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*ALIEN APOCALYPSE*

By

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ACT ONE:

1 EXT. SKY – DAY

1

It is a deep clear blue sky with the just the slightest wisp of a cloud in the distance.

We hear the voice of a YOUNG MAN as he intones the words . . .

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)

In the beginning, there was the brilliant star  
of heaven in the bright desert sky . . .

There is an incredibly loud Thoomp! like someone pulling their thumb out of a bottle. A flaming ball appears in the sky leaving a white vapor trail behind it as it plummets to Earth.

The burning eyes of our narrator, the Young Man, look up into the sky and watch the descent of the flaming ball.

2 EXT. DESERT - DAY

2

Our view moves down from the sky to the blistering hot sands of the desert shimmering in the midday sun.

The flaming ball disappears in the distance in a silent puff of dust.

The wind blows away the dust and whistles across the barren expanse of desert.

The Young Man's eyes peer way into the distance at the rippling horizon. There is a black spot. It's a person . . .

The Young Man's eyes widen.

From the wasteland a figure appears. It is a man standing very straight with his chin thrust forward . . .

He is DR. IVAN HOOD, D.O., a tall, well-built, 32-year-old man with sandy windblown hair. He wears the dirty white jumpsuit of an astronaut. On his breast is written "NASA, PROBE MISSION."

Beside Dr. Hood is the mission leader, CAPTAIN CHARLES "CHUCK" BURKE, a tall muscular, chiseled-faced man that looks just like an astronaut ought to.

The second in command is CAPTAIN KELLY LANAHAN, a striking woman with short blonde hair, a tough streak and a somewhat goofy smile.

Next is 2nd LT. AIDA MUNOZ, an short intense Latina woman with an injured leg. She is being supported by Captain Lanahan.

Dr. Hood stops walking and puts his hands on his hips. When the other three get to him he relieves Captain Lanahan of helping Lt. Munoz.

IVAN

Ya know, I was just wondering . . .

Captain Burke rolls his eyes in exasperation.

CHUCK

What now, doctor?

IVAN

Well, I was just wondering if there were as many doctors now practicing as there were when we left.

CHUCK

Why, pray tell?

IVAN

Well, it's the old theory of supply and demand. If there are more doctors then I can't charge as much. The rates go down. But if there aren't as many doctors then I can charge more. Whatever the market allows.

Aida is in a panic as she limps beside Ivan.

AIDA

There is no market and there are no doctors!

IVAN

Well, then my services will be in great demand.

AIDA

Civilization has been destroyed. Why else wouldn't we have made radio contact? Huh? Everything's gone! In the 20 years we've been in cryogenic sleep, the world's been decimated! We're all gonna die!

IVAN

Always looking on the bright side, eh?

KELLY

Why don't you just can it, Lieutenant. Just take a break, okay? Now, what were you saying, doctor?

Ivan looks Kelly up and down and grins.

IVAN

Have I told you that you look terrific in that flight suit lately?

KELLY

Not in 20 years.

IVAN

That long, huh? Well you do.

Kelly stretches her arms and shoulder muscles.

KELLY

My neck hurts.

Ivan reaches out and rubs her neck.

IVAN

You probably slept in the wrong position for the past five or six years. Remind me, I'll give you an adjustment. Now, where was I?

KELLY

Supply and demand?

IVAN

Right.

CHUCK

(muttering to himself)

Oh, brother, here we go again.

IVAN

Astronauts, for example, might be a dime a dozen. Everybody might have a spaceship in their backyard.

KELLY

Right. And everyone might have a medical degree, too. The average person may know more about medicine than you ever learned.

CHUCK

(snidely)

Yeah, what do you say to that, Doctor?

IVAN

I say, this is my theory and the way I've got it worked out is that my services are going to be at a high premium. In fact, Osteopaths will be in greater demand than M.D.s. My newest theory is that the future is utopia for everyone, excluding M.D.s, of course, and I will be known as "The Great Healer."

AIDA

(snorts)

Ha!

IVAN

What's the matter, you don't think I have the potential?

AIDA

I don't think it matters what you think! Nothing ever works out the way it's supposed to and neither will any of your theories. I think we're all breathing high levels of radiation and well all be dead by nightfall.

IVAN

You must be a fun date. Anyway, in utopia, which is now, I'll be known as The Great Healer, and I'll charge exorbitant fees, and sickness will be eradicated and everyone will be happy.

Ivan turns to Kelly and grins and winks. She wearily smiles back. Captain Burke rolls his eyes.

CHUCK

Holy mackerel.

3 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE DESERT - DAY

3

Meanwhile, the eyes of the Young Man squint as he peers into the distance at the approaching figures.

We now see the entire face of the Young Man. He is 19-years old, thin, dirty, long knotted hair, and has a black leather muzzle strapped over his mouth and around the back of his head.

THWACK!! the end of a bullwhip snaps one inch from the Young Man's head startling him out of his reverie. He turns to see . . .

A big burly man with a thick beard and long snarly hair sitting atop a horse. He is a BOUNTY HUNTER. He has an old carbine rifle slung over his shoulder and grips a long black bullwhip in his fist. He snaps it again. CRACK!

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

Okay, let's get it movin'!

The Young Man is quick to get moving.

4 EXT. ROAD IN DESERT - DAY

4

We hear the clinking of many chains. As our view widens we see that the Young Man is part of a long chain gang of people dressed in rags with black leather muzzles strapped to their faces. They are all manacled together at the ankles. There are fifteen men, women and children of all ages.

The Bounty Hunters snap their whips herding the chain gang along a paved road in the desert.

The Young Man looks back out into the desert and sees the approaching figures. He looks around, but no one else has seen this apparition but him.

The chain gang passes an interstate road sign that reads, "Oregon, I-5."

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)

A plague of misery had befallen us. We, the chosen people of Earth—humans—were shackled in bondage. Our sense of hope was almost gone. We had nothing worthwhile to believe in. But that was all to soon change . . .

The chain gang passes a strange futuristic car, covered with dust, staled in its lane. It has Oregon plates marked with the year '25 on the tabs. Inside the car are two dead rotted and dried human bodies. No one on the chain gang even glances at the corpses.

The chain gang passes many more dusty stalled cars containing dead bodies.

As our view widens we see that the chain gang is moving up a downtown street of a city.

As our view widens still further the skyline of the city becomes visible. A sign becomes visible in the foreground sitting crookedly in the cracked, dry desert that reads, "Portland, Oregon, City Limits."

5 EXT. PORTLAND - DAY

5

There's no one there. It's totally abandoned. The glass in the tall buildings is shattered and broken. All that moves is the chain gang and mounted Bounty Hunters. In a moment they disappear behind a building and there is no movement at all. Tumbleweeds and dust blow through the downtown streets.

The four astronauts step up and stop. They look at the ghostly remains of Portland in silent horror.

IVAN

(shocked)

Wasn't Portland in the middle of the woods?

CHUCK

I thought so.

Aida looks from one to the other with a crazed expression.

AIDA

I told you so. What else could kill all the trees like this? Radiation. We're all getting cancer right this second. I can feel it. I can feel my skin burning . . .

Aida is starting to panic badly and become hysterical

Ivan grabs a hunk of skin on Aida's arm and pinches her real hard. She hollers and pushes Ivan away.

AIDA

Oww! Shit, what did you do that for?

Aida rubs her arm. Ivan acts innocent.

IVAN

What? I didn't do anything.

Suddenly, the four astronauts hear the loud crack of a bullwhip. They look at each other in wide-eyed shock and confusion, then drop to the ground. They watch as the long line of chained and muzzled slaves appears between two buildings. They see the Bounty Hunters riding along beside snapping their whips.

Ivan turns back to the others.

IVAN  
(quietly)  
What the hell is that?

CHUCK  
(snidely)  
Utopia.

KELLY  
Let's get outta here.

They all turn to go back from whence they came and come face to face with three Bounty Hunters aiming carbines right at them.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1  
These're sure dressed funny.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2  
Yeah, but it's four more we're bringin'  
back. We're in luck.

Chuck steps forward, his chest out.

CHUCK  
My name is Captain Burke, United States  
Air Force, uh . . . Greetings.

The three Bounty Hunters look at each other in real amazement. They can't believe their ears.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2  
Did you hear that?

BOUNTY HUNTER #1  
Yeah.  
(to Chuck)  
What did you say?

CHUCK  
(unsure)  
Greetings? Were friends.

The Bounty Hunters are even more amazed.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

He did it again.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

He sure did.

They all shrug and shake their heads. Suddenly, one of the Bounty Hunters lashes out with the butt of his carbine and smashes Chuck in the side of the head. Chuck is knocked backward into the others' arms.

One of the Bounty Hunters addresses the whole cowering group.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

I don't know where you're from in your  
funny clothes, but you don't never talk  
to us! *Never!*

To make sure they clearly understand this, one of the Bounty Hunters produces a burlap sack from which he removes a handful of black leather muzzles with holes drilled in them.

As the barrel of a carbine is shoved in their nose, each astronaut is muzzled with a slipknot tied behind their heads.

They begin marching up the road. Aida is still limping badly. When Ivan and Kelly attempt to help her they are roughly pushed way.

Within about a hundred yards Aida has fallen ten yards behind. They all stop and wait for her. She gets a bit closer, her eyes clearly wincing from the pain.

All of the other slaves turn to look. The Young Man pays close attention.

The Bounty Hunters shake their heads. One of them quickly raises his carbine, aims and fires. Aida is hit with the bullet in the shoulder, spins from the impact and drops to the pavement bleeding.

The other astronauts lurch forward and find rifle barrels in their faces. They can hear Aida moaning.

The Bounty Hunter that shot Aida re-cocks his rifle and shoots her again. Aida's body jerks from the impact and she dies.

Sadness fills the eyes of her fellow astronauts.

Resignation fills the eyes of the slaves, except the Young Man's—his burn with anger.

The Bounty Hunters push the astronauts forward. They continue up the freeway to join the rest of the chain gang.

One of the Bounty Hunters takes a sack of iron manacles from his saddle horn and a mallet and the astronauts ankles are manacled, then chained together. They are then chained to the last slave in the line. The Bounty Hunters snap their bullwhips and the chain gang moves up the road, the iron chains jingling against the pavement.

Mighty snowcapped mountains loom in the background.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)

... That was the day that the Doctor appeared.  
He came forth from the desert to heal humanity's  
wounds, to teach us to once again stand up  
straight as men, to set us free ...

DISSOLVE:

6 DELETED	6
7 DELETED	7
8 DELETED	8

9 EXT. WOODS – DAY	9
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The prisoners are marched up a dirt road into the woods.

10 EXT. OUTSIDE THE COMPOUND/SAWMILL - DAY	10
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They arrive at a fenced-in clearing carved out of the woods beside a sawmill. There is a moment of crisp clear silence directly followed by a painfully loud and grating ZZZZZZ!! of a plank of thick wood being ripped in two by a fierce spinning blade.

11 EXT. WITHIN THE COMPOUND/SAWMILL - DAY	11
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The chain gang enters the compound through the front gate, which is guarded by a Bounty Hunter with a carbine.

They walk past row upon row of freshly cut planks off wood.

Reposing at the center of the compound is a strange, unearthly sculpture. It is made of turquoise crystal forming many points and it's fifteen feet tall! It is beside an enormous live oak tree.

Kelly, Ivan and Chuck look at the sculpture, then at each other. What the hell is that? their eyes ask.

END ACT ONE:

ACT TWO:

12 EXT. WITHIN THE COMPOUND/SAWMILL - DAY 12

The astronauts and other prisoners are marched across the compound. At the back of the compound they see a long, low, wooden building that disappears into the woods behind. It is constructed of unfinished timber and it's design is odd. It's too round and at the same time too pointy on the ends.

The prisoners are marched to the sawmill.

13 EXT. SAWMILL - DAY 13

They are met by other bearded men wearing leather aprons, gloves and holding baseball bats. These are the guys that run the sawmill. They are the MILLHANDS. The FOREMAN steps up with his Manager in tow.

FOREMAN

What'cha got?

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

Thirty-four.

The Foreman and his Manager check out the prisoners. They look in their mouths and feel their muscles.

FOREMAN

A puny lot.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

They were strong enough to run past  
Portland. They can stack the damn  
wood.

The Foreman and the Manager look at each other. They arrive in front of the  
astronauts.

FOREMAN

These ones here are sure dressed  
strange. Must be from a different  
distrik.

The Bounty Hunter's eyes light up.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

Different distrik? Really?

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

That must be good. We're in luck.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

Yeah. Let's go tell the 'Mites ...  
(he feels his throat)  
... Or should we wait?

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

Nah. They ain't gonna bite our heads  
off.

(to the Foreman)

Don't do nothin' to these ...

(points at astronauts)

... 'til we get back.

The Foreman nods.

The Bounty Hunters run off toward the wooden main building.

The Foreman turns to his Manager.

FOREMAN

Take these three over to the loading dock  
and get 'em workin'.

The Manager pokes Ivan, Kelly and Chuck in the backs and prods them into the sawmill.

MANAGER

Get movin', slaves!

The Foreman whistles and three other Millhands, wearing leather aprons, work gloves and carrying baseball bats, step out of the mill. One of the Millhands has a big pair of shears in his hand. They approach the prisoners who are moaning loudly behind their muzzles and shrinking away from them.

The Young Man, who is among the quaking, moaning slaves, keeps his eyes on the astronauts as they go into the mill.

14 EXT. SAWMILL – DAY

14

It's really loud, and we're not even inside. Steel blades ripping through wood, sawdust flying everywhere. 20 slaves wearing rags and black leather muzzles perform all of the various functions of the sawmill.

The astronauts look at each other. Now what?

The Millhands take charge of the astronauts and assign them jobs. They are made to stack long, unfinished planks of wood onto a flatcar.

The planks of fresh cut wood are stacked on flat train cars. When they are fully loaded another group of slaves pushes the train cars away along a small siding beside the sawmill, then another empty car is pushed into view.

As soon as they start to work they hear an agonized howl come from outside, loud enough to be heard over the giant saws and machinery. The astronauts look at each other in fear and confusion.

As they work they notice that every time a Millhand turns around the slaves immediately use sign language to communicate with one another. The minute the Millhands turn back, the slaves have stopped signing and are once again working.

Within two minutes of handling the wood without gloves, the astronauts hands are stuck with many slivers. Kelly winces from the pain. Ivan quickly rips off part of his sleeve, takes Kelly's hands, removes the large slivers, and bandages them. Chuck sees what he's doing and follows suit. Now none of them are working.

The big burly bearded Manager in his leather apron, with hairy shoulders, storms over to them. He carries a homemade baseball bat.

MANAGER

You can't stop workin'! That holds  
up the whole show! Then I get in  
trouble! So now *you're* in trouble!

He lifts his bat toward Kelly who is the nearest. She raises her left hand to block and pulls her right back into fist. Ivan and Chuck are both ready to fight, their fists clenched.

The Manager isn't used to such blatant resistance and immediately backs down.

MANAGER

Get to work!

They do as they're told, but they throw each other a look that says, maybe there is a chance.

And then they hear another painfully agonized howl. It makes them wince.

Then Bounty Hunters show back up. They grab the astronauts and drag them away.

15 EXT. COMPOUND - SUNSET

15

As the astronauts are hustled across the compound they see formerly escaped slaves fearfully lined up for some function that is causing them extreme pain, although what that is they can't see.

They pass the turquoise crystal sculpture looming in the sky with the setting sun behind it.

16 EXT. MAIN BUILDING – SUNSET

16

It's like something out of "Lost Horizon" in unfinished wood. Low-tiered, rounded corners, but other parts pointy. It's really a weird building.

The astronauts are hustled inside.

17 INT. MAIN BUILDING/HALLWAY – SUNSET

17

A long empty wooden hallway with slit windows at waist level and eye level. Shafts of light angle across the hallway.

Before going several steps inside they all smell something overpowering. Rotting garbage. They all look at each other and make faces. Whoa, it stinks! The Bounty Hunters don't like it either.

They are brought before a thick, strangely carved wide wooden door. One of the Bounty Hunters knocks. There is no response. The muzzled astronauts can hear a strange gurgling sound coming from within. The Bounty Hunter goes to knock again and suddenly there is a high-pitched shriek which causes them all to wince.

The Bounty Hunter opens the big heavy door, Eeeeeee . . . revealing a huge room with two figures at a table twenty-five feet away. They are lit by flat beams of sunlight from the slit windows.

18 INT. DINING ROOM – SUNSET

18

Sitting at the end of a long wooden table are two black clad figures. Behind them stand two other black clad figures holding rifles with enormous cannon barrels. As the astronauts get closer they can see that these are not human beings, but ALIENS with misshapen heads, numerous tentacles and mouths that open sideways like insects. In fact, that's what they are—seven-foot termites with humanoid bodies.

The two at the table are eating what looks like bowls of decaying fruit and rotting wood chips with pine molding as a side dish.

The Aliens wear pieces of intricately carved varnished wood all over them like jewelry, on their tentacles and hanging from the sides of their heads and around their necks.

One of the Aliens lurches toward the other and makes a gurgling sound. The humans flinch, it looks like it's going to vomit on the other. However the other Alien, which is possibly a female of the species, gurgles right back. The male turns to the humans and inspects them with its multifaceted bug eyes. It masticates the acrid mush plaintively. Suddenly it speaks in reasonably clear though strangely formed and phrased English.

ALIEN

Who—are—you?

The Bounty Hunters loosen the sliding top knots at the back of the astronauts heads lowering the muzzles from their faces. They all take a big breath of air and it stinks.

ALIEN

I—said—who—are—you?

Chuck steps up, his chest forward.

CHUCK

No. Who are you?

All of the Aliens cock their heads in surprise and begin gurgling, then emitting deafening little shrieks that seem to simulate laughter.

ALIEN

I—am—the—leader—of—this—  
district.

CHUCK

But you're not human.

ALIEN

No. Nor—would—I—want—to—be.

This brings on more piercing little shrieks from the Aliens, including the guards. Chuck looks back to Kelly and Ivan who are all offended.

ALIEN

Now—what—district—are—you—  
from? Be—quick.

CHUCK

I'm . . . from Minnesota.

ALIEN

Minnesota. That—is—a—far—  
district.

The Alien gurgles with the others for a moment.

CHUCK

Where are you from?

All the Aliens look up, surprised.

ALIEN

Oregon. We're—in—Oregon.

Chuck looks at Ivan and Kelly and shrugs helplessly.

CHUCK

You're not from Earth. What planet  
are you from?

The Alien seems amused. It makes a specific gurgling sound, then nods.

ALIEN

There. Does—that—help?

The other Aliens shriek with laughter.

CHUCK

Thanks a lot.

(getting tough)

Look, I want some answers! I want to  
know what's going on? What are you  
aliens doing here?

The Alien's bug eyes really go wide. The one calling himself the LEADER turns sharply to the two armed ALIEN GUARDS and shrieks piercingly.

The Alien Guards double-time over to Chuck. One puts his cannon-sized barrel to Chuck's chest, the other grabs him roughly from behind.

CHUCK

Now look here. What do you—

The Leader turns to Ivan and Kelly with a very serious tone.

LEADER

~~He doesn't have the respect  
for his superiors that all other  
humans naturally have. That  
can't be allowed.~~

The Leader turns its horrible bug head to the guards and nods slightly.

The termite guard holding Chuck from behind pulls Chuck's arms back hard, then begins opening its mouth sideways, wider and wider . . .

Ivan, Kelly and the Bounty Hunters watch helplessly as the Alien Guard envelopes Chuck's head in its gaping maw and takes it off in single bite. Then chews it up and swallows it! Chuck's headless body falls to the floor.

All the humans, astronauts and Bounty Hunters alike, are sickened and disgusted.

The Leader turns back to them.

LEADER

Our—favorite—delicacy. Never—tempt—  
us. Now—where—are—you—from?

Kelly looks at Ivan and she's slightly freaked-out.

KELLY

We're astronauts. We've been in  
space for twenty years. We placed  
a probe in deep space.

The Leader nods knowingly.

LEADER

Yes—we—passed—this—probe.  
We—did—not—stop—to—check—  
it's—message. Do—your—work—  
well—and—live. That—is—your—  
only—choice. Humans—are—an—  
inferior—species—to—we. As—  
I—say, never—tempt—us.

There is a knock at the door and the Leader emits a ear piercing shriek.

The door is opened by a Millhand who enters holding a large wooden bowl. He brings the bowl to the Aliens.

The Leader turns to the Bounty Hunters.

LEADER

Take—them—away.

The Bounty Hunters hustle Kelly and Ivan out of the room.

Passing the Millhand, they glance into the wooden bowl and see that it is full of human fingers and blood. The bowl is set on the table. Each of the Aliens reaches into the bowl, takes a finger and eats it.

The sickened astronauts throw a quick glance back at Chuck's inert headless body on the floor. The big wooden door slams shut blocking their view.

19 EXT. COMPOUND - SUNSET

19

The two remaining astronauts are taken across the darkening compound. The turquoise crystal sculpture is glowing brightly, casting an eerie light and a pulsing hum around it. The two Bounty Hunters are talking amongst themselves and haven't yet pulled the slaves muzzles back up.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

So then you're not from another distrik.  
You're from outer space?

KELLY

(dejected)

Yes.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

By Jupiter, that's better than another distrik!  
We've done real good.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

We might even get promoted for this.

Ivan finally can't help himself.

IVAN

(seriously)

But you're working for the aliens and  
against the humans.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

(shrugs)

Yeah, sure.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

It's a lot better'n bein' a slave.

The two Bounty Hunters chuckle over the obviousness of this.

IVAN  
 (still serious)  
 But you're not helping things here,  
 you're hurting them.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1  
 What'dya mean?

IVAN  
 I mean, if you're not part of the solution  
 you're part of the problem.

The Bounty Hunters consider this for a brief moment, then pull Ivan and Kelly's muzzles back up tightly.

BOUNTY HUNTER 1 & 2  
 (simultaneously)  
 Shut up!

They give the astronauts a hard shove.

20 EXT. SLAVE CELLAR – SUNSET

20

They arrive at a thick wooden trap door mounted into the ground. A bearded human guard sits on a chair beside it with a rifle. He slides a wooden bolt over and opens the trap door. The astronauts are pushed down the wooden steps leading into the cellar and the trap door is slammed closed after them and rebolted.

END ACT TWO:

ACT THREE:

21 INT. SLAVE CELLAR – SUNSET

21

It is a long, dark, underground cellar containing all of the slaves from the sawmill, which is about a thirty. Until their eyes becomes accustomed to the gloom Kelly and Ivan are frozen and blind at the bottom of the steps.

Finally, their eyes adjust and they can make out groups of ragged slaves huddled around little fires and crouched in corners like animals. All of the slaves are staring

directly back at them. Several slaves have their muzzles hanging loose. Most still have them in place.

The astronauts don't move. It's a staring match.

IVAN  
(whispers to Kelly)  
What'll we do now, *Captain*?

KELLY  
(logically)  
Befriend them. Get them to trust us.

IVAN  
Ah. Good plan. How?

KELLY  
Well . . . Lets introduce ourselves.

Kelly looks around. Her view stops on the nearest assemblage of gaunt, sunken-eyed slaves. She steps forward, putting forth her hand.

The slaves scurry away like pigeons.

Kelly moves toward another group and they too quickly scurry away. She turns back to Ivan and shrugs. Ivan smiles encouragingly.

IVAN  
You're doing great. They love you.

KELLY  
All right, how about this. We go sit by the biggest fire and even if they all run away, we're at least still sitting by the biggest fire.

IVAN  
Right. Sounds good.

They head over to the largest fire near the back. The slaves act like cockroaches clearing a path for them. When they reach the fire only one person remains seated there.

He is a thin, gnarled old man with long white hair and a large nose. His muzzle hangs loose around his neck. His eyes are ablaze in the firelight. He is JEFF.

The astronauts seat themselves across the fire from the old man. The other slaves remain at a safe distance.

KELLY  
(whispering)  
Hi. Mind if we sit down?

JEFF  
You're already sitting.

IVAN  
(slowly)  
What's your name?

JEFF  
Jeff. What's yours?

IVAN  
Ivan. This is Kelly.

JEFF  
(nods)  
What do you want?

Ivan and Kelly look at each other.

KELLY  
Something to eat would be nice.

JEFF  
S'all gone. Where're you from?

KELLY  
We're astronauts. We just returned from a space mission. We've been gone for twenty years.

JEFF  
(his eyes light up)  
The Probe Mission?

The astronauts smile at Jeff's recognition.

KELLY  
Yes. How did you know?

JEFF  
(points at them)  
It says so on your uniforms.

They look down at their shirts which in fact say, "NASA, PROBE MISSION."

KELLY  
(disappointed)  
Oh.

JEFF  
But I remember when the Probe Mission  
went up. I was pretty young at the time.

This brings a look of surprise to their faces. This guy looks like he's at least fifty.

KELLY  
Really?

JEFF  
Yeah. Before the invasion.

IVAN  
When exactly was the invasion?

JEFF  
Oh . . . Twenty years ago now. I'm one  
of the few left that still counts the time.

KELLY  
So what are these aliens doing here?

JEFF  
(waves his arm)  
Wood.

IVAN  
(incredulous)  
They're here for wood?

JEFF

Uh-huh. It's like gold or diamonds to them. I guess their planet don't have no wood. They ship it back for profit. Supply and demand, ya know.

IVAN

I'm familiar with the theory.

JEFF

Yep, wood's what this whole damn thing's about. Who'da thought it?

The whispering voice of a slave behind them is heard.

VOICE

They eat it, too.

The astronauts turn and see the Young Man from the beginning huddled with the others.

KELLY

(to Jeff)

Who's that?

JEFF

That's Alex. He's a real bright kid. Got a pencil and paper and knows how t' write. I taught him.

(to Alex)

Go ahead, show 'em.

ALEX slinks back into the crowd.

JEFF

(shrugs)

He lost a finger today, so he's a little shy.

Ivan and Kelly look at each other and wince.

IVAN

What's with the fingers?

JEFF

Every time you escape and get caught  
you lose a finger.

Jeff holds up his left hand and he's missing his baby and ring fingers.

JEFF

When ya lose enough of 'em ya can't  
work, then you're dead.

Ivan turns to Alex who is hiding in the corner.

IVAN

Let me see your hand.

Alex doesn't move. Ivan turns to Jeff for assistance.

JEFF

Go on, show him your hand.

Alex hesitantly proffers his hand. Ivan gently takes hold of it and inspects the wound. Alex, like Jeff, is missing both the baby and ring fingers of his left hand. The stub of the baby finger has healed. The stub of the ring finger is covered with black tar. Ivan gives Alex back his hand and shrugs helplessly.

JEFF

Anyway, the aliens got camps like  
this in all wooded parts of the world.  
They're slowly but surely stripping all  
the trees on Earth. And they ain't  
plantin' any new ones, I can tell you  
that.

KELLY

So what happens when all the trees  
are gone?

JEFF

(shrugs)

They kill the rest of the humans and  
move on to another wooded planet,

I guess. And look what they did to  
Portland, they're not kidding around.

IVAN

We saw. How many humans have  
they already killed?

JEFF

(considering)

Hard t' say. Most I think. They only  
left as many as they needed to run  
the mills.

Kelly and Ivan are deeply shocked.

KELLY

Most. How did it happen?

JEFF

They dropped bombs before they  
got here. Kinda like neutron bombs.  
Killed the people but didn't hurt the  
trees. Then they landed and executed  
most everyone else except the few  
they put to work in the mills—like me.  
I'm the oldest one here.

IVAN

How old are you?

JEFF

Oh . . . I guess I'm just over thirty-five  
now. Very few make it to my age. The  
work kills 'em. I like to work, though. It  
keeps me young.

He smiles widely, displaying numerous missing teeth.

IVAN

Yeah. Just like the fountain of youth.

KELLY

But look, isn't there any hope?

JEFF

Hope? Well sure. They give us one day off a month and double rations every other Sunday—that's their holy day when they pray to the giant termite in the sky.

KELLY

I mean, hope for freedom.

The word "freedom" causes a hushed hubbub amongst the slaves. Alex looks around suspiciously and moves a little closer to the fire. His eyes are wide with excitement.

ALEX

(hushed)

The President lives.

KELLY

President? President of what?

ALEX

Of Uniah States.

JEFF

(aggravated)

*Oh, please!*

ALEX

(excited)

It's true. The President and all his men . . .

JEFF

(interjecting)

That's Congressman and Senators he's talkin' about.

ALEX

Yeah. They escaped to a special bomb

shelter in the mountains. They live!

A scraggily young/old WOMAN speaks up.

WOMAN

They're putting together a fighting force of escaped slaves to begin a revolution for freedom.

IVAN

(inquisitively)

And you've been waiting how long for this?

ALEX

Since the bombs fell from the sky and the dark time came.

JEFF

Twenty years. If ol' President Demsky's comin' he's takin' his time.

WOMAN

Don't talk that way, old man. It's blasphemy.

JEFF

What a hoot. Demsky wasn't even a good President. Republicans, sheesh!

ALEX

But he lives! And he'll lead us all to "Freedom."

The word "Freedom" is repeated by all the slaves in hushed unison.

Kelly and Ivan confer.

KELLY

Twenty years is a long time. I don't think we oughta wait for this guy.

IVAN

Me, neither.  
(he picks up a wooden

spoon and sticks it into  
the soil)  
Why don't we tunnel out?

KELLY  
Right. We'll work in shifts. Well be  
out in no time.

Ivan and Kelly go over to the wall and start digging. The slaves watch, but make no effort to help.

IVAN  
(to Jeff)  
By the way, how do you get a pair of  
gloves around this place?

JEFF  
You gotta wait until someone dies, then  
take 'em. That usually don't take too  
long.

IVAN  
Charming.

Ivan and Kelly shrug and continue to dig.

22 INT. SLAVE CELLAR - NIGHT

22

Everybody's asleep. The last red coals glow in the ashes of the little fires. Ivan is asleep. Kelly is still digging. Her face is smudged with dirt and her jumpsuit is filthy. She digs at a steady deliberate pace, spreading the dirt out on the floor behind her.

She hears a very subdued moaning, turns and sees a male and female slave coupled in each other's arms having sex. There is very little wasted motion. When they climax it is kept very quiet and in a moment they are both asleep.

Kelly sighs deeply and goes back to digging.

DISSOLVE:

23 EXT. SAWMILL - DAY

23

As Kelly and Ivan stack lumber they keep seeing the slaves using sign language to each other every time the Millhands aren't looking. It's almost a tacit agreement that the Millhands will keep turning their backs regularly so that the slaves can somehow keep up conversations with one another.

After seeing this occur over and over, Ivan waits until the Millhands aren't looking, then points at Kelly, makes like he's steering a car, points at himself, then turns his finger around his ear—You drive me crazy. Kelly blushes. The Millhand turns and finds them both busily stacking wood.

Suddenly, a slave to Ivan's left drops to the ground clutching his chest. Ivan quickly goes to him and feels his pulse. There is none. Ivan massages the man's heart but it's no use. The man is dead. Ivan looks up and sees a Millhand walking over. Ivan is about to stand and leave, then quickly takes the dead man's gloves and gets back to his position.

Two Millhands grab the dead man and drag him away. When they're gone, Ivan turns to Kelly and hands her the gloves.

She takes only one glove and makes him keep the other. They each put on their one glove and get back to work.

DISSOLVE:

24 INT. SLAVE CELLAR – NIGHT

24

That night in the damp dark, smoky cellar the trap door is opened and a large steaming bucket is lowered down on a rope. Suddenly everyone produces wooden spoons of varying shapes and sizes and converges on the bucket. They are like ravenous dogs, pushing, shoving and clawing. The small and the weak are pushed aside. They then try to get back in under the bigger ones' legs.

Ivan and Kelly are the only ones not attacking.

KELLY

It's sad to see how low people can get.

IVAN

Yes, it is.

Kelly and Ivan look from the madness to each other and shake their head in sadness. Both of their stomachs are growling, but they can't be part of this sub-human feeding.

When they finally get near the bucket it is licked clean.

Holding their aching bellies, ashamed at their fellow men, they wearily go back to work digging and spreading the dirt.

DISSOLVE:

25 EXT. COMPOUND - DUSK

25

As the slaves are marched dead tired across the compound back toward the cellar, they see three of the bounty hunters riding hot snorting horses through the gate back into the compound. They all hold carbine rifles and seem to be in good spirits.

Other bounty hunters come riding in behind them pulling a sledge piled with the dead bodies of five slaves.

26 INT. SLAVE CELLAR - NIGHT

26

The trap door opens and the bucket is lowered down. The crowd of slave converges on the bucket, led by Kelly and Ivan holding the dirt-encrusted spoon they've been digging with and a flat stick. As they get to the bucket and get a spoonful of the steaming gruel to their mouths they are immediately jostled away. Both of them madly and hungrily push their way back in, elbowing and kicking others out of their way.

26A INT. SLAVE CELLAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

26A

Everyone is asleep. The ashes smolder. People snore. Ivan comes crawling out the hole in the wall. He's completely dirty and totally exhausted. He shakes his head wearily, throws the wooden spoon he's been digging with, drops to his knees and crawls to the minute warmth of the burnt-out fire. He curls up in a ball and shuts his eyes.

Kelly is curled up a few feet away, but her eyes are open. She takes a deep breath, then crawls over to Ivan and curls up behind him, snuggled against him.

Ivan's eyes open. He reaches his hand back and touches her shoulder. She takes his hand tightly in both of hers, brings it to her lips and kisses his fingers.

Ivan's whole face lights up. He's not tired now. He takes his hand back, puts it under his face and doesn't move.

Kelly's expression drops. She's not sure what's happening. Suddenly Ivan turns and faces her. They both smile, looking into each other's eyes. Ivan reaches out, takes her face in his hands and kisses her. They hold each other tightly.

It's like a breath of fresh air for the first time in ages. Their eager hands press firmly against each other and curiously explore the new terrain. Ivan's hands quickly find their way to Kelly's firm fanny and take hold. They hungrily kiss again. Kelly unzips Ivan's jumpsuit and he unzips her's. It's too chilly to remove any more clothes than necessary, so with a minimum of preliminaries the two muddy slaves proceed to make love in the dirt and ashes. They try to be as quiet as they can lying among one hundred other people. But it doesn't really matter. This is all that's real anymore. When they are done they sleep in each other's arms.

DISSOLVE:

27 EXT. SAWMILL - DAY

27

As Kelly and Ivan stack wood (both now wearing two gloves each) they keep finding ways of rubbing against each other and looking at each other. They finish loading a train car of planks and step away awaiting an empty one to move forward.

The bearded Millhands in their leather aprons and carrying bats stroll around the mill. One of the Millhands turns his head and kind of dazes off staring into the polished surface of a machine. When the Millhand refocuses his attention he can clearly see Kelly reflected in the side of the machine.

Kelly points at Ivan, makes like she's steering, points at herself, then swirls her finger around her ear.

The Millhand puts his fingers in his mouth and whistles loudly. Everyone turns and the other Millhands come running over. The one who whistled stomps over to Kelly and grabs her. Ivan steps forward to intercede and gets cracked on the shoulder with the bat.

Three other Millhands arrive and converge on Kelly. They drag her over to a bare wall and lock her hands into manacles hanging there.

Everyone stands motionless watching intently.

Ivan's eyes are darting around, bugging out.

END ACT THREE:

ACT FOUR:

28 EXT. SAWMILL - DAY

28

Ivan looks on in horror as Kelly is manacled to the wall. A Millhand steps up before her holding a long, black bullwhip. He drops the frayed end to the ground and swishes it about, creating momentum.

A look of firm resolve locks itself in Ivan's eyes. He grabs his muzzle, tears it from his face and screams . . .

IVAN

*NO!!*

Ivan throws his body at the Millhand with the whip, knocking him into another Millhand.

Ivan then grabs one of the Millhands by his beard, swings him around in a full circle and lets him fly right into the wall where he is knocked cold.

Ivan quickly unlocks Kelly's hands. As soon as she's free she really lays into the two Millhands. She lets fly a series of fast sharp socks to one guy's throat, then spins with her elbow into the other's nose. Both Millhands are immediately incapacitated.

Ivan picks up a baseball bat and cracks it over another guy's skull. That's all of the Millhands.

Ivan turns to the frozen staring slaves. He lifts his clenched fists into the air.

IVAN

(loudly)

*Freedom! Freedom!! Freedom!!!*

All the slaves look back blankly not moving and not saying a word, their muzzles in place. Jeff looks at Alex, but neither one makes a move.

A loud siren goes off.

Ivan and Kelly look at each other. Ivan picks up another bat and tosses it to Kelly. Ivan grabs several drill bits and they quickly leave the sawmill.

None of the slaves follow. They just stare.

Alex turns to Jeff with a desperate confused expression.

JEFF  
(lowers his muzzle)  
It's your fingers, kid.

Alex glances down at his two stump fingers. Suddenly he pulls off his muzzle, takes a deep breath and runs out of the mill. Jeff smiles.

29 EXT. COMPOUND - DAY

29

The siren is wailing. Kelly and Ivan dash across the open area of the compound until they reach a tall stack of wood. They duck behind it. They turn to see if anyone's coming and there is Alex dashing up. He drops down beside them.

IVAN  
All right.

KELLY  
Welcome aboard.

ALEX  
Thanks.

Millhands wielding bats and Bounty Hunters with carbines converge on the sawmill from every direction.

In a stealthy low-crawl they make their way from stack of wood to stack of wood. The enclosing wire of the compound and the front gate are getting close.

As they come around the corner of a tall stack of wood they come face to face with an Alien Guard holding a giant air cannon.

Before the Alien gets a chance to lift its weapon or even react Kelly quickly bashes in its misshapen bug head with a bat. Ivan sticks it with a sharp drill bit. The Alien lets out a high-pitched death shriek and spews green blood on Ivan.

Alex watches with his mouth hanging open, totally stunned.

ALEX

They die.

Ivan yanks the drill bit out of the Alien's chest. Green blood coats his hands and there is a slightly crazed look in his eyes.

IVAN

Everything dies!

Several Aliens come running out the front door of the main building. They look right toward where the astronauts are hiding.

Ivan takes the dead Alien's air cannon. Kelly leads the way.

KELLY

Come on.

Kelly suddenly stands and runs as fast as she can toward the front gate. Ivan and Alex follow after her.

The Bounty Hunter at the gate spins around with his carbine and cocks it. Kelly heaves her wooden bat at him as hard as she can. Just as the Bounty Hunter levels his weapon the bat connects with his forehead knocking him backward into the wire, then forward onto his face.

The escapees rush the gate. Kelly grabs the fallen carbine and they're through the gate and out of the compound. They run as fast as they can up the road through the trees.

The Alien guards and Bounty Hunters have all mounted horses and are ready to ride.

Eight Bounty Hunters on horseback follow after them.

Crowded in the doorways of the sawmill, the slaves watch the pursuit. Millhands approach waving bats.

MILLHAND

Get back to work! NOW!

The slaves all sadly shake their heads and turn back inside.

Jeff's gaze lingers a moment longer, then he sighs and pulls up his muzzle.

30 EXT. DIRT ROAD – DAY

30

Kelly, Ivan and Alex run as fast as they can up the dirt road through the woods. They cross the railroad tracks and the road keeps going into a hilly, densely foliated area.

They hear the approaching thunder of horse's hooves.

KELLY

Let's split up.

Kelly goes straight, Ivan goes to the right. Kelly and Ivan's eyes don't want to part, but they quickly must. Ivan gives her the thumbs up. She smiles and nods.

Alex comes to a stop, feeling confused and abandoned. He doesn't know which way to go.

And the approaching horses grow louder.

Alex looks around in bewilderment. He's just about ready to give up. Ivan suddenly reappears at Alex's side and grabs his arm.

IVAN

Come on.

They run into the woods.

A moment later the thundering herd of horses and Bounty Hunters, with their horses rearing and snorting, arrive at the split-up spot and don't know which way to go. The Bounty Hunters split into two groups, five going one way, three going the other way, and they head off after the escapees.

31 EXT. WOODS/PLAIN – DAY

31

Kelly is really hauling ass, the carbine held in both hands in front of her. She moves through a wooded area and suddenly runs out into a clearing.

It's about one hundred yards to the woods on the other side. Kelly really pours it on. She's about halfway across the clearing when the Bounty Hunters appear out of the woods behind her. They quickly start to gain on her. She'll never make it to the other side.

32 EXT. HILLY AREA – DAY

32

Ivan and Alex are running up the side of a rocky hill. They have to jump from one out-cropping to another. Alex is like a gazelle and is having no trouble. Ivan, on the other hand, is schlepping the air cannon which weighs about fifty pounds and is having great difficulty.

The terrain is bad for the horses and the Bounty Hunters, too.

Alex and Ivan slide down a steep rocky grade. Ivan starts to roll, lets go of the air cannon and when he hits the bottom the big weapon slams into his back, knocking the wind out of him. Alex reaches for the air cannon but Ivan grabs it.

33 EXT. WOODS/PLAIN – DAY

33

Kelly swings around and drops to one knee. She levels the carbine, sights in on the five rapidly approaching Bounty Hunters on horses, and *POW!* She shoots on Bounty Hunter off his horse. Kelly pulls the bolt back, recocks the weapon, an empty shell flies through the air, *POW!* Two Bounty Hunters down. Recock, sight in, *POW!* Three.

The two other Bounty Hunters stop hastily before they're shot, too.

Kelly turns and keeps running toward the woods.

One of the Bounty Hunters attaches a grenade-launcher to the end of his carbine, then a grenade, too. The two Bounty Hunters continue riding after Kelly.

Kelly is running as fast as she can and is just reaching the edge of the woods.

The Bounty Hunters appear behind her. One of them fires the grenade at Kelly.

It's like the world is yanked out from beneath Kelly's feet. Big trees are crashing around her. A crater is blown into the ground right beside her.

When the smoke clears she is on her back looking up at the horses and Bounty Hunters looming over her. Kelly groans and closes her eyes.

34 EXT. HILLY AREA – DAY

34

Ivan and Alex are clawing their way up a hill. Ivan is gasping and rubbing his aching back. They hear the riders nearing. This renews Ivan's energy and he starts to catch up with Alex.

35 EXT. HILLTOP/CLIFF – DAY

35

When Ivan reaches the top of the hill he finds Alex standing at the edge of a cliff plummeting down in front of them fifty feet to the water. A few pebbles slide over the edge . . . down . . . down . . . down . . . Bloop! Bloop!

Ivan and Alex look at each other in horror. They glance back to the riders who are sliding down the hill before him.

Ivan steps in front of Alex and raises the humungous air cannon to his shoulder. He checks it out and the design is really odd and the trigger isn't where it's supposed to be. There is writing on the side, but as he peers closer at it looks like the comic version of someone swearing (\*#@\$!&^%).

The Bounty Hunters are galloping up the hill toward them. Ivan aims the rifle at them and begins squeezing it and poking it searching for the trigger.

IVAN

Come on with this!

Alex cowers behind Ivan.

The Bounty Hunters are almost on top of him, their weapons in hand. Ivan takes a step backward toward Alex, still aiming the weapon and bashing it with his other hand.

IVAN

Stupid piece of sh—!!!

He miraculously hits the trigger and fires the weapon. The hill before him explodes in a hail of dirt and rocks just as the Bounty Hunters arrive. The blast knocks all the Bounty Hunters backward down the hill with their flailing horses.

The kick of the weapon throws Ivan backward, stumbling, right into Alex and both of them go right over the edge of the cliff. They scream as they plummet through the air . . . down . . . down . . . down . . . SPLASH! SPLASH!

36 DELETED

36

37 EXT. EDGE OF LAKE – DAY

37

Ivan and Alex surface at the edge of the lake, in some rushes, and gasp for air. Out of nowhere they hear a whispering voice.

VOICE (O.S.)

Over here.

They look at each other, shrug and quickly crawl out of the water and over to a dark little cave at the edge of the lake.

38 EXT. HILLTOP/CLIFF – DAY

38

The Bounty Hunters peer over the edge, their weapons aimed down toward the water. They watch and wait, then finally shake their heads and leave.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

They're dead, that's for sure.

END ACT THREE:

ACT FOUR:

39 INT. CAVE – DAY

39

Ivan and Alex can't see a thing in the dark cave. A hand strikes a flint and the spark catches in a small pile of dry grass. The little fire illuminates the person's face.

It's a very pretty 20-year old girl with freckles on her nose, her shapely body covered in rags. She looks at Ivan and a strange expression crosses her face.

Alex, meanwhile, has fallen immediately in love. He has stopped breathing.

The girl points her finger at Ivan.

GIRL

(amazed)

Have we met?

IVAN

I don't think so.

GIRL

This is really weird. Are you sure?

IVAN

Pretty sure.

The girl shakes her head.

GIRL

My name`s Bizzy.

IVAN

I`m Ivan.

He puts out his hand to shake. BIZZY just looks at his outstretched hand, which, after a second, he lowers.

Alex's brain snaps back to reality. He gulps.

ALEX

I`m Alex.

She looks at Alex for a blank moment, then smiles.

BIZZY

Hi.

Alex nearly faints. Lights are flashing in his eyes.

IVAN

Thanks for saving our lives.

BIZZY

Did you just escape from the sawmill?

IVAN

Yes.

BIZZY

Why're you wearing such funny clothes?

ALEX

He's from outer space.

BIZZY

(confused)

Are you an alien? You don't look like one.

IVAN  
 (shakes his head)  
 No. I'm from Earth. I'm a doctor.

BIZZY  
 (nods again)  
 Oh. What's a doctor?

IVAN  
 You don't know what a doctor is?

BIZZY  
 (shakes her head)  
 Uh-uh.

IVAN  
 I help people.

BIZZY  
 (nods)  
 How sweet.

With her bare hand Bizzy puts out the little fire.

BIZZY  
 Follow me.

She leads Ivan and Alex further into the dark cave.

IVAN  
 (to himself)  
 Never even heard of doctors, eh? I  
 could actually still become "The Great  
 Healer." This may be utopia, yet.

He shrugs and follows along.

40 EXT. CAVE/HIDDEN VALLEY – DAY

40

They come out of the cave into a hidden valley. There is a small village inside with a river running through it. There are about thirty people, men, women and children, milling about. The whole thing is kind of magical.

IVAN

Who are all these people?

BIZZY

Just like you. Escaped slaves.

41 EXT. VILLAGE OF SLAVES – DAY

41

They enter the village and are stared at by everyone. They pass strange shrines. A guy in a white apron, the BAKER, calls out.

BAKER

Hey, Bizzy, what'choo got there?

BIZZY

He's a doctor.

BAKER

(grinning)

He looks like some kinda spaceman or something.

IVAN

It just so happens I am a spaceman.

The Baker starts to laugh heartily. He turns to two women.

BAKER

He says he's a spaceman.

The women look at Ivan and shake their heads. They make a comment to each other and laugh.

Ivan, Alex and Bizzy approach the men, all squatting by a big fire. Ten of them, in rags and skins.

The Baker trots up from behind taking off his apron.

BAKER

This fella here says he's a spaceman.

A big man with strong arms and reddish hair stands up rather crookedly. He is ISAAC. Ivan steps up to him.

IVAN

Second Lieutenant Ivan Hood, D.O.  
Who're you?

ISAAC

I am Isaac. I am the leader of Freedom  
Valley.

IVAN

Nice to meet you.

Ivan puts out his hand. Just like Bizzy, Isaac stares at it. Ivan reaches out and takes Isaac's hand and shakes it.

ISAAC

What are you doing?

IVAN

It's a greeting.

ISAAC

Ah. So now are you really a spaceman?

IVAN

As a matter of fact I am.  
(he points at his uniform  
where it is written . . .)  
NASA, Probe Mission.

ISAAC

I just saw the Bounty Hunters carrying  
away a woman dressed like you.

IVAN

(very concerned)  
Was she all right?

ISAAC

She was knocked out, but breathing.

IVAN  
 (relieved)  
 Thank goodness.

ISAAC  
 What does D.O. mean?

IVAN  
 I'm a Doctor of Osteopathy.

This causes an internal conference among the top men.

ISAAC  
 Does that mean that mean you are  
 a doctor for animals or humans?

IVAN  
 (sarcastically)  
 Osteopathy is the study of slugs and  
 their mating habits.

ISAAC  
 (eyes light up)  
 Really? I've always been interested in  
 slugs. How do they mate?

IVAN  
 Very carefully. I was kidding. That was  
 a joke. An Osteopath is a doctor for  
 people. Turn around.

Isaac does as he's told. Ivan gets him in a full-Nelson.

IVAN  
 Breathe in . . . out . . . in . . . out.

Ivan lifts Isaac off the ground adjusting every vertebrae in his back. There is a ripple of cracks. Isaac stands up straight, much straighter than before. He holds his head high. A mild hush goes through the crowd.

ISAAC  
 Thank you. That feels fine.

IVAN

Don't mention it. Anyone else has a problem, come to me. In fact, you can just think of me as "The Great Healer."

Everyone takes a step toward Ivan. Isaac holds up his hand. He speaks to everyone.

ISAAC

We here in Freedom Valley welcome any human, no matter where he escaped from. May you live here in peace for the rest of your days.

Ivan holds up his hands and shakes his head.

IVAN

Whoa! Wait a minute. I've got a friend back at that sawmill that I've got to get out of there. I need your help.

They all shake their heads.

ISAAC

We of Freedom Valley do not fight. We live in peace with everything.

IVAN

Except the Aliens and the Bounty Hunters.

ISAAC

They don't know we're here and we don't bother them.

IVAN

So you just hide here in your little valley and pray they don't find you. That's very brave.

ISAAC

Bravery is from another time.

IVAN

That's for sure. Look, these aliens have no right to our planet or our wood.

An OLD MAN speaks.

OLD MAN

They took it. It's theirs.

ISAAC

This is one of the very few free settlements of humans left on Earth. We're not looking for trouble.

IVAN

You don't have to look for it, it's here. What about the President? What's his name? Kemsy?

A disturbance rumbles through the men.

OLD MAN

You're trying to trick us. President Demsky was *after* the Probe mission. You were in deep space when he was elected.

IVAN

Oh, knock it off, old man! I'm older than you anyway. The slaves back at the sawmill were all talking about him. Where is this President Demsky?

OLD MAN

He's putting together a fighting force of slaves in the Cascade Mountains.

BAKER

He's a myth. He died with everyone else in the capital.

OLD MAN

He didn't. The President lives! I've spoken with a guy who knew someone who saw him. He lives!

Alex speaks for the first time.

ALEX  
The President lives!

Bizzy is right beside Alex and smiles at his forthrightness. She touches his arm. Alex blushes.

IVAN  
The Cascade Mountains aren't far from here. I'll go find him.

Everyone speaks at once.

EVERYONE  
No! You can't!

IVAN  
Give me one good reason why I shouldn't?

ISAAC  
The Bounty Hunters will track you down and kill you.

IVAN  
(nods)  
Not bad.  
(waves his hand)  
Ahh. Those Bounty Hunters are fags. I can get past them.

ISAAC  
You will be killed.

IVAN  
You're a real hopeful bunch. Well I don't give a damn. What have I got to lose. I'll find this President of yours, or I'll prove he doesn't exist. If he does

we're coming back here with his fighting force, take these aliens on, and free my friend and all the other humans back at the sawmill! You say your free here in "Freedom Valley"? Bullshit! You're just prisoners in a bigger cage!

(they all look at him in silent awe)

Now, who will join me on my quest?

Ivan scans the faces. None of them look very eager. Alex stands up.

ALEX

I'm going.

Bizzy stands up, too.

BIZZY

Me, too.

Alex turns and smiles at her. She looks a bit unsure.

IVAN

(smiles)

Good. At least there's two among you with courage.

Isaac frowns at Bizzy and shakes his head sadly.

ISAAC

But Bizzy, we were going to be married?

BIZZY

There's more important things to do now. Don't you see, the Doctor was sent here to lead us to the President.

ISAAC

(sadly)

I don't think so. I think he'll lead you to your doom.

Bizzy looks at Isaac and the rest of the men for a long moment.

BIZZY

We'll let you know when we get back.

DISSOLVE:

42 EXT. SAWMILL/COMPOUND - SUNSET

42

Two Bounty Hunters carry a pole between them with Kelly's bloodied, bruised and beaten body hanging by her wrists and feet.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

(shakes his head)

This one wasn't bad lookin' before we started.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

Yeah, too bad we had to beat her with the damn 'Mites watchin'. I'd a liked to've done a spacegirl.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

She'll get better. Then we'll both do her.

They arrive at the bearded GUARD sitting beside the wooden trapdoor leading to the slave cellar.

GUARD

*Yosemite!* You sure did her up royal.

The Guard stands, unlocks the bolt and swings open the door.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

The 'Mites was watchin'.

The Bounty Hunter drops his end of the pole and Kelly's body slides off into the cellar. It's about an eight foot drop which doesn't do her the slightest bit of good.

GUARD

(seriously)

Well, hell, she and the other spaceman killed one of the 'Mites. I didn't know ya could do that.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

Me, neither. They die just like us.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

Except green shit comes out.

They all shake their heads in disgust. The Guard slams the door shut and relocks the bolt. The two Bounty Hunters walk away. They are both somewhat contemplative, which is unusual for them.

As they pass the turquoise sculpture they find the five remaining Aliens in the midst of a ceremony. The sculpture is pulsing and glowing. The Aliens sideways mouths are opening and closing and they are shrieking in unison. The Bounty Hunters see the dead Alien Guard laid out at the base of the statue on a bed of fresh kindling wood. The Alien is dead as a doornail, and covered with green shit.

The Bounty Hunters look at each other. Hmmm . . . ?

One of the Aliens turns it's bugeyes and sees the Bounty Hunters standing there watching. The Alien lets out a spine-chilling shriek and all the other Aliens turn and look.

The two Bounty Hunters get lost fast.

The Aliens turn back to their ceremony. The Alien Leader lights a kitchen match and ceremoniously tosses it on the kindling. The dead Alien goes up in flames.

END ACT FOUR:

ACT FIVE:

43 INT. SLAVE CELLAR - NIGHT

43

The slaves have Kelly by the fire and are dressing her wounds with mud and sap. Kelly groans as she resurfaces to painful consciousness.

KELLY

Where am I?

JEFF

You're safe, you're with us.

Kelly looks around and realizes where she is and that doesn't seem safe at all. She groans again.

KELLY  
Where's Ivan?

JEFF  
He got away. So did Alex.

A slight smiles plays across Kelly's swollen, pain racked face.

KELLY  
(whispers)  
Thank God.

JEFF  
Ya know, no one's ever killed one of  
the 'Mites before. It's got everyone thinkin'.

KELLY  
Good.

Kelly falls asleep.

A quiet hubub is going on among the slaves.

DISSOLVE:

44 EXT. VILLAGE - DAWN

44

The sun shines on the little village in the hidden valley. Three solitary figures wearing backpacks walk away from the village, following the river. It is Ivan, Bizzy and Alex.

Their breath creates steam in the early morning chill. They head toward the mountains.

DISSOLVE:

45 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

45

The three figures make their way into the rolling foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The enormous snowcapped peaks loom in the distance.

The three travelers are marching along shouldering their packs when they hear shooting and screaming coming from over the next hill. They drop to their bellies and crawl the rest of the way up the hill. Cautiously peering over the edge they see .  
..

46 EXT. VALLEY - DAY

46

Two Bounty Hunters on horses have a line of five muzzled humans chained at the ankle whom they are marching out of the hills. The area around them is littered with five bloody, inert human bodies.

A look of deep pain and sadness crosses Ivan's face. He shakes his head.

IVAN  
(whispers)  
So much killing.

However, one of the bloody prostrate humans is not dead yet and is slowly crawling up the hill toward them.

A Bounty Hunter spots the movement. He shoulders his carbine, sights in and fires. The bullet thumps into the dirt on the opposite side of the wounded man. He jerks visibly and slumps to the ground motionless. The Bounty Hunter lowers his weapon, nods and rides after the chain gang.

Once the Bounty Hunters and the slaves are out of sight, the wounded man continues to crawl up the hill.

Ivan and the others stand and run to him. The wounded guy sees them, moans and apathetically drops to his face.

WOUNDED MAN  
(groaning)  
Just make it quick, will ya?

Ivan turns him over and inspects the wound. The guy has a bullet in his side. Ivan turns to Bizzy.

IVAN  
Have you got a knife?

Bizzy reaches into her pack and pulls out a large Bowie Knife. She hands it to Ivan. The wounded guy shuts his eyes tightly expecting death any moment. Ivan looks at Alex and Bizzy.

IVAN  
I don't suppose we have anything  
antiseptic with us, do we?

They both shrug. They don't know what he means.

IVAN  
Alcohol?

Now they get it. Bizzy nods, reaches into her pack and removes a small clay jug. She offers it to Ivan.

BIZZY  
Potato liquor.

IVAN  
That'll do.  
(he takes a slug and winces)  
Smooth.  
(he holds it out to the patient)  
Here. Drink this.

The wounded guy opens one eye.

WOUNDED MAN  
Huh?

IVAN  
Drink it. It'll kill the pain.

WOUNDED MAN  
Why do you want me to drink if your gonna  
stick me with a knife?

IVAN  
I'm a sadist. Now drink it.

The guy takes a big slug, coughs and blows out hot fumes through his lips.

WOUNDED MAN  
That's pretty good.

IVAN  
(to Alex and Bizzy)  
Hold him down.

Alex and Bizzy both look at Ivan quizzically.

BIZZY  
What are you going to do?

IVAN  
I'm going to operate.

BIZZY  
What's that?

IVAN  
Just watch. Now hold him down.

Bizzy and Alex take hold of the guy.

WOUNDED MAN  
(pleading)  
I'll work in the mill. You can cut off  
my finger. You can cut off all my fingers.  
I'll do anything. Please . . .

Ivan pours liquor on his hands, on the Knife blade and on the wound. The guy howls in pain. Ivan quickly and deftly operates. In a moment he holds a bloody lead ball between his fingers. He pours more liquor on the wound and bandages it with a strip of rough cloth.

IVAN  
Good as new. Want this as a souvenir?

The Wounded Man takes the bullet.

WOUNDED MAN  
Ain't you gonna kill me?

Bizzy cuts in.

BIZZY  
He's a Doctor. He just healed you.

WOUNDED MAN

(amazed)

A Doctor? There ain't no Doctors no more.

IVAN

Oh yes there is and I'm it.

WOUNDED MAN

I guess so. Are you some kinda spaceman,  
too?

IVAN

Yeah, I am.

(to the others)

Let's go.

Everyone stands. Ivan turns to the patient.

IVAN

Change the bandage occasionally and  
you'll be fine.

They all start to leave.

WOUNDED MAN

Wait! Where're you going?

ALEX

To find the President.

WOUNDED MAN

The President? He lives! He'll bring freedom  
to us all!

IVAN

That's what we hear. We're going to find  
him.

WOUNDED MAN

Can I come?

IVAN

Sure. What's your name?

WOUNDED MAN

Tyler.

IVAN

Tippecanoe and Tyler, too.

They all look at him blankly.

TYLER

Huh?

Ivan looks like he might explain, but doesn't know what it means, either.

IVAN

Forget it. So, Tyler, think you can walk?

Tyler jumps to his feet and walks ahead.

TYLER

Sure. I feel great.

Everyone starts after him. About ten steps ahead Tyler's eyes roll into the back of his head and he passes out.

DISSOLVE:

47 EXT. WOODED FOOTHILLS/STREAM - DAY

47

Ivan and Alex hold Tyler up as they walk into a pine forest in the foot hills of the mountains. Bizzy leads the way.

They come down a wooded slope that ends at a wide stream. As they follow the stream they see a guy standing in the water up to his knees fishing with a long stick. He is casting back and forth expertly, and in a moment has caught a fish. He takes it off the hook and tosses it to shore. It lands in a pile of other flopping fish.

The four weary travelers see all the fish and their stomachs begin to growl.

IVAN

This is my kind of guy. Let's go make friends.

The Fisherman is facing away from them. They approach him waving their arms.

IVAN  
Hi, how ya doin'?

The Fisherman spins around holding a big old German Luger. He aims it at them.

FISHERMAN  
Nobody move or you're dead!

They all freeze with their hands up.

FISHERMAN  
What do you want?

IVAN  
We want to make friends.

FISHERMAN  
You want my fish!

IVAN  
Well, we wouldn't mind sharing them  
with you.

He eyes Bizzy up and down in her scanty rags.

FISHERMAN  
What're you offering?

IVAN  
Friendship.

FISHERMAN  
Friendship, huh? What're you doing  
here?

IVAN  
We're out looking for the President.

FISHERMAN  
(eyes widen)  
The President, huh? The President's dead.

IVAN

Are you sure?

FISHERMAN

Uh . . . No. Are you sure he's alive?

IVAN

No. But we're going to find out.

Tyler raises his clenched fist.

TYLER

The President lives!

Everyone but Ivan and the Fisherman repeat loudly . . .

EVERYONE

*The President lives!!*

Ivan turns to everyone.

IVAN

Hey, look! Let's knock off this "President lives" shit, okay? We're not slogan-repeating slaves, were free men! Let's act like it.

FISHERMAN

(lowers gun)

All right, I'm with you. I like the way you talk. Besides, I don't have any bullets anyway. And you can have all the fish you want as long as there's water around. I just like catching 'em, I don't much like eating 'em. My name's Bob.

IVAN

Nice to have you aboard, Bob.

(turns to the others)

Lets make a fire and eat some fish.

DISSOLVE:

48 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

48

Ivan comes climbing up a steep grade through thick undergrowth. Everyone follows behind, climbing further up the mountain, only now instead of five there are eight of them.

DISSOLVE:

49 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

49

The band of escaped slaves sit around a small campfire preparing for sleep. Ivan has the clay jug of potato liquor and takes a slug. He's already pretty drunk, but not happily so. He stares into the fires and laments.

IVAN

Man, there were so many things in the world I used to just take for granted and now that they're gone I miss 'em.

BIZZY

Like what?

IVAN

Well . . . There used to be little restaurants all over the place and people called 'em greasy spoons. You could get eggs, toast, bacon, and coffee for \$2.99 and the waitress would ask four times during the meal if everything was OK then forget to bring you more coffee, and scanning up and down the radio dial for a good song, but only getting songs you don't like, and basketball, and dumb TV shows and . . . I don't know.

Ivan lowers his head into his hands.

BIZZY

Are you sorry you're here?

IVAN

I don't know. It's just, nothin' ever goes the way you think it's gonna. I mean, I finally fall in love, or, at least I think I

have, I get away and she gets caught . . .

Alex looks at Bizzy who is paying close attention to Ivan's words. Alex cautiously reaches out and takes her hand. She holds his hand, but continues to listen to Ivan.

IVAN

(continuing)

. . . Ever since I was a kid I wanted to be a doctor. I'd watch "E.R." and "Marcus Welby" reruns on TV and think, "I wanna be like that . . ."

Alex interjects.

ALEX

What's TV?

IVAN

None of your business. But my grades weren't good enough, so I joined the Air Force, figured I'd fly jets, or helicopters, or something . . . But no . . . My grades weren't good enough for that, either. Luckily, they put me through Osteopathic school, but all the M.D.s treated D.O.s like they were quacks. And then I ended up on that stupid space mission 'cause no real doctors wanted to go away for twenty years. I figured I'd come back to a better world a hero, but no . . . Sometimes I just think fate or God or whatever is just cruel. No matter what you want, that's not what you get . . .

Ivan sighs deeply, drops over backward and passes out.

Bizzy stares at Ivan. Alex holds Bizzy's hand and stares at the back of her neck. He's got his courage pumped up and goes to make his move just as Bizzy stands and goes over to Ivan. Alex is left with nothing but empty air.

Bizzy covers Ivan and puts a pack under his head, then sits beside him and watches him sleep.

Alex curls up in a ball by himself.

DISSOLVE:

50 EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - DAY

50

Moving along the bank of a fast flowing river are two mounted Bounty Hunters. They look nervously around. One turns to the other.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

We can't go back empty-handed. We'll get in trouble.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

I don't want to hang around this area, there's hostiles here. A Bounty Hunter got killed around here just a few weeks ago.

The first Bounty Hunter scans the treeline on the hill above them.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

You're just chicken. I ain't afraid a no slaves.

He sees some kind of movement among the trees.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

There somethin' movin' up there. I'm goin' to check it out.

BOUNTY HUNTER #2

Don't do it, I'm tellin' ya.

The first Bounty Hunter doesn't listen. He spurs his horse and rides up the hill. The other Bounty Hunter shakes his head and keeps moving.

51 EXT. TOP OF HILL - DAY

51

Ivan and his small army trudge up a wooded hill. They all hear the thumping of the horse coming up the hill at the same time and dash into the underbrush. Ivan takes a bow and arrow from one of the men, loads it, pulls the arrow back and waits.

The Bounty Hunter reaches the top of the hill and slows to a trot. He looks directly toward where they are hiding and readies his carbine.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

I know you're in there, get your butts  
out before I blow ya away.

He cocks his weapon for effect.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

I ain't kiddin'.

He raises his rifle and aims into the brush.

END ACT FIVE:

ACT SIX:

52 EXT. TOP OF HILL – DAY 52

The Bounty Hunter aims into the bushes where the slaves are hiding.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

I said come outta there!

Ivan lets the arrow in his crossbow go. It flies straight into the Bounty Hunter's shoulder throwing him backward off his mount. He hollers loud as he hits the ground. The horse gallops quickly down the hill.

53 EXT. RIVER'S EDGE – DAY 53

The riderless horse runs right past the other Bounty Hunter who obviously heard the yell. He spurs his horse and rides quickly away.

54 EXT. TOP OF HILL – DAY 54

Ivan and the others step out of the brush and surround the wounded, moaning Bounty Hunter.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

Ya killed me. Ya gone and killed me.

Ivan inspects the wound.

IVAN

You're not dead and I won't let you die,  
even though you deserve it, you traitor.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

(surprised)

Traitor? Traitor to what?

IVAN

To humanity.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

(confused)

I don't get it.

IVAN

Yeah, and that's the problem. Look, I'll  
make you a deal—I'll save your life if  
you stop working for the Aliens and join  
us.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

How can ya save my life?

IVAN

I just can. Is it a deal?

The Bounty Hunter reaches up and feels the arrow embedded in his shoulder and winces.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

Yeah, sure. It's a deal.

Ivan takes hold of the arrow with both hands, grits his teeth and yanks it out with all his might. The Bounty Hunter gasps and passes out.

The others look to Ivan.

TYLER

Why're you bothering with him? He's a stinkin' Bounty Hunter.

IVAN

He's a human. Human's have the ability to change. Now someone hand me a knife.

Bizzy hands Ivan her knife. The rest look at each other skeptically. They shake their heads and mutter, "I don't know." Bizzy looks angry.

BIZZY

If the Doctor says so then it's true.

Several people shrug conceding the point, but many others still look skeptical.

DISSOLVE:

55 EXT. FOOT OF THE PEAK - DAY

55

The band of ragged ex-slaves has increased in size again, there are now eleven, two other women beside Bizzy, and the Bounty Hunter. They top the rise before a giant imposing snow-capped peak. They all look up. Ivan shakes his head.

IVAN

We're not prepared to climb that.

ALEX

No.

IVAN

Anyone have an idea as to what our next step ought to be?

A loud booming gunshot rings out, the projectile whizzing through the leaves above their heads.

Everyone hits the dirt. People ready their various weapons: knives, bows, sticks, Bob aims his empty Luger and raises his fishing rod. A voice is heard. A deep male voice.

VOICE

Who're you?

IVAN

(calling out)

Friends! And fellow humans!

There is a low rasping laugh. There is a rustling in the woods and before them steps a mountain man garbed in bear skins, a long beard and a longer rifle—only he's a hunchbacked dwarf! He is BILL, the Mountain Man.

BILL

Who says?

Everyone, except Ivan, gasps at the sight of this man and retreats a half step.

BILL

You see, I ain't hardly human and you're not my friends.

IVAN

We could be.

Bill takes the barrel of his rifle and shoves it into Ivan's face.

BILL

What if I blow your head off? Would ya still be my friend?

Everyone gasps and raises their weapons. Ivan pushes the gun barrel away from his face with his finger. Bill lowers the weapon so that it's aiming at Ivan's chest.

IVAN

You're not going to shoot me.

BILL

I'm not, huh? How do ya know?

IVAN

I just know.

BILL

Ain't you just a little scared?

IVAN

Not even a little.

(holds out his hand)

My name's Ivan. I'm a doctor.

BILL

A doctor? What's that?

IVAN

I heal people.

Bill lowers his rifle.

BILL

Oh yeah. I got taken t' folks like you when I was little. Didn't do me no good though.

IVAN

You got taken to doctors, or to healers?

BILL

Folks who said God healed through them.

IVAN

(looks Bill over)

Just as I suspected.

BILL

So what're you all doin' up here?

BIZZY

We've come to the mountains to find the President.

BILL  
(perks up)  
The President. Why?

ALEX  
He's putting together a fighting force  
to overtake the aliens and make the  
Earth free for all humans.

A number of people mumble, "The President lives." Ivan turns frowning and they all quickly shut up. Bill chuckles.

BILL  
No shit?

IVAN  
You wouldn't happen to know anything  
about the President, would you?

BILL  
That depends on which President you  
mean? I may know a different one.

IVAN  
Demsky is who they're talking about.

BILL  
Sure, I know where he is.

Everyone gasps, even Ivan.

IVAN  
You do?

BILL  
Sure. I'll take you there. Then we can  
all join the fighting force together.

Bill chuckles, turns and walks into the woods heading toward the looming peak. Ivan follows closely, watching Bill walk in his contorted way. Everyone else follows along.

The Sunny Slope Ski Lodge looks like a faded Swiss chalet on stilts and is affixed to the side of a mountain. It appears abandoned. Above the lodge rusty broken chair-lifts dangle in the wind.

Bill leads the others up the overgrown road to the ski lodge. Everyone looks around with a growing sense of dread.

BILL  
(points)  
All the tanks and Howitzers are hidden  
over there.

Everyone turns and looks. Bill chuckles.

BILL  
Made'ja look.

Bill goes right up to the front door and opens it without knocking. Ivan follows right after. The others hesitate. They mumble, "The President really does live."

57 INT. SKI LODGE – DAY

57

All the old furnishings are there, shredded and broken.

BILL  
(calling out)  
Hey! Demsky! Get out here! You got  
visitors!

IVAN  
(surprised)  
"Hey, Demsky"? Are you two on the  
same bowling team?

Bill breaks up laughing. He laughs pretty hard and starts to cough.

BILL  
That's great. You're a funny guy. By the  
way, what's bowling?

An old man comes scurrying up. He has white hair, is withered and wearing a ragged three piece suit, a ripped ski cap and torn mittens. He is the SENATOR. He is very upset.

SENATOR

Who have you betrayed us to now?  
Who? Answer you deformed dwarf!

BILL

(offended)

Up yours you old fart! Go get Demsky.

SENATOR

Don't tell me what to do, I'm the Senior  
Senator from New York.

(looks at Ivan)

Who's this?

BILL

You're nothin' now, so move! Get  
Demsky.

Bill and Ivan follow the Senator deeper into the ski lodge. One by one the others follow in awed silence.

The Senator leads them past doorways from which frightened rat-like old men and women peer out. Bill turns to Ivan.

BILL

This is the whole Washington D.C.  
bunch. All that made it. Senators,  
Congressmen, Judges, look at 'em.  
Rats with beady little pink eyes. They  
come to me begging for meat. Please,  
please, please. Whose in charge now,  
huh?

SENATOR

Shut up, dwarf!

58 INT. DEMSKY'S ROOM - DAY

58

They all arrive at the doorway to a room. An old man with a buzz cut sits on a wooden chair, hunched over and staring out the cracked, rag-stuffed window to the mountains and the setting sun. Beside him sits an easel with a partially completed painting of the landscape out the window.

SENATOR

Mr. President, this disgusting creature has brought outsiders here. Intruders.

PRESIDENT DEMSKY slowly turns around. He was obviously once a big strapping, square-jawed guy, but now he's all bent over, shriveled and drawn, his eyes dull and lifeless. Demsky slowly looks Ivan up and down. He sees what's written on Ivan's shirt. Light comes into the President's eyes and a look of awe crosses his face.

PRESIDENT

You were on the Probe Mission?

IVAN

Yes, I was.

Old ragged Washingtonians gather in the doorway, pushing themselves between Alex, Bizzy and the others. Mention of the Probe causes a gasp among the Washingtonians. "The Probe Mission" they repeat over and over.

IVAN

(confused)

Why is everyone so interested?

PRESIDENT

It's because of the Probe that we're alive. It's warning allowed a few of us to seek shelter.

IVAN

(shrugs)

Well, it's nice to know it wasn't wasted effort. So look, Mr. President, I'm here leading a group of escaped slaves that

want to join your fighting force.

PRESIDENT

(looks blank)

Fighting force?

IVAN

Yeah, the one that's going to battle the Aliens in the upcoming rebellion.

PRESIDENT

Rebellion? What rebellion?

IVAN

The one you're leading. The one plenty of slaves I've met believe in.

PRESIDENT

(looks at the faces)

... I'm not leading a rebellion. I'm not leading anything.

IVAN

But these people believe in you.

PRESIDENT

Well what am I supposed to do about it?

IVAN

(passionately)

Lead them to victory!

PRESIDENT

There can be no victory against these ... these ... Disgusting vermin. They cannot be fought.

The escaped slaves in the doorway aren't taking this very well.

IVAN

Have you tried?

PRESIDENT

You've seen them, there's no use.

IVAN

What'dya mean? I killed one of 'em.  
They die just like anything else, just  
a little louder, and green shit comes out.

A hush goes through the crowd. Bizzy and the others look at Ivan in true wonder.

BIZZY

You didn't tell us that you killed an  
Alien?

IVAN

Yeah, so what? It wasn't hard. An arrow  
or a rock is enough. I used a drill bit.  
(to Demsky)  
Mr. President, the time is now.

The President shakes his head sadly, turns and looks back out the window. The last golden rays of sunlight beam in.

PRESIDENT

No, it won't be me. I gave all that I  
have to give. I have nothing left. I'm  
through.

There is a moment of seriously oppressive silence. Everyone looks at Ivan. His jaws clench and a look of firm resolve transforms his face into granite.

IVAN

My friend—the woman I love—is being  
held captive at the sawmill. I've got to  
get her out. If no one is even thinking of  
fighting back then you've given up. Well  
I haven't given up! I'm fighting back and  
anyone that wants to fight with me is  
welcome. Someone's got to lead this

rebellion and if it's not going to be you,  
then I guess it's going to be me! Freedom  
for humans! Freedom! Freedom!  
Freedom!

Several people join in but most don't. They look like they want to, but he told them not to.

IVAN  
I changed my mind. Come on. Freedom!  
Freedom!

Everyone raises their hands and their weapons and yells.

EVERYONE  
Freedom!!! Freedom!!! Freedom!!!

END ACT SIX:

ACT SEVEN:

\*\*58A\*\* INT. COMPOUND/SAWMILL – DAY

\*\*58A\*\*

Outside the sawmill, the slaves stack wood on train cars. We see that Kelly is now well enough to be back stacking wood beside Jeff. They both wear muzzles and gloves.

Down at the end of the line of slaves is one CRAZY-LOOKING GUY who just stands there staring out through the wire, not working.

Kelly and Jeff see the guy just standing there, and the two of them exchange a look. They both quickly glance around to see if any of the Millhands has noticed.

The Crazy-Looking Guy drops the board he's holding, then begins stumbling toward the wire. The closer to the wire enclosure the guy gets, the more slaves stop working and watch.

Finally, two Millhands notice the guy just as he arrives at the wire and attempts to begin climbing it. The Millhands dash over with their bats in their hands.

They get to the guy on the wire and begin whacking him on the back with their baseball bats. The guy drops off the wire and the two Millhands grab him and drag him back into the compound.

Suddenly, an Alien Guard steps out from behind a building directly in front of the captive Crazy-looking Guy. The Alien leans forward, engulfs the guy's head in its mouth and bites it off.

The Millhands and all the slaves wince and turn away. Kelly covers her face.

The Alien chews up the head, swallows, then turns and walks away.

DISSOLVE:

59 EXT. SKI LODGE - SUNRISE 59

The small ragged army of slaves march away from the ski lodge as the sun rises majestically over the mountains.

President Demsky's sad, beaten face watches from his window.

60 EXT. FOOT OF THE PEAK – DAY 60

The band of rebels, led by Ivan and Bill, make their way out of the mountains away from the huge peaks. Bill stops.

BILL

Well, doctor, I wish ya the best of luck in your rebellion and I'll catch ya later.

Ivan looks a little sad.

IVAN

I thought you'd joined us.

BILL

Nope. I just took ya where I said I'd take ya.

IVAN

That you did. Thank you. Uh . . .

BILL

Yeah?

IVAN

Before you go. Would you let me try to help you? I don't have any medical equipment but I still think I can do you some good.

BILL

(skeptical)

It's been tried.

IVAN

(sincerely)

Let *me* try.

Bill shrugs his hunched shoulders.

60A EXT. FOOT OF THE PEAK – LATER THAT DAY

60A

Ivan has a mattress made of packs and skins, then has the dwarf lie on his side facing him. Alex holds Bill's hands above his head. Bizzy holds one of Bill's feet. The other leg is pulled up so that his knee is sticking out. Ivan takes hold of Bills shoulder with both hands and rests his weight on Bill's knee.

IVAN

Just relax. Breathe in . . . out . . . in . . .  
out . . .

Bill looks a bit nervous, but breathes deeply, in, out, in, out . . . Ivan glances at Alex, then at Bizzy.

IVAN

In . . . out . . .

Suddenly Ivan leans forward onto Bill's outstretched knee with all of his weight while simultaneously pushing hard on Bill's shoulder. Alex pulls hard on Bill's arms while Bizzy pulls on his foot. There is crack after crack after crack running up Bill's spine until it crescendos in one big giant crack in his neck, which Ivan twists.

Bill hollers in extreme pain.

Everyone quickly backs away. They all turn and look at Ivan like he's a murderer. Ivan stares down at Bill.

Bill twists up into fetal position, gasping for air, his face twisted into a knot of pain. When his lungs are full he blows out a long, wheezing, agonized breath and drops limp onto his back—flat on his back! No longer hunched forward.

All of the people's eyes widen in amazement. They turn and look at each other for verification that what they're seeing is real.

Bill opens his eyes. The pain has subsided. He breathes deeply. He slowly realizes he's flat on his back. He looks downright frightened. Very cautiously, he sits up straight.

BILL

Oh my God!

In awed silence everyone watches him stand up—straight. Ivan smiles. Bill steps up to Ivan, beaming. Ivan examines him, feels his spine and neck. Checks his handy work.

IVAN

You know, you're not even that short.  
I don't think you qualify as a dwarf or  
a midget.

It's true. He's probably 5'1". He takes Ivan's hand in both of his and shakes it vigorously, tears in his eyes.

BILL

Thank you, Doctor, thank you, thank  
you . . .

Ivan takes back his hand.

IVAN

Forget it. It was nice meeting you.  
Catch you on the flip-flop.

Ivan turns and starts to walk away.

BILL

(sad and stricken)  
Wait! Can't I go with you?

IVAN

But you said—

BILL

—Please?

IVAN

(smiles)

Hop aboard, Chief, we're glad to have you.

DISSOLVE:

61 EXT. HIDDEN VALLEY - DAY

61

The rebels, lead by Ivan and the ramrod straight Bill, troop into the slaves' hidden encampment. The residents of Freedom Valley run out to meet them and crowd around eager for news. Ivan is met by a dour Isaac.

IVAN

I have some news for you.

Bizzy grabs his arm.

BIZZY

But their hopes . . . their belief . . . their faith—

IVAN

—Is misplaced and they should know it. Everyone, gather 'round. We have news of the President.

An excited buzz courses through the crowd. Many exclamations of "The President lives" are heard.

IVAN

The President in fact does live.

There is a great communal gasp, followed by cheers and clapping. The rebels all look at each other frowning. Ivan holds up his hand for silence.

IVAN

He lives, but there is no fighting force, and no rebellion.

BAKER

But the President will led us to freedom!

IVAN

No, he won't! As he said himself, he leads nothing.

The crowd goes depressingly quiet.

IVAN

The President is just an old man who stares out his window. Yes, he does live, but he may as well be dead.

BAKER

But what about freedom?

IVAN

There will only be freedom for humans if humans fight for their freedom! You have no President to pin your hopes on, only yourselves. The only rebel army that exists you see standing in front of you. We will fight for freedom and any of you who care to join us, join now!

ISAAC

But there's not enough of us.

IVAN

If one of you is willing to stand up for what's right and fight, that's enough! As long as you hide in your valley and wait for someone to bring you freedom, you are still slaves. Freedom only comes to those willing to fight for it! Now, who will join us?

Everyone looks at him blankly. No one moves. Bizzy is ashamed.

BIZZY

(desperately)

Please, you're my people. We need you. You must join us.

They must but they don't. They slowly begin to disperse. Soon the crowd is gone. Isaac remains to the last, but then he turns and leaves too.

The twelve rebels stand alone.

BOB

This is stupid. There's not enough of us to do anything. I'm going fishing.

IVAN

(pissed)

Then go! I'll be the whole rebel army myself if I have to! I've returned to a world of cowards! I'd rather die fighting than be any part of this! Adios!

Ivan goes stomping away. Bizzy and Alex quickly run after him. A moment later Bill and Tyler follow. Bob and the others look at each other, shrug, then they follow, too.

DISSOLVE:

62 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

62

Everyone is asleep spread out around a dying campfire. Ivan wanders slowly among the prostrate, snoring people. He has a worried expression on his face and walks out of the camp.

As Ivan passes the curled up form of the Bounty Hunter, the bearded man's eyes pop open. The eyes follow Ivan's progress into the woods.

63 EXT. CLEARING IN THE WOODS – NIGHT

63

Ivan sits down in a small clearing in the woods. He rubs his face wearily and stares up at the full moon. He sighs deeply.

IVAN

(quietly)

Kelly, just be okay, okay?

64 EXT. CAMPSITE – NIGHT

64

Bizzy is fast asleep under an animal skin. Suddenly a big, hairy hand clasps her over her mouth. Her eyes snap open in alarm.

It is the Bounty Hunter. He has a lecherous smirk on his ugly, bearded face and moves his body down on top of Bizzy's. Bizzy tries to scream but all that comes out from behind his hand is muffled groan. The Bounty Hunter tosses away the animal skin and begins to unbuckle his pants.

Bizzy's eyes are darting back and forth and her muffled groans are growing more desperate. And then Bizzy's eyes shut tightly and her face tightens into a wincing knot.

The Bounty Hunter begins to wheeze as he moves back and forth.

An arm suddenly grabs the Bounty Hunter around the throat and tries to pull him off of Bizzy. It is Alex. He pulls with all his might, but the Bounty Hunter is much bigger than him.

The Bounty Hunter wheels around throwing Alex to the ground. He then punches Alex as hard as he can in the stomach.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

(to Alex)

Mind your own damn business!

Bizzy takes this chance to scream as loud as she can.

Everyone in the camp bolts awake.

Ivan comes running up.

IVAN

What's wrong?

Bizzy squirms out from beneath the Bounty Hunter and with tears running down her face crawls away.

Alex sits up holding his stomach.

ALEX

He just raped Bizzy. I tried to stop him, but I couldn't.

Alex looks away ashamed.

The Bounty Hunter stands up in front of Ivan and casually buckles his pants.

IVAN  
(to the Bounty Hunter)  
Is that true?

BOUNTY HUNTER #1  
What of it? She's used to it. That's how  
it's done.

IVAN  
(flatly)  
Not here it's not.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1  
Oh, you think you've got somethin' real  
special goin' here, huh? You're just a  
bunch of escaped slaves. You're all  
gonna get caught or killed tomorrow  
anyway. What's the difference?

IVAN  
(his eyes blazing)  
The difference is we're free now and  
we have laws and we treat each other  
with respect.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1  
Oh yeah? Drop dead! I'm goin' back to  
the sawmill right now and tell 'em where  
you are.

The Bounty Hunter turns and starts to walk away into the woods.

Ivan reaches down and picks up a crossbow. He quickly cocks it.

IVAN  
Hey! Scumbag! I've got something  
for you.

The Bounty Hunter turns around.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1  
What?

Ivan fires the crossbow. The arrow hits the Bounty Hunter right in the heart. His eyes go wide with surprise and pain. He drops to his knees.

BOUNTY HUNTER #1

(gasping)

I thought you were a doctor and just healed people.

Ivan's eyes are burning and his right eyelid begins to twitch.

IVAN

I am. Your stupidity is terminal and I just cured you.

The Bounty Hunter falls over backward, dead.

Ivan looks around at all the others who are staring at him. His eye won't stop twitching.

IVAN

Try to get some sleep, tomorrow's gonna be a rough day.

Ivan walks back into the woods still holding the crossbow.

Alex goes to Bizzy who is curled up beneath a tree. He kneels beside her.

ALEX

I'm sorry.

Bizzy lightly touches Alex's arm, then quickly pulls her hand back.

BIZZY

Thanks for trying.

Alex walks away, still deeply ashamed of himself.

Everyone lies back down.

END ACT SEVEN:

ACT EIGHT:

65 DELETED

66 EXT. COMPOUND/SAWMILL - DAWN

66

The rebels crawl through the forest into positions around the compound and sawmill. Each is armed with various weapons, but mainly in the front line it's bows and crossbows. An ancient-looking multiple barreled catapult device mounted on old bicycle tires is wheeled into position with leaves and branches camouflaging it.

Ivan has a crossbow. Bizzy has a regular bow and arrow, loaded and ready. Bob has his fishing rod.

The wire enclosed compound is square and there are Bounty Hunters at all four corners in wooden towers. There is also a guard at the front gate, as well as the Millhands wandering about with their bats.

Ivan is counting under his breath.

IVAN

... Ninety-six ... Ninety-seven ... Ninety-eight ... Ninety-nine ... One hundred.

(he looks at Bizzy)

Go.

Bizzy puts her fingers in her mouth and whistles really loud.

Bob casts his rod and hooks a Bounty Hunter in a tower by his beard. Bob reels in and pulls the Bounty Hunter off the tower before he knows what's happening.

Bizzy launches her arrow and nails the guard at the gate. He stumbles back into his little wooden booth.

Ivan fires his crossbow at a Bounty Hunter in a tower. The arrow hits the guy in the thigh. Ivan quickly tries to reload, which is difficult. The Bounty Hunter raises his weapon at Ivan, stumbles sideways off the edge of the tower and crashes through the roof of a guard post crushing the guard inside.

The other Bounty Hunters in the towers are all hit with arrows.

Ivan turns to Bizzy and nods. She whistles again, real loud. All the rebels stand and charge. They dash forward cutting the wire and going through the gate.

67 INT. COMPOUND/SAWMILL – DAY

67

As the rebels move from one wood pile to another across the compound they nail several loafing Millhands with arrows. Ivan picks up one of the bats.

They dash past and around the weird turquoise crystal sculpture toward the main building.

Cannon gun barrels appear through the slit windows of the main building. The cannons fire and big stacks of two-by-fours and planks explode in a shower of wood particles. The rebels are all knocked backward and scurry for cover.

Ivan glances at the sawmill and sees the slaves watching the battle from the doorway, among them are Jeff and Kelly.

Kelly smiles at Ivan and waves. She's missing a finger. He waves and smiles back.

The Aliens keep firing from the main building. Wood piles and dirt and trees explode as they're hit.

Cowering behind a stack of wood, the rebels prepare their next move. They pull out arrows with wadded cloth wrapped around the points. They set them on fire and one by one they fire the flaming projectiles into the sides and roof of the unfinished wood building. In no time the place goes up in flames.

Suddenly the front door comes flying open and out come the five Aliens firing blindly. For the rebels it's like the whole world is blowing up. The rebels crawl away with debris flying. They are quickly being driven out of the compound under the wire.

The main building is a blazing inferno.

The five Aliens, including the Leader, fan out with their weapons blasting. They avoid hitting the turquoise sculpture.

None of the rebels are fighting back. Not Ivan, not anyone. They're all running for their lives. They've lost the compound. It's completely destroyed, except for the sawmill, the guardhouse and the turquoise statue, and the Aliens most definitely have control.

Kelly and Jeff sadly watch the rebels get pushed back.

67A EXT. COMPOUND/SAWMILL - DAY

67A

The rebels end up back in the woods, hopefully out of range.

The Aliens are at the wire peering out into the woods, no longer shooting. Behind them lie three dead humans on smoldering Earth. The Aliens turn nodding and gurgling to each other in victorious satisfaction.

Suddenly, the leaves and branches camouflaging the wheeled catapult drop away. Ivan stands behind it holding a knife. He cuts a rope and a taught bowstring snaps forward launching twenty-five arrows. The arrows go straight through the wire and hit every Alien. They all drop to the ground dead or mortally wounded.

The rebels rise to their feet. With a cheer they rush back into the compound.

67B EXT. COMPOUND/SAWMILL – DAY

67B

The remaining Bounty Hunters and Millhands cower in the guard quarters and peer out through the windows. They all have weapons, but none of them seems ready to use them.

The slaves slowly step out of the sawmill. They're not sure they can trust what they see with their own eyes. They pull off their muzzles. Some begin to believe it and exclaim in amazement, "We're free!" "Free!" "Thank God!"

Ivan dashes over to the slaves and pushes his way through to Kelly. They hug and hold each other tightly.

KELLY

(smiling)

You're alive. I'm so happy.

Ivan touches Kelly's bruised cheek.

IVAN

You look like hell, but I love you anyway.

KELLY

(smiles)

I love you, too.

They kiss.

Alex and Jeff step up to each other smiling. The hug and slap each other on the back.

A party is starting around the burning remains of the main building. They've got the Bounty Hunters and the Millhands out of the guardhouse and are busily tying them up,

JEFF

What'll we do with 'em?

MOB #1

Let's kill 'em!

MOB #2

Let's throw 'em into the fire!

MOB #3

Let's lynch 'em.

BOB

Let's cut 'em into small pieces and feed 'em to the fish.

BILL

Let's ask the Doctor.

They all turn to the Ivan who has his arm around Kelly.

The crowd quiets down.

IVAN

These are the first moments of freedom most of you have experienced in eighteen years. It doesn't seem like the right time to be executing anyone, alien or human.

BOB

But what'll we do with 'em?

Everyone turns and looks at Ivan. The Bounty Hunters and Millhands are particularly interested.

Ivan speaks to the prisoners.

IVAN

It's up to you. You are humans beings just like us. You can join us if you'd like,

but you'll really have to make us believe  
that you mean it.

(to the others)

Let 'em think about it, put 'em back in  
the guardhouse.

Ivan walks back over to Kelly. She takes him into her arms.

KELLY

You're a wise leader.

IVAN

Thanks. You can just call me The  
Great Healer.

KELLY

(grinning)

All right, Great Healer, kiss me.

IVAN

Hey, that's Mister Great Healer to you.

They kiss, then wander over to the other side of the compound.

The people mumble among themselves. They nod in agreement. The Doctor's words are wise. The doctor is a wise man. A sort of warming hum goes through the crowd.

BILL

He said we could take the sawmill and  
we did. The Doctor knows what he's  
talking about.

BOB

He took us to see the President.

An awe inspired hush goes through the crowd, followed by a wave of "The President lives," "He truly lives."

TYLER

The President is a coward. An old

man sitting in a room. That's why the Doctor lead the attack himself.

Jeff cuts in.

JEFF

He chose not to kill them bastard Bounty Hunters. He must be a just man 'cause I'd a killed 'em in a second.

Bob says.

BOB

He killed one last night. One that he had already saved.

BIZZY

He gives life and he takes it away.

Alex cuts in.

ALEX

Right before he came out of the desert, I saw a shooting star in the daylight sky. I think it was a sign from heaven.

SOMEONE

All our troubles are over.

SOMEONE ELSE

Heaven on Earth is here.

Ivan comes running back toward the crowd.

IVAN

(yelling)

Take cover, something's coming!  
Prepare to fight!

Everybody scatters in all directions, diving into holes, behind dirt piles, into the sawmill and some people dash into the guard's quarters.

Everyone turns, readies their weapons and prepares to do battle. Ivan lies in a hole, his crossbow cocked and aimed.

67C EXT. COMPOUND/SAWMILL – DAY

67C

There is a low rumbling sound. It grows louder and louder and lower and deeper and everything's shaking. And then there, coming up the road is an absolutely enormous stainless steel vehicle on treads. It stops in front of the main gate. An amplified Alien voice comes out of it.

ALIEN VOICE

Humans. Give—up—immediately. Do—  
not—attempt—resistance. You—are—  
defeated.

Nobody moves.

There is a hiss from the vehicle, followed by a ramp opening in the front. About twenty black-clad Alien STORM TROOPERS with air cannons come marching out.

Ivan rises up.

IVAN

(loudly)

You like wood so much, eat this!

Ivan fires the crossbow. The arrow sails straight into the chest of the foremost Alien, dropping him on the spot.

As the Aliens lift their weapons, the humans fire their arrows. Fifty arrows swish in and every Alien goes down. The ramp hastily closes and the vehicle backs off twenty yards.

The humans holler in victory, dash forward.

Irises in the hull of the vehicle spin open revealing circular holes. Suddenly rockets come shooting out of the holes, directly at the guardhouse. Everybody dives out of the way of the incoming rockets.

The Bounty Hunters and Millhands watch from the windows of the guardhouse as rockets swoosh directly at them. The building ignites in a giant fireball, followed by a mushroom cloud. The building is utterly destroyed.

The impact of the explosions knocks all of the humans to the ground senseless and covers them with dirt and debris. Another explosion shakes the Earth, then another then another. And then blessed silence and stillness.

Each of the humans is buried in several inches of dirt. One by one they come rising up as if out of nowhere only to find fifty more Alien Storm Troopers with weapons coming at them at a full run.

The Alien COMMANDER comes striding up to the humans flanked by armed guards. The Storm Troopers line up behind him, the weapons at ready. The Commander looks over the filthy crew of rebels.

COMMANDER

Never—before—have—we—encountered—  
an—armed—revolt. I—will—have—to—  
make—very—sure—that—it—never—  
occurs—again. Which—of—you—incited—  
this? Who—is—your—leader?

There is a long sustained silence from the dirty, bloody rebels.

COMMANDER

If—I—don't—get—an—answer—immediately—  
I—will—kill—all—of—you. Now—speak—  
up.

All of the humans look at each other hesitantly. No one moves. Ivan suddenly steps forward.

IVAN

I'm the leader, thank you very much.

The Alien Commander nods.

Kelly steps forward, her chin thrust defiantly out.

KELLY

No, *I'm* the leader.

The Alien Commander's bugeyes go from Ivan to Kelly.

Then Alex steps forward.

ALEX

No, I am the leader.

Bizzy steps forward.

BIZZY

No, it's me.

Then Jeff steps up.

JEFF

Heck no, I've always been the leader here.

Then everybody steps up saying, "I'm the leader," "No, I am," "No, me . . ."

COMMANDER

(nods)

You—humans—have—more—integrity—  
than—I—ever—suspected. I—ought—  
to—kill—you—all—right—now, but—I—  
will—use—my—own—best—judgment.

(pause)

I—believe—you . . .

(he points directly at Ivan)

And—I—sentence—you—to—be—  
executed—immediately.

A gasp goes through the crowd. Many people say, "No." Two Alien guards grab Ivan and drag him away.

COMMANDER

My—judgment—was—correct. You—  
are—the—leader.

IVAN

Yes I am. But I'm not the last. Humans  
will rise up against your tyranny and kill  
every last one of you!

Ivan is taken to the large oak tree at the center of the compound.

COMMANDER

I—don't—think—so. You—are—the—  
troublemaker. Humans—are—naturally—

a—timid—breed—and—best—suited—  
to—subservience. You—are—an—exception.  
Kill—him.

All of the human's eyes go wide in horror as they watch the two Alien guards raise their weapons toward Ivan.

Just then it begins to rain arrows into the lines of Alien Storm Troopers—ten, twenty, thirty arrows. Many Aliens are hit and fall shrieking to the ground. The other Aliens take cover anywhere it's available.

Ivan and the other rebels look around in confusion. What's going on?

67D INT. COMPOUND/SAWMILL – DAY

67D

There is a loud sustained war cry and humans come storming into the compound from all directions. Out in front wielding a sword is President Demsky. He is followed by all of his Washingtonians, old as they may be, as well as Isaac and all the inhabitants of Freedom Valley—men, women, children, holding sticks and knives and bows, smashing down the wire.

Ivan steps forward, waves his arm and hollers.

IVAN

*ATTACK!!*

The rebels in the compound attack and now it's a two front assault. The Aliens try to level their weapons but haven't got time. They get off a few shots which send humans flying, but they are quickly overrun. The humans wade into the Aliens and it's a slaughter.

Now it's hand-to-hand combat, or, actually, hand-to-tentacle combat. When you stick the Aliens they spew green blood. They're also not terribly coordinated, but watch out for those jaws because they'll bite your head or arm off in a second.

Bill steps out of the woods in front of the stainless steel vehicle and gives them the finger.

Both irises immediately spin open revealing cannon barrels.

Tyler and Bizzy both appear on either side of the vehicle and toss Molotov cocktails into the holes. They dive away as the vehicle explodes inside, blowing the front ramp out like a cork and spewing dead, smoldering bugs.

Ivan has gone wild. He's going at the Aliens with his knife, pouncing on them and ramming the blade home again and again, his face twisting into a battle hardened sneer. Green Alien blood coats Ivan's clothes, hands and face.

Ivan spots Kelly, but can't even bring himself to smile. His war sneer is stuck on his face.

Ivan is far and away the most valiant, or the craziest, as the case may be.

Soon all of the Aliens are dead. The battle is won. Everyone begins to cheer and shake hands and slap each other on the back.

All except Ivan. He sits on the ground among the dead Aliens, a bloody green knife in his hand. He is hyperventilating and can't get the twisted sneer of his face.

Kelly rushes over to him and helps him to his feet. He's shaking badly.

President Demsky comes walking up.

PRESIDENT

Doctor.

IVAN

You seem to have changed your mind since we last spoke.

PRESIDENT

Yes. You changed it. Thank you.

IVAN

Your timing was impeccable. If you'll excuse me, though, I think I have to lie down. Tell everyone to get some rest, we move on to another sawmill tomorrow.

PRESIDENT

(surprised)

Tomorrow? That soon?

IVAN

(flatly)

Yes, that soon. Remember, the battle's not over until we've won. Until every

stinking Alien is dead. Got it?

PRESIDENT

Got it.

IVAN

Good.

Ivan nods weakly and Kelly leads him into the sawmill.

The President shakes his head and goes to tell the others.

At which point Bill, the short and erect mountain man, comes face to face with the wizened old Senator. They are the same height.

SENATOR

(snidely)

Well if it isn't the deformed dwar—

(realizes they are the  
same height)

What happened to you?

BILL

The Doctor healed me. He's a true  
healer.

SENATOR

He sure is. This is utterly amazing!  
You're not a dwarf at all. In fact, you're  
quite tall.

The warm rush goes back through the crowd. It's taking root, grabbing hold.

The old ladies and gentlemen of Washington are caught up in the excitement too.

WASHINGTONIAN #1

The Probe is what saved us and he put  
the Probe in space.

WASHINGTONIAN #2

That's true. He saved us.

WASHINGTONIAN #1

And his words are wise.

Isaac tells the crowd.

ISAAC

The Doctor told us that living in Freedom Valley was hiding from reality, not facing it and he was right.

BILL

He laid his hands on me and I was cured.

TYLER

He cut a bullet right out of my gut. I sure wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. And he told me that if I was ever in a canoe I shouldn't tip it and that's certainly good advice.

BIZZY

When we first met, I already knew him.

PRESIDENT

He got me to see that life is worth living and worth fighting for.

WASHINGTONIAN #1

God bless the Doctor.

Everyone repeats this.

EVERYONE

God bless the Doctor.

Alex comes out of the slave cellar holding a stub of a pencil and yellowed pad of paper. He begins writing furiously.

Our view of the sawmill and its compound moves upward, taking in the wreckage, the smoldering main building and the multitude of dead bodies, both human and Alien.

Alex's voice returns as it did in the beginning.

ALEX (V.O.)

The Doctor had indeed led us to freedom.

And the next day we moved on toward  
another sawmill . . .

DISSOLVE:

68 EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAWN

68

A long line of free humans, dressed in rags, holding their weapons proudly, march in line over the top of the hill. They are led by Ivan and Kelly and the line of people seems to just get longer and longer.

ALEX (V.O.)

And after another desperate battle we freed that sawmill, too. And the next and the next. We went on to liberate all of the sawmills in the Pacific northwest and now we are heading back south to free the humans of California. It looks like there's no stopping us. Soon, all of the humans on Earth we be free. And we owe it all to the Doctor, our liberator, or, as he has become known over the course of many bloody battles waged and won with multitudes of Aliens killed . . .

DISSOLVE:

69 EXT. SAWMILL COMPOUND – DAY

69

Ivan is killing the Aliens with his knife, pouncing on them and ramming the blade home again and again, his face twisting into a battle hardened sneer. Green Alien blood coats Ivan's clothes, hands and face.

DISSOLVE:

70 EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAWN

70

As Ivan gets closer we see that his uniform is stained with green blood, his eyes are blazing, the weird sneer still twisting his lips.

ALEX (V.O.)

. . . "The Great Exterminator."

Kelly glances at Ivan with a disturbed look. Ivan doesn't notice. His burning glare is directed ahead.

The line of humans behind Ivan marching over the hill just keeps coming and coming, endlessly and forever into the future.

FADE OUT:

END ACT EIGHT: