasa looks at him and nods empathetically.

DRASA

I'm kinda fucked in the head, too.

She smiles.

DRASA (CONT'D)
So we'll just do...whatever we
do...

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - EAST RIM - LATER THAT NIGHT

We see the NAKED SILHOUETTES of Levi and Drasa chase each other across the starlit field of tall grass carrying a sleeping bag...

EXT. GRASSY FIELD - EAST RIM - MOMENTS LATER

Drasa and Levi lie nude together in a sleeping bag.

They kiss, holding each other, looking up at the myriad of constellations spread out across the heavens above them.

There's a silence.

DRASA
(quietly to Levi)
Maybe it's just logical. Part of
the gig. But I think about dying
quite often. (pause) Do you think
about dying often?

There's a beat.

LEVI
Yes.

DRASA
There are several ways I don't want
to die. (pause) Are there ways you
don't want to die?

Levi pauses.

LEVI
Just one.

DRASA
Which is?

Levi stares at the constellations above them.

LEVI
Alone.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - DAWN

The first light of dawn breaks on the horizon.

Up all night, Drasa and Levi sit at the platform table, laughing as they eat Drasa's leftover LITHUANIAN BIRTHDAY CAKE for breakfast.

DRASA
Poetry? Really?

LEVI
Sometimes I write them in my daily log...

DRASA
(laughing)
Honestly?

Levi laughs and nods.

LEVI
I took a class. Wednesday nights from 7-10pm at San Diego Community College.

She smiles.

DRASA
Are you talented?

LEVI
Not even remotely. I'm terrible.

She pauses.

DRASA
Will you write a terrible poem for me?

LEVI
Maybe I already have.

Drasa makes a jubilant face.

DRASA
Ha! Recite it for me!

LEVI
Absolutely not.

DRASA
Come on!

LEVI
No chance in hell.

Drasa laughs.

DRASA
Can you at least tell me the title?

LEVI
Nope.

DRASA
I think you're lying. You haven't written a terrible poem for me at all, have you?

LEVI
I have. Started it, anyway...

DRASA
Then prove it. Tell me the title.

Theres a beat.

LEVI
It's a working title.

DRASA
Fine. Tell me the *working title!*

Levi pauses self-consciously...

LEVI
The Girl with the Chainsaw.

For a moment Drasa remains silent, considering, then she grins...

DRASA
Oh, fuck...I love it. Now I have to read it...

LEVI
No. No. No.

EXT. EASTERN RIM - AN HOUR LATER

Strapped into his harness and burdened with all the weaponry and gear he arrived in, Levi locks the zip-pulley assembly around the steel cable.

Drasa stands a few feet away in a shaft of morning sunlight.

LEVI
Maybe you could spin some Miles
Davis tonight? Or Freddie Hubbard?

DRASA
Feeling Jazzy?

Levi tilts his head and shrugs.

DRASA (CONT'D)
I'll see what I can find.

He smiles and pulls on his tactical gloves.

There's a beat of silence as they look at each other

DRASA (CONT'D)
Did you like the rabbit pie?

LEVI
Best fucking rabbit pie ever.

Drasa smiles.

Keeping his eyes on hers, Levi leans in, kissing the LION
TATTOED ON DRASA'S NECK.

EXT. EASTERN RIM - A SECOND LATER

Levi runs full tilt toward the rim and LEAPS OFF the edge.

The ZIP-HARNESS BUZZES as he picks up speed, moving faster
and faster, racing down the cable over the abyss.

At 300 meters out, Levi looks back at Drasa, growing smaller
and smaller as she stands on the eastern rim.

She WAVES to him as he grows distant.

Levi raises his hand in reply...

IN THAT SECOND, HE HEARS A CONTACT MINE DETONATE ON THE
WESTERN RIM.

Racing at high speed, Levi turns his head toward the sound,
seeing SMOKE AND MOVEMENT on the western wall of the gorge...

In motion, Levi unstraps his compact sub-machine gun, and
begins to rack the action...when a SECOND MINE EXPLODES,
sending FRAGMENTS OF SHRAPNEL in all directions...

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. WESTERN CONTAINMENT FENCE - SAME MOMENT

EXTREMELY CLOSE ON: A SHARD OF MINE SHRAPNEL STRIKES THE CABLE, SLICING THROUGH THE ENGINEERED STEEL FIBERS LIKE A HOT KNIFE...

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. ABOVE THE GORGE - A SPLIT SECOND LATER

THE TENSION ON THE CABLE INSTANTLY CEASES, LOSING IT'S ABILITY TO SUPPORT LEVI'S WEIGHT.

HIS MOTION VAULTS HIM DOWNWARD, WILDLY PLUMMETING TOWARD THE FOG LAYER BELOW...

EXT. EASTERN RIM - SAME MOMENT

TIME SLOWS as Drasa sees Levi fall.

Her face contorts into a scream...

DRASA
NOOOO!!!

EXT. MID-AIR - SECONDS LATER

Free-falling, Levi's body races toward the fog below.

HE DESPERATELY CLAWS AT HIS CHEST, FLAILING, LOSING HIS GRIP ON HIS WEAPON.

HIS SUB-MACHINE GUN IS INSTANTLY LOST as he searches for the D-RING on his EMERGENCY CHUTE...

EXT. EASTERN RIM - SAME MOMENT

Watching from 400 meters away on the eastern rim, Drasa screams...

DRASA
LEVI!!!

In the last second, Drasa sees A GLIMPSE OF LEVI'S EMERGENCY PARACHUTE DEPLOY BEFORE HE VANISHES INTO THE FOG BELOW.

For an instant, Drasa stares in silent horror.

Yellow autumn leaves tumble gently downward into the fog...

HARD CUT TO:

INT. ARMORY - EAST TOWER - SECONDS LATER

Drasa's heart pounds in her ears as she rushes down the stairs into the East Tower armory.

Her mind is a blur as she quickly but methodically selects GEAR: AK-12 RUSSIAN ASSAULT RIFLE, AMMUNITION, FIRST AID, and EMERGENCY RATIONS, TWO AUTO-ASCENDERS, shoving it all into a pack...

EXT. EASTERN RIM CONTAINMENT FENCE - SECONDS LATER

With the weapon and PACK STRAPPED TO HER CHEST, and a PARACHUTE STRAPPED TO HER BACK, Drasa scales down the access ladder from the top of the eastern rim to the massive steel containment fence projecting from the gorge wall twenty meters below...

At the bottom of the ladder, Drasa clips a safety line to the strap of her AK-12, rechecks her CHUTE HARNESS, and BREAKS INTO A SPRINT...

She runs faster and faster toward the edge...

DRASA LEAPS HEAD FIRST OFF THE OUTER LIP OF CONTAINMENT FENCE, DIVING INTO THE ABYSS...

EXT. MID-AIR - SECONDS LATER

Seconds later, Drasa pulls her D-RING and her parachute deploys, jerking her body as the canopy above her fills with air.

With her AK-12 strapped to her, she skillfully controls her descent as she slips into the thick white fog-layer.

EXT. FOG LAYER - MID AIR - SECONDS LATER

Immersed in impenetrable white mist, Drasa CANNOT SEE IN ANY DIRECTION.

As she descends, she listens...hearing the rising SOUND OF RUSHING WATER beneath her...

EXT. RIVER - GORGE - SECONDS LATER

Shrouded in fog, Drasa gasps for breath as she PLUNGES INTO THE ICY, TURBULENT WATER OF A FAST MOVING RIVER...

She's instantly swept downstream as WHITE WATER AND CLASS FIVE RAPIDS surround her.

Burdened by the weight of her gear, Drasa fights to keep her face above water as her submerged body is HURLED OVER A SET OF TEN-FOOT FALLS.

In that instant, Drasa's saturated PARACHUTE SNAGS ON AN UPSTREAM ROCK jutting from the river.

Suddenly tethered in the rushing white water, the force of the frigid current pulls Drasa under...

EXT. UNDERWATER - GORGE RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Submerged, Drasa's nose and mouth fill with water as she kicks for the surface...but anchored to the chute upstream, there's no chance.

Drasa reaches for her ankle sheath, flashing open her TACTICAL KNIFE.

She cuts blindly at her chute harness straps, slicing through the webbing.

OUT OF BREATH, SHE DESPERATELY LASHES OUT AGAIN WITH THE KNIFE, CUTTING...

Beginning to lose consciousness, Drasa SLICES ONE LAST TIME, and SUDDENLY HER BODY IS FREE OF THE PARACHUTE AND SWEEP AWAY...

EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Racing downstream, Drasa breaks the surface, heaving for breath, and opening her eyes to see...

A DEADFALLEN PINE TREE lying across the river...emerging out the fog only a meter in front of her face...

At the last split second she raises her arms, trying to protect her head as she SLAMS VIOLENTLY INTO THE TREE.

A jagged branch-tip gashes her cheek as the momentum of the water pulls her body under again...

But her fingertips grip the bark of the fallen tree, digging in...and SOMEHOW HOLDING ON...

Stretching, her hands FIND BRANCHES TO GRASP.

WITH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, DRASA PULLS HERSELF UPWARD AGAINST THE CURRENT, LIFTING HER LEGS OUT OF THE WATER AND WRAPPING THEM AROUND THE FALLEN TREE, CLINGING UPSIDE DOWN IN THE RUSH OF ICY WATER...

Blood streams from the wound on her face as she repositions her grip.

Inch by inch, Drasa maneuvers herself out of the water and around to the topside fallen tree.

Dizzy and soaked, she shakes with adrenaline. Drasa hugs the fallen tree closing her eyes as she heaves for breath.

CUT TO BLACK.

Blackness.

We hear the sound of tree limbs creaking in the wind...

EXT. DEAD PINE FOREST - GORGE - SAME MOMENT

We HOLD CLOSE ON...LEVI'S FACE caked in blood.

His unconscious eyes are closed. His mouth hangs slightly ajar.

We slowly PULL BACK TO REVEAL...Levi HANGS SUSPENDED 20 METERS ABOVE THE FOREST FLOOR.

With his parachute lines snagged in a dead tree limb high above him, his SLACK BODY SWAYS LIKE A BROKEN MARIONETTE IN THE WIND.

Appearing dead, Levi's eyes suddenly FLASH OPEN...frantic, trying to get his bearings...

Disoriented, his gaze darts to the fog tumbling through tree canopies above him.

He looks downward, through the fog and lower branches, seeing the forest floor 60 feet below his boots.

Levi takes a breath, trying to focus.

He begins to shift his body weight, starting a pendulum motion back and forth, swinging him toward the trunk of the tall pine he's hung in...

With each swing he gets closer, stretching out, reaching...nearly able to grasp the thick tree trunk, when SUDDENLY...

HIS PARACHUTE TEARS FREE FROM THE BRANCHES ABOVE HIM AND LEVI FREE FALLS...

EXT. FREEFALL - DEAD PINE FOREST - CONTINUOUS

LEVI'S BODY PLUMMETS DOWNWARD, HIS BODY BRUTALLY STRIKING DEAD BRANCHES AS HE FALLS, FLIPPING HIM HEAD OVER HEELS AS HE GRASPS IN VAIN TO GET A HOLD OF ANYTHING...

AT THE LAST INSTANT BEFORE IMPACT HE EXTENDS HIS ARMS, TRYING TO PROTECT HIMSELF...

EXT. DEAD FOREST FLOOR - A SECOND LATER

Levi's body HITS the forest floor with a SICKENING, SNAP.

A GUTTERAL SCREAM escapes from Levi's mouth...

LEVI
ARRRGHHH!!!

He looks down, seeing his LEFT ARM IS HORRIBLY BROKEN...his WRIST BENT AND BULGED IN AN UNNATURAL DIRECTION.

He writhes in agony...

LEVI (CONT'D)
Fuck...fuck...

His face is glazed in sweat as he draws in a breath, trying to control the pain.

Levi pulls himself upright, slowing his breathing, peering at his surroundings.

The dead forest is shrouded in thick, white fog. He can only see a few meters in any direction.

Levi sheds his parachute harness and pulls himself to his feet, suddenly pausing...HEARING THE APPROACH OF SOMETHING IN THE DISTANCE...

WITH HIS GOOD HAND, HE DRAWS HIS GLOCK-19 SIDEARM FROM HIS HIP-HOLSTER AND PEERS THROUGH THE FOG, STRAINING TRYING TO MAKE OUT THE RISING SOUND...

Suddenly we recognize the sound...the THUNDEROUS APPROACH OF HORSE HOVES STRIKING THE FOREST FLOOR AS...

FIVE HOLLOWMEN ON HORSEBACK EMERGE OUT OF THE WHITE MIST IN MID-GALLOP...

The LEAD RIDER, his tattered clothes hanging like rags from his decaying body, holds a long-bladed, 1940's era CALVARY SABRE in his grip.

He RAISES THE EDGED WEAPON as he races toward Levi...

Levi hurls himself on the ground as the BLADE PASSES INCHES OVER HIS HEAD.

In an instant, Levi scrambles back to his feet.

He raises his handgun to fire...BUT ALL FIVE RIDERS HAVE VANISHED INTO THE MIST.

With his shattered left arm tucked at his side, Levi SCANS THE SURROUNDING FOG.

HE LISTENS INTENTLY...HEARING THE STEADY 'CLIP-CLOP' OF HIDDEN HORSES ENCIRCLING HIS POSITION, JUST BEYOND HIS FIELD OF VISION.

LEVI (CONT'D)
(quietly to himself, re:
his Glock-19)
One in the chamber, fourteen in the
mag...

There's a sudden silence out in the fog.

Controlling his breathing, Levi calmly exhales as...

ALL FIVE RIDERS ATTACK AT ONCE, CHARGING OUT OF THE FOG AT LEVI FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES...

LEVI METHODICALLY TAKES AIM, FIRING IN THREE-ROUND-BURSTS, SHOOTING THE TWO HOLLOWMEN OFF THEIR MOUNTS.

LEVI IMMEDIATELY PIVOTS TO FACE THE TWO RIDERS ATTACKING FROM THE REAR.

WITH LESS TIME, LEVI OPENS FIRE AGAIN.

THE HORSE'S REEL BACK AT THE GUNFIRE, THROWING THEIR RIDERS.

AS THE HOLLOWMEN HIT THE GROUND, LEVI EXECUTES BOTH CREATURES WITH MULTIPLE SHOTS TO THE HEAD...

LEVI HEARS THE THUNDERING APPROACH OF THE FIFTH RIDER FROM HIS BLINDSIDE...

LEVI SWINGS HIS HANDGUN, BUT HE'S TOO LATE...

THE FIFTH, SABRE WIELDING HOLLOWMEN LEAPS FROM HIS HORSE LIKE A CHEETAH, KNOCKING THE HANDGUN FROM LEVI'S HAND AND DRIVING HIM INTO THE GROUND.

THE CREATURE IS ON TOP OF LEVI IN AN INSTANT, RABIDLY HISSING AND SALIVATING AS IT ATTACKS...

LEVI RAISES HIS HAND TO PROTECT HIS FACE AND THE HOLLOWMEN VICIOUSLY BITES DOWN ON HIS FOREARM...

LEVI WINCES AND REPEATEDLY DRIVES HIS KNEE IN THE CREATURES RIBS, TRYING TO GET IT TO EASE ITS BITE...

THE CREATURE RELEASES LEVI'S FOREARM FROM IT'S MOUTH...THEN BRUTALLY HEAD-BUTTS LEVI, STUNNING HIM...

Levi, dazed and panting, looks up as the Hollowmen RAISES THE BLADE...

WHEN SOMETHING CATCHES LEVI'S EYE...THE FADED NAME FAINTLY STITCHED ON THE CREATURE'S RAG CLOTHES...

LEVI (CONT'D)

Gagne'...

SABRE RAISED...THE HOLLOWMEN PAUSES IN MID-STRIKE...

SHIFT TO ANGLE TO REVEAL: THE CREATURES'S FADED UNIFORM TAG READS:

J. GAGNE'

LEVI (CONT'D)

(to the Wraith)

You're...Gagne...

FOR AN INSTANT, THERE'S FLASH OF CONFUSION IN THE HOLLOWMEN'S RABID WHITE PUPILS...A TRANSIENT FLASH OF MEMORY TO A DISTANT HUMANITY...THEN IT'S GONE...

THE CREATURE HISSES AND RAISES THE WEAPON AGAIN TO STRIKE...WHEN SUDDENLY...

WE HEAR A BURST OF GUNFIRE AS THREE RIFLE ROUNDS PUNCH THROUGH ITS NECK AND FACE.

The Hollowmen's body slumps as Levi turns to see DRASA, EMERGING FROM THE MIST WITH HER AK-12 RAISED, SCANNING FOR ADDITIONAL THREATS...

DRASA

(to Levi)

I count five targets down. Were there more than five?

LEVI
No. I don't think so.

Drasa kicks the hideous corpse off Levi and kneels at his side.

There's a silent beat as they look into each other's eyes.

LEVI (CONT'D)
You came.

She nods and smiles.

DRASA
Of course I did.

She eyes his shattered arm.

DRASA (CONT'D)
Your arm is seriously fucked-up.

Levi nods in painful agreement.

LEVI
Duly noted.

EXT. DEAD PINE FOREST - GORGE - MOMENTS LATER

Fog drifts through the dead pine forest.

With her MEDICAL KIT open, Drasa splints and slings Levi's broken arm, taping and immobilizing it to his side to prevent further injury.

DRASA
Do you want anything for the pain?

Levi shakes his head.

LEVI
I went ten rounds with a painkiller thing a few years ago. Can't do it.

Drasa nods with understanding.

Levi motions to the corpse.

LEVI (CONT'D)
(re: the wraith)
Check the uniform. What's left of it I mean...

Drasa glances at the dead creature.

LEVI (CONT'D)
(re: the uniform)
French Foreign Legion. 1970's.

Drasa looks at Levi, realizing...

DRASA
He was a tower sentry?

Levi nods.

LEVI
(nodding)
I recognized his name from the log
library in west tower.

Drasa pauses.

DRASA
They were like us.

EXT. DEAD PINE FOREST - GORGE - MOMENTS LATER

As Drasa and Levi gather their gear, Levi checks the nearly empty magazine on his Glock-19 pistol.

LEVI
You have any 9MM ammo?

Drasa unholsters her own Russian-made GRACH SIDEARM and hands it to Levi along with her two clips of ammunition.

DRASA
I have the AK.

Levi accepts the handgun.

LEVI
Gracias, amiga.

She smiles.

DRASA
Now...I say we put all our efforts
into getting the fuck outta here.

LEVI
Agreed. (pause) Unfortunately, the
gorge is a very difficult place to
get out of...

Drasa interjects.

DRASA

Not necessarily. We need to locate the cable. It's severed on the one end, but I left it secured to eastern rim as a way out.

Levi looks at her.

LEVI

That's a good idea. But with this arm, I don't think I'd ever make the climb...

As if answering him, Drasa pulls out TWO MECHANICAL AUTO-ASCENDERS they employed to perform maintenance and replace detonated mines.

Levi eyes the auto-ascenders.

LEVI (CONT'D)

(looking at her, re: the auto-ascender)

Never rush in unless you know your way out. Fuck me.

He smiles at her.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Where've you been all my life?

DRASA

Shooting people in exotic places.

Levi smiles.

LEVI

Let's find that cable.

Levi pauses, glancing at the horses wandering nearby in the fog, grazing at the undergrowth.

Levi shoots Drasa A CURIOUS LOOK.

LEVI (CONT'D)

I've never really ridden a horse.
(pause) Can you ride a horse?

DRASA

Fuck, no.

There's a loaded beat of silence between them.

They exchange another glance.

EXT. DEAD FOREST TRAIL - GORGE - MOMENTS LATER

The fog is dense and visibility is almost zero.

Following the river, Levi and Drasa ride through the white mist ON HORSEBACK down a well-trodden path the horses seem to know.

The only sound is the nearby river and the steady clip-clop of their mount's hooves.

With their weapons at the ready, the shapes of jagged dead trees, tangles of undergrowth, and rock formations emerge threateningly out of the fog, then disappear again.

LEVI

Soon we should find a safe place to
cross the river to the eastern
side...

The SOUND of the horse hooves falling on the ground SUDDENLY CHANGES...

Levi abruptly stops speaking as Drasa and Levi look down through the fog at the ground...

The forest trail has suddenly changed into weedy, cracked, aged....CONCRETE.

They both stare in disbelief...

DRASA

It's...

LEVI

A sidewalk.

EXT. ABANDONED TOWN SQUARE - MOMENTS LATER

Shrouded in fog, Levi and Drasa's horses lead them into a small, long-abandoned TOWN SQUARE.

A dilapidated BARRACKS and SMALL CHAPEL gone wild undergrowth, slowly being reclaimed by the forest.

There are wide, SEISMIC CRACKS in the weed covered asphalt.

An old rusted WATERTOWER lies damaged on it's side, fallen many decades before by an apparent EARTHQUAKE.

In the center of the square, on the same SINGLE FLAG POLE, the RAG REMNANTS OF A BRITISH, SOVIET (U.S.S.R.), AND AMERICAN FLAG stir in the breeze.

Beyond the flagpole is what appears to be a single story TOWN HALL, overgrown with moss and weeds.

Levi and Drasa exchange glances and dismount.

They TIE THE REINS of their horses to the porch railing of the Town Hall...

INT. VESTIBULE - ABANDONED TOWN HALL - MOMENTS LATER

The rusted hinges of the Town Hall door CREEKS as it opens.

With weapons raised, Drasa and Levi enter the building's vestibule.

There is a pungent SMELL in the air.

Levi glances at Drasa as they advance into the main room.

LEVI
(whispering)
That's a bad smell...

Drasa nods.

INT. CENTRAL HALL - ABANDONED TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

Slowly, Drasa and Levi enter the building's large, central meeting hall.

Nesting SWALLOWS, disturbed by Levi and Drasa's unwelcome presence, dart through the rafters, chirping angrily.

The fog drifts through the broken windows, permeating the building and blanketing the room in mist.

Rows of old wooden benches have been pushed aside, clearing the center of the floor, where a 5'x5'x5' ALUMINUM CAGE sits shrouded in fog.

With their weapons raised, Levi and Drasa slowly approach the cage as the smell grows more intense...

They step closer, peering though the mist, trying to see if there is anything inside, when suddenly...

A REVOLTING HUMAN FIGURE SURGES UP out of the fog at bottom of the cage, SEIZING THE BARS.

Levi and Drasa both reactively take a step back as...

THE FIGURE SCREAMS AT THEM WITH A HOARSE, VIOLENT, FEVERISH TONE...

J.D.
KILL ME! YOU FUCKING MOTHERFUCKERS!
JUST FUCKIN' KILL ME!

The man's ragged voice is oddly familiar. The accent... is Australian.

Levi stares at him...

LEVI
J.D.?

J.D.'s face is filthy and his clothing are revoltingly soiled. His eyes are frantic.

His hair has turned white as snow. He looks as though he's aged twenty years since Levi last saw him...nearly unrecognizable.

J.D.'s wild eyes stare back at Levi, as if he's desperately, with all the mental faculties he has left, trying to place his face...

J.D.
You're...fuck...I know you...who
are you...

J.D. suddenly presses his palms hard into his eyes, as if somehow trying to bring him clarity...

J.D. (CONT'D)
You're...the American. The
Marine...

Levi nods.

LEVI
Levi.

J.D.
Right...right. *Levi.* I remember...I
remember you...

LEVI
(motioning)
This is Drasa. East Tower.

It's clear J.D. is lost in his own traumatized mind.

Levi and Drasa exchange a glance.

LEVI (CONT'D)

J.D....let's get you out of there,
okay?

Hot tears rise in J.D.'s eyes.

He slowly nods.

J.D.

Okay...

Levi takes aim at the PAD-LOCK on the cage door with his
SIDEARM.

J.D. (CONT'D)

Wait. Please...

Levi pauses.

J.D. (CONT'D)

Before you let me out...you have to
promise me something, mate...both
of you...

LEVI

Alright...

J.D.

Promise me, whatever happens...you
cannot trust me.

J.D. looks at Levi and Drasa.

J.D. (CONT'D)

If...if there comes a moment...when
you need to put me down. You
fuckin' put me down. Understand?

INT. CENTRAL HALL - ABANDONED TOWN HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Freed from the cage, J.D. ravenously eats an ENERGY BAR from
Drasa's rations pack.

She hands him a canteen of water and he washes the food down.

DRASA

(to J.D. re: the bar)
Do you want another?

He nods.

J.D.

Please.

Drasa hands J.D. another energy bar as Levi peers out a broken window into the thick fog, unable to see more than few meters.

J.D. (CONT'D)

When I left West Tower in September...I headed south. Four days out, I was crossing a field about...140 klicks from here, when three Blackhawks appeared on the horizon. I didn't know if they were my pickup team or my assassins. I found out.

J.D. pauses, unwrapping the second ration bar with trembling fingers.

J.D. (CONT'D)

They gassed me, drugged me, and I woke up at the far south end of the gorge. With no way to get out. I was able to last a month, exploring mid-day, hiding at twilight. Eventually the Hollowmen found me. But they didn't kill me. Instead, they put me in that fuckin' cage...

He runs his filthy hand through his white hair.

J.D. (CONT'D)

(to Levi)

I'm sure you can see for yourself...I mean, take a good look...there's something happening...

Levi and Drasa exchange a glance.

J.D. (CONT'D)

It's the gorge, mate. It's this place. There's something about this place. It changes you. Everything. My eyes...they're fucked. They get worse every day...

J.D.'s hands tremble.

J.D. (CONT'D)

The Hollowmen...They were all human beings once. I think they were soldiers...

J.D. stops himself. His internal strain is palpable.

LEVI
Keep talking, J.D.. Tell us
everything...

J.D.
It's better if I show you.

EXT. ABANDONED TOWN - MOMENTS LATER

With weapons raised, Drasa and Levi follow J.D. through the fog, crossing through the abandoned town square toward a PASSAGEWAY BORED INTO THE ROCK AT THE BASE OF THE GORGE'S WESTERN WALL...

EXT./INT. PASSAGEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Drasa and Levi switch on their HEADLAMPS as they step through the entrance, following J.D. down a wet, dark, overgrown corridor.

They reach a huge pile of decades old DEBRIS in the passageway: random welded together STEEL REBAR, SLABS OF CONCRETE, and OLD FURNITURE that once completely blocked the corridor.

DRASA
(re: the debris)
Barricade...

Levi nods.

LEVI
Built in a hurry...

There is a small, NARROW OPENING THAT'S BEEN TUNNELED BETWEEN TWO SECTIONS OF STEEL REBAR, ALLOWING PASSAGE.

Drasa REMOVES HER HEAVY GEAR PACK and sets it aside in order to fit through the opening.

One-by-one they pull themselves through the tight, claustrophobic opening in the barricade.

INT. ABANDONED COMMAND CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

The passageway beyond the barricade leads into a large, abandoned, BUNKER-LIKE COMMAND CENTER.

BULKY, CIRCA 1940's ERA COMPUTER TERMINALS AND VACCUM TUBE PROCESSORS, the first of their kind, are overgrown with moss.

The SKELETAL REMAINS OF A DOZEN HUMAN BEINGS lie in various positions throughout the room. Their clothing and flesh have decayed away over decades.

Moisture from the surrounding rock seeps through the paint peeled bunker walls.

A massive, outdated, 10'x20' MAP OF THE WORLD looms on the wall covered in dark mold.

DRASA

This was a command and control center...

J.D.

This place...this whole base...the whole town was some kind of secret allied contingency plan...

Levi stares at something nearby.

Drasa turns, FOLLOWING LEVI'S GAZE to...

A large, BLACK AND WHITE FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH hung on the wall of the command center where we see...

CLOSE ON PHOTO as we see the ICONIC FACES OF...

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, SOVIET PRIME MINISTER JOSEPH STALIN, AND BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL - THE 'BIG THREE' ALLIED LEADERS SIT BESIDE ONE ANOTHER, ENGAGED IN THOUGHTFUL CONVERSATION AT THE HISTORIC TEHRAN CONFERENCE IN FINAL DAYS OF NOVEMBER, 1943.

LEVI

(off J.D.'s comment)
...In the event the Nazi's won the war...

There's a pause...

DRASA

From the bottom of the chasm at the far end of the world? Tactically, you would never stage a last stand from here?

Levi's mind is racing. He glances at the skeletal remains, considering deeply...

LEVI

Unless you were developing something so dangerous, you needed complete isolation and secrecy.

Drasa nods.

DRASA

One thing's for certain. Something went very, very wrong here.

Levi nods.

LEVI

And for seventy years, they've been trying to keep the aftermath from getting out.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Levi, Drasa, and J.D. make their way down the dark, dank passageway back toward the exit barricade...

Levi glances at J.D.. The man's eyes are feverish in the light beam of his headlamp.

LEVI

J.D., what other facilities are here? Is there a lab or something?

J.D.

Don't know. I only made it this far. I haven't been further down river.

DRASA

I don't get it. If a secret coalition of allied powers knew they had self-created some kind of fucked-beyond-belief situation down here...why wouldn't they just send in a stealth bomber squadron? Erase it all and call it a day...

Levi shakes his head.

LEVI

Don't know.

As they reach the passageway barricade, one-by-one they pull themselves through the narrow opening between the welded steel beams.

As Drasa reached the far side of the barricade they see daylight at the end of the passageway.

She pauses suddenly.

LEVI (CONT'D)

What is it?

DRASA

The pack...the pack is gone...

Levi, Drasa, and J.D. shine their headlamps, looking frantically for Drasa's heavy gear pack.

DRASA (CONT'D)

It has the auto-ascenders in it.
That's our way out.

LEVI

Can't have gotten far...

Drasa checks the action on her AK-12.

DRASA

Let's go...

As the three near the passageway exit opening, they slow their advance, proceeding cautiously, peering out into the thick fog.

Fifteen meters away in the fog, at the very edge of their vision, DRASA'S HEAVY PACK LIES ON THE GROUND IN THE CENTER OF THE ABANDONED TOWN SQUARE.

There is no sign of Hollowmen.

Drasa, Levi, and J.D. exchange glances.

LEVI

They're playing with us.

The fog shrouds their surroundings...but they can HEAR THE SOUND OF IDLE HORSE HOOVES beyond their field of vision.

J.D.

They're out there. Can't see a fuckin' thing...

Drasa reaches in her waist satchel, retrieving two SMOKE GRENADE CANISTERS.

DRASA

Lets make it mutual...

Drasa pulls the pin on both smoke canisters and PITCHES them out into the abandoned town square...

EXT. ABANDONED TOWN SQUARE - SECONDS LATER

A WALL OF VIBRANT PURPLE SMOKE plumes across the passageway entrance, MASKING THEIR MOVEMENT as...

Weapons raised, moving as a unit with their backs to one another, Levi, Drasa, and J.D. swiftly advance out of the passageway.

Between the fog and the smoke, there's almost zero visibility.

Nearing the pack lying on the ground they hear a sudden, audible METALIC RACKING SOUND OF THREE SEPARATE WEAPON ACTIONS somewhere out in the fog.

Drasa, Levi, and J.D. STOP DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS...

LEVI
(re: the racking noise)
Sounds like an old Thompson...

In that instant, somewhere out in the fog, THREE, 70-YEAR-OLD MILITARY TOMMYGUNS OPEN FIRE.

The barrage is deafening.

ORANGE TRACERS STREAK through the fog and purple smoke as .45 Caliber rounds hum past Levi, Drasa, and J.D....

LEVI (CONT'D)
Get the pack!

They break into a run, RETURNING FIRE, keeping their heads down as they scramble through the fog.

Ahead of Levi and J.D., DRASA REACHES THE PACK FIRST, but in the instant she motions to grab it...

A BURIED LOOP OF HIDDEN CABLE ON THE GROUND CINCHES TIGHTLY AROUND HER BOOTS, SNARING HER ANKLES...

WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A HORSE, SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE FOG, BREAK INTO A SPRINT...

AND IN THAT SECOND, THE HIDDEN CABLE, EXTENDING OUT INTO THE FOG PULLS TAUGHT, VIOLENTLY JERKING DRASA'S FEET OUT FROM UNDER HER, DRAGGING HER OUT INTO THE MIST...

LEVI (CONT'D)
DRASA!

In an instant, SHE IS GONE.

PINNING LEVI AND J.D. DOWN, THE TOMMY-GUN FIRE CONTINUES FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS, THEN SUDDENLY DISSIPATES AS LEVI AND J.D. HEAR TWO MORE UNSEEN RIDERS GALLOP AWAY...

LEVI (CONT'D)
 (to J.D.)
 Come on!

EXT. TOWN HALL ENTRANCE - SECONDS LATER

With Drasa's heavy pack on his back, struggling with his shattered left arm, Levi manages to mount the horse he previously tied to the Town Hall porch...

EXT. DEAD PINE FOREST - GORGE - SAME MOMENT

AT GALLOPING SPEED, DRASA IS VIOLENLY DRAGGED BY HER ANKLES THROUGH THE DEAD FOREST, STRIKING THE UNDERBRUSH EMERGING OUT OF THE FOG...

OUT OF CONTROL, DRASA STRAINS TO FREE HER AK-12 FROM IT'S STRAPPED POSITION FROM BENEATH HER BODY.

DRASA PULLS HERSELF UPRIGHT INTO A SIT-UP POSTION, RAISING THE WEAPON, TRYING TO GET A CLEAN SHOT AT THE THREE RIDERS AHEAD IN THE MIST. SHE FIRES...

EXT. THE TRAIL AHEAD - DEAD PINE FOREST - GORGE - SAME MOMENT

DRASA'S BULLET EXITS OUT OF ONE OF THREE HOLLOWMEN'S CHESTS.

The CREATURE TOPPLES FROM HIS MOUNT as the other two Riders continue...

DRASA FIRES AGAIN...

The SECOND RIDER'S HEAD SPLITS OPEN, its body slumping backward like a limp toy...

EXT. DEAD PINE FOREST - GORGE - SAME MOMENT

Galloping on horseback, following the tracks in pursuit, Levi and J.D. HEAR THE ECHO OF DRASA'S RIFLE SHOTS somewhere ahead in the fog.

Levi, wildly spurs his horse, galloping faster, barely holding on...

EXT. DEAD PINE FOREST - GORGE - SECONDS LATER

TRYING TO HOLD HER DRAGGING BODY UPRIGHT, DRASA TAKES AIM AGAIN, THIS TIME AT THE REMAINING LEAD RIDER PULLING HER...

When suddenly A TREE STUMP APPEARS AHEAD OUT OF THE FOG.

At the last second, Drasa shifts her body trying to avoid a collision.

WITH A BRUTAL THUDDING SOUND, DRASA STRIKES THE STUMP HARD, HER HEAD SNAPPING BACKWARD.

DRASA'S BODY SLACKS...THE BLUNT BLOW KNOCKING HER UNCONSCIOUS AS SHE'S DRAGGED ON HER BACK THROUGH THE FOG...

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - DOWNSTREAM - GORGE - MOMENTS LATER

We HOLD CLOSE ON DRASA. Her eyes are closed.

Her body lies still in the mud at the river's foggy edge.

WE SHIFT ANGLES to REVEAL...

A REVOLTING HOLLOWMEN towers over her. Its face is partially rotted. Its hair and pupils are bone white. A WWII ERA THOMPSON SUB-MACHINEGUN is strapped to its chest.

A faded NAME-TAG reading...**A. SHESHUNOFF**, is embroidered on the creature's tattered remains of a uniform.

The Hollowmen seizes Drasa by the collar of her tactical vest, carrying her limp body into the rushing river, venturing deeper and deeper into the current, disappearing into the fog.

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - DOWNSTREAM - GORGE - MOMENTS LATER

Following the tracks, Levi and J.D. arrive at the muddy river's edge and dismount.

Levi eyes the Hollowmen's abandoned horse drinking from the river nearby.

He spots Drasa's AK-12 lying on the ground nearby.

LEVI

They went into the water here...

Levi reaches down, pulling Drasa's AK from the mud.

He clears the mud from the barrel and checks the magazine.

Levi motions to continue...

LEVI (CONT'D)

Let's go.

J.D. pauses.

J.D.

Listen...let's just take a beat here, mate.

Levi pauses.

J.D. (CONT'D)

Think about it. We have the pack. We have the auto-ascenders. We find that cable and we have our way out...

Levi stares at J.D..

J.D. (CONT'D)

Come on, mate. (pause) This girl...what is she? A Russian?

LEVI

She's Lithuanian. (pause) And so you, and God, are absolutely fucking clear...I'm not leaving this gorge without her.

J.D. returns Levi's gaze for a long beat, then nods with sincere understanding...

J.D.

Okay, mate. (pause) I'm with ya.

EXT. RIVER - DOWNSTREAM - MOMENTS LATER

Walking in the river with limited visibility, Levi and J.D. make their way downstream.

As they wade through the fog, the river current quickens.

In the distance they hear a RISING SOUND in the fog...something that sounds like an IMMENSE WATERFALL...

A moment later, appearing out of the fog, Levi and J.D. see an IMMENSE CIRCULAR HOLE IN THE EARTH 20 METERS IN DIAMETER.

THE RIVER FLOWS DIRECTLY INTO THE HOLE...GIVING THE SENSE THAT THE RUSHING WHITE WATER SIMPLY DISAPPEARS INTO NOTHINGNESS...

J.D.

What the...

A MASSIVE CURTAIN OF FOG PLUMES FROM THE HOLE LIKE A CHIMNEY,
FILLING THE ENTIRE GORGE VALLEY WITH IMPENETRABLE FOG.

Levi shakes his head...

LEVI

The fog...it's like it's all coming
from down there...

They move closer.

The wild rushing river water cascades off the edge, falling
downward...

Keeping their footing steady in the fast moving in water,
Levi and J.D. peer over the edge, unable to see the bottom
through the rising fog....

LEVI (CONT'D)

(re: the hole)

It's too perfect...to circular...

Suddenly, Levi's expression is struck with realization...

LEVI (CONT'D)

My god...

J.D. looks at him.

LEVI (CONT'D)

It's a fucking missile silo.

J.D. makes a horrified face, then nods.

J.D.

Yeah...

Levi pauses.

LEVI

That's why they couldn't just bomb
this place off the map.

J.D.

But...why would the river flow into
a missile silo?

At a loss, Levi looks around at the landscape, then a look of
realization hits him...

LEVI

An Earthquake. Remember the structures in the town? The fallen water tower? An earthquake could have fucked up everything. Changed the shape of the gorge...the course of the river...

J.D.

Not to mention what it could've done to whatever they were developing here...

Levi nods thoughtfully, then motions to the far side of the hole...

LEVI

Check the far side. Staircase...

We FOLLOW LEVI'S GAZE across the expanse of the silo opening, to the top landing of a 70-year-old rusted STEEL STAIRCASE leading down THOUSANDS OF STEPS along the curved interior wall of the silo...

INT. STAIRCASE - MISSILE SILO - GORGE - MOMENTS LATER

The river flows into the silo, free falling downward like a glacial waterfall.

The rising curtain of fog envelopes Levi and J.D. as they descend the staircase, deeper and deeper into the silo...

All around them, the rock walls have been TUNNELED OUT BY HAND INTO CAVES like ANCIENT CLIFF DWELLINGS.

J.D.

(re: the caves)

They must live down here. Like a hive...

Through the plume of fog, Levi and J.D. begin to visually MAKE OUT THE LOWER LEVEL.

They both stop in their tracks...

A PALE RADIOACTIVE GLOW emits from the bottom of the silo.

Below them, a massive, moss-covered, SEVEN-STORY BALLISTIC MISSILE LIES COLLAPSED AND BROKEN IN SECTIONS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SILO...

THE OVERSIZED, UNCONVENTIONAL WARHEAD IS RUPTURED.

Over the decades it's been DISCHARGING WHATEVER EXPERIMENTAL PAYLOAD IT ONCE CARRIED INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE SILO.

AS THE FALLING RIVER WATER LANDS ON THE CONTAMINATION SITE, IT IS INSTANTLY SUPERHEATED BY SOME UNKNOWN RADIATION, EVAPORATING AND RISING IN FORM OF THE PLUMING FOG FILLING THE GORGE VALLEY.

Levi and J.D. stare in horror at the rising vapor...

LEVI

It's...it's in the fog. Whatever was in that unholy weapon, they're breathing it. That's what makes them what they are...the fog.

J.D.'s mind races...

J.D.

(as if to himself)
The longer you breathe it, the more it changes you...

He glances at Levi...

J.D. (CONT'D)

Look at me...

Levi looks at J.D.. The Aussie's hair is white and physical appearance is deathly.

J.D. (CONT'D)

I've been breathing it for five weeks, mate...

INT. SILO CAVE CORRIDOR NETWORK - SAME MOMENT

In the half light of a cave we HOLD CLOSE ON DRASA'S FACE: Her eyes are closed. Her mouth is slightly ajar...

Suddenly a grey, DECAYED FINGER enters the frame...TOUCHING DRASA'S UNCONSCIOUS LIPS as we...

We SHIFT ANGLES REVEALING Sheshunoff, the Hollowmen, standing over Drasa.

The post-human creature stares with WHITE PUPILS at Drasa's youthful appearance, as if some transient, long-buried feeling was suddenly unearthed.

The revolting creature gently RUNS ITS RETCHED FINGERS OVER DRASA'S FACE, when SUDDENLY...

Drasa's eye's FLASH OPEN.

LIKE A LION, SHE SEIZES IT'S RETCHED HAND IN HER MOUTH,
BITING DOWN HARD.

As the Hollowmen attempts to retract its hand, Drasa, in one fluid motion, frees her TACTICAL KNIFE FROM HER JUMP BOOT, FLASHES OPEN THE BLADE WITH A FLICK OF HER THUMB, AND SLASHES THE HOLLOWMEN LATERALLY CROSS THE THROAT.

The creature staggers backward, holding its neck, as a flush of dark blood rushes from between its fingers.

Drasa is on her feet in an instant, front kicking Sheshunoff hard against the wall.

SHE DRIVES HER KNIFE DEEP INTO THE CREATURE'S CHEST, TWISTING THE BLADE, KILLING IT.

Turning on her headlamp, Drasa picks up the old Thompson Sub Machine gun and checks the magazine...

INT. STORAGE FACILITY - SILO CORRIDOR NETWORK - SECONDS LATER

Drasa advances down a narrow cavelike looking for an exit.

As she turns a corner into a LARGE STORAGE FACILITY, Drasa stops in her tracks seeing...

SEVERAL HUNDRED DECAYING HOLLOWMEN SIT CROSS-LEGGED ON THE ROCKY GROUND.

THEIR EYES ARE ALL CLOSED.

THEIR HEADS ARE BOWED IN A STATE OF MID-DAY TRANCE-SLEEP, AS IF MEDITATING.

Lining the walls are what appear to SCORES of corroding experimental MISSILE WARHEADS...SOME NUCLEAR, SOME BIOLOGICAL, SOME UNKNOWN...

On the far side of the storage facility is an EXIT TO DAYLIGHT.

Trying to remain absolutely silent, Drasa walks quietly through sea of entranced Hollowmen, placing each footstep carefully, attempting not to disturb the idle creatures...

As Drasa nears the far side of the room she quickens her step, almost at the exit when...

A SEATED HOLLOWMEN SEIZES HER ANKLE AS SHE PASSES BY.

The creatures white eyes open as it unleashes a DEAFENING SHRIEK that echoes through the room, WAKING THE OTHERS...

Without hesitation, Drasa FIRES A BURST OF ROUNDS FROM THE THOMPSON at point blank range into the seated creature's head and neck, releasing its grip on her ankle.

Drasa breaks into a sprint for the exit as the HORDE OF HOLLOWMEN RISE TO THEIR FEET IN PURSUIT OF HER...

INT. BOTTOM OF MISSILE SILO - SECONDS LATER

Firing in bursts over her shoulder with the TOMMYGUN, Drasa races out of the chamber into a wall of ascending fog near the bottom of the silo.

She spots the rusted staircase and begins sprinting up the stairs at three at a time...

INT. STAIRCASE - MISSILE SILO - CONTINUOUS

A DOZEN HOWLING HOLLOWMEN race after Drasa up the massive, curving staircase, ascending the curving contour of the missile silo's inner wall toward the daylight above...

As she runs, Drasa takes aim to fire down the stairs at her pursuers, but the old Thompson action JAMS.

Drasa pitches the weapon aside and continues running up the stairs, but the vicious creatures are far faster than humans, and close on her quickly...

In that moment, the lead HOLLOWMEN LEAPS AIRBORNE ONTO DRASA'S BACK, GRIPPING HER FACE FROM BEHIND.

Drasa, stumbles, trying to keep her balance as a second CREATURE SEIZES HER LEG.

Kicking and clawing, Drasa fights with all her strength, but there are simply too many of them.

They hold her arms, beginning to drag her backwards down the stairs.

The Hollowmen gripping Drasa's face OPENS ITS ROTTED, TOOTHY MOUTH TO BITE DOWN ON DRASA'S EXPOSED NECK when suddenly...

A SHOT RINGS OUT AND A BULLET HUMS WITHIN AN INCH OF DRASA'S EAR, PUNCHING THROUGH THE CREATURE'S RIGHT EYE.

A SECOND SHOT IS FIRED, striking the Hollowmen gripping Drasa's legs.

Drasa fights free from their grip, looking up through the fog as she runs.

She SMILES as SHE SEES LEVI far above on the stairs...

CUT TO:

EXT. LEVI'S POSITION ON STAIRS - MISSILE SILO - SAME MOMENT

With his shattered left arm taped to his chest, Levi is seated on an upper stair with the AK-12 gripped between on his knees.

He fires perfectly placed SHOTS...shooting rounds past Drasa, CUTTING DOWN the pursuers behind her as she runs.

As Drasa nears, the AK-12 'CLICK'S-EMPTY'.

Levi ejects and pitches the empty magazine.

He has no back-up ammunition for her rifle.

LEVI
Drasa! Magazine!

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. DRASA'S POSITION ON STAIRS - MISSILE SILO - SAME MOMENT

Heaving for breath as she runs, Drasa pulls her LAST LOADED RIFLE MAGAZINE FROM HER TACTICAL VEST AND PITCHES IT AIRBORNE UP THE STAIRS...

BACK TO:

INT. LEVI'S POSITION - STAIRS - MISSILE SILO - A SECOND LATER

Levi somehow CATCHES THE MAGAZINE IN MID-ARC, inserts it in the AK, and OPENS FIRE again...creating a BOTTLENECK OF DEAD HOLLOWMEN on the stairs behind Drasa, slowing their pursuit.

At the same time, J.D. pulls a GRENADE from Drasa's heavy pack and wedges it behind a STRUCTURAL BRACKET anchoring the staircase to the silo wall...

As Drasa reaches them Levi yells to J.D...

LEVI
(to J.D.)
Do it!

J.D. PULLS THE TIMER PIN on the strategically positioned grenade and all three of them sprint up the stairs toward the silo opening...

EXT. SILO OPENING - GORGE - SECONDS LATER

Seconds later, as Levi, Drasa, and J.D. race up the stairs toward the silo opening, the GRENADE VIOLENTLY DETONATES BEHIND THEM, DESTROYING THE STRUCTURAL BRACKETS AND SEVERING THE OLD STEEL STAIRCASE IN HALF.

The collective weight of the Hollowmen collapses the unsound staircase, sending the horrid creatures plummeting downward into the fog.

At the last second, Drasa, Levi, and J.D. reach the silo rim as the last of the staircase drops out from beneath them.

EXT. RIM - MISSILE SILO - CONTINUOUS

For an instant, standing on the silo rim, Levi, Drasa, and J.D. catch their breath.

They peer down into the silo.

There's no movement. No shrieks or howls. Just the sound of the cascading river water and rising of the fog.

DRASA
Nice shooting.

Levi starts to smile...when suddenly, peering downward, his EXPRESSION TRANSFORMS TO DREAD...

LEVI
Fuck me...

We FOLLOW LEVI'S GAZE downward to REVEAL...

HUNDREDS OF HOLLOWMEN appear out of the fog below, aggressively scaling the silo walls upward toward them...

EXT. RIVER - GORGE - MOMENTS LATER

Drasa, Levi, and J.D. spur their horses, galloping at full speed upriver...

Not far behind, a MASSIVE WAR PARTY OF HOLLOWMEN follow on horseback, gaining ground...

DRASA
 (yelling as she rides)
 Cross to the east side! Head for
 the wall! The cable has to be
 close...

EXT. EASTERN GORGE WALL - MOMENTS LATER

Drasa, Levi, and J.D. ride hard through the fog, following the contour of the eastern gorge wall frantically looking for any sign of the hanging cable.

The thunderous sound of the approaching of the Hollowmen army rises through the fog, growing louder and louder...

J.D.
 (pointing)
 There! On the ledge! Caught in the
 light!

Levi and Drasa turn as J.D. POINTS TO A ROCK LEDGE ten meters up the canyon wall, where the light catches on the hanging, severed end of a thin, STEEL CABLE that disappears upward into the fog.

The three dismount their horses and scramble up the rock wall toward the ledge...

EXT. ROCK LEDGE - EASTERN GORGE WALL - SECONDS LATER

As Drasa pulls the TWO AUTO-ASCENDERS from her pack the army of creatures emerge out of the fog, surrounding them on the ledge...

Levi opens fire, taking aim, designating one shot per target, trying to buy Drasa time to rig the AUTO-ASCENDER HARNESES...

DRASA
 (to J.D.)
 How much do you weigh?

J.D.
 100...maybe 105 kilograms

DRASA
 Levi, what about you?

As Levi takes aim, SHOOTING A HOLLOWMEN off his horse...

LEVI
 (while shooting)
 190 pounds or so. Don't know the
 conversion off the hand...

Drasa quickly does the math in her head...

DRASA
 (to Levi)
 It's about 40 pounds less...

She turns to J.D., handing him a harness.

DRASA (CONT'D)
 (to J.D.)
 You're going to go first. I'll
 double up with Levi.

J.D.
 (re: Auto-ascender)
 Will it handle you both?

DRASA
 Don't know....

She locks the first Auto-ascender on the cable, then clips
 with a CARABINER to J.D.'s climbing harness.

DRASA (CONT'D)
 (to J.D.)
 We'll be right behind you. Don't
 stop!

J.D. nods and hits the ASCEND SWITCH.

The Auto-ascender's powerful electrical motor pulses into
 action, pulling the hanging cable through its multiple pulley
 system, LIFTING J.D. SWIFTLY UP THE GORGE CANYON WALL.

Within seconds, J.D. disappears in the fog above.

As a WAVE OF HOLLOWMEN begin to climb toward ledge as Drasa
 feverishly rigs the second auto-ascender to the cable.

Levi continues to FIRE as Drasa straps a CLIMBING HARNESS
 AROUND BOTH OF THEM.

As the first of the creatures come over the edge of the ledge
 the AK-12 CLICKS-EMPTY, running out of ammunition.

LEVI
 (re: the rifle)
 Shit!

Levi SWINGS THE EMPTY ASSAULT RIFLE LIKE A CLUB, STRIKING THE CHARGING HOLLOWMEN IN THE HEAD as Drasa hits the ASCEND SWITCH on the AUTO-ASCENDER.

Levi and Drasa are lifted off their feet, riding up the cable into the fog.

The electric Auto-ascender motor STRAINS, moving only at half of J.D.'s speed.

It's clear Levi and Drasa's collective weight is greater than what the device designed for.

STRAY BULLETS hum through the fog as the Hollowmen take blind shots into the fog with 70-year-old weaponry.

EXT. CABLE - EASTERN GORGE WALL - A MOMENT LATER

With their foreheads touching in the shared climbing harness, Levi and Drasa climb higher and higher.

The sound of sporadic gunshots far below grows distant.

Half way up the Eastern gorge wall they emerge out of the fog layer.

The warm, late afternoon sun falls on their faces and they can see the eastern rim CONTAINMENT FENCE 80 meters above them growing closer.

For an instant, it feels they have found refuge from the gorge, when suddenly...

The cable hanging below them BEGINS TO QUAKE.

Levi and Drasa look down as a DOZEN HOLLOWMEN emerge out of the fog layer, rapidly CLIMBING THE CABLE, FIST-OVER-FIST.

Their white-pupiled eyes are rabid and relentless.

Numb to pain, dark blood streams down their arms as the thin cable cuts into the flesh of their decayed hands.

Levi reaches for his handgun, but it's long gone.

LEVI
(re: no weapon)
I got nothin'. You?

Drasa shakes her head.

The creatures quickly gain ground on Drasa and Levi...

EXT. EASTERN RIM CONTAINMENT FENCE - SECONDS LATER

60 meters above Levi and Drasa, J.D. reaches the Eastern CONTAINMENT FENCE.

He pulls himself over the lip to safety.

J.D. looks down, seeing the Hollowmen closing in on Drasa and Levi.

He quickly unhooks his harness, stands, and sprints toward east tower...

EXT. CABLE- EASTERN GORGE WALL - SECONDS LATER

On the cable, 40 meters below the containment fence, the Hollowmen in the lead catches up to Levi and Drasa, SEIZING LEVI'S ANKLES IN ITS GRIP.

The sudden additional weight is too much for the already burdened Auto-ascender, and the DEVICE FREEZES UP AND CEASES ASCENDING.

The creature bites down on Levi's leg, drawing blood from his calf...

LEVI
(re: the bite)
Arrghhh...

With her boot heel, Drasa viciously KICKS THE BEAST IN HEAD over and over, trying to get it to release it's grip on Levi.

In an instant, A SECOND HOLLOWMEN, climbs over the body of the first, seizing Drasa's legs.

She looks up, SCREAMING TO J.D. in the distance as he runs out onto the east tower platform...

DRASA
(screaming)
J.D.!!! We need help!!!

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - SAME MOMENT

J.D. surges out onto the East tower platform and grabs Drasa's Russian Tochnost rifle.

He aims the weapon downward into the gorge as we...

SHIFT TO J.D.'S POV THROUGH RIFLE SCOPE: Drasa, Levi, and the Hollowmen that climb on them ARE ALL A BLURRED INTO ONE MASS. HE CANNOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THEM CLEARLY.

J.D. frantically rubs his eyes, and looks again...but as the CROSSHAIRS SWEEP OVER THEM, HE CANNOT MAKE OUT ONE TARGET FROM ANOTHER...

EXT. CABLE - EAST GORGE WALL - SECONDS LATER

Weaponless, Levi and Drasa FIGHT THEM HAND TO HAND, hanging on the cable as more and more overwhelm them from below...

DRASA
(screaming)
J.D.!!!

She looks up...

DRASA (CONT'D)
(to Levi)
He's not shooting! Why isn't he shooting?

She looks up, not seeing him on the platform above.

A look of dread crosses her face...

DRASA (CONT'D)
Is he fucking us?

Levi looks at her, about to speak when...

Another SURGING HOLLOWMEN lashes out, grabbing at Drasa's throat. Levi BLOCKS THE STRIKE AND PITCHES THE FLAILING CREATURE OFF THEM...

ONLY TO BE REPLACED BY DOZENS MORE WRAITHS climbing up the cable from below...

EXT. EASTERN RIM CONTAINMENT FENCE - SECONDS LATER

J.D. races down the rim ladder holding SOMETHING UNSEEN.

He runs out across the outstretched containment fence to the outer edge.

Reaching the top of cable, we suddenly see what J.D. is carrying in his hand...A CABLE CUTTER.

J.D.'s hands tremble as he GRIPS THE CABLE CUTTER, STARING AT THE TAUGHT THIN STEEL CABLE HOLDING DRASA AND LEVI'S LIVES IN THE BALANCE...

EXT. CABLE - EAST GORGE WALL - SECONDS LATER

Overwhelmed by a mass of enemies clinging up their bodies, Drasa and Levi fight tooth and nail, STRIKING AND CLAWING AND DIGGING THEIR THUMBS INTO THE EYES OF THE HIDEOUS CREATURES, trying to somehow live...

But it's clear by the sheer numbers, their fight is futile. All is lost, until...

Suddenly, from somewhere above, they hear a METALLIC ZIPPING SOUND growing rapidly closer...

They look up to see a CABLE CUTTER STREAKING DOWNWARD TOWARD THEM ON THE CABLE, ATTACHED WITH A CLIMBING CARABINER.

LEVI

J.D...

With his last shred of strength, Levi breaks the grip of a Wraith and reaches up, grabbing the cutter as it glides down the cable line.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Un clip it!

Drasa reaches up with her one free hand, unclipping the cutter from the cable above.

DRASA

Cut it!

Levi lashes out with the tool, SEVERING THE CABLE BELOW THEIR ATTACHMENT POINT AS WE...

SHIFT ANGLES TO SEE: AS IF IN SLOW MOTION, THE SECTION OF CABLE BELOW LEVI AND DRASA FALLS SLACK AS...

COUNTLESS HOLLOWMEN SHRIEK AND KICK AND FLAIL IN THE AIR.

THEY PLUMMET DOWNWARD, BACK INTO THE FOGGY GORGE LIKE DEMONS RETURNING TO HELL.

CUT TO BLACK.

Blackness.

We hear the amplified crackle of a RECORD PLAYER NEEDLE being gently placed on a spinning TURN TABLE...

We hear the PULSING BEAT AND DESCENDING PIANO NOTES of the opening bars of Alicia Key's 2007 single, *NO ONE**...

HARD CUT TO:

INT. EAST TOWER - THAT NIGHT

The POWERFUL MUSIC CONTINUES as we see a SERIES OF SHOTS:

-CLOSE ON: NINE SHOT GLASSES in a row are FILLED WITH LIQUOR...

MUSIC

*I just want you close,
where you can stay forever,
you can be sure,
that it will only get better...*

-SECONDS LATER, AS THE STEREO SPEAKERS PULSE - DRASA, LEVI, AND J.D. TOUCH THEIR GLASSES TOGETHER, POUNDING THREE SHOTS EACH IN SUCCESSIVE UNISON, CELEBRATING THE VERY FACT THAT THEY ARE STILL ALIVE.

-THEY SLAM THEIR EMPTY SHOT GLASSES DOWN ON THE TABLE...

MUSIC (CONT'D)

*...You and me together,
through the days and nights,
I don't worry cause everything is
gonna be alright,
People keep talking,
they can say what they like,
but all I know is everything is
gonna be alright...*

-THE THREE DRUNK YOUNG SOLDIERS, HOLDING EACH OTHER ARM IN ARM, SING OUT EVERY WORD ALONG WITH THE MUSIC...

DRASA, LEVI, AND J.D.

(singing wth music)

*...No one, no one, no one,
can get in way of what I'm feeling,
no one, no one, no one,
can get in the way of what I feel
for you...*

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - LATE THAT NIGHT

The MUSIC QUIETLY CONTINUES in the background as...

Levi, J.D. and Drasa sit together.

They are hammered...talking and drinking out on the east observation platform.

They stare up at brilliant constellations in the heavens...

J.D.

(drunk, to Levi and Drasa)
As a kid...I was always afraid, you know? Growing up. I was afraid of fuckin' everything. My brother. I was terrified of my brother. What a fucker...

CROSS DISSOLVE
TO:

MOMENTS LATER - SAME CONVERSATION...

Drasa stares at the liquor in her glass as she speaks...

DRASA

(drunk to J.D. and Levi)
She never came back. I mean...that was it. End of story. Two days before my ninth birthday. She just...she just left. But my Dad...he stayed. And he never left me be alone on my Birthday...

MOMENTS LATER - SAME CONVERSATION...

Levi stands, very drunk, reciting a poem by memory but altering the original verse slightly to the inclusive plural as his two drunk friends listen to his words...

LEVI

(drunk, to Drasa and J.D.)
*We know to you,
We are not,
what we are,
to ourselves.
To see us
is to see nothing.
We are merely dry leaves
on a dry day.
But when you hear our song
you will know us like no other.
For we are the thunder in the
hills, we are the flame takers,
the eaters of flowers,
the beasts in the tower...
The tolling
Of the bell
in your last hour.*

(MORE)

LEVI (CONT'D)

*The wishing well
has swelled
and swelled,
so deep it is,
We drink from hell.*

There's a long beat of silence as Levi finishes his poem.

Drasa and J.D. exchange a quiet glance.

Without a word, both Drasa and J.D. stand from their seats and HUG LEVI under the stars.

CUT TO BLACK.

Blackness.

We hear the SOUND OF SONG BIRDS AT FIRST LIGHT...

EXT. EAST TOWER - DAWN THE NEXT MORNING

CLOSE ON: Levi and Drasa lie together in the first light of morning, passed out cold in a sleeping bag on the floor of east tower.

There's peaceful beat as we listen to sound of the songbirds audible in the background, then suddenly...

A SHADOW ENTERS THE FRAME, LOOMING OVER DRASA AND LEVI as they sleep.

We SLOWLY PAN UP to REVEAL, A STEEL BLADE OF AN AXE HOVERS SIX INCHES ABOVE LEVI AND DRASA...

WE CONTINUE TO PAN UPWARD...following THE CONTOUR OF THE AXE HANDLE TO GREY FLESH OF TREMBLING HAND, then up further the arm and shoulder TO REVEAL...

J.D. STANDING OVER HIS SLEEPING FRIENDS WITH AN AXE IN HAND.

HIS BODY SHAKES.

J.D.'S HEAD TURNS SLIGHTLY, REVEALING THE **PUPILS OF HIS EYES HAVE TURNED BRIGHT BONE WHITE...INTO A HOLLOWMEN.**

J.D. raises he axe above his head to cleave them...

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. EAST TOWER - MID MORNING - SEVERAL HOURS LATER

The mid-morning sun has risen high in the sky, stretching a patch of sunlight across the floor of east tower to where...

Levi and Drasa lie together, still in the sleeping bag on the floor of east tower.

Drasa stirs. As her eyes open, she's instantly greeted with the pain of a searing hangover.

As Drasa unzips the sleeping bag and staggers to her feet, Levi wakes.

Levi sits on the floor with the mid-morning sunlight in bloodshot eyes.

His broken arm throbs with vicious pain.

Drasa steps out onto the observation platform, finds a cigarette amongst the empty bottles, and lights it.

Levi looks at her.

LEVI
(to Drasa)
I think my arm hurts more than my
head...but it's pretty close.

She coughs as she exhales, then smiles at Levi.

DRASA
I need to brush my teeth.

LEVI
Same.

Levi glances around the room.

LEVI (CONT'D)
Where'd J.D. sleep?

Drasa shakes her head.

DRASA
Couldn't tell ya. It's all a bit
fuzzy.

EXT. EAST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Levi and Drasa carry coffee as they walk out of east tower, looking for J.D, calling his name into the distance...

LEVI
 (calling out)
 J.D.!!!

Levi and Drasa casually walk in different directions...

DRASA
 (calling out)
 J.D.!!! Can you hear us?

There is no answer.

INT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Levi and Drasa step out on the east platform, each with a SPOTTING SCOPE.

Looking in opposite directions, together they methodically and meticulously scan the distant tree lines, valleys, forests for any sign of J.D...

Suddenly Drasa, staring through her scope, grabs Levi's shoulder...

DRASA
 (through her scope)
 I've got movement. To the southeast...about three clicks, crossing the meadow...

Levi immediately pivots and looks through his scope as we shift to...

LEVI'S P.O.V. THROUGH SPOTTING HIS SCOPE...in the far distance, we recognize J.D.'s silhouette hiking southeast at a clip...but something is different...

LEVI
 (looking through scope)
 That's him...

DRASA
 (looking through scope)
 Look at his gait. The way he moves...

There's a grave pause...

LEVI
 (looking through scope)
 Yeah. I see it.

LEVI'S P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE: J.D.'S GAIT AND PHYSICAL MOVEMENT HAVE CHANGED. HE MOVES FRENETICALLY, HUNCHED OVER IN THE TELL TALE SIGN OF A HOLLOWMEN...

LEVI (CONT'D)
(like J.D. would say)
Oh, mate...

As their minds race, strain rises in Drasa and Levi's voices...

LEVI (CONT'D)
(softly)
God...damn...

DRASA
Levi, we've got about 20 seconds to figure this out. If he makes it to the woods on the far side of that meadow, we'll never catch him...

As frustration grows inside him, Levi stares into the distance at J.D.'s tiny, disappearing silhouette...

LEVI
(yelling)
Fuck! Fuck! (pause) I don't want to shoot him!

DRASA
I don't want to fucking shoot him either!

Drasa pauses...

DRASA (CONT'D)
But we made him a promise! He knew what might be coming...

There's a beat of silence as Levi stares at Drasa.

DRASA (CONT'D)
Levi, we gave him our word.

After a few seconds, Levi NODS.

LEVI
Yeah...you're right.

Levi steels himself, then turns and checks the RANGEFINDER on the SPOTTING SCOPE...

LEVI (CONT'D)
2700 meters...

Levi pauses, considering.

He looks at Drasa.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Drasa, there's only been two confirmed kills ever at that range. With my stabilizing arm the way it is, I...I can't deliver that.

Drasa pauses, then glances at her Russian TOCHNOST RIFLE leaning on the rail beside her.

She looks out at the seemingly impossible distance between her and her target...

DRASA

Then I'm gonna need your help...

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - A SECOND LATER

Using the rail for a rest, Drasa TAKES AIM THROUGH THE SCOPE OF HER SNIPER RIFLE...

Levi stands beside her staring though the spotting scope.

DRASA'S P.O.V. THROUGH RIFLE SCOPE: DRASA LOCATES J.D. NEAR THE FAR SIDE OF THE MEADOW, HEADING FOR THE TREELINE...

LEVI

Air temperature: 21 degree Celsius.
Windspeed: 11 knots east to west.
The air is thin due to the altitude. There'll be considerably less drag on the bullet, so correct for a barometric pressure of 20.6 Hg...

Taking in the information, Drasa concentrates, controlling her breathing as she peers through the rifle scope...

LEVI (CONT'D)

Target is moving away from you at approximately 1.5 meters per second. Present range 2724 meters and fading...(pause) You want to shut my mouth, now?

DRASA

(looking through scope)
No. Keep talking. I like your voice. It's calming...

LEVI
What do you want me to talk about?

DRASA
(looking through scope)
Whatever....tell me the poem. The
one you wrote about me...

Levi pauses...

LEVI
I...I only have first stanza...

DRASA
(looking through scope)
Then tell me the first stanza...

SHIFT to DRASA'S P.O.V. THROUGH RIFLE SCOPE: Drasa corrects her shot trajectory, moving the CROSSHAIRS off of J.D.'s body...ADJUSTING TO WHERE SHE PREDICTS HE WILL BE ONCE THE BULLET REACHES HIM...

Levi begins to recite the poem...

LEVI (O.S.)
*There she is,
far across the world,
the Girl with the chainsaw.
You cannot see her,
But I see her...*

EXT. DISTANT MEADOW/EDGE OF FOREST - A SECOND LATER

Levi's VOICE CONTINUES as...

J.D.'s large body trembles as he moves.

His eyes are rabid and white as he stalks across the grassy meadow, reaching the edge of the forest...

LEVI (O.S.)
*In some far off land there hangs an
ancient tapestry
from which we were both cleaved,
leaving behind
two holes in time.
You cannot see her
But I see her,
The Girl with the chainsaw...*

As J.D. steps into the trees all ablaze in late autumn color, A BULLET, MOVING FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND, EXITS OUT THE CENTER OF HIS CHEST, KILLING HIM INSTANTLY.

LEVI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
...She cuts through it.

EXT. OBSERVATION PLATFORM - EAST TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

In the wake of J.D.'s death, Levi and Drasa sit in silence on the floor of the observation platform.

LEVI
You know, the other night, I was telling you the truth. I wasn't lying to you. I didn't make that impossible shot in Yemen last year.

Drasa looks at him, taking a drag on her cigarette in the cool autumn breeze.

Levi meets her gaze.

LEVI (CONT'D)
Broken arm or not, I couldn't have made the shot you just made.

There's a silence between them, then...

DRASA
I know you weren't lying to me.

She pinches the cigarette out between her finger tips.

DRASA (CONT'D)
I know exactly who made that shot in Yemen.

Levi smiles to himself as he realizes...IT WAS DRASA.

LEVI
We have a decision to make.

Drasa nods.

LEVI (CONT'D)
There's 29 days until our next radio check. We were down in the gorge less than 12 twelve hours. They don't know shit right now. I could cross back over to my side, and we take up our separate posts and move forward like nothing ever happened...but we know full well what's waiting for us when it's all over...

Levi pauses.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Or...we can disable the cloakers,
and maybe we get lucky and the
world finds out about this place
before they get them back online.
But in doing that, they'll know,
that we know what's in the gorge.
And they'll kill us by dawn...

Drasa looks at Levi...

DRASA

Or?

EXT. WILDERNESS - LATER

The late day sun sinks on the horizon, bathing the vast
autumn wilderness in a rich, ethereal light...

LEVI (V.O.)

Or...we leave. Today. We pack our
gear light and hike the fuck outta
here with a 29 day head start. We
become ghosts. And they'll hunt us
until the day we both die.

There's a pause.

DRASA (V.O.)

If we leave...I don't want to
separate. I want to stay together.

From HIGH ABOVE we look down, we see...

LEVI AND DRASA HIKING ALONG THE NARROW, KNIFE-EDGE RIDGE OF A
VAST MOUNTAINSCAPE...INTO THE UNKNOWN.

LEVI (V.O.)

Fuck, yes. We're stayin' together.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERTITLE:

33 DAYS LATER

INT. WEST TOWER - 33 DAYS LATER - DAY

CLOSE ON...an older MANS HAND'S open LEVI'S DAILY LOG BOOK, slowly leafing through the pages, revealing hundreds of ORIGINAL POEMS scrawled in blue ink...

We SHIFT ANGLES TO REVEAL: Bartholemew, the older, white-haired man from the opening of our story, stares at the hand written stanzas.

A LEAD SPECIAL-OPS COMMANDO dressed in anonymous black tactical gear stands guard in the background.

For an instant, we HOLD ON Bartholemew's unusual eyes as he scans the lines of Levi's verse.

His detached expression is unreadable.

Slowly, Bartholemew shuts Levi's log book.

Without looking at him, Bartholomew speaks to the LEAD COMMANDO standing in the background...

BARTHOLEMEW
(to the lead Commando)
Activate the kill teams.

LEAD COMMANDO
Which ones, sir?

Bartholemew pauses...

BARTHOLEMEW
All of them.

Bartholemew INSERTS LEVI'S LOG BOOK on the end of the long bookshelf, TAKING ITS CHRONOLOGICAL PLACE AMONG THE LIBRARY OF MANY DECADES OF TOWER SENTRY LOGS...

BARTHOLEMEW (CONT'D)
(to the lead Commando)
I want their tower replacements enroute by sundown.

CUT TO BLACK.

FINI.