

EJECTED V1

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INT. STAN'S ROADSIDE DINER - MORNING

A bustling roadside diner, somewhere in Oklahoma.

A FAMILY of four sits in a booth eating pancakes, while a sour-faced WAITRESS pours a cup of coffee for a TRUCK DRIVER.

The bell above the door JINGLES as it opens.

RICKY (early 20s) a southerner slicked with fresh motor oil and donning a badass cowboy hat, saunters in.

He eyes a group of COLLEGE GIRLS pulling an all nighter, and tips his hat to them with a wink.

RICKY

Ladies.

The COLLEGE GIRLS giggle and roll their eyes.

Ricky grins.

He's a ladies man and he knows it.

He slides into an empty booth and glances up at a flickering TV mounted on the wall.

PAT (60's) a prickly veteran of the serving industry, holds out a steaming pot of coffee.

PAT

Coffee?

RICKY

Please and thank you Ma'am.

Pat pours the coffee.

Ricky smiles and nods his thanks.

The sound of the TV catches his attention.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Global scientists warn that if we continue our current fossil fuel use, the Earth's average temperature will be 6.5 degrees warmer in about 80 years.

Pat places the cup in front of Ricky and glances over her shoulder at the TV to see a REPORTER standing beside a graph.

REPORTER (V.O.)
 Professor Geller, tell us more
 about this growing concern.

PROFESSOR GELLER (V.O.)
 The last time the planet
 experienced this kind of
 temperature change was when the
 Earth was 5 to 9 degrees cooler
 during the last ice age. The
 question is, will people be able to
 adapt their food systems to handle
 this radical change?

PAT
 Every day, same doom and gloom.
(shouting) Stan, turn off that
 hooley would ya?

STAN (50's) greasy and thin as a rake, is dressed in a grubby
 chefs uniform as he emerges from the kitchen.

STAN
 Don't you know, I got better things
 to do than turn channels, Pat?!
 We're two cooks down today.

PAT
 Well hop to it then!

Stan resolves to change the channel - knowing better than to
 argue with Pat...

A WEATHER REPORTER points to an image of famished farmlands
 in the mid-west and flooding in the south.

RICKY
 So now we're having some bad
 weather. Bet they'll tell us it's
 all down to climate change!

Pat laughs, clearly these two 'get' each other.

PAT
 Yep! They keep talking 'bout some
 carbon tax. Well, ain't carbon
 natural? How can they charge folks
 more for a basic element? What's
 next? Charging us for oxygen?

RICKY
 I'll drink to that!

Ricky takes a swig of coffee.

PAT
Mhmm. Do you know what you would like to order young man?

RICKY
Is the omelette good?

PAT
Oh, it's excellent.

RICKY
(Trying to sweet talk)
Sounds great Darlin', maybe you could rustle up some of that sweet apple pie as well?

PAT
That might work on those college girls but not on me. I could be your grandma.

RICKY
I don't believe it. You don't look a day over twenty-five to me.

Pat takes the menu and playfully hits Ricky with it.

PAT
I'll see what I can do about the pie.

RICKY
Thank you... Oh and before I forget, I don't suppose you know the name of a good auto shop? My truck just died...

PAT
From outta town are ya? Well I drive a guzzler myself, see that 1957 Cadillac out front? That beaut's mine.

Ricky gawks out the window at the car, clearly impressed.

RICKY
The DeVille? Gosh, that's some car.

PAT
I always take her to Buck's Auto on Third. He takes care of the trucks round here too.

RICKY
I appreciate the advice.

PAT
You're welcome.

Pat smiles and bustles over to an empty table stacked with half eaten dishes and leftover waffles.

She scoops up the few dollars tip from under an empty glass.

PAT (CONT'D)
(under her breath)
Why order the supreme if you ain't
got the stomach for it?

Pat takes the plates and tips the leftovers into the garbage.

INT. ANITA & MANESH'S LUXURY HOME, KITCHEN - MORNING

A grand, modern kitchen with every imaginable gadget.

The washing machine, clothes dryer, and dishwasher all hum and whirl.

ANITA (33) a domestic goddess, shopaholic and matriarch of her family household, opens the refrigerator-

WHAM - hit with a disgusting smell she starts to recoil.

ANITA
Ughh!

Anita slams the door shut.

ANITA (CONT'D)
Manesh! Manesh get down here.

Footsteps precede the entry of-

MANESH (33) a good-looking man in designer clothes with a history of skating through life on his family's name and his looks casually enters the kitchen.

MANESH
What's wrong?

ANITA
I told you to go through the refrigerator before our trip. Now half the food has gone bad!

MANESH

I thought Isaak was doing it?

ANITA

Isaak? Isaak is three!

Anita turns to look at ISAAK (3) who is seated at the table playing games on a tablet computer.

Manesh grins at his son and ruffles his hair.

MANESH

Yes, old enough to do chores.

Isaak's attention remains fixed on the tablet.

ANITA

(rolling her eyes)

Well you tell him then. Maybe you'll have more luck getting him away from those silly games!

MANESH

Isaak, you heard your mother. No more silly games. Do some chores!

Isaak sticks his tongue out.

ANITA

Honestly, the pair of you are hopeless! Have you at least run me a bath? I always feel disgusting after a long flight.

MANESH

Yes, I've left it running for you.

ANITA

YOU LEFT IT RUNNING?!

Anita bolts from the room and Manesh runs after her.

INT. ANITA & MANESH'S LUXURY HOME, BATHROOM - DAY

A beautifully tiled paradise looks as if it's just been the target of a tsunami.

Anita pulls open the door to the bathroom-

A plume of steam escapes and water floods out over the floor.

ANITA

MANESH!

Anita splashes into the bathroom and twists quickly stopping the flow of water.

Manesh stands idle in the doorway, trying not to laugh.

ANITA (CONT'D)

Don't just stand there, get some towels!

Manesh doesn't move.

MANESH

Isaak! Get your mother some towels!

Anita turns to look at Manesh incredulously.

Manesh gets the hint - he jumps to attention and scurries out of the room, tail between his legs.

INT. ARNOLD & AUKEY INC, BOARD ROOM - DAY

The thermostat on the wall reads 85°F.

Six SWEATY BUSINESSMEN sit around a long table, each with a glass of water. Three desk fans oscillate on the table.

KEITH, (early 40's), overworked, overpaid, with a skewed moral compass, is dressed in a smart suit with dark sweat patches under his arms.

At the front of the room, DUSTIN (35), is fanning himself with a folded piece of paper and clicking through slides on his laptop, projecting onto a large screen TV.

DUSTIN

In summary our goal is to increase our operating income by at least 5% by the next fiscal quarter.

KEITH

Thanks Dustin, shall we call it quits for today and regroup on Monday?

Keith gets to his feet and turns to look at a silver-haired man at the head of the table - ARNOLD (55) a ruthless businessman with a clear agenda, 'make more money'.

ARNOLD

Sit down, Keith. We aren't finished.

Keith sits back down and shuffles in his seat.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

And as you seem *especially* eager today. I'd like you, Keith, to look at some options to strip back the Green Plan. We need to look at how we can create further doubt. Otherwise, this "carbon tax" is going to be the end for oil and that's our bread and butter.

KEITH

But sir, this was all approved months ago.

ARNOLD

And now I've unapproved it. Get me the updated plan by the end of the day.

KEITH

Today? But it's already four thirty-

Keith rubs the strap of his watch anxiously.

ARNOLD

(Interrupting)

Yes, Keith. That is what 'by the end of the day' usually means. Is that a problem?

KEITH

No... No problem.

ARNOLD

Good. Meeting adjourned. And for god sake, someone call maintenance again about the AC!

INT. ARNOLD & AUKEY INC, OFFICE - DAY

Keith is on a mission, he dashes over to a small desk with a name plate that says 'KEITH BAXTER - HEAD LOBBYIST' and sits down.

He smacks the keys on his computer furiously and finds the Green Plan legislation.

He scrolls through pages and pages of the document and sighs.

Keith checks his watch: "4:55."

Dustin casually saunters over and leans on Keith's desk.

DUSTIN
Sucks to be the big shot, huh?

Keith clicks frantically.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
When you finish up, you should join us for a beer at O'Neils. It'll be fun, and a chance to check out some of the younger models.

Dustin elbows Keith playfully with a raised wink.

KEITH
Uh-sorry, I can't tonight. I've got my daughter this weekend.

Dustin's interest in Keith wanes.

Two more MALE EXECUTIVES pass Keith's desk and Dustin straightens up-

DUSTIN
Shame. Say hello to Eve for me.

Dustin races after the two MALE EXECUTIVES.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
(calling out)
JIMMY! Wait up. You comin' out tonight?

KEITH
Ivy. (Under his breath) It's Ivy.

Dustin wraps his arms around the shoulders of the executives who begin to laugh like excited teenage boys.

Keith looks at a picture on his desk of himself and his daughter Ivy smiling around a camp fire--

EXT. WOODLANDS - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Two tents are set up in front of a crackling camp fire in the middle of a deserted forest clearing.

Keith is dressed in loose outdoor clothing and is skewering a marshmallow on a stick.

Beside him is IVY (8) a free-spirit with long hair and an infectious smile.

IVY
Mmm, I love s'mores!

KEITH
Not too many though, or your mom
will kill me!

IVY
Okay!

KEITH
You enjoying that book I got you?

Keith gestures at a book laying on a small camping table
called 'SCOUT SECRETS.'

IVY
Yeah, I learned all about knots,
how to catch a fish and how to find
water in case we run out!

KEITH
Wow, you learned all that in a
single afternoon?

IVY
(proudly)
Yep.

Keith picks up the book and flicks through the pages.

KEITH
Want me to teach you Morse code?
I did all this when I was a scout.
Although that was a few years ago.

Ivy smiles and takes a bite out of her s'more.

IVY
What's Morse code?

KEITH
It's... like a language.

IVY
A secret language?

KEITH
Yeah, I guess it kind of is.

IVY
Wow, I wanna learn it!

KEITH

Well alright, let's do it!

Keith smiles at Ivy, whose face is filled with wonderment.

INT. FIONA'S HOUSE, IVY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ivy's room isn't a typical pink and girly bedroom. It feels rugged, minimal and outdoorsy.

Ivy, now 14 years old, is lying on her stomach rummaging beneath her bed.

IVY

Mom, have you seen my hiking boots?

FIONA (40's) an eco-warrior who likes to be heard and stand up for her beliefs, rushes past in loose sports clothes.

FIONA

Check your closet.

Fiona whizzes past again but pauses by Ivy's door.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Have you seen my good yoga mat?

Ivy peers out from under her bed.

IVY

Closet?

FIONA

Of course.

Fiona dashes off again with the speed of a gazelle.

Ivy opens the door to her own closet.

She finds her hiking boots and lays them next to an open suitcase.

INT. FIONA'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - DAY

Ivy carries her suitcase down the stairs letting the wheels hit each step with a GADUNK as she goes...

INT. FIONA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

A minimalist living room with a patchwork sofa and basic wooden furnishings.

Fiona is sitting on top of her suitcase trying to zip it up.

Ivy clatters into the room with her suitcase slamming into the door.

FIONA

Oh, it's you Ivykins, I thought we had a herd of elephants crashing through the house.

Ivy rolls her eyes and slumps down onto the sofa.

Fiona zips her suitcase closed, and grabs the handle.

FIONA (CONT'D)

I need to go now so I don't miss the invocation. My cell phone has to be off while I'm at the retreat, so if you need anything-

IVY

(interrupting)
I'll call grandma.

Fiona smiles and kisses Ivy's cheek.

FIONA

Will you be okay to wait for your dad by yourself?

IVY

I'm fine.

FIONA

Okay, if you really do need me. The number for the yoga retreat is-

IVY

-On the fridge?

FIONA

No... folded into the shape of a paper airplane in the bath.

Fiona smiles, Ivy shakes her head at how weird her mom is.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Yes, on the fridge. (Kissing Ivy)
Be good. Love you, Sweetie.

Fiona leaves and Ivy makes herself comfortable on the couch. She turns to look out the window, watching Fiona drive off in her zero emission electric car, blaring classic metal music.

Ivy sighs, looks around, then takes out her cell phone and begins scrolling.

INT. ARNOLD & AUKEY INC, OFFICE - DAY

Keith deletes two pages and types the final word into the Green Plan.

He hits print 1 of 65 pages.

He looks at the time again: "5:44."

Keith gets up and hovers by the printer waiting for all 65 pages to print...

KEITH
Come on, come on!

Keith paces anxiously as the pages judder out of the printer.

INT. ARNOLD & AUKEY INC, ARNOLD'S OFFICE - DAY

Arnold is putting his laptop into his briefcase when Keith bursts in, sweating and panting.

Keith places the hefty plan on Arnold's desk in front of him.

KEITH
The amended Green Plan, Sir.

ARNOLD
What am I supposed to do with this now?

Arnold smiles slyly. Keith looks flabbergasted.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
I'll take a look at it on Monday.

KEITH
But you said, end of the day...

ARNOLD
Yes. Because I knew I'd have a better weekend knowing it was done. Now if you'll excuse me it's tee time at the club.

Arnold swings an imaginary golf club with a satisfied smile.

Keith bites his tongue and clenches his fists in rage.

EXT. ARNOLD & AUKEY INC, CAR PARK - DAY

Keith leaves the heat of the building and enters the polluted and stuffy air of the parking ramp. He coughs as a sports car zooms past him.

Keith walks deeper into the parking ramp and pushes a button on his car keys.

The headlights on an expensive convertible flash twice.

Keith opens the door and climbs in.

He takes out his cell phone and watches the battery symbol flash a warning and die...

Keith looks around for his charger in his glovebox, frantically throwing tissues and bottles of water onto the floor... but it's no good, it's gone.

KEITH

Great, just...great.

Keith revs the engine angrily and pulls away with a SCREECH.

INT. ANITA & MANESH'S LUXURY HOME, BATHROOM - DAY

Anita hands Manesh a pile of soaked towels.

Manesh's phone rings.

Fumbling with the towels he slides the phone out of his pocket.

MANESH

Hello? (beat) A delay with the shipment? It's been two weeks!

Manesh paces, clearly frustrated. Anita watches him.

MANESH (CONT'D)

I understand. Thank you.

Manesh hangs up.

ANITA

What was that about? The new motherboards for the machines?

MANESH

They've been held up in China.

ANITA

This is why I said to source domestically. Delay after delay.

MANESH

You know it's cheaper to import than source locally. Just be patient.

ANITA

Right, get those towels in the dryer.

MANESH

Where are you going?

ANITA

Shopping.

Anita leaves Manesh to deal with the pile of wet towels.

I/E. FREEWAY, KEITH'S CAR - DAY

Keith taps his wheel impatiently. Traffic is at a standstill.

Keith looks at his rearview mirror where a bracelet is tied around an air-freshener...

EXT. FIONA & KEITH'S HOUSE, BACKYARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The sun beams into the backyard on a lazy Sunday afternoon.

Several kids sit on the grass doing a craft project and a group of moms in lawn chairs sip cocktails.

Fiona walks out with a pitcher of lemonade and reusable cups.

FIONA

Freshly squeezed lemonade, anyone?

Fiona places the lemonade on a table beside the kids.

Ivy (8), jumps to her feet excitedly.

IVY

Thanks, Mom!

FIONA

You're welcome. Make sure you share with all your friends.

Ivy nods, takes the lemonade and begins pouring drinks for her friends.

Fiona walks over to the other moms.

WENDY (30's) a two-faced gossip, dressed in the latest summer dress smiles at Fiona, she's clearly a bit tipsy.

WENDY

Delicious mojitos, Fiona! You must tell me, what is your secret?!

FIONA

No secret, just fresh mint straight from the garden.

The women nod and murmur their approval.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Would you like some to take home? Mint is so easy and grows anywhere. It would do me a favor to be honest because it's taking over the garden. There's only so much mint tea you can drink.

WENDY

But there's never enough mojitos! Am I right ladies?

A laugh and clink of glasses.

FIONA

Well, it all helps keep down our carbon footprints.

WENDY

Sustainable mojitos? I love it!

Keith and a couple of the dads stand around an unlit grill that Keith is desperately trying to light.

Beer in one hand and eyes glancing occasionally to Fiona giving her 'sustainability talk.'

DANIEL (30's) a stocky, personal trainer, dressed in shorts and a tank-top takes the lighter from Keith.

DANIEL

You have to get right down under the coals.

KEITH
(Slurring slightly)
I got it, I got it.

Keith takes the lighter back.

WES (30's) an awkward IT specialist with chunky black glasses shuffles closer, holding a sparkling water.

WES
Pour some lighter fluid on it.

KEITH
Guys, honestly, I said I got it!

Keith finally delivers. The grill crackles into life.

KEITH (CONT'D)
See, told ya!

Ivy runs over to Keith clutching a bracelet in her hand.

IVY
Daddy, look what I made you!

Keith beams at the bracelet.

KEITH
Thanks, Ivykins.

Keith pulls Ivy in for a bear hug. Foreheads touching sweetly. These are the moments Keith treasures most.

IVY
The paper beads are made from junk mail!

KEITH
Is that so...

Fiona appears beside Keith, holding a platter piled high with peppers, mushrooms and vegetarian sausages.

FIONA
(looking at the grill)
Finally some life in the old thing,
get these going before we all
starve!

Fiona places the platter next to Keith.

Keith studies the food and is aghast at what he sees.

KEITH
Mushrooms? Eeew, where's the
burgers, the ribs, the chicken?!

FIONA
Keith, we talked about this.
Remember? We're going to try and be
more conscious of what we eat. You
know, more vegetarian options?

KEITH
It's a barbecue Fiona, that means
meat! Not-

Keith picks up a vegetarian sausage and waves it around.

KEITH (CONT'D)
-this crap.

FIONA
It was Ivy's idea.

Ivy smiles, the other dads shift awkwardly.

DANIEL
Come on Keith, I'm sure they'll be
great. Cook 'em up for us.

Keith takes a swig of beer, the dads around him and Fiona
exchange glances in the awkward silence.

Suddenly Keith turns and starts striding towards the house.

FIONA
Keith, where are you going?

KEITH
The store.

Fiona sighs and runs after Keith.

FIONA
You are NOT driving. Just get back
over there and try the sausages.
You'll like them. I promise,
Please? For your daughter?!

KEITH
This isn't her idea. This is all
you. It's always you. Pushing your
agenda on everyone.

FIONA

Ivy's old enough to make her own decisions.

KEITH

Yeah, your decisions. I've spent my life making **your** decisions. It's always the same. "How can we recycle more, how can we use less energy." I can't even water the lawn anymore!

FIONA

(quietly)

Let's talk about this later...

KEITH

(getting louder)

So your perfect friends and perfect neighbors don't see your **imperfect** husband?

Keith turns to address the yard of people.

KEITH (CONT'D)

HELLO, I'M KEITH. I FRICKIN' LOVE A GOOD STEAK AND BUY UNDERWEAR MADE OF EVIL SYNTHETICS THAT CAN'T BE RECYCLED!

Fiona's face reddens.

FIONA

Keith, go and sleep it off. You've had too much to drink.

KEITH

You know what? Screw your, your...
vegan-sustainable-leaf-sausages.
And screw this...

Keith barges past Fiona and stumbles towards the house.

INT. FREEWAY, KEITH'S CAR - DAY

Keith sighs at the bracelet swinging in the breeze from his rearview mirror. A constant reminder to do better...

INT. STAN'S ROADSIDE DINER, HALLWAY - DAY

Pat is standing in the narrow hallway beside the kitchen, her phone held to her ear.

PAT

Ruby you got to stop asking me to drop everything for you. I have a job. (beat) Alright, but this is the last time. And I'm not doing it 'cuz you asked me, I'm doing it for Jill.

Pat hangs up the phone.

INT. STAN'S ROADSIDE DINER, KITCHEN - DAY

Pat enters the kitchen like a hurricane. Shoving the door open with a THUD. Stan is standing over the grill frying bacon and doesn't even look up when Pat storms in.

PAT

I gotta go. My good for nothin' daughter needs me to babysit. AGAIN.

STAN

Alright, but can you take those plates out before you go? Janet ain't here for her shift yet.

Pat looks like she is about to kick up a fuss but manages to bite her tongue.

PAT

Fine, but only for you. I'll catch you tomorrow.

Stan smiles his thanks. Pat puts down her bag and takes hold of the two plates.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

A bustling supermarket.

Anita and Isaak are walking down an aisle with a shopping cart filled with single-serve overpackaged snacks.

Isaak is sitting inside the cart. He struggles to sit still in the seat, desperate to get out.

ISAAK

Candy!

ANITA

No more candy, pick some fruit.

Isaak huffs and looks around at the fruit.

ISAAK
I want out!

ANITA
If I let you out, you have to
promise to be a good boy. Do you
promise?

ISAAK
Yeah!

ANITA
And stay beside me at ALL times?

ISAAK
I will mommy.

Anita sighs and lifts Isaak out of the cart.

Isaak runs over to the fruit display.

INT. FREEWAY, KEITH'S CAR - DAY

Keith's car has barely moved.

He listens to the sounds of angry horns and pushes his fist
down on his own horn with a loud BEEEEEEEP.

KEITH
Come on!

Keith punches the steering wheel again. BEEEEEEEEE-

Suddenly...

A beam of light engulfs Keith and he is forcefully **ejected**
from the car as if being abducted by a spaceship...

The horn cuts off suddenly.

The car is empty.

INT. STAN'S ROADSIDE DINER, KITCHEN - DAY

The two plates with burgers and fries clatter to the floor.
Stan turns to look at Pat, but she appears to have vanished.

Leaving only the shattered plates and spilled fries on the
floor behind.

INT. SUPERSTORE - DAY

Isaak looks at the fruit, he picks out a bunch of ripe bananas.

ISAAK
Nannas!

Isaak turns to his mom and his face changes to confusion. He looks around frantically. Dropping the bananas.

ISAAK (CONT'D)
Mom? Mommy?

Anita has vanished.

The shopping cart rolls into the flower stand.

ISAAK (CONT'D)
MOMMY!!!!!!

MONTAGE

1. INT. COFFEE SHOP. DAY - A mug shatters on the floor.
2. EXT. PARK. DAY - A dog tied on a leash BARKS at the air where its owner once stood.
3. INT. BAR. DAY - An ice machine churns ice into a glass and overflows onto the floor.
4. INT. ROAD. Day - A bicycle lays on the floor, wheel spinning.
5. INT. HOUSE. DAY - A pot on a stove bubbles over.

INT. THE OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Keith opens his eyes. He's staring up into a black void of space filled with twinkling stars.

He sits up and immediately looks around. Unable to see the floor it... appears as if he's suspended in space.

Keith SCREAMS.

He flails his limbs for something to grab onto and then realizes he isn't falling.

He begins to feel the floor and crawls along on hands and knees. Afraid that any misstep could send him into the vacuums of space.

KEITH

This isn't real. This is just a dream. Just a dream...

Keith crawls into the darkness.

WHAM.

Keith slams face first into a solid object.

Rubbing his head and then feeling in front of him...

It's a wall.

Keith pivots and continues crawling.

The sound of people talking gets louder and louder...

INT. OBSERVATORY, MAIN HOLDING BAY - CONTINUOUS

Looking up Keith suddenly finds himself in a room filled with people in various states of panic-

Suddenly, the dark void of space vanishes and is replaced with a 360 degree video screen revealing the true shape of the room. It's like a large observatory.

A face appears on the screen. Wearing what looks like a full-face motorcycle helmet made of copper. A number is scrawled into the metal "000", this is THE LEAD DEFENDER.

LEAD DEFENDER

Despite what many of you think the current climate crisis is real, and it's caused by humans. At the start we didn't know our actions had consequences. But now, we have known for some time and who among you has resolved to do something? Who here has pushed for change? The climate crisis is everyone's crisis.

The crowd murmurs, unsure what to make of this revelation.

LEAD DEFENDER (CONT'D)

The Earth has existed for 4.6 billion years. Humans are still infants in this world. A blip in time. Yet, we, humanity, have the most to answer for. YOU have the most to answer for.

(MORE)

LEAD DEFENDER (CONT'D)

The Earth will survive, but will
the human species?

Anita and Manesh find each other in the crowd and embrace.
Keith nervously looks around the room.

We find Pat in the crowd, glaring at the screens.

LEAD DEFENDER (CONT'D)

We are the defenders and we will
make you pay for your crimes
against nature and humanity.

PAT

Bull! What a load of HOOEY!

Enthusiastic nods of agreement and murmurs from the crowd.

VOICE 1

LET US GO!

VOICE 2

COWARD!

VOICE 3

LIAR!

Half the crowd erupts in excited insults until--

The screens go black.

Suddenly overhead lights illuminate the room and it has
become a brilliant white.

Doors open from the sides of the room and hundreds of
'Defenders' dressed in copper armor file out wielding guns
that look more like cannons in their arms.

They march like soldiers and form a perimeter.

Several of the ejected try to attack and lash out at them.

Defender 111 raises his gun and fires at the attackers.

A beam of blue light hits them all in the chest and they drop
to the floor instantly. Unconscious or maybe asleep...

DEFENDER 111

Resistance is futile.

SCREAMS fill the air.

The Lead Defender emerges from the door and steps out onto a
raised platform.

LEAD DEFENDER

You will obey the defenders of this realm. Our weapons will not kill you but you will be... incapacitated if you resist.

VOICE 4

Why are you doing this to us?! I just want to be with my family!

VOICE 5

Please I need to see my son!

VOICE 6

My daughter!

The crowd launches into cries and pleas of reason and mercy.

LEAD DEFENDER

SILENCE!

The crowd obeys and falls silent.

Ricky steps forward and tips his hat to stare at the lead defender. He spits on the floor before speaking.

RICKY

Are we supposed to believe you're some sort of "futuristic beings" sent to "save us?" Give me a break!

LEAD DEFENDER

This is the observatory. A realm outside of Earth's physical realm. Believe what you wish, you have your whole life. That is why you have been ejected. (beat) Defenders. GO!

Ricky's head spins at the defenders pile out and aim their weapons at the crowd.

RICKY

WE WON'T DO WHAT YOU SAY!!

The defenders converge and push forward, as if herding sheep.

SCREAMS and GASPS escape from the crowd.

DEFENDER 308

MOVE! SINGLE FILE!

The defenders force the crowd into lines.

They march.

Keith is bumped and barged into. He's shoved into a line and led out of the observatory into a corridor--

Ricky is pushed by a defender, Ricky pushes back and forced into line. He knows he's beat... for now.

INT. OBSERVATORY, REGISTRATION ROOM - NIGHT

The line in front of Keith moves quickly.

Keith tries to get a glimpse of the front...

A defender hands a pile of clothes to one of the ejected.

Keith reaches the front of the line. Defender 403 hands Keith a bundle of dark-colored clothes.

Keith reaches out to take them when suddenly--

WHAM.

A copper band is slammed onto his outstretched wrist.

Keith cries out in pain.

KEITH
AHH! What is this?!

DEFENDER 403
MOVE ALONG!

Defender 403 grabs Keith's shoulder and pushes him forward.

Keith moves slowly.

He tugs lightly at the band but it's skin tight.

Keith is shoved by DEFENDER 665 who pushes him into line.

INT. OBSERVATORY, CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Anita and Manesh are both dressed in their new clothes. They all look identical, brown pants and a dark grey t-shirt.

Anita and Manesh have fallen behind their line and are holding hands.

Anita's face is tear stained, her make-up runs down her cheeks. Manesh squeezes her hand comfortingly.

ANITA

Do you think Isaak is okay?

MANESH

He's a smart boy, with a good pair of lungs. The police will hear him and take him to his grandma's until we get out of here. I wouldn't be surprised if he is still screaming for his mommy.

Manesh tries to smile at this. Anita's face grows even paler.

ANITA

But he's just a boy Manesh, he needs his mother to care for him!

One of the defenders jabs Manesh in the back with his gun.

DEFENDER 243

Move apart.

Manesh and Anita exchange a look and release hands. All three turn a corner and enter a new room--

INT. OBSERVATORY, EJECTED CELLS - CONTINUOUS

Anita and Manesh gasp.

It looks like a futuristic prison.

Rows and rows of cells made from frosted glass.

Each cell contains only the bare essentials. A single bed, shower, toilet and a small table and chair.

MANESH

No. Please no-

Defender 143 takes Manesh's arm and pushes him inside one of the open cells. He swipes a card and a frosted electronic forcefield appears. Locking him inside.

Anita takes a deep breath as the defender comes back for her.

ANITA

Please, let me be with my husband.

The defender ignores Anita's plea and shoves her into the next cell, closing the forcefield.

ANITA (CONT'D)

Manesh, Manesh can you hear me?!

Anita runs to the wall where she sees Manesh's silhouette.

MANESH

I can hear you.

Manesh puts a hand on the wall.

Anita puts her hand over his so they cover each others perfectly.

MANESH (CONT'D)

I'll get us out of here.

Anita falls to her knees and begins to cry.

INT. OBSERVATORY, EJECTED CELLS (PAT'S ROOM) - NIGHT

Pat paces around the room like a tiger in a zoo.

She glances at the empty bookshelf then walks purposefully to the forcefield and looks at one of the defenders on guard.

PAT

Hey, Defenders! What's the point in a bookshelf with no books?! What are we meant to do all day?

DEFENDER 87 walks over to Pat and stares at her.

PAT (CONT'D)

Cat got your tongue?

DEFENDER 87

Which book did you want?

PAT

You runnin' a library are ya'?

Defender 87 moves away from Pat-

PAT (CONT'D)

Alice in wonderland.

Defender 87 returns to Pat and presses something on his suit. He pauses for a moment then returns to his post.

PAT (CONT'D)

HEY! I said Alice in wonderland!

Pat turns to see a copy of ALICE IN WONDERLAND on her shelf.

She looks at the defender, surprised.

Pat goes to the book, picks it up and sits down on the bed.

Curiously, she opens the book and sees it's perfect. She flicks through the pages, looking at the illustrations of Alice drinking tea and the white rabbit.

Suddenly, she slams the book shut and launches it at the wall, but Before it hits, it vanishes...

INT. OBSERVATORY, EJECTED CELLS (KEITH'S ROOM) - NIGHT

Keith is banging on the wall of the cell trying to get a defender's attention.

KEITH

Hey! You there, please come here!

DEFENDER 74 approaches.

KEITH (CONT'D)

I gotta get out of here, my daughter's waiting for me to pick her up. Please, just let me go. She needs me.

DEFENDER 74

Move away from the door.

KEITH

I'll do anything!

The Defender stares at Keith. A moment later he swipes the door and opens it.

Keith falls out in front of him and lands on his knees.

Defender 74 regards Keith, then grabs him by the shoulder.

DEFENDER 74

Move.

KEITH

Where are you taking me?

INT. OBSERVATORY, THE WHITE ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

Defender 74 pushes Keith into a white box-like room. Keith looks around.

KEITH

No, No! Don't leave me here. I'm sorry. I'm sorry!!

INT. FIONA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Ivy hits dial on her phone... "CALLING DAD."

Her phone beeps...

KEITH (V.O.)

Hello, this is Keith, I can't come
to the phone right now-

Ivy hangs up and picks up the TV remote. She switches it on
and flicks between channels-

Home shopping. Cartoons. The news...

A graph pops up on screen beside a panicked looking REPORTER.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - DAY

The reporter, a grave faced woman in her thirties, stares
into the camera.

REPORTER (V.O.)

So far it's impossible to know how
many people have been reported
missing. All we know is these
reports are coming in from all
across the US, China and the UK.
Our global correspondents are
waiting for more news. Here's
Joseph Fetch with the latest.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

JOSPEH FETCH, a news reporter in Philadelphia, is standing
beside a road with a massive pile up of cars. Some of the
wreckage smokes behind him.

JOSEPH

Behind me is a devastating scene.
But the strangest thing is that no
one was even hurt. Because none of
the drivers were behind the wheel
at the time of the crash.

CUT TO:

INT. TOKYO NEWS, STOCK EXCHANGE (JAPAN) - DAY

TEXT: JAPAN

A news reporter is standing inside an empty trading floor.

TOKYO REPORTER
Yukue fumei-sha
(People missing-)

EXT. PICADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON (UK) - NIGHT

TEXT: UNITED KINGDOM

A BRITISH REPORTER, with a black umbrella addresses the camera in front of the subway.

BRITISH REPORTER
Hundreds of commuters simply
vanished from the trains tonight.

INT. TRAIN CAR, LONDON - NIGHT

CCTV footage from inside a train car shows commuters packed into the train at rush hour.

The train's light flickers as it enters a tunnel briefly plunging into darkness. The lights go up and the car is now empty except for two children.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. FIONA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ivy switches off the TV. She looks back at her phone, a picture of her, Keith and a frog in the woods is her display.

IVY
Dad, where are you...?

INT. OBSERVATORY, THE WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

Keith stares at the walls which have changed into a 360 degree view of Fiona's living room.

Keith looks around, taking it all in. He can see Ivy sitting on the sofa looking at her phone.

KEITH
Ivy! I'm here, Ivy!!!

LEAD DEFENDER (V.O.)
This is a real time view of Earth.

KEITH
Why are you showing me this? (beat)
WHY AM I HERE?!

Keith touches the wall, stroking Ivy's head.

KEITH (CONT'D)
Ivy, I'm here.

Ivy doesn't react.

Keith balls his fist and punches the image of the window.

INT. FIONA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ivy slides off the sofa when suddenly-

THUD.

Ivy stops in her tracks. She looks out of the window with surprise. She looks outside but can't see anyone.

IVY
Hello? Who's there?

INT. OBSERVATORY, THE WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

Keith's eyes widen, he's made contact.

Keith balls his fist again and hammers the window twice.

INT. FIONA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

THUD. THUD.

Ivy backs away from the window suddenly feeling very afraid.

IVY
Who's there?...

INT. OBSERVATORY, THE WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

Keith pauses, racking his brain for what to do next.

He thinks.

Then knows what to do... he starts tapping on the window...

Thud. Thud. Pause. Thud. Pause. Thud. Thud.

INT. FIONA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ivy stares at the window. The noise sounds like someone is tapping on the glass... a message?

IVY
Morse code...

Ivy opens her phone and begins to type. She finds an image of Morse code symbols and begins writing down the letters...

INT. OBSERVATORY, THE WHITE ROOM - NIGHT

Keith repeats the order of taps, over and over.

INT. FIONA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ivy looks down at her phone, then up at the window. She goes towards the window and puts her hand on the glass.

IVY
Dad?

Tap. Tap.

Ivy types in the taps into the morse code checker. Her eyes fix on the text on her screen---

Yes.

FADE TO BLACK.