FLIGHT OF THE VALKYRIES

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
For the degree of Master of Arts
in Screenwriting

By

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The Flight of the Valkyries 1
FLIGHT OF THE VALKYRIES

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FLIGHT OF THE VALKYRIES is a mythological, science fiction, action-adventure film.

It is the story of Captain Thornton Brent. He leads the squadron known as the Valkyries on reconnaissance and investigations of paranormal phenomenon relative to threats to U.S. and NATO ally national and international security. Their latest mission finds the squadron flying over the Aegean Sea. They are investigating a classified phenomenon known as the Aeneas Paradox where jets, helicopters, freighters and their crews disappeared mysteriously.

In the course of their adventure, they will find allies in the Centuryias, an ancient race of immortal warriors. They will band together to fight Tyran, the Lord of Mayhem as he wages a war for control of the celestial realm using humans as cannon fodder.

Man and myth collide while the fates of worlds hang in the balance.
FADE IN:

INT. U.S.S. GLENN - BRIDGE - DAY

Captain Teague, 40s, a rotund man but authoritative presence stands between the helm and the control console. He sips his coffee while keeping an eye on the DYNAMIC POSITIONING SYSTEM between the two RADAR MONITORS on the CONTROL CONSOLE.

HELMSMAN KENNALY, mid-20s, sits in the PILOT CHAIR left of the control console and monitors the VOYAGE SYSTEM, CHART TABLE and left RADAR display.

HELMSMAN MOLINA, mid-20's sits in the pilot chair right of the control console and checks GPS and the right RADAR display.

COMMANDER NOLAN BRENT, early 30's stands over the chart table.

   HELMSMAN MOLINA
   You could hear a pin drop in a haystack.

   HELMSMAN KENNALY
   Another day at the office Sir.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER LT. THOMAS, 30s, standing to the right of the Commander and Molina breaks the monotony with a hail from air support.

   LT. THOMAS
   Commander, incoming from air support.

Teague walks over to the COMMUNICATIONS & ALARM CENTER.

   CAPTAIN TEAGUE
   Put it through Lieutenant. Go for Teague.

   LT. KRAUSS
   Commander, how you guys doin’ down there?
CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Business as usual.

LT. KRAUSS
(SPEAKER)
Charting eddys, tides, depths and currents.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
L.T. If I didn't know better, I'd say you were knocking the important work we're doing out here.

INT. F-35 LIGHTING II COCKPIT - DAY
The conversation with LT. WILLIAM KRAUSS, 30s, continues from inside the cockpit.

LT. KRAUSS
Not me sir. It's a big responsibility keeping the chart tables updated.

EXT. SEA OF CRETE - DAY
LT. Krauss's F-35 flies above the U.S.S. GLENN. A fog and cloud cover rolls in.

The U.S.S. GLENN cruises the SEA OF CRETE between the islands of Naxos and Chlos on its way into the Aegean Sea.

LT. KRAUSS
That's odd.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
(SPEAKER)
What's that?

LT. KRAUSS
The weather just took a real sharp turn out here. You're not feeling it?

The waters go from a calm state to a choppy turbid state and begins to throw the U.S.S GLENN about. The ride is getting rough.
INT. U.S.S. GLENN - BRIDGE - DAY

Suddenly an alarm goes off.

    CAPTAIN TEAGUE
    I am now, stand by. Mr. Kennaly, what's going on?

    HELMSMAN KENNALY
    Anomaly on radar, a surface tension disruption. The water's getting choppy, but here's the weird thing, we're picking up velocity.

    HELMSMAN MOLINA
    There's something coming toward us on radar.

    CAPTAIN TEAGUE
    Commander Brent what are our options.

    COMMANDER BRENT
    Well we can lengthen our approach to Chlos and try to use the Turkish Coast as a buffer.

Captain Teague rushes to the control console. He picks up a pair of binoculars and looks out the bridge window.

A swell of water travels down from the Aegean Sea to the Glenn's position in the Sea of Crete. But it doesn't rush toward the Glenn, it seems to take it's time.

    CAPTAIN TEAGUE
    Helm, move us out of the way of whatever that is.

    HELMSMAN MOLINA
    Attempting to, sir.

    HELMSMAN KENNALY
    It's matching course, intercepting.

The SONAR beacon intensifies.
EXT. SEA OF CRETE - DAY

The meandering swell begins surrounding the U.S.S. GLENN.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
(sounds tense)
Full reverse! Sound Red Alert!

HELMSMAN MOLINA
Aye sir.

Teague picks up a comlink, calls the engine room.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Engine room, pedal to the metal!

HELMSMAN KENNALY
No use!

HELMSMAN MOLINA
It's like we're treading water.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Battle stations. Air support, you catching this?

EXT. SEA OF CRETE - DAY

From the jet's P.O.V. the futility of the U.S.S. GLENN's evasive maneuvers become apparent.

LT. KRAUSS (V.O.)
It's like your in a well. There's a giant wall of water closing in around you.

INT. F-35 LIGHTING II COCKPIT - DAY

Lt. Krauss stares at the ensnared battleship and decides to take action to free his comrades.

LT. KRAUSS
I'm comin' in with the GAUs. Gonna break you free.
EXT. SEA OF CRETE - DAY

The F-35 circles behind the U.S.S. Glenn then speeds up and makes a low-run along the water and flies around the waveform while firing its GAU-22/A CANNON.

The artillery fire doesn't make a dent.

INT. U.S.S. GLENN - BRIDGE - DAY

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Communications, get me the Fire Control Room.

The GUNNERY OFFICER pipes up on the Intercom from the Fire Control Room.

GUNNERY OFFICER
(SPEAKER)
Captain?

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Warm up the Mark 38.

GUNNERY OFFICER
(SPEAKER)
Way ahead of ya, Captain.
The Rangekeeper is ready to go.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Krauss is going fire at close range and we're going send off a few volleys, stand by.
Comm, get me the engine room.

ENGINEER
Sir.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
We need to pull out of a patch.

ENGINEER
All engines online Captain.
CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Everyone, on my mark. Air
support start your run.

LT. KRAUSS
(SPEAKER)
Check.

EXT. SEA OF CRETE - DAY

The Jet makes its second run toward the distressed ship and drops
its payload of GBU-39 Small Diameter Bombs between the
dragnet and the U.S.S. GLENN before flying out of the way.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE (V.O.)
Gunny, Engine Room, light
‘em up!

MARK 38 forward guns blaze as the GLENN attempts to break
free of the dragnet and reverse course.

No effect.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE (V.O.)
(CONT'D)
Tomahawks, now!

The missile flies toward the phenomenon, but the gateway throws
up a shield and the missile explodes on its periphery.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE (V.O.)
(CONT'D)
Fire torpedoes!

INT. U.S.S. GLENN - BRIDGE - DAY

LT. KRAUSS
(SPEAKER)
Damn! No good.

Red alert sirens sound.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
You’ve done all you can up
there. Get back to base.
HELMSMAN KENNALY
Captain, the wall is closing around us. We don't have much time.

LT. KRAUSS
(SPEAKER)
Sidewinders!

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
You might need those in a jam. We've got other tricks. Get outta here! Warn command!

LT. KRAUSS
(SPEAKER)

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Likewise, L.T. Teague out.

EXT. SEA OF CRETE AIRSPACE - DAY
Lt. Krauss's F-35 jumps to MACH .5 and escapes.

INT. U.S.S. GLENN BRIDGE - COMMUNICATIONS/ALARM CENTER - DAY
Thomas closes communications. Teague turns away from his men for a moment to collect himself.

Panic mounts among the Bridge crew.

HELMSMAN MOLINA
(urgently)
Captain, we're running out of time.

Teague goes to Commander Brent at the CHART TABLE

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Commander Brent, any recommendations?

The Commander points to their location on the map.
COMMANDER BRENT
Hit it point blank all our
firepower and make a hard
about at full power to break
free. That's our last gasp.

Captain Teague radios the Engine Room and the Fire Control
Room

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Gunnery, engine room, let's
light it up like Christmas ...  
NOW!

EXT. SEA OF CRETE - INSIDE WATER CYLINDER - DAY
The mighty battleship fires everything it can at the phenomenon
Mark 7 turrets, Mk-38s, Mk-28s, Mk-12s, Tomahawk and
HARPOON missiles while simultaneously struggling to come
about.

As the maneuver appears to succeed, water wall surrounds the ship
and cuts off its escape.

INT. U.S.S. GLENN - BRIDGE - DAY
Captain Teague runs to the Communications Center.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Lieutenant, open a channel.

LT. THOMAS
Aye sir.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Mayday, Mayday to anyone
within the sound of my voice!
This is Captain Joshua Teague
of the American Naval vessel
U.S.S. GLENN. We are under
the power of an unidentified
hostile. Weapons and
defensive tactics have proven
useless.
EXT. SEA OF CRETE - INSIDE WATER CYLINDER - DAY

Blue lighting crackles around at the originating point of the dragnet.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE (V.O.)
We're surrounded being pulled into an enormous electro-luminescent field. Sensors can't make a dent in the anomaly. Last location approximately 39∞ 15' N/ 26∞ 16' E. We're being dragged ...

(static)

The radio dies.

A fluorescent, electromagnetic vortex opens, envelopes, and pulls the battleship through then closes.

The water cylinder falls, embattled waters recede, atmospheric conditions calm.

The U.S.S. GLENN is gone. Disappeared into thin air.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE: MALSTROM AIR FORCE BASE - GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

MAJOR WALTER PICKETT, 50s, a robust giant of a man with silver grey speaks.

MAJOR PICKETT
That's all we got from the surveillance satellite.

Major Pickett points to a MAP.

MAJOR PICKETT (CONT'D)
We lost contact with the GLENN between 37∞ 6' N/ 25∞ 22' E and 39∞ 15' N/ 26∞ 16' E. Never had a chance.
CAPTAIN THORNTON BRENT, 40s, 6'1", muscular rises from the table.

CAPT. BRENT
My brother's on the GLENN.

MAJOR PICKETT
We know. that's why you're here.

CAPT. BRENT
What about the pilot?

MAJOR PICKETT
His account squares with the feed.

CAPT. BRENT
So we're dealing with?

MAJOR PICKETT
Something making off with our best military tech. Freighters and battleships, fighters just evaporate. Same story from Army, Navy and Marines. Speculations?

CAPT. BRENT
Maybe it's naturally occurring. An atmospheric phenomenon, like a lightning storm?

Capt. Brent thumbs through the meteorology reports while Major Pickett speaks.

MAJOR PICKETT
It came in like a rainband, surrounded the GLENN like a supercell in a lightning storm with one variance.

CAPT. BRENT
The electromagnetic signature spiked right before the ship disappeared.
Next to Brent is his Number One, FIRST LT. ORLANDO, 30s, Latino from Brooklyner pipes up.

ORLANDO
It could be supernatural, like the triangle left Bermuda.

Also at the table is SECOND LT. SYRACUSE (a.k.a. "Circus"), 30s, 5'9", black hair.

SYRACUSE
What if it's a mechanical manipulation of the weather as a distraction for say, military espionage? A smash and grab of sorts?

Capt. Brent continues thumbing through the report.

CAPT. BRENT
The only problem with that hypothesis, is allies and adversaries had the jewels of their fleets pinched. What's the mission objective?

MAJOR PICKETT

CAPT. BRENT
I'll see you guys outside.

Capt. Brent stops, turns and walks over to the Major.

Orlando and Syracuse salute and exits the conference room.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
Major?
MAJOR PICKETT
At ease Brenny, I'll cut right to the chase. I got word that brass is going to declare the GLENN lost and the crew dead.

CAPT. BRENT
Shit. They can't do that.

MAJOR PICKETT
You know they can and I'm afraid they have. I just wanted you to hear it from me, but Captain ...

CAPT. BRENT
Yes Major?

MAJOR PICKETT
It's still classified. Dismissed.

Captain Brent salutes and leaves the briefing room.

INT. BASE CORRIDOR - DAY

SYRACUSE
What's up Cappy?

CAPT. BRENT
Nothing.

Captain Brent's phone goes off. He takes it out of his pocket and looks at the screen. There is a ridiculous cartoon graphic of a man proposing to a woman with the caption: "THE BIG WEEKEND."

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
Oh blue blazes!

SYRACUSE
What now?

CAPT. BRENT
Where were we this time last year?

ORLANDO
Vegas. Good times.
CAPT. BRENT
Right. Which makes tomorrow?

SYRACUSE
The high rollers brunch where you met Michelle. Uh-Oh. That weekend.

Orlando spits out a chuckle.

CAPT. BRENT
Lieutenant, I recognize the sound of derisive laughter.

ORLANDO
Sorry Cappy. It's just that usually women come and go.

SYRACUSE
But mostly they go.

CAPT. BRENT
Yuck it up clowns.

SYRACUSE
Sorry Cappy, but you can't deny the idea of you getting serious is high comedy, but at least you didn't forget.

ORLANDO
And that's huge, just do all that anniversary stuff tonight.

SYRACUSE
Candy, flowers, romantic dinner, etc., etc. Tomorrow get on the transport and catch up on your rest.

CAPT. BRENT
We had plans for Glacier. The Great Bear Resort.

SYRACUSE
... You'll be golden 'til we wrap this mission.
CAPT. BRENT
Tomorrow 0600 then.

Syracuse and Orlando salute Capt. Brent. Brent walks out of the main door. A car alarm deactivation tones off screen.

ORLANDO
How screwed is he?

SYRACUSE
Get a good night sleep, no one's sleeping on the transport tomorrow.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A bundle of flowers and a box of chocolates lie on the bed.

Capt Brent's girlfriend, MICHELLE MOORE, early 30s, packs a bag while Capt. Brent watches and paces.

MICHELLE
Look Brenny, the gesture is not wasted on me, it's really sweet of you to try.

CAPT. BRENT
But ...

MICHELLE
You just got back from a mission. We had plans. How can we live a life on this kind of schedule?

CAPT. BRENT
When duty calls ...

MICHELLE
Yes, I know, you come from a military family and you have to answer. It just seems like duty's been blowing up your phone lately. What is it you have to do anyway?

CAPT. BRENT
Meteorological surveys.
MICHELLE
The weather can't wait until Monday?

CAPT. BRENT
You know I can't go into specifics.

MICHELLE
Hiding behind protocol. Typical. I bet Nolan wishes he had thought of himself a little bit. I know Kelly does.

CAPT. BRENT
(voice raised, agitated)
Bringing Nolan up is not fair. I'm not hiding and I'm ignoring the future. I'm just trying to deal with the present.

Michelle grabs her bag.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

MICHELLE
That's classified! Have a good mission!

She exits the bedroom and slams the front door of the apartment.

Brent follows.

CAPT. BRENT
(yelling behind her.)

THANKS! I WILL! ...

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Capt. Brent splashes some water on his face and looks in the mirror.

CAPT. BRENT
Shake it off man, you people counting on you.
He gives himself another splash and grabs a towel. He wipes his face and as he hangs the towel, he looks on the counter and sees the box for a PREGNANCY TEST.

Capt. Brent opens the box and pulls the tester out. He looks at it and it's positive.

He rushes out of the bathroom.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Brent opens the door to go after Michelle, but pauses. He closes the door and walks down the hall to his study.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Capt. Brent pulls gear out of his closet and packs for the mission.

When he finishes, he zips up his flight bag and walks out of his office.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Capt. Brent drops the bag by the front door and shuts off the light.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Capt. Brent reaches in his pocket and pulls out a RING BOX. He opens it and examines the engagement ring inside. Then he shuts the box and puts it in his night table drawer.

TITLE: U.S.S. ARMSTRONG - TWO DAYS LATER

INT. U.S.S. ARMSTRONG - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Capt. Brent sits in front of his locker and dials a number on his cell phone. It rings.

Brent brings the earpiece to his ear. Michelle's voicemail message plays.

MICHELLE
(filtered)
You have reached the Moore Law Firm. We're either on another call or out of the office. Please leave your information at the beep.
The record tone sounds.

CAPT. BRENT
Hey, it's me. I'm ... well, we launch soon. Sorry we left things where we did.

The call waiting beeps as Capt. Brent records his message.

He takes the phone away from his ear to look at the Caller ID. It's Michelle. He clicks over.

MICHELLE
Hey Brenny.

CAPT. BRENT
Hey. I just called to say I'm sorry.

MICHELLE
Me too.

CAPT. BRENT
When were you going to tell me?

MICHELLE
There's nothing to tell. Doctor said it was a false alarm.

CAPT. BRENT
We'll sort this out when I get back ... I love you.

Silence.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
Hello?

MICHELLE
Call me at my sister's when you get back. Have a good mission. Come back safe ... I mean it.

CAPT. BRENT
Thanks. I'll see you soon.
Capt. Brent takes the phone away from his ear and presses the end call button.

Then Brent accesses the phonebook find's Michelle's entry and deletes it; powers down the phone and puts it in his locker. It's over.

INT. U.S.S. ARMSTRONG - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

Capt. Brent, Syracuse and Orlando walk onto the flight deck in their G-SUITS.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Getting ready for take-off, Capt. Brent sits in the cockpit and performs the pre-flight check.

He puts his HELMET on and tests his radio.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Testing 123 ... 123

    CREW CHIEF (V.O.)
    Receiving Captain.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Roger.

Brent adjusts the CENTER MIRROR on the forward canopy and makes sure the CANOPY can close.

    CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
    Hey Chief can you hit this
    canopy for me.

    CREW CHIEF
    On my way.

CREW CHIEF ascends the BOARDING LADDER by the jet and cleans the outside of the CANOPY.

The Crew Chief cleans. Capt. Brent checks the cockpit and makes sure its clean. Then he runs his hand in the crevasses on the sides of the EJECTOR SEAT and underneath for loose objects.

The Crew Chief finishes cleaning the CANOPY and lifts it.

    CREW CHIEF (CONT'D)
    Clean as a whistle.
CAPT. BRENT
Thanks Chief.

CREW CHIEF
You bet Captain.

Capt. Brent connects his G-suit and the OXYGEN HOSE from his HELMET, fastens his LEG STRAPS and HARNESS. Then he adjusts the ejection seat height.

Crew Chief removes the 6 SAFETY PINS from the ejector seat and puts them into a PIN BAG and hands it to Capt. Brent.

Brent connects the two D rings of the parachute harness to the two snap connectors on the seat survival kit.

Brent connects his lap belt and straps into the seat.

Brent connects both parachute risers (lines connected to the parachute) to my parachute harness (The F-4's parachute is built into the top of the ejection seat).

Capt. Brent removes the seventh ejector seat pin, stows the bag in his flight suit pocket and secures the velcro flap, then fastens his seat belt.

CAPT. BRENT
Thanks Chief. You'll turn on the CNI for us?

CREW CHIEF
Two minutes before engine start. Good mission.

CAPT. BRENT
Boys, we all strapped in?

Syracuse and Orlando pipe in.

SYRACUSE (V.O.)
Roger.

ORLANDO (V.O.)
Affirmative.

Crew Chief closes and secures the canopy then descends the ladder out of sight.
CONTROL and the CATAPULT OFFICER (a.k.a., SHOOTER) chatter.

Flight crewmen move between and under the planes.

    CONTROL (V.O.)
    Flight deck, attach the shuttle.
    Shooter, ready the catapults.

    CATAPULT OFFICER (V.O.)
    Roger control.

    CONTROL (V.O.)
    Pilots start your engines then
    begin the pre-flight taxi.

    CAPT. BREN'T
    Crew chief are you reading?

    CREW CHIEF (V.O.)
    Check.

Capt. Brent visually confirms flight control movements and checks his mirrors.

INT. SYRACUSE'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Syracuse says the Rosary and Orlando hears over the radio.

    ORLANDO (V.O.)
    Circus, how many missions
    you flown?

    CAPT. BREN'T (V.O.)
    Hey, a little prayer never hurts.

    ORLANDO (V.O.)
    On top of the two sets of
    diapers and the plastic pants?

    SYRACUSE
    That's strictly a comfort thing.

Capt. Brent, Orlando, Syracuse share a laugh.

    CAPT. BREN'T (V.O.)
    Guys, let's get going.
CONTROL (V.O.)
Ground crew, pressurize catapult. Flight deck, attach towbars, engage holdbacks and jet blast deflectors.

CATAPULT OFFICER (V.O.)
Check.

FLIGHT DECK OFFICER
Roger control.

INT. ORLANDO'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY
CONTROL (V.O.)
Charge cylinders.

ORLANDO
Check.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY
SYRACUSE (V.O.)
Check.

CONTROL (V.O.)
Let's heat 'em up boys.

CAPT. BRENT
Check control. Game faces boys.

SYRACUSE
On it, sir.

ORLANDO (V.O.)
Suck up.

SYRACUSE (V.O.)
Reprobate.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY
CONTROL
Good mission. Flight deck, catapult, prepare for launch.

The Air Traffic Controller salutes.
CONTROL

Let 'em rip.

EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - DAY

The jets launch and assume a tight formation as they ascend.

INT. SYRACUSE'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

CAPT. BRENT (V.O.)

What's the Electro-atmospheric activity looking like?

SYRACUSE (V.O.)

Spiking all over the place.

INT. ORLANDO'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

CAPT. BRENT (V.O.)

And the magnetic resonances?

ORLANDO

Same deal Cappy. They're hot.

INT. SYRACUSE'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Syracuse's jet juts and jostles a bit.

SYRACUSE

Cappy, there's something out there.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Brent rotates his head to look out through the canopy.

CAPT. BRENT

Yeah, it's called turbulence, hot air going up meets cool air falling. Remember? It happens when you're up this high.

SYRACUSE (V.O.)

Yup. Hot air definitely rising.
INT. CAPT. BRENT'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Inside the cockpit, looking over the nose, Capt. Brent and his men fly in formation. Another electromagnetic lightning phenomenon occurs and a gateway opens up.

CAPT. BRENT
Hostile! Dead ahead! Evasive pattern delta.

SYRACUSE
What the hell?

EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - DAY

The jets break formation and ascend. Capt. Brent makes a vertical climb. Syracuse and Orlando break to the right and left.

Syracuse climbs diagonally, Orlando descends to safer distances from the phenomenon.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Capt. Brent levels off.

CAPT. BRENT
Do we have all our digits in tact?

SYRACUSE (V.O.)
Syracuse reporting sir.

ORLANDO (V.O.)
Orlando reporting sir.

CAPT. BRENT
Syracuse, launch a drone before we try to approach that thing.

SYRACUSE (V.O.)
Acknowledged.

EXT. SYRACUSE'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Syracuse deploys a surveillance drone from his jet. The drone flies toward the gateway.
EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - DAY

The jets maintain their distance from the phenomenon.

The drone gets closer.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Capt. Brent checks his instrument panel as he receives data transmissions from the drone.

CAPT. BRENT
It's got giving off a sustained EM signature.

ORLANDO (V.O.)
Maybe it's just an optical phenomenon, like the Northern Lights.

CAPT. BRENT
It's possible. I wonder how long it can stay lit up like that.

EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - DAY

As the drone flies closer to the gateway, a dragnet shoots out and surrounds the drone like a frog catching flies with its tongue, pulls it inside and closes as quickly as it opened.

CAPT. BRENT (V.O.)
Nope. There's definitely a gravitational component to it. Stay sharp.

INT. SYRACUSE'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Syracuse turns dials on his control console.

CAPT. BRENT (V.O.)
Let's use the drone's telemetry as a marker, establish perimeter and sweep the area.

SYRACUSE
Copy.
CAPT. BRENT (V.O.)
Break off if it gets dicey.

EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - THE GATEWAY - DAY

The jets circle and make their survey.

Suddenly and unexpectedly the gateway opens, dragnets shoot out and ensnares Syracuse and Orlando's jets.

INT. SYRACUSE'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

SYRACUSE
It's got me!

ORLANDO (V.O.)
Me too.

Capt. Brent whips his plane around and fires stinger missiles at the dragnets and at the gateway.

No effect.

CAPT. BRENT (V.O.)
Try to shake it off! Climb or dive!

SYRACUSE
No use!

EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - THE GATEWAY - DAY

Syracuse and Orlando's jets struggle to break free of the dragnet. Afterburners blow and glow in vane.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Control pipes in.

CONTROL (V.O.)
Capt. Brent report! What is that thing?

CAPT. BRENT
It's like one of those finger puzzles. They struggle and the grip tightens.
CONTROL (V.O.)
We'll hit it the Phalanx
missiles from here.

CAPT. BRENT
Let's double up. I'll hit it with
the Sparrows. If we rap it's
knuckles hard enough, it might
let go.

CONTROL (V.O.)
That'd be like pissing on a
forest fire to assist a
firefighter's plane. Your direct
orders are to stand down and
return to the carrier.

CAPT. BRENT
Court martial me if I survive.
Brent out.

Capt. Brent's Phantom accelerates to make it's bombing run.

EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - DAY

Afterburners blaze and the jet speeds toward the gateway.

The jet approaches the gateway skirting the mouth. And fires two
Sparrow missiles at the dragnet holding Orlando's plane and two at
the net holding Syracuse.

The Gateway lights up and fires another dragnet to ensnare Capt.
Brent's plane.

Captain Brent dodges with a barrel roll and a hard ascent.

Seconds later, cannon fire hits the dragnet meant to ensnare
Captain Brent and it dissipates.

INT. SYRACUSE'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

Syracuse gets restless in his cockpit. He says the rosary as his
predicament worsens. Finally he snaps.

SYRACUSE
Control! Send another cannon
volley this way. I'll fire my
Sparrows from the inside.
CONTROL (V.O.)
Negative Lieutenant, hold your position.

SYRACUSE
I can't just float out here like chum in the water. Powering up weapons.

CAPT. BRENT (V.O.)
Syracuse! Stay cool man!

INT. THE DRAGNET - OUTSIDE THE GATEWAY - DAY
Syracuse powers up weapons and readies for an accelerated climb.

INT. SYRACUSE'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY
The weapons system chimes active, and Syracuse uncaps the fire button on his yoke.

SYRACUSE
No guts, no glory. YEEEEE-HAW!!!!

Syracuse hits the fire button and pulls up hard on the yoke.

EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - THE GATEWAY - DAY
Syracuse's jet explodes inside the dragnet.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY
Capt. Brent catches the explosion in his mirror.

EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - DAY
Capt. Brent circles back around for another run.

The explosion of Syracuse's jet causes the field that held it to dissipate and the debris falls from the heavens.

The remaining dragnet pulls Orlando's jet through the gateway and closes.

Captain Brent is left flying alone in Aegean airspace.

He flies around furiously firing ammunition at the coordinates of the portal attempting to reopen it, but without success.
INT. CAPT. BRENT'S F-4 PHANTOM II COCKPIT - DAY

CAPT. BRENT

Shit!

CONTROL (V.O.)

Captain report.

CAPT. BRENT

Men down control.

CONTROL (V.O.)

Return to the ARMSTRONG.

CAPT. BRENT

Roger.

EXT. U.S.S. ARMSTRONG - FLIGHT DECK - DAY

Capt. Brent lands his jet on the deck of the U.S.S. ARMSTRONG, pops the canopy,

Jumps out and rushes down the ladder, and pushes past the approaching Crew Chief.

Brent takes off his helmet and slams it against his jet.

As Capt. Brent walks down the flight deck toward the locker room, two MILITARY POLICEMEN (MPs) approach.

MP 1

Captain Brent, we've been ordered to confine you to quarters.

CAPT. BRENT

Well can I get out of my G-Suit first?

MP 2

You can dress down in your quarters.

MP 2 motions the Captain to follow MP 1 through the corridor.

Capt. Brent follows, walking between MP 1 and MP 2.
INT. U.S.S. ARMSTRONG -CORRIDOR - NIGHT

An MP stands guard outside of Capt. Brent's door.

A KITCHEN STAFFER toward the door with a meal tray.

The MPs opens the door to lets the Kitchen Staffer into Capt. Brent's quarters.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

The door opens to reveal Capt. Brent sits in the middle of his cot wearing a T-SHIRT and UNIFORM SLACKS. He's got a newspaper in one hand and a pencil in the other. His feet are up on a CHAIR. He's doing the crossword puzzle. He looks up when the door opens.

The Kitchen Staffer walks in to the room. There's a small WASHBASIN on the left and a DESK and CHAIR on the right. The cot is at the 12 o'clock position in the room.

CAPT. BRENT
You can put that on the table.

KITCHEN STAFFER
Yes sir.

CAPT. BRENT
Crewman?

KITCHEN STAFFER
Yes sir?

CAPT. BRENT
What's an eight letter word for fertilizer.

The Kitchen Staffer pauses and thinks for a second.

KITCHEN STAFFER
Bullshit ... Sir!

Capt. Brent writes the word onto the paper.

CAPT. BRENT
It's all right son. It fits.

KITCHEN STAFFER
Will that be all sir?
CAPT. BRENT
That's it. Dismissed.

KITCHEN STAFFER
Thank you sir and enjoy.

Kitchen staffer salutes, steps out. The closing door echoes.

INT. U.S.S. ARMSTRONG - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The Kitchen staffer reaches into his pocket under his Chef's Coat and pulls out a bottled water and hands it to the MP.

KITCHEN STAFFER
Oh, I almost forgot to give you this.

MP 1
Thanks I was dying.

MP 1 opens the bottle and takes a long drink.

MP 1 (CONT'D)
I can't leave until my relief arrives at 2200.

KITCHEN STAFFER
That's why we get paid the big bucks, right?

The MP and the Kitchen Staffer have a laugh.

MP 1
Yeah right.

Kitchen Staffer walks back down the corridor the way he came.

KITCHEN STAFFER
(looks over his shoulder)
Have a good night.

INT. CAPT. BRENT'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Capt. Brent puts down the paper by the service tray. He uncovers, MEATLOAF, MASHED POTATOES and MIXED VEGETABLES drowned in GRAVY and two BOTTLED WATERS lying on their sides.
CAPT. BREN'T

Bullshit indeed.

Brent pulls the chair to the desk, sits, picks up the silverware and eats. He gets about halfway through his meal before he notices an envelope under his plate.

Brent puts down his utensils, picks up and opens the envelope. There's a one-third sheet of paper inside that reads: "Eat up, suit up, Flight Deck, Starboard, 2130 hours."

Capt. Brent looks at his watch. 9:00. He puts on his gear.

INT. U.S.S. ARMSTRONG -CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Captain Brent opens his stateroom door cautiously. He pokes his head out to see the MP slumped on the floor, passed out with an empty water bottle in his hand.

Brent closes the door and quickly makes his way to the flight deck.

EXT. U.S.S. ARMSTRONG - FLIGHT DECK - NIGHT

Captain Brent sneaks cautiously between the jets to get to the Starboard side of the flight deck without being spotted by Flight deck crew.

The deck is empty. No Air Officers, Catapult Officers, Aircraft Handling Officers, Aircraft directors, Landing Signal Officer or Arresting Gear Officers.

The plane are locked down and there's no nightshift.

9:30 Captain Brent makes it to the Starboard side of the flight deck.

The night sky is empty. The wind picks up abruptly and unexpectedly and a sleek black titanium aircraft materializes seemingly out of thin air. It's The Argonaut, a special missions transport that was the stuff of rumors and conspiracy theory until this night.

It gleams in the moonlight as it hovers over the flight deck.

The craft turns 45 degrees and the cargo bay door comes down and bridges the gap between the carrier and the plane. As the door makes contact, Captain Brent recognizes the form of Major Pickett walking down to meet him.
MAJOR PICKETT
Well Brenny, do you need a white glove invitation or are you gonna hop on?

Captain Brent boards the vessel, the bay door closes and the glimmering plane once again blends in with the night sky as though it isn't there.

INT. ARGONAUT - CARGO BAY - NIGHT

The plane is as impressive on the inside as the outside. The cargo hold is stacked with state of the art gear, weapons and Battle Dress Uniforms suitable for a variety of engagements.

MAJOR PICKETT
Welcome aboard the Argonaut, strategic reconnaissance aircraft descended from the SR-71 Blackbird for advanced, long-range missions.

CAPT. BRENT
You know you could have just assigned me to this mission.

MAJOR PICKETT
Yeah, but where's the sport in that? I had to see how far you were willing to go to get the job done.

CAPT. BRENT
You should know me by now major. In for a penny, in for a pound.

Capt. Brent looks around at the hull of the Argonaut.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
It's pretty amazing to think this thing actually exists beyond Internet gossip. Air inlet and redesigned for subsonic and hypersonic speeds.
MAJOR PICKETT
High-hypersonic, past MACH-11 in a clutch. Air-cooled nuclear fusion propulsion eliminates vapor trails, the shell has better radar bounce. Provides better stealth.

CAPT. BRENT
Are we taking this thing into the breach by ourselves?

MAJOR PICKETT
Capt. Brent, you've just been inducted into a special task force known as the Valkyries.

CAPT. BRENT
Like Area 51?

MAJOR PICKETT
Yeah but we're not a tourist attraction. Follow me.

INT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - NIGHT
Capt. Brent and Major Pickett make their way to the cockpit and meet the rest of the crew.

MAJOR PICKETT
Ten-hut.

The men stand.

MAJOR PICKETT (CONT'D)
Meet my first officer, Capt. Thornton Brent.

Major Pickett takes the pilot's seat.

MAJOR PICKETT (CONT'D)
Brent, meet the Valkyries. Airman Caffrey, navigation and reconnaissance and my messenger.

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS CAFFREY, 30s, Southerner - sinewy, triathlete's build.
Capt. Brent registers a glimmer of recognition.

CAFFREY
How was the meatloaf sir?

CAPT. BRENТ
Made me miss MREs.

MAJOR PICKETT
and Lieutenant Wellington,
weapons and survival.

FIRST LT. WELLINGTON, 40s, Yankee/New Englander
All the men give a formal salute. Wellington's is half hearted.

CAPT. BRENТ
Nice to see you too
Wellington. You've held your
mud good ... Lieutenant.

Major Pickett whips around at the sarcasm in Brent's voice.

MAJOR PICKETT
Something I should know
about here?

WELLINGTON
It's nothing sir, just an old
Academy rivalry.

CAPT. BRENТ
Not much of a rivalry,
Wellington always seemed to
come in Second.

MAJOR PICKETT
Well leave it back at the
Academy and get to your
posts, we're a team here. Brent
take co-pilot.

Brent walks to the nose of the aircraft and assumes his post.

CAPT. BRENТ
Looks like a tactical station.
MAJOR PICKETT
It controls forward weapons.
The other defenses are
Wellington's area.

CAPT. BRENT
I see your love of gunplay
finally paid off.

WELLINGTON
(sarcastically)
Sorry I can't give you the full
rundown old sport.

CAPT. BRENT
Don't you worry about me
sunshine, I can pick it up on
the fly.

Capt. Brent hooks in his G-suit, straps in and puts on his helmet.

MAJOR PICKETT
All systems go.

CAFFREY
Atmospheric conditions
normal. She's ready when you
are.

CAPT. BRENT
Time to punch in. Ascending
to 30,000 feet.

Captain Brent pulls up on the yoke.

EXT. AEGEAN SEA AIRSPACE - NIGHT

The Argonaut makes a hard ascent, levels off and accelerates and
flies in serenity above the FOG and CLOUD COVER.

INT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - NIGHT

The crew goes to work.

CAPT. BRENT
O.K. now that we're in the wild
black yonder. What this is all
about?
MAJOR PICKETT
It's an infiltration.

CAFFREY
I analyzed the data from your last mission and the phenomenon you experienced is some kind of gateway.

CAPT. BRENT
Dimensional or temporal?

CAFFREY
Not sure, but we're betting our boys are on the other side.

MAJOR PICKETT
Basically, it breaks down like this.

Major Pickett punches a button on the control panel and a holographic map pop up.

MAJOR PICKETT (CONT'D)
Anytime any military vessel crosses this line ...

Major Pickett holds out his finger and draws a line on the map. As he moves his finger, a red line appears across the map.

MAJOR PICKETT (CONT'D)
In the Aegean Sea spillway between Athens and Izmir disappears.

CAPT. BRENT
It's almost like its acting like some sort of buffer zone.

MAJOR PICKETT
The bottom line whatever's on the other side might pose a threat to our development facility in Patra.

CAPT. BRENT
Those black ops R&D sites shutdown after the wall fell.
If that were true, we wouldn't be sitting in this beauty.

Yeah, well this thing is useless if can't get to the other side. That gateway doesn't exactly have a front door we can knock on.

Brent, haven't I taught you anything. When faced with an immovable object ...

Move it!

Capt. Brent returns his attention to the instrument panel to contemplate for a moment.

This is a suicide mission isn't it?

Probably, but who wants to live forever?

And dead men don't complain ... so through the looking glass we go.

Caffrey punches calculations on his control panel and adjusts the emitter dials.

The Argonaut emits a shaft of light from its nose that looks like a high power flood light. The beam changes colors and goes through the entire light spectrum bandwidth until ...
EXT. CHRONOSLIDE - NIGHT

The air crackles with static electricity. And lights up to reveal ... THE CHRONOSLIDE, a phenomenon that looks like a cross between a nebula and Aurora Borealis. Green, gold and orange braids surround a blue glowing center.

The Argonaut powers up engines and enters the phenomenon.

INT. CHRONOSLIDE - NIGHT

Inside the chronoslide, The Argonaut experiences heavy stress, shear and attitude control issues.

CAFFREY
There's an amplitude distortion in the sensor array.

A red warning light goes off on Caffrey’s control panel.

Capt. Brent checks his instrument panel.

CAPT. BRENT
Must be the electromagnetic concentration.

MAJOR PICKETT
Let's raise shields.

CAFFREY
If the trapped neutrinos and tachyons mix with the afterburner plasma it might cause an incendiary reaction like being in a pressure cooker with no valve.

WELLINGTON
Also it limits our velocity.

MAJOR PICKETT
That's a chance we're gonna have to take. Raising shields.

Momentarily conditions even out inside The Argonaut.
EXT. CHRONOSLIDE - NIGHT

The shields around the Argonaut, extended to the maximum circumference, insulates the ship such that it begins to travel smoothly like a canister through a pneumatic tube system.

INT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - NIGHT

Captain Brent looks back at Caffrey and gives him a that went better than I thought it would look.

MAJOR PICKETT
See, easy-peasy, lemon squeezey.

The victory is shortlived.

As they pilot through the portal, the forward view is something that looks like a small comet becomes visible and impacts on the forward shield.

CAPT. BRENT
What's that? A comet?

MAJOR PICKETT
Can't be we're not in space.

CAPT. BRENT
No disrespect Major, but we don't know where we are.

A few seconds later, another "comet" strikes. Shortly thereafter, a rapid fire volley of what looks like Roman Candle discharges strike The Argonaut.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
Is it the tachyon-plasma reaction you were talking about Caffrey?

The volley of "Roman Candles" hit The Argonaut.

CAFFREY
No we're relatively stable in that department. These are coming from the outside the shield.
Caffrey looks at his display and they're sapping shield strength.

WELLINGTON
It's a failsafe. A defense mechanism against intruders for this portal.

CAFFREY
Our shield strength is down 50%

MAJOR PICKETT
I'm going to speed up and punch us through.

CAPT. BRENT
No! We've gotta be smart about this dodgeball game.

EXT. CHRONOSLIDE - NIGHT
The Argonaut ducks and weaves through the weapons occasionally sustaining hits until the barrage stops.

INT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - NIGHT
The crew uses the respite to confer.

CAPT. BRENT
Status?

CAFFREY
down to 30% shields.

Major Pickett stands and points out the window.

MAJOR PICKETT
What the hell is that?

Wellington also peers out.

WELLINGTON
Trouble.

EXT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - NIGHT
As the Argonaut hurdles through the passage, it encounters another barrier, a laser charged net. It glows bright red.
CAPT. BRENT
All stop!

MAJOR PICKETT
No! punch through.

CAPT. BRENT
I don't think that's wise sir!

MAJOR PICKETT
Objection noted, but as ranking officer it's my call.

Major Pickett pushes the throttle forward and the Argonaut picks up momentum.

CAPT. BRENT
Of course it is sir, but let's try a little flair before flagrancy.

MAJOR PICKETT
"He who hesitates is a damn fool."

CAPT. BRENT
And "The wise man does at once what the fool does finally."

Major Pickett pulls the throttle back and the ship slows just shy of the laser net.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
Wellington, if you take the power readings from Caffrey's station can you rig the shields to emit a charge of opposing polarity when we breach the net.

WELLINGTON
I can, but it'll most likely sap remaining shield strength and there's no guarantee we'll get through.
CAPT. BRENT
Lieutenant, life doesn't have any guarantees. Do it!

Wellington returns his attention to his control station.

EXT. CHRONOSLIDE - NIGHT

The shielded Argonaut hovers just before the laser net. Its yellow shield glows in contrast to the red of the net.

The shield turns blue and the ship is ready to make its run.

INT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - NIGHT

Wellington turns away from his station to Capt. Brent and Major Pickett.

MAJOR PICKETT
Airman, what is the weakest point in this grid?

Caffrey refers to his instruments.

CAFFREY
It's in the northwest quadrant. Here's the navigational overlay.

In the same way the map appeared at the start of the journey, so does a holographic schematic of the laser grid in front of the canopy.

CAPT. BRENT
Synching.

The hologram lines and the insertion point glows.

MAJOR PICKETT
There it is. Captain do the honors.

CAPT. BRENT
No sir, it's all yours.

MAJOR PICKETT
So who's the wise man and who's the fool in this scenario?
CAPT. BRENT
We'll figure that out after we've cleared this hurdle.

Major Pickett pulls up on the yoke to match the insertion point on the hologram.

MAJOR PICKETT
All lined up. I'm taking us in.

The argonaut moves toward the weakspot and pushes in.

The bridge shakes violently. Red alert sounds.

CAPT. BRENT
What's happening? I thought we had an opening.

WELLINGTON
No Captain, it's just the weakest point. There's no getting around sustaining some damage.

CAPT. BRENT
Activating inertial dampeners.

Captain Brent hits a button on his console and it sends up a spark as it shorts out.

EXT. CHRONOSLIDE - NIGHT

The Argonaut progresses through the grid the shields flicker and show signs of weakening.

INT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - NIGHT

The Argonaut pitches and yaws violently as it pushes through.

Another round of roman candle blasts begin again and strike the ship from the other side of the grid.

CAFFREY
Shields down to 5%, 3%, 2%

A loud warning beacon sounds.
WELLINGTON
Inertial dampeners going down.

The cockpit rattles with the shaking.

CAPT. BRENT
Let's give it full throttle.

Capt. Brent and Major Pickett push the throttle to the max.

CAFFREY
No more shields.

The grid scores the canopy and the outer hull.

WELLINGTON
The barrage is creating a feedback in the primary and secondary propulsion systems.

CAPT. BRENT
Cut the thrust!

MAJOR PICKETT
No! We're almost through!

Major Pickett's instrument panel feeds back, bursts into flames and overloads.

The left side of the console explodes violently in a shower of shrapnel, debris and sparks that fly at the Major and kill him.

Now it's up to Captain Brent. He reaches over and slows the throttle.

CAPT. BRENT
Caffrey reroute those systems through your console.

CAFFREY
Aye sir!

Captain Brent surveys the damage on his bridge. Major Pickett is dead and the Argonaut seems seriously outclassed on its inaugural voyage until ...
CAPT. BRENT
You told me once that outer hull acts as a collector array.

CAFFREY
Mainly sensory, yeah.

CAPT. BRENT
Can we rig it to collect energy from those weapons?

WELLINGTON
Excellent idea. I'll get it done.

Wellington turns to his console and executes.

CAPT. BRENT
Do it. We don't have enough power to get home. Our only shot is to steamroll our way forward.

Caffrey ducks below his control console and opens and access panel and hotwires the collector grid wiring to the engine power converter. He finishes, then shuts the panel, pops back into his seat and straps himself in.

Wellington also straps in for a bumpy ride.

While all this gerry-rigging proceeds, the Roman candle barrage continues.

CAFFREY
Punch it!

Capt. Brent quickly crosses himself.

CAPT. BRENT
Come on cold fusion, show me you weren't a fluke! Going directly to MACH 1, NOW!

Brent advance the throttle, the sound of engines firing.

EXT. CHRONOSLIDE - NIGHT

The Argonaut gets through the laser net and bounces forward through the chronoslide.
EXT. TOWER ISLAND - DAY

The chronoslide opens and spits the Argonaut out into atmosphere awash in an orange glow and gray clouds as backdrop for a skyline of elegant black mesas and natural geological arch formations.

The Argonaut flies over a deep blue body of water that shimmers silver as it reflects the rays of the sun.

INT. ARGONAUT - DAY

CAPT. BRENT
We made it through, but into what?

CAFFREY
A science fiction movie from the look of things.

After a harrowing journey the Argonaut coughs, sputters and shuts down.

CAPT. BRENT

EXT. TOWER ISLAND AIRSPACE - DAY

The Argonaut struggles to stabilize and land.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND JUNGLE - DAY

As they catch their breath following the landing, the men gape through the cockpit window seeing purple leaves and ashen colored branches, vines and tree trunks.

INT. ARGONAUT COCKPIT - DAY

Speeding in, the head-on view from the cockpit shows sand and dirt blow, shrubs and foliage debris fly, trees fly past the Argonaut slides to a stop.

CAPT. BRENT
Whew ... and he's Safe!

Brent bend his elbows, brings both forearms into his chest; then quickly extend his arms to the sides.
Wellington and Caffrey recover to a seated after being hunched over in crash position.

    WELLINGTON
    I see you haven't lost that
    macabre sense of humor.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Any landing you can walk
    away from ...

INT. THE DARK TOWER - DAY

The shadowy figure stands by the window and peers through binoculars at the arrival of the strangers.

    LORD TYRAN
    Man and machine make their
    landing on the island.

Lord Tyran puts down the binoculars and turns back inwards toward his stronghold.

    LORD TYRAN (CONT'D)
    My dear, why don't you go see
    what the fuss is all about.

A hooded and cloaked figure departs.

    METRISTA
    Yes my lord.

    LORD TYRAN
    The fates may be working in
    our favor today.

EXT. THE DARK TOWER - DAY

The dark figure of Lord Tyran stands to the window and looks out across the expanse of the island from the tower of his stronghold.

EXT. ARGONAUT - REAR CARGO BAY - DAY

The bay door drops on the Argonaut to reveal Caffrey and Wellington having changed from flight gear into BATTLE DRESS UNIFORMS, OXYGEN MASKS and SHOVELS.
Capt. Brent, similarly attired, bears the CORPSE OF MAJOR PICKETT down the ramp.

Caffrey and Wellington flank Brent on the left and right.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND JUNGLE - DAY

Caffrey and Wellington shovel dirt over a makeshift grave while Capt. Brent delivers last rites.

    CAPT. BRETNT
    Rest easy, old friend.

Capt. Brent throws a handful of dirt into the open pit.

Wellington and Caffrey cover it over.

Capt. Brent walks over to Wellington.

    WELLINGTON
    Well Captain, it looks like you're the ranking officer now. What's your first order?

    CAPT. BRETNT
    Become my first officer.

    WELLINGTON
    What? Why?

    CAPT. BRETNT
    Look Nigel, we need to put the past behind us and pull through this thing. You're a damn good officer and the right man for the job. I need you.

Capt. Brent extends his hand.

Wellington considers and weighs Capt. Brent's words. Wellington extends and grasps Capt. Brent's. They shake.

Wellington pulls his hand back into a salute.

    WELLINGTON
    Lieutenant First Class Nigel Wellington reporting for duty, Sir.
Capt. Brent smiles, then he, Wellington and Caffrey get back on the Argonaut.

INT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - DAY

The men huddle around Caffrey's workstation.

CAFFREY
It's an oxygen atmosphere, so we won't need the masks when for our reconnoiter.

CAPT. BRENT
I recommend packing light. Wellington can we get some power to the cloak?

WELLINGTON
Sure. Why?

CAPT. BRENT
If we can cloak the ship we can use this position as base camp until we know more about this place.

WELLINGTON
I'm on it.

CAFFREY
OK but if the ship is cloaked how will we find it?

CAPT. BRENT
Because its programs to respond to our bio-signatures.

CAFFREY
Sure, but it'll take the rest of the night.

CAPT. BRENT
It's anything goes now. Pack light for this recon. Hydration, walkies, flashlights, compasses, sidearms.
INT. ARGONAUT - CARGO BAY - DAY

The payload ramp drops, the men walk out, and the ramp closes.

Captain Brent touches the hull of the ship.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Computer, engage cloak.

    COMPUTER VOICE
    Complying.

The Argonaut deftly blends into the background.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND SHORE - DAY

The Valkyrie squadron reconnoiter takes them to the shoreline first.

Caffrey tests WATER and VEGETATION samples with his HANDHELD SPECTRAL ANALYZER.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Well?

    CAFFREY
    Water's fine, but no grazing on the local vegetation.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Let's stay sharp, keep moving. I want to gather as much data as we can before nightfall.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND JUNGLE - DAY

The unit cuts a path through the jungle.

CANNON FIRE explodes within feet of the pilots

    CAPT. BRENT
    Take cover!

Brent, Wellington and Caffrey survey the immediate area to find a petrified, giant tree trunk, stump.
WELLINGTON

Captain, look!

(Points to the stump.)

CAPT. BRENT

It'll do in a pinch.

Brent waves his men in, but before he can take cover, a FLAMING CATAPULT PAYLOAD lands within micrometers of ending Capt. Brent.

Capt. Brent dives for the stump and scrambles his way in before another volley from the catapult lands squarely where he stood.

From their blind, the Valkyries observe a horseback battalion in BLACK MEDIEVAL BATTLE ARMOR rides past.

An infantry unit in GOLDEN ROMANESQUE ARMOR marches with shields and spears in hand.

A catapult brings up the rear.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)

Did we butt in on a Civil War reenactment?

WELLINGTON

More like the 100 Years War.

The Romanesque military contingent stops and fires the catapult.

The infantry draw bows and arrows and fire a volley of arrows

At the opposing Medieval contingent charges on horseback and engages the aggressors. Swords clash and clang.

Caffrey withdraws his sidearm.

CAPT. BRENT

Airman, holster that weapon.
Whatever's going on here, we're outclassed for the moment.
WELLINGTON
More than that, we don't want
to panic or prematurely
announce our presence.

Caffrey lowers, but does not holsters his weapon.

They run through the trees in the opposite direction of the violent battle.

CAPT. BRENT
(puts down binoculars
and whispers)

Looks like a there's a
settlement up ahead.

Wellington takes the binoculars and looks.

CAFFREY
Yeah, but whose is it?

WELLINGTON
Well we can't exactly use the
direct approach can we?

Capt. Brent looks around and sees night is falling.

CAPT. BRENT
Yeah, hi, we crash landed
outside your city. Can we
come in and use the phone?
No. We have to assume
they're both unfriendly. Our
best bet for now is the ship.

The group mounts up to return to the landing site. Capt. Brent, Wellington and Caffrey emerge from the stump weapons in one hand, flashlights in the other.

EXT. ARGONAUT LANDING SITE - NIGHT

The Valkyries make it back to the site. Night has fallen. Before they can take shelter in the Argonaut.

METRISTA, a Centuria soldier dressed in full body Romanesque armor and wearing a masked helmet, on HORSEBACK cuts them off.
METRISTA
Halt. Identify yourselves!

Caffrey raises his weapon, but Metrista is quicker. She withdraws a laser whip and snaps Caffrey’s weapon out of his hand.

METRISTA (CONT’D)
Perhaps I didn’t make myself clear. What is your business on this island?

Captain Brent steps forward.

CAPT. BRENT
It’s all right guys, be cool...
Ma’am my name is Captain Thornton Brent of the United States Air Force. These are my men, Wellington and Caffrey and we’re marooned here. Where is here incidentally?

Metrista trots her horse forward and raises her sword at Capt. Brent

METRISTA
I will ask the questions here.

CAPT. BRENT
Whoa, there’s no need for that, we were just trying to defend ourselves.

METRISTA
Captain, you raised your weapon first. Actions speak louder than assurances.

Capt. Brent raises his hands and looks behind.

CAPT. BRENT
Holster your weapons, Now!

No sooner does Capt. Brent give the order when CYCLOPS drops from a tree, fires a laser bolt from its eye at the Valkyries.

7 SATYRS charge and sling exploding rocks.
The Valkyries raise weapons and fire on the Satyrs.

The explosions spooks Metrista's horse bucks and it throws her off and runs away.

Capt. Brent goes to the felled Metrista and helps her to her feet.

The Cyclops grabs the fleeing horse and runs off into the forest with dinner.

The group tries to find cover, but springs a hanging trap net.

The Satyrs continue attacking and lobbing objects at the netted soldiers.

The din of approaching horses increases. A LARGE SPEAR flies;

Ten armored, masked-helmeted CENTURIAS form a line against the Satyrs and drive them back into the forest with laser whips.

A metal BOOMERANG cuts down the net and Metrista and the men fall and returns to ADINA's hand.

Metrista and the Valkyries recover.

Centurias surround and level swords and at The Valkyries.

Adina rides her horse up to Metrista.

    ADINA
    Sister, why are you so far outside the perimeter at this hour?

    METRISTA
    Today's engagement has me agitated. I was scouting for an advantage.

    ADINA
    Who are these creatures?

    METRISTA
    I found them among the Satyrs and the Cyclops.
ADINA
Agents of Lord Tyran. By the Centuria code, you are apprehended for trespassing.

The outnumbered and outgunned Valkyries raise and point their weapons at Metrista and Adina.

CAPT. BRENT
Weapons down. We mean you no harm. We come in peace.

Capt. Brent and his men lower their weapons.

ADINA
Then why do you raise your weapons?

CAPT. BRENT
Well, we're not entirely sure where we are and before you showed up, we were under attack.

METRISTA
Even if you meant it, you insects could do us no harm.

The Centuria contingent raises swords to Brent and his men.

CAPT. BRENT
Well, we could aggravate your allergies.

METRISTA
Enough insolence.

METRISTA walks to Capt. Brent, and clocks him with a right hook.

ADINA
Sister, pointless aggression is not the avenue for our skills. They are prisoners and we have ways of doing things.

METRISTA
Apologies for my zeal.
ADINA
They have no powers here.
Attacking the weak brings no laurels.

METRISTA
As you command.

Adina pulls Metrista up onto her horse.
The Centurias confiscate the men's weapons and supplies and march them out of the jungle.

INT. THE DARK TOWER - NIGHT

Lord Tyran sits in the center of the room meditating. In his trance, he levitates above the floor seated in a half-lotus position.

One of the Satyrs from the attack cowers into the room.

His eyes snap open, he comes out of his levitating trance to a standing position.

LORD TYRAN
Oh my. This is why you never send monsters to do a magician's job.

Lord Tyran puts his hand to his forehead and conjures up a SHADOWFORM, a minion that can take any shape Tyran wills.

Lord Tyran wills that the shadowform take the shape of LT. SYRACUSE.

LORD TYRAN (CONT'D)

Go recover this.

SHADOWFORM SYRACUSE

Yes My Lord.

The shadowform disappears in a puff of smoke.

INT. DUNGEON - NIGHT

The Centurias herd Captain Brent and his men into a dungeon.

The other Centurias lower their spears when Metrista motions the command and recede from the prison block.
Adina and Metrista exit last. Adina's shining eyes look through her helmet make contact with Capt. Brent's, then she departs.

Voice chimes in from the corner of the cell.

    ORLANDO
    You always were a diplomatic dynamo.

    CAPT. BRENT
    And how would you know?

The voice steps into the light, stands at attention and salutes.

    ORLANDO
    Lt. Xavier Orlando, United States Air Force. Sir.

    CAPT. BRENT
    You're all right. After Syracuse, I didn't know what to think.

    ORLANDO
    There was no way to get word back.

    CAPT. BRENT
    What happened to your jet?

    ORLANDO
    I brought it down manually. Camouflaged and hid in the forest.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Who are your buddies?

FRITZ, AUBRE, and RICHARDS step forward.

    RICHARDS
    Richards

    (points to his other men)

CAPT. BRENT
And just where is here?

ORLANDO
I only know it as the Island,
we're in some kind of a
penitentiary.

CAPT. BRENT
Is there a way out?

Orlando walks over to a spot in the wall.

ORLANDO
Been workin' on that for a
while. The mortar on some of
these blocks are loose. I've
been working on ones in the
dark corners of this cell.

Orlando points to forward corner facing the corridor. Captain
Brent with draw a MATCHES from his pocket, strikes one and
shines the light on the wall.

ORLANDO (CONT'D)
That's where I've made the
most headway.

INT. DUNGEON WALL - NIGHT
Capt. Brent kneels and holds the match to the wall.

The match burns out.

Digs his hands into the crevasse to find a hold like a rock climber
would on a cliff wall.

CAPT. BRENT
I got a bite on it. Give us some
light.

Capt. Brent hands matches to Richards. Richards lights one.

The block moves a little bit so Brent sits and plants his feet on the
outer blocks for leverage and pulls again.
The block doesn't budge any further. Capt. Brent thinks for a minute, puts his feet on block and plants his hand behind him and pushes with his legs.

The push causes the block to give a bit.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)

Guys, I need a little extra weight behind me to make this work.

Wellington and Caffrey grab Brent under the arms. Orlando and Aubre push from behind. Fritz keeps an eye out for the guards.

The brick slides forward. The Valkyries have an escape route.

ORLANDO

It's only big enough for one.

CAPT. BRENT

So? We'll go one at a time. No one left behind and nobody's allowed to give up 'til we're dead.

Captain Brent crawls through on his belly followed by Wellington, Caffrey, Richards, Fritz, Aubre and Orlando.

INT. DUNGEON CORRIDOR - EARLY MORNING

Captain Brent clears the wall and gets to his feet. He pulls Wellington through and each man pulls the man behind him through until the six are accounted for.

The unit hugs the wall and moves gingerly through the dim corridor and retrace the route they were brought down to get out of the dungeon.

The men climb the steps and are confronted with a large iron gate. Capt. Brent shakes the gate. LOCKED!

SHADOWFORM SYRACUSE

Cappy. This way.

Until corralled by Adina and Metrista.

ADINA

That's far enough.
Swords drawn.

METRISTA

Hands up! Incorrigible little creatures aren't they?

The men put their hands up.

ADINA

Most curious indeed. The Queen orders you before her.

Adina leads the group.

Metrista keeps Captain Brent at the back and goads him from behind with her sword.

CAPT. BRENT

Well since you asked so nicely.

Captain Brent and his men walk.

INT. QUEEN'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

Adina and Metrista bring the men into the throne room and march them down a long hall supported by five pillars on each side that bear glyph and lingual carvings.

They halt the men at the foot of the steps ascending to the Queen's Throne Platform and stand with their prisoners. The royal insignia is emblazoned on a tapestry hanging above the throne.

The Queen's Ten, her honor guard, enter the room and ascend the 10 steps leading to the throne. Four soldiers on the left, Five left and five on the right skipping a step between them.

Two soldiers, HERALDS on the top step pick up horns and sound a reveille to signal the coming of the Queen.

HERALDS

(in unison)

All hail Queen Califa!

The QUEEN enters the throne chamber from the back entrance, ascends the throne platform. Adina and Metrista remove their helmets as the queen enters.
Brent turns to Orlando.

**BRENT**

They're women!

**ORLANDO**

Of course they are, why do you think your diplomacy bombed?

Metrista turns to the men.

**METRISTA**

(in a hushed voice)

No one speaks until the queen speaks.

When she sits a frontal force-field goes up between the main landing and the throne.

**QUEEN CALIFA**

Why are you here?

The Centurias train their attention on Captain Brent to size him up.

**CAPT. BRENT**

Your majesty, my name is Captain Thornton Brent, United States Air Force I came here to solve the mystery of my men's disappearance and to rescue them if possible.

**QUEEN CALIFA**

There is much mysterious in this life, such as how you found your way here. This realm does not look favorably on trespassing especially by those from outside shores.

**CAPT. BRENT**

We are citizens of the United States and military officers. If you would be kind enough to release us, we'll be on our way.
INT. QUEEN'S THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

QUEEN CALIFA
Departure is not possible, outworlder.

Adina regards Capt. Brent with curiosity.

CAPT. BRENT
Once again, I'm missing the part about where here is.

QUEEN CALIFA
Here, is the last buffer that prevents all of our worlds from colliding.

CAPT. BRENT
What a coincidence we collided on your world, so far, no good.

QUEEN CALIFA
Captain, let me make it very simple. The penalty for trespassing is death.

CAPT. BRENT
For attempting to recover my men?

QUEEN CALIFA
We consider this an act of aggression.

CAPT. BRENT
Your majesty, things, ships, plane just seem to vanish into thin air in this part of the world. Know anything about that?
QUEEN CALIFA
There is nothing I wish to divulge other than the fact the chronoslide is only a defense snare. It is one way. No one has ever used it to depart from this realm.

CAPT. BRENT
Well it felt pretty damn hostile hurdling through it.

QUEEN CALIFA
Captain, I'm afraid you're quite stuck here. As a sign of atonement, surrender your ship and we can offer you sanctuary. Refuse our generous offer and the penalty is death by contest.

CAPT. BRENT
Contest?

QUEEN CALIFA
Gladiatorial combat.

CAPT. BRENT
I know what happens if we lose, but what if we win?

QUEEN CALIFA
Highly unlikely. The Centurias are the finest fighting force this side of the Titan's Realm.

CAPT. BRENT
How bout a little wager? You know to make it interesting.

QUEEN CALIFA
Go on.

CAPT. BRENT
If we lose, problem solved we won't be around to bother you.
QUEEN CALIFA
But if you win?

CAPT. BRENT
If we win, you give us quarter
so we can repair our ship and
get home. Either way, we're
out of your hair. It's win-win.

QUEEN CALIFA
Your linguistic legerdemain
and the proposition you put
forth intrigues me Captain. It
is a wager.

EXT. CHAMPIONS' AMPHITHEATER - DAY

Champions' Amphitheater is a Roman style Coliseum.

The grandstands are stacked with thousands of Centuria warriors.

EXT. CHAMPIONS' AMPHITHEATER ROYAL GALLERY - DAY

Queen Califa takes a seat in the royal gallery.

A Centuria bangs a gong indicating the start of the contests.

EXT. CHAMPIONS' AMPHITHEATER FLOOR - DAY

Captain Brent and his men ascend from the holding area wearing
gladiatorial combat armor and armed with SWORDS and
SHIELDS.

Centurias ascend from the opposing area in a modified armor that
allows better mobility but still wear helmets. They also hold
shock-staffs, but have swords and shields as well.

EXT. CHAMPIONS' AMPHITHEATER ROYAL GALLERY - DAY

The Queen stands.

QUEEN CALIFA
Fight well or die well.

The Centuria rings the gong a second time.
EXT. CHAMPIONS' AMPHITHEATER FLOOR - DAY

This includes Captain Brent, Aubre, Wellington, Richards, Fritz, Caffrey and Orlando assumes combat stances.

On the Centurias side, Adina, Metrista and four other troops.

The pugilists charge each other and square off.

FRITZ
(charging)
You don't look so tough.

CYNTHIA
Looks can be deceiving.

CYNTHIA sidesteps, sweeps Fritz's feet and puts him on his back. Then she runs him through. Electricity envelopes Fritz's body and it disintegrates around the sword.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)
No kind of sport at all.

Cynthia then joins her comrades.

Richards and Wellington see Fritz go down.

WELLINGTON
This is for real.

RICHARDS
Yeah no shit. It's called hand-to-hand combat. Don't imagine you flyboys see too much of that.

Richards and Wellington coral TALONIA and run her through from the the front and back. She slumps onto the field dead. Of her chestplate.

ARKIA sees her comrade go down. She charges and gores Richards who then disappears as Fritz did.

Wellington moves in avenge his fallen comrade.

Wellington attempts an over-handed broadsword blow. Arika turns and blocks with her shield and pushes him off.
Wellington charges shield clash and he hacks Arika's arm off at the shoulder.

**ARKIA**

Unconscionable!

Shocked by the wound, Arika drops her shield low enough for Wellington to impale her through the stomach. She falls dead.

**INT. CHAMPIONS’ AMPHITHEATER EAST WING COORIDOR - DAY**

A robed figure watches the spectacle on the amphitheater floor.

**INT. CHAMPIONS’ AMPHITHEATER FLOOR - DAY**

Queen Califa strikes the gong. The weapons in Captain Brent, Aubre, Caffrey and Orlando's hands become spears.

The men take a moment to reformulate strategy. They surround a group of four Centurias who stand back to back in a defensive square formation.

When the Centurias break formation and charge the men, Brent uses his spear for support and leverage and spins over his rival, frees the base from the dirt and ends VESTA.

Caffrey spears LYRIA and she falls dead.

Cynthia drops her weapon and sneaks up behind Caffrey. She grabs him by the head with one hand while unsheathing a dagger with the other.

Caffrey grabs her weapon arm and flips Cynthia over his head.

In the flip, the dagger flies from her hand as she hits the ground. Orlando catches it and plants it in the fallen Cynthia's chest and kills her.

Orlando extends a hand to Caffrey and hoists him up.

**CAFFREY**

And I thought dating was rough.

Wellington runs up.

**WELLINGTON**

It's just the Captain now.
CAFFREY
Should we go help him?

ORLANDO
Nah, he's got this.

Another gong sounds out.

QUEEN CALIFA
The victorious combatants will leave the field.

Wellington, Caffrey and Orlando leave the arena floor.

Metrista team up to take him out.

Captain Brent breaks his staff in half. He Metrista and Adina close the distance between them to square off.

CAPT. BRENT
You know I still owe ya for that sucker punch.

METRISTA
You seem like the type that likes that sort of thing.

CAPT. BRENT
Somehow, I think I'm in good company.

Adina dives into the fray, Captain Brent dodges and she goes into a tuck, rolls on the ground and gets back to her feet.

ADINA
You talk too much.

CAPT. BRENT
What can I say? I got the gift of gab and jab.

Metrista uses that moment of distraction to charge Captain Brent with her spear. He pirouettes out of the way spins.

Before Metrista can reorient herself to face him, Captain Brent runs her through with his spear and eliminates her. She falls dead.

Now Captain Brent has exhausted his last weapon.
INT. CHAMPIONS' AMPHITHEATER FLOOR - DAY

Adina sees Captain Brent is unarmed so she takes off her helmet, throws aside her shield and sword, assumes a Judo pose, and smirks.

Capt. Brent matches the pose and they circle each other. Adina makes the opening attack.

Capt. Brent grabs her arm and uses her weight to flip her.

Adina thwarts the flip, lands on her feet, raises her fists, and throws a right cross.

Captain Brent weaves and dodges the punch.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Not bad.

    ADINA
    You'll find I'm full of surprises.

They circle each other again. Capt. Brent waives her in.

Adina moves in, grabs Capt. Brent by the torso, takes him down to the ground and pins him.

Capt. Brent wriggles out and reverses the pin.

Adina and Captain Brent stare each other down.

Adina tucks her feet, plants them into his abdomen, throws him off, and springs to her feet.

    QUEEN CALIFA
    That is enough excitement for one day. Captain, you and your surviving compatriots earned reprieve.

Queen Califa pounds her staff on the ground and the fallen Centurias get up, compose themselves, and leave the field.

Captain Brent and his men stare in slack-jawed disbelief as the Centurias wounds close; they recover and come back to life.
CAPT. BRENT
What just happened here?

QUEEN CALIFA
You just took on an army of Immortals.

Metrista is the last to recover as she leaves the stadium, she stares Capt. Brent down.

Capt. Brent blows Metrista a kiss.

Metrista breaks the stare and storms out of the arena toward Adina and Queen Califa.

QUEEN CALIFA (CONT'D)
Daughters.

ADINA
Yes Matriarch?

METRISTA
Your highness.

QUEEN CALIFA
See to more agreeable quarters for our new guests. Tomorrow you will take them into the settlement for supplies. Metrista please begin the preparations.

METRISTA
As you wish Matriarch.

Metrista departs through the Colosseum and toward the East Wing Corridor where the mysterious figure stood.

ADINA
Matriarch is it dangerous to keep them here?

QUEEN CALIFA
Only time will tell. Until then I have to keep my word and assist their attempt to leave in peace.
ADINA
As you decree. Shall take my leave?

QUEEN CALIFA
Go in peace daughter.

Adina exits the arena.

EXT. VALKYRIE CREW QUARTERS - DAY

The Valkyries stand in formation. Their Centuria chaperone match formation across from them. Capt. Brent walks down the middle to lead the morning drill. He does push-ups while calling out cadences.

The Valkyries do pushups and the Centurias replicate the exercise.

CAPT. BRENT
Come on, suck it up! No excuses. Different location, same routine.

Adina and Metrista ride in on AEROEQUINES (a winged horse).

Metrista dismounts and goes to Adina.

Capt. Brent looks up at Adina, pauses briefly, then continues his push-ups while conversing.

The men pause and stare in disbelief at the two winged horses.

Orlando observes Capt. Brent and Adina's interaction.

ORLANDO
Hey Caff, Cappy's gettin' friendly with the locals.

CAFFREY
You're imagining things. We're on a mission and that comes first.

Capt. Brent turns back to his men and notices they have stopped doing push-ups and their attention is on him, he recovers.
CAPT. BREN'T
On your feet gents, time for a little stroll.

ORLANDO
Uh-oh. That means march.

CAFFREY
Oh quit yer bitchin. At least it's not with packs.

Capt. Brent notices there is no saddle or stirrups. Somehow he mounts the aeroequine. Then he leans into Adina and whispers.

CAPT. BREN'T
Do you have anything to make this run more challenging?

Adina signals to Metrista.

EXT. VALKYRIE TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Metrista fits the men with Centuria helmets and TORSO ARMOR, SHIELDS and BROAD SWORDS.

The Valkyries and the Centurias run into the forest in a side-by-side formation.

The men and the women fall into formation. Aubre is beside Fritz.

ORLANDO
Ya just had to go and open your big mouth.

CAFFREY
Save your breath. You'll need it for the run.


WELLINGTON
I take it you won't be joining us?
CAPT. BRENT
Keep an eye on things, get acquainted with the natives. Learn whatever you can. We need as many different vantage points as we can get.

WELLINGTON
To get off this rock?

CAPT. BRENT
Precisely. But remember, we're out of our element here.

WELLINGTON
Heed your own advice, sir.

CAPT. BRENT
Hey, I'm Mr. Diplomacy, remember?

Captain Brent and Adina ride off.

WELLINGTON
COMPANY MARCH! Hut-two-three-four.

Metrista, Wellington, and their collective companies commence the march.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND JUNGLE - DAY

Wellington leads the march using telemetry from his GPS WATCH. He sets the watch to send out locator pulses to the Argonaut in 1-minute intervals and receive the relay signal.

He leads the group in the direction in which the homing beacon gets stronger. Designs the course their run to make a survey of the area where the ship landed and to ensure it is still where The Valkyries left it parked and cloaked.

As they run toward the ship, Wellington sends out a verification pulse to the ship.

A second or two later, the ship shimmers silver for two seconds and disappears again behind its cloak.

Wellington marks the location with his watch.
Metrista catches the glimmer in the corner of her eye as the group runs by.

Metrista

What was that?

Wellington calls company halt.

Wellington

Madam, how would I know?
Is this not your home my dear?

Metrista

It is. Cyclops are known to roost nearby.

Wellington

Surely an armed contingent of this size can handle one Cyclops.

Metrista

If Cyclops couldn't go invisible, I would agree with you.

Wellington

Then perhaps we should make our way to the shoreline.

Wellington attempts a signal transmission to Capt. Brent from his watch. Unsuccessful. Out of range.

And the company resumes its march toward the beachhead.

Ext. Leviathan Mesa - Day

Adina and Capt. Brent ride the aeroequines through the mountains overlooking the beach. They talk as they ride.

Adina

Actually, it is more like a junction between realms and realities.

Capt. Brent

Like ours?
ADINA
Precisely.

CAPT. BRENTH
So what’s this Titan's Realm?

ADINA
It is the home of the celestials, what you would understand as Gods.

Capt. Brent and Adina stop at the edge of a plateau. The beach, forest and Centurias' compound is visible on the far side of the island.

CAPT. BRENTH
Is that your home?

Adina tries to hide her dejection behind a brave face, but looks off into the horizon as she answers.

ADINA
It's where I'm from, but this is my home.

Adina puts her palm out and points at the compound.

CAPT. BRENTH
That didn't sound convincing at all.

ADINA
It was not meant to convince it is a statement of fact. We are dutybound.

Capt. Brent pushes his head forward to catch Adina's eyes.

CAPT. BRENTH
Didn't mean to push.

ADINA
It is all right Brent.

Capt. Brent dismounts his aeroequine.
CAPT. BRENT
I'm sure these animals are sure-footed, but I don't really like riding the edge unless it's in my jet.

ADINA
I assure you the aeroequine is far less dangerous and far more nimble.

CAPT. BRENT
So these wings aren't just for show?

ADINA
I assure you Captain, they are quite functional.

CAPT. BRENT
The next time you call me Captain, I'm going to have to salute you.

ADINA
Would that not make me your superior officer?

Capt. Brent and Adina share a laugh.

CAPT. BRENT
Well let's see what these guys can do.

(pause)
How do you make them do what they can do? There are no reigns, saddles or stirrups.

ADINA
With basic spoken commands.

Capt. Brent gets back on the aeroequine. As he does, he notices a silver glimmer on the other side of the beach.

CAPT. BRENT
Uh, horse, hi, how are you? I'd like to go over there.
ADINA

His name is Caius.

CAPT. BRENT

What's yours called?

ADINA

Lucius.

CAPT. BRENT

Uh, OK, Caius, could you back away from the ledge?

Caius responds to Capt. Brent and takes a few steps back from the edge of the mesa.

ADINA

See.

Capt. Brent grins with bewildered delight.

CAPT. BRENT

All right. I'd like to go to the seashore on the other end of the island toward that shine.

Caius squats on all four legs, extends his wings and hurls himself into the air, flaps his wings and he homes in on the shiny glint in the distance.

ADINA

Lucius, follow.

Lucius also jumps into the air. The two aeroequines fly across the bay to the opposite shore.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND SHORE - DAY

Wellington reflects and refracts a small mirror into the SUN to signal Capt. Brent.

As he looks up in the sky he notices the two aeroequines coming toward him at great speed.

WELLINGTON

What the devil and the deep blue sea?
Captain Brent and Adina land Caius and Lucius.

Adina dismounts and walks over to the Centurias.

Wellington approaches Capt. Brent who is still mounted.

    WELLINGTON (CONT'D)
    What is that thing?

    CAPT. BRENT
    The latest in carbon footprint reducing transportation.

    WELLINGTON
    Mmm. Yes.

    CAPT. BRENT
    How are you and the boys doing?

    WELLINGTON
    I found the ship I couldn't raise you on the telecom.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Must be the ion interference from the shield. It impedes long-range communications devices. If only there was a way to block it.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND SHORE - DAY

    WELLINGTON
    That's why I switched to a more tried and true method.

    CAPT. BRENT
    You mean you weren't checking your make up?

Wellington is not amused.

    WELLINGTON
    I'm laughing on the inside.

    CAPT. BRENT
    What did you find?
WELLINGTON
  The ship. Hold up your watch
  up. I should be able to
  transmit the telemetry to you at
  this close range.

Capt. Brent and Wellington hold their watches side-by-side. Each
man presses a button on his watches. Two seconds later,
confirmation tones sound from both watches that information has
transferred.

CAPT. BRENT
  Got it. Transmit to the men on
  the slick.

WELLINGTON
  All right men. Fall in.

The Valkyrie squadron gets into formation.

WELLINGTON (CONT'D)
  Synchronize watches.

All the men huddle around Wellington, extend their watch arms
and repeat the file transfer procedure.

Captain Brent walks over.

CAPT. BRENT
  What are you doing?

EXT. TOWER ISLAND SHORE - DAY

WELLINGTON
  Hiding in plain sight.

  (turns and shouts
  an order)

LOAD UP!

The men pick up and put on their armor and helmets, then hoist
their swords and shields.

CAPT. BRENT
  Meet you back at the barracks.
  We can discuss particulars
  after we ditch our tails.
WELLINGTON
Agreed. I take it you'll be concluding your flight of fancy.

CAPT. BRENT
Well, I shouldn't be rude to our hostess, now should I?

WELLINGTON
Emily Post would be proud.

CAPT. BRENT
Carry on number one.

WELLINGTON
MOVE OUT!

The Valkyrie squadron and the Centurias trek back toward the compound.

INT. TOWER ISLAND - VALKYRIE CREW QUARTERS - NIGHT

Capt. Brent sneaks out of his quarters wearing night camouflage and face paint.

Caffrey jimmies the Captain's homing collar open and lay it on the bed.

CAPT. BRENT
If something goes awry, Wellington's under orders to get the squadron off the island by any means.

CAFFREY
Understood.

CAPT. BRENT
Let's hope first time's a charm.

Capt. Brent activates the homing beacon on his watch and picks up the locator signal of The Argonaut, then exits his quarters.
EXT. TOWER ISLAND JUNGLE - NIGHT

Captain Brent moves through the jungle following the faint din of the homing device and the locator display on his watch. The din grows more frequently as he approaches The Argonaut.

Captain Brent enters a command on his watch and The Argonaut uncloaks. He walks over to it.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Drop bay door.

    COMPUTER VOICE
    Complying. Greetings Captain Brent.

The ship responds by opening the rear cargo hold door.

As Brent is about to board, two hands grab him and pull him back and throws him up in the air.

A GIANT CYCLOPS catches him by the legs and hurls him against The Argonaut.

The Cyclops walks over, picks Capt. Brent up and tries to eat him.

Just then A VOLLEY OF PROJECTILES hit the Cyclops in the back and explode around the ship. Startled, the Cyclops throws Captain Brent into the ship.

The Cyclops turns to face its attacker. It is Adina. Cyclops charges and she holds up a SHOCK-STAFF and hits Cyclops in the chest.

Metristra jumps down from a tree onto the Cyclops back and simultaneously hits the Cyclops in the back with her SHOCK-STAFF. He bucks and throws Metrista off and fires laser beams from his eye at Adina. Adina dodges.

Captain Brent emerges from the ship with a SONIC-WAVE LAUNCHER. He points it at the Cyclops' eye, fires, and neutralizes his blast capabilities.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Get out of the way!

Adina and Metrista clear the line of fire. Capt. Brent switches modes on the weapons and fires again at the Cyclops.
This time, the Cyclops is caught in a sonic immobilizer net.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
Everyone, into The Argonaut.
NOW!

Adina and Metrista run into the ship. Captain Brent raises the cargo bay doors.

INT. ARGONAUT - CARGO BAY - NIGHT

ADINA
Hold it right there. Drop your weapon, hands up and turn around very slowly.

Capt. Brent puts down the weapon, raises his hands and turns around.

CAPT. BRENT
I just saved you.

METRISTA
After we saved you.

CAPT. BRENT
You marked the capture sight when you brought us in.

ADINA
Excellent deductive reasoning Captain.

Capt. Brent salutes.

ADINA (CONT'D)
Brent.

CAPT. BRENT
You've known where the ship was all this time?

Capt. Brent ascends the cargo ramp and enters the Argonaut.

Adina follows.
ADINA
Of course. We just could not open it, much less get near it.

CAPT. BRENT
Thanks to the bio-reactive shield.

ADINA
Yes, but I still knew one of you would go to the ship and my patience was rewarded.

CAPT. BRENT
Patience is a virtue.

ADINA
Brent, you cannot be out here at night. It is not even safe for us. That's why we lock down the compound.

METRISTA
We should have let him find out the hard way.

ADINA
What purpose would that serve? We have an obligation to keep watch and protect our guests.

METRISTA
Even when they do things that might get us killed?

ADINA
Especially when they do things that might get us killed.

Adina walks over to Captain Brent and turns his head to reveal mild lacerations and contusions from his fight with the Cyclops.

CAPT. BRENT
What are you doing?
ADINA
Be still Brent, you were injured. Metrista, give me your field pouch.

Metrista hands Adina a pouch.

Adina takes out a SCALPEL and cuts off the dangling skin, wraps it in a CLOTH and hand it to Metrista. Adina then applies pressure to stop the bleeding. Then she salves the wound and dresses it.

Metrista takes the medical waste and stuffs it into a pouch on the front of her SCABBARD STRAP.

Banging begins on the outer hull of the Argonaut. Then follows shaking.

CAPT. BRENT
Our friend is an early riser it seems. Get to the cockpit!

Capt. Brent, Adina and Metrista run to the cockpit.

INT. ARGONAUT COCKPIT - NIGHT

Capt. Brent takes the pilot position. Adina takes the co-pilot's chair.

CAPT. BRENT
We gotta fly outta here on whatever power we have. Where can we land close to the compound?

ADINA
The War Fort is deserted.

CAPT. BRENT
Check.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND JUNGLE - NIGHT

The Argonaut's emergency engines power up while the Cyclops beats on the exterior.

When the ship begins to lift off, the Cyclops grabs a wing and hoists himself on.
With one mighty leap he reaches the nose of the craft and starts banging on the cockpit window.

The ship lifts off.

INT. ARGONAUT COCKPIT - NIGHT

The Cyclops hangs on and pounds on the hood.

    CAPT. BRENT
    I'm really getting sick of this guy.

Captain Brent hits a button on the console and then pulls up on the yoke to climb.

EXT. ARGONAUT - NIGHT

Shields activate and repulse the Cyclops. It falls off the nose firing blindly into the night sky.

The Argonaut dodges and weaves around the blasts while the Cyclops falls into the water. The Argonaut levels off and speeds toward the compound.

EXT. WAR FORT INTERIOR YARD - NIGHT

The Argonaut touches down gently in the center of the WAR FORT.

The plane's thrusters blow dirt and leaves.

The landing gear extends and the vessel powers down.

The cargo bay opens. Capt. Brent, Adina and Metrista exit.

Capt. Brent closes the bay door and touches the Argonaut.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Computer. Activate cloak.

The Argonaut disappears into its surroundings.

Metrista moves to depart.

    METRISTA
    Sister are you coming?
ADINA
I will be along after I see our guest to quarters.

METRISTA
Very well.

CAPT. BRENT
You're not leaving already?
We were really starting to connect.

Metrista exhales dismissively, shakes her head, and walks off.

INT. LORD TYRAN'S STRONGHOLD BALCONY - NIGHT

Metrista walks onto the balcony. Lord Tyran looks out at the night sky and drinks his mead.

LORD TYRAN
Well my dear, that was some spectacle.

METRISTA
I failed in eliminating the barriers to our escape. Adina and the mortal got in the way.

LORD TYRAN
I will not wait forever, even if I have it.

METRISTA
The vehicle responds to his bio-signature. The alchemist should be able to exploit this.

Metrista hands Lord Tyran the cloth containing the skin and blood from Captain Brent's wound.

Lord Tyran takes and inspects the specimen. He turns and puts his arm around Metrista and they walk into the castle.

LORD TYRAN
We may be able to keep our plan on track yet.
METRISTA
Excellent lordship.

LORD TYRAN
Go fetch the Alchemist.

Adina departs.

INT. WAR FORT - NIGHT

Capt. Brent and Adina walk through the halls of the War Fort. In addition to being a stronghold, it also serves the purpose of arsenal, armory, stable, and field hospital.

They end up in the hospital ward.

CAPT. BRENT
You have everything here.

ADINA
This was the last line during Lord Tyran's coup and where he was banished for his insurgency.

Adina slaps the infirmary cot, Capt. Brent sits down.

ADINA (CONT'D)
That field dressing isn't going to last. We need to sew that up.

Adina takes a needle and stitches from a nearby surgical table and begins sewing up the cut by Capt. Brent's eye.

CAPT. BRENT
How long have you been here?

ADINA
Centuries. Long enough for the time continuities around us to move on and forget us.

Adina concludes the stitching. Capt. Brent stands. He and Adina exit the ward and into the hallway.
INT. WAR FORT - NIGHT

Captain Brent walks past a wall mural that maps the entire island.

    CAPT. BRENT
    My military considers your chronoslide hostile to a key military installation in this area.

Capt. Brent points to an area of the map near the island of Crete.

    ADINA
    Your purposes are not disparate with the Queen's.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Lord Tyran's up to something and we all have parts in his plan.

    ADINA
    In that we are in agreement.

    CAPT. BRENT
    So does that mean you're gonna help me? Actively?

    ADINA
    It appears I must.

    CAPT. BRENT
    For every way in there's a way out. Is there a control room?

    ADINA
    Yes, but access is prohibited.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Well then I guess we're gonna get in some trouble.

Adina walks ahead and leads the way.
INT. WAR FORT - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Adina walks over to an instrument panel and monitor.

Capt. Brent stands in the middle of the control room and looks around.

ADINA
It has a threat assessment algorithm. It disregards birds and transit conveyances.

CAPT. BRENT
But it perks up if something more aggressive comes its way. Can we deactivate it?

Adina studies the dials and the displays on the control panel before she answers.

ADINA
No. It wasn't designed to be perpetual.

CAPT. BRENT
Can we reverse the polarity?

ADINA
It does not appear so.

Capt. Brent pounds his fist on the console.

CAPT. BRENT
There has to be a way.

Capt. Brent paces around the control room.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
I got it, if we can't change or shut it down, we can change how we interact with the chronoslide.

ADINA
I do not understand.
CAPT. BRET

Bring Wellington and Caffrey to the Argonaut. They will.

Capt. Brent runs out into the main yard of the War Fort.

INT. ARGONAUT COCKPIT - DAY

Adina, Wellington, Metrista, and Caffrey enter through the cargo hold door. Wellington and Caffrey stop briefly to fetch tools. Then the group makes its way to the cockpit.

CAPT. BRET

We gotta make this fish swim upstream.

WELLINGTON

By making it magnetically attractive.

CAFFREY

We ran few scenarios. Of course it's as against the books as it goes.

CAPT. BRET

Let's get to it.

Wellington and Caffrey crouch under the flight panel and remove a service shaft plate.

INT. ARGONAUT COCKPIT SERVICE SHAFT - DAY

Caffrey gets inside. He and Wellington function like a surgeon and his assistant as the latter hands the former tools and shines a worklight on the relevant circuitry.

INT. ARGONAUT COCKPIT - DAY

Wellington and Caffrey close the panel and take seats in the cockpit. Caffrey co-pilots. Wellington takes tactical.

CAFFREY

We're good to go.
WELLINGTON
We’ve reversed the shield polarity on the emitter.

CAFFREY
And the modified tachyon signature on the missiles should help us keep the passage open.

Captain Brent powers up The Argonaut.

LORD TYRAN
Thanks, I will take it from here.

Everyone turns to see Lord Tyran.

WELLINGTON
Hardly.

CAFFREY
Yeah, I don't think so either.

Wellington and Caffrey draw swords on Lord Tyran.

Metrista steps between, places her SHOCK STAFF on the swords and electrifies the swords tazing and subduing Wellington and Caffrey.

CAPT. BRENT
I was wondering when the other boot was going to drop.

Adina looks at Metrista in disbelief.

ADINA
Sister, what is the meaning of this?

CAPT. BRENT
They're playing their hole cards.

ADINA
Idioms Brent.
CAPT. BRENT
He's not as powerless as it seemed and she's been playing both sides to her advantage.

Adina enraged, draws her sword, and lunges at Metrista.

Metrista draws and raises her sword in defense.

Tyran raises his hand and freezes the women in place.

LORD TYRAN
Sibling rivalries.

CAPT. BRENT
Cut the chit-chat, let's step outside.

LORD TYRAN
My dear captain, I thought you'd never ask.

With a snap of his fingers, Lord Tyran transports himself, Capt. Brent, Metrista and Adina to the center yard of the War Fort.

EXT. WAR FORT INTERIOR YARD - DAY

Combatants: Adina, Metrista, Capt. Brent and Lord Tyran stand poised for combat in full battle armor and helmets with broadswords and shields.

CAPT. BRENT
Got a few new tricks up your sleeve.

LORD TYRAN
Well I don't like to brag.

CAPT. BRENT
Well, false modesty sure doesn't suit you.

LORD TYRAN
You're right. I'm the God of Mayhem, I've got a lot to be proud of.
Lord Tyran takes an immediate and aggressive at Capt. Brent without warning. Capt Brent blocks with his shield.

**CAPT. BREN**
I'm gonna enjoy wiping that smug little grin off your face.

Capt. Brent raises his sword and swings it at Lord Tyran.

Lord Tyran defends with his sword and pushes Brent back with his shield.

Simultaneously, Adina and Metrista fight furiously exchanging sword blows.

**ADINA**
Surely you cannot be committed in this action.

Swords clatter.

**METRISTA**
Lord Tyran will rule the Titan's Realm with me at his side.

Metrissa's sword swing dents Adina's shield. Adina pushes the sword back with her shield and kicks Metrista in the solar-plexus propelling her into the far wall and knocks her out.

Lord Tyran and Capt. Brent remain locked in battle until Capt. Brent notices Metrista's has Adina at a disadvantage.

By this time, Wellington and Caffrey have recovered and joined the others outside. Unarmed, they look for an opportunity enter the fray.

Brent pauses for a moment, quickly considers his options and runs to assist Adina.

Lord Tyran takes Capt. Brent's distraction as a moment to escape.

**LORD TYRAN**
Time to get packing.

Lord Tyran runs onto the Argonaut's open bay door, touches the ship and issues an order.
LORD TYRAN (CONT'D)

Computer, raise bay door and secure.

(mimicking Capt. Brent's voice)

COMPUTER VOICE

Complying Captain Brent.

The bay door rises and secures.

Métrista sees she's been duped, she drops her sword and shield and runs for the Argonaut.

MÉTRISTA

LORD TYRAN! NO!

Wellington and Caffrey intercept. Wellington fires a NET from a NET LAUNCHER. Métroista continues to lurch forward in spite of her entanglement.

Caffrey fires a TRANQUILIZER DART to subdue Métroista.

Capt. Brent and Adina react to airborne Argonaut by running to and mount their aeroequines to pursue.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND AIRSPACE - DAY

The aeroequines fly furiously to close the lead the Argonaut has in ascending.

Adina flies Caius to the front of the Argonaut and with sword in hand, jumps onto the canopy.

During Adina's frontal attack on the Argonaut, Capt. Brent flies Lucius alongside to access the failsafe and disable the Argonaut.

Just as Capt. Brent hacks the panel open with his sword, the ship flies closer to the chronoslide.

He tries to jam his sword into the failsafe but the sword is repelled out of his hands with a shock from a magical shield.

CAPT. BRENT

Dammit!

Tyran laughs.
TYRAN (V.O.)
Honestly Captain, I am
insulted that you think so little
of me as to not have
anticipated that move.

As Tyran gets further from the island's influence, he gets stronger.
He sublimates his arm through the canopy, grabs Adina by the
throat, and throws her off the canopy.

Adina screams.

ADINA
Brent!

Capt. Brent takes his aeroequine into a steep intercept dive.

Brent catches Adina in his arms.

Lucius wobbles a bit under the impact.

Adina opens her eyes and sees Capt. Brent.

Adina assumes a proper riding posture and the chase is back on.

INT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - DAY
Tyran fires the neutrino emitter to open the chronoslide.

CAPT. BRENT
Go Lucius. Faster!

The Argonaut speeds up and widens the gap between itself and its
pursuers.

A sonic boom shakes the pursuing aeroequine and its riders.

The Argonaut goes into cloaked mode and disappears.

Capt. Brent and Adina's only evidence of Lord Tyran's escape is a
supersonic boom that follows the opening of the chronoslide.

Capt. Brent goads Lucius to speed toward the collapsing
chronoslide.

The Aeroequine's wings flap furiously to close the distance.
Before Brent and Adina can make it into the chronoslide, the portal shuts behind him.

Brent and Adina find themselves Island's airspace instead of flying through the chronoslide.

Lord Tyran escapes with the Argonaut.

    ADINA
    Curses!

    CAPT. BORENT
    There has to be another way.

Capt. Brent brings Lucius in for a landing.

INT. WAR FORT INTERIOR YARD - DAY

Capt. Brent and Adina land at the War Fort and dismount.

They walk over to Wellington and Caffrey and restrained a Metrista.

Adina's aeroequine, Lucius, is eating grass. Caius ambles up beside him.

    CAPT. BORENT
    Escape was only part of his plan and it's only gonna get worse if we don't think of something.

    ADINA
    What can we do?

    CAPT. BORENT
    We can start by bringing your sister before the Queen to get the truth out of her.

INT. QUEEN'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

Captain Brent and Adina stand before the Queen with a bound Metrista facing charges of treachery.
QUEEN CALIFA
We strip Sister Metrista of her
Centuria rank and sentence of
solitary confinement. The
impaneling of a tribunal is
temporarily suspended under
these circumstances.

CAPT. BRENT
Your majesty, we have a real
threat on our hands to both our
worlds.

QUEEN CALIFA
You speak of Lord Tyran's
escape. If you hadn't come
here he wouldn't have had the
means to escape.

CAPT. BRENT
His intent was always escape
even before we arrived and he
colluded with your daughter to
this end. If not with the
Argonaut, by other means.

QUEEN CALIFA
What is to be done?

CAPT. BRENT
The only way now is to drop
the shield around the Island
and call for reinforcements.

QUEEN CALIFA
That would compromise our
anonymity.

CAPT. BRENT
True, but it might allow us to
recapture that wily trickster. If
there is a way, now is the time
to tell me.

ADINA
Matriarch, he's going to rally
an army to finish his war with
the Titan's Realm.
CAPT. BRENT
We need reinforcements.
What really happened to all
men and vessels that came
through the chronoslide?

METRISTA
We hid those things that which
posed the greatest threats out
of Lord Tyran’s reach in a
place called The Vault.

QUEEN CALIFA
How do you know about that?

ADINA
I thought that was only a
legend.

QUEEN CALIFA
No it is very real, but how can
you know about it.

METRISTA
I learned how to read the
glyphs on the wall and learned
the story of this place. It was
not until I was in league with
Lord Tyran that I saw any use
for the information.

QUEEN CALIFA
Then you must accompany the
Captain on this quest.

ADINA
But Matriarch ...

CAPT. BRENT
You must lead the preparations
of your sisters and defend the
stronghold.

QUEEN CALIFA
Captain Brent and Metrista
must venture into The Vault
and face Uhl.
CAPT. BRET

Who's Uhl?

ADINA

The Guardian of the Underworld.

CAPT. BRET

Your majesty, no disrespect, but she hasn't exactly been trustworthy thus far.

METRISTA

I must make restitution for my treachery.

CAPT. BRET

And I don't get a say in this?

Adina touches Brent's shoulder and gives him a pleading look to take pity on her sister.

QUEEN CALIFA

Captain, I am the only other with the knowledge. I have put my people at enough risk. I cannot leave them without a queen as well.

CAPT. BRET

We can't accept defeat. We're all warriors and I'm not gonna go down without a fight.

One Centuria begins drumming the floor with her spear and chanting.

CENTURIA

Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight! ...

Others join in the drum circle and battle cry until the echo thunders throughout the throne room.

The Queen raises her arm and a hush falls over the great hall.

QUEEN CALIFA

Then you are all unanimous in this course of action?
CENTURIAS
(in unison)
Aye!

QUEEN CALIFA
So it is said, so let it be! But you will need this.

Queen Califa takes the crystal necklace from around her neck in her hand. She walks down the steps and places it around Metrista's neck.

The Queen stands and pounds her staff on the ground. She picks it up points the crystal at Captain Brent and Metrista and beams them out of the Throne Room.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY
Capt. Brent and Metrista appear in an ELEVATOR blasting deafeningly loud elevator music.

Metrissa covers her ears.

METRISTA
Are the instruments out of tune?

Capt. Brent has his hand over his left ear and tucks his shoulder into his right while pressing the door open button.

CAPT. BRENT
Out of tune and tone deaf.

The elevator doors open onto:

INT. HALLWAY OF A GOVERNMENT OFFICE - DAY
Capt. Brent and Metrista appear in a hallway with Linoleum tiles, drop ceilings, fluorescent lights and walls coated in drab neutral paint outside a door that reads: DEPARTMENT OF ETERNAL AFFAIRS.

CAPT. BRENT
What the Hell? I expected more fire and brimstone.
METRISTA
Hell always manifests itself as what the damned hates the most.

CAPT. BRENT
Bureaucracy. Perfect.

Capt. Brent walks to the door, opens it and walks through reception room to the SECRETARY’S DESK. It is to the left of a door marked: DIRECTOR.

The SECRETARY, an old crabby biddy of a woman looks up when the hallway door closes.

SECRETARY
Yes?

CAPT. BRENT
We'd like to see the director.

SECRETARY
May I ask what this is concerning?

CAPT. BRENT
It's an urgent matter.

SECRETARY
You'll have to wait and while you're at it fill these out in triplicate.

The SECRETARY hands Capt. Brent A STACK OF FORMS. No pen, no clipboard.

Capt. Brent scans the room. There are no chairs and no side or coffee tables.

CAPT. BRENT
No pen?

SECRETARY
I don't loan out pens.

CAPT. BRENT
Usually when you get asked to fill out forms, they give you a
pen and a clipboard or a place
to sit and a writing surface.

SECRETARY
It's been a rough couple of
eons. Budget cuts you know.

Secretary tilts back and files her nails.

Capt. Brent puts the forms down on the desk and tries to use the pen near the sign-in sheet.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)
That pen is for signing in only.

Capt. Brent keeps writing.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)
You can't do that there. I need to keep my desk clear at all times.

Captain Brent looks at Metrista then back at the secretary.

CAPT. BRENT
I don't have time for this nonsense.

He throws the papers at the secretary.

SECRETARY
Now look what you've done.

She gets down on the floor to collect the disarrayed papers.

Capt. Brent walks past her toward the DIRECTOR's OFFICE DOOR.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)
What are you doing? You can't go in there without an appointment.

Metrista draws and levels her sword at the secretary's neck.

METRISTA
We don't have eternity.
It's all about you. If I had a denarius coin for every person that didn't have time to follow the procedure ...

The secretary's eyes glow red, sticks tongue out and hisses. The manicured fingernails turn into hideous talons and the secretary transforms into a demon and pounces at Metrista.

Metrista draws her sword and coolly beheads the demon in midair pounce.

The body slumps over the desk. The head rolls around on the ground.

METRISTA
You would still be dead.

Sword drawn, she back Brent up as he opens the director's door.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Brent and Metrista walk into a richly appointed office with deep pile carpets, paintings by the masters like Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Picasso hanging on the wall.

Tasteful classical music plays lightly.

At the far end of the office, a high-back leather chair becomes visible with it's back to the door and front to a plate glass window looking out over burning rock and magma and demons driving work crews.

Brent draws his sidearm, cocks it to chamber a round and points it ahead at the back of the chair.

CAPT. BREN'T
O.K. turnaround real slow.

The chair turns to reveal a clean cut, clean-shaven executive type. It's UHL and he's messing with Capt. Brent.
UHL
Oh put those down. If I wanted to kill you I would have done before you stepped off the elevator.

Capt. Brent lowers his firearm, Metrista lowers her sword weapon.

METRISTA
Lord Uhl?

UHL
Who else?

UHL sticks out his arms in a TA-DA kind of gesture. He looks through the open door to see his demon secretary’s head roll by.

UHL (CONT’D)
You know how hard it is to find good help? Now I have to post on Monsterjobs.

Capt. Brent wears a surprised look.

UHL (CONT’D)
Don't look so surprised Captain. Who do you think created the Internet? Al Gore?

METRISTA
We don't have time for this exercise. Drop this pretense.

CAPT. BRENT
We came to you for help. Lord Tyran has escaped, he's gotten his powers back.

UHL
Oh my. I really wish there was something I could do, but as you can see I've got a very full schedule.

An enraged Capt. Brent leaps at Uhl and they go crashing through the window into the heart of the Netherworld.

Metrista sighs and jumps down after them.
Uhl hits the ground. Capt. Brent lands on top, pins Uhl and grabs the lapels of his suit and shakes him.

**CAPT. BRENT**
Where is the shield generator?

**UHL**
It's right under your noses or rather over your heads. It's the beacon of the island.

Uhl throws Capt. Brent off, stands and brushes off his suit.

**UHL (CONT'D)**
Hey! Hands off the suit.

Uhl examines and dusts himself off.

**UHL (CONT'D)**
Look at this, you ruined it.

**CAPT. BRENT**
Where is it? How do we turn it off?

**UHL**
I swear, nobody has a sense of style or humor anymore.

Uhl transforms. The suited bureaucrat's complexion changes from a human flesh tone to red. His eyes turn dark black, horns grow out of his head, his nails grow and he transforms into a hulk of a mythical beast.

Capt. Brent recovers his footing and sizes up Uhl in his actual form.

**CAPT. BRENT**
Another test? I don't have time for this.

**UHL**
Make the time.

Uhl throws a punch at Capt. Brent.

**CAPT. BRENT**
Brawling?
UHL
Not quite Captain, we're settling this like men.

CAPT. BRENT
In that case, I'm not sure which of us is at the disadvantage.

Capt. Brent punches Uhl in the face.

Uhl swats him away.

UHL
You're right Captain this is rather boring.

SWORDS appear in the hands of Capt. Brent and Uhl.

They charge each other, swing and lock swords.

Uhl extends his finger talons on his free hand and swats at Capt. Brent.

Capt. Brent's chest ripping his shirt and lacerating his chest.

CAPT. BRENT
Hey! That was my favorite shirt.

Uhl holds his sword in his right hand and swings down on Capt. Brent.

UHL
Oh Captain, it's military issue. I'm sure you have a whole closet of them.

CAPT. BRENT
I do, but that's besides the point. Blood stains don't come out.

Brent anticipates this move, switches his sword to his left hand, defends against the blow while spinning onto his left leg, kicks Uhl, and sweeps his legs out with kicking with his right leg. Then Brent slashes across the felled Uhl's chest with his sword.
CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)

Had enough?

Uhl gets to his feet and holds his sword with both hands in a defensive posture.

UHL
You know Captain; I am almost tempted to let you win. I would really like it if someone Tyran in his place. He has had it coming for a few eons.

CAPT. BRENT
Don't do me any favors.

UHL
As you wish.

Uhl takes a swing at Capt. Brent's neck. Brent ducks.

The momentum spins Uhl around and Brent jumps and kicks Uhl in the back.

Uhl turns around and instead of holding a sword, he's holding a machine gun.

CAPT. BRENT
You can't bring a gun to a knife fight!

UHL
You're the one that asked me not to do you any favors. Besides, I'm a god, I can do whatever I want.

Uhl fires.

Metrista sees the reversal of fortunes and runs and jumps into the line of fire, tackles Brent and takes the rounds of bullet intended for Brent.

UHL (CONT'D)
Uh-oh, that's going to cost me.
Uhl approaches and bends over the pile of bodies and sees the shot-up Metrista on top of a seemingly dead Capt. Brent.

Capt. Brent opens his eyes.

**CAPT. BRENT**

You know what the problem is
Uhl? It's all fun and games
until somebody loses and eye.

Capt. Brent stabs Uhl through the eye and pulls his sword back out and puts it in its scabbard.

**CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)**

Then it's just fun.

Uhl staggers around, screams in pain, and lurches away.

Capt. Brent sits up and turns Metrista over.

**METRISTA**

Leave me Brent, I'm done for
go get your fleet.

**CAPT. BRENT**

I've seen you die once before.
Take a minute catch your
breath and then we'll press on.

Metrists coughs.

**METRISTA**

That was up top. Down here I
am as mortal as you are.

**CAPT. BRENT**

I don't leave my troops behind.

**METRISTA**

A soldier knows better, looks
after the good of the unit.
You've earned passage. Take
the Queen's Crystal, follow
dante's path along the river it
will take you to the port. You
can use the crystal. When you
see my sister, tell her I found
my way back.
Metrista dies and her body evaporates.

Capt. Brent gets up. Walks up the levee and begins walking Dante’s Path sword in one hand, crystal in the other.

DANTE’S PATH -

Brent alternates between running and walking but only gets a few miles when he hears horses trotting. Quickly it gets louder and more thunderous.

It's Uhl on his CHARIOT driven by a pack of SIX CERBERUSES (the three-headed hellhound) at terrific speed occupying the entire path.

Capt. Brent sees it and dives out of the way to let it pass.

Uhl halts the chariot.

    UHL
    Get on.

    CAPT. BRENT
    No thanks. I'd rather walk.

Capt. Brent draws his sword and points it at Uhl.

    UHL
    The path is a trick, t like everything down here. You'll never get there unless I take you.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Why should I trust you?

    UHL
    Because a bargain is a bargain, a few fun permutations notwithstanding. Do you know how boring it is dealing with condemned souls? But you are a breath of fresh air in an ocean of brimstone.

    CAPT. BRENT
    Thanks, I'm flattered.
UHL
You can keep walking and
everything will go on up there
without you or I can take you
down the express lane of the
highway of hell.

CAPT. BREN'T
But I'm not dead.

UHL
Doesn't matter. Everyone’s
bound by the laws of this
realm.

CAPT. BREN'T
Except you.

UHL
Correct. I am honor bound to
help you. Smiting Tyran is
just an added bonus.

Capt. Brent climbs on. Uhl drives his dogs and the chariot flies
down the path.

The crystal starts glowing.

CAPT. BREN'T
Stop. The crystal is glowing.

UHL
It’s up to you to find the
matching glow.

CAPT. BREN'T
Is that another hint?

Uhl smiles.

UHL
I said I'd take you, but I never
said anything about stopping.

Brent menaces Uhl with his sword.

CAPT. BREN'T
I asked nicely.
UHL
You can poke both my eyes
out, cut my ears, nose and
tongue off and gore me until
Armageddon. I'm still not
stopping. Besides, there is the
small matter of the moat.

Captain Brent looks over the edge of the chariot to see a thick wall
of ice, surrounded by a moat of fire.

CAPT. BRET
But how can I use the key if
I'm moving too fast to find the
hole?

UHL
You must have faith Captain.

CAPT. BRET
Of course, leap!

Capt. Brent hangs the crystal around his neck takes his sword in
his hand and leapfrogs across the back of three Cerberuses to the
lead hound.

As the dogs keep running, the crystal grows brighter.

Brent prepares to jump and Uhl yells out:

UHL
(shouting)
Captain, take this!

Uhl throws and Brent catches a QUARTERSTAFF TRIDENT.

CAPT. BRET
What's this for?

UHL
You'll know when the time
comes.

The crystal glows at maximum brilliance. Armed with the sword
and the trident in each hand jumps, weapons pointed at the glacier
over the moat of fire.
Instead of planting the projectiles in the ice, Captain Brent passes through the ice to land in THE VAULT.

THE VAULT -

A hangar and dockyard confining all the vanished military vessels and personnel in stasis.

INT. U.S.S. GLENN - BRIDGE - DAY

Capt. Brent finds himself on the bridge of the U.S.S. GLENN and surveys the port around him through the forward window and sees a fleet of disappeared battleships and aircraft carriers and planes stopped in mid-flight in a state of suspended animation.

The deck crew that once stood frozen comes back to life and find themselves in the final minutes of pandemonium before their vessels disappeared.

Captain Teague comes out of his state of suspended animation.

    CAPTAIN TEAGUE
    We're surrounded being pulled
    into an enormous electro-
    luminescent field. Sensors
    can't make a dent in the
    anomaly. Last location
    approximately 39∞ 15' N/ 26∞
    16' E. We're being dragged ...

He stops transmitting when he registers Capt. Brent.

    CAPTAIN TEAGUE (CONT'D)
    Who are you and how did you
    get on my bridge?

    CAPT. BRENT
    My name is Captain Thorton
    Brent, United States Air Force.
    Your escort pilot made it back.

    CAPTAIN TEAGUE
    Good old Krauss.

    CAPT. BRENT
    We're responding to your
    distress call. Do your radios
    work?
CAPTAIN TEAGUE
This is Captain Teague, U.S.S. GLENN, will any ship within the sound of my voice please respond? Over.

The radio crackles.

CAPTAIN WILLIS (V.O.)
Captain Teague this is Captain Willis U.S.S. Kelvin. Over.

CAPT. BRENT
We have no time for formalities. I need you to broadcast to all vessels within earshot on all military frequencies to stand down red alert and await further instructions.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Captain Willis did you copy that?

CAPTAIN WILLIS (V.O.)
Affirmative.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Spread the word.

CAPTAIN WILLIS (V.O.)
Acknowledged.

The bridge crew wakes up including Commander Brent.

COMMANDER BRENT
Thornton? How the hell did you get here?

CAPT. BRENT
You passed through a supernatural phenomenon. There's not a lot of time to explain. We've got an invasion to repel.
CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Red Alerts cancellation confirmations incoming.

CAPT. BRENT
Keep retransmitting to standby for instructions.

COMMANDER BRENT
We should also dispatch all available signal officers to signal the planes.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Communications carry out that order. Commander, see to it.

LT. THOMAS
Attention all vessels. This is U.S.S. GLENN. Stand down red alerts, await further instructions.

CAPT. BRENT
Captain Teague I need one of your Seahawks, a pilot, a rappel master and a flare gun to lead the planes out.

Captain Teague points to Commander Brent.

CAPTAIN TEAGUE
Take care of that.

Commander Brent picks up his radio.

COMMANDER BRENT
Flight deck, get a Seahawk ready to lead the air contingent out and a Rappelmaster, and gear.

CAPT. BRENT
Lead the ships straight out into the peninsula to your last position. It's time to time to stack the deck in our favor.
Capt. Brent departs the bridge and heads out to the flight deck.

EXT. FLIGHT DECK - DAY

A SEAHAWK helicopter and pilot stand waiting for Capt. Brent.

Captain Brent climbs onboard.

CAPT. BRET
Do you have what I asked for.

The RAPPEL MASTER hands Capt. Brent the FLARE GUN.

Capt. Brent fires the flare gun and turns to the pilot.

CAPT. BRET (CONT‘D)
Radio them to follow us up and out, we’ll lose comm. under the shield.

The Seahawk ascends and Capt. Brent fires a couple more flares.

PILOT
Fighter pilots, this is Seahawk, please follow us up.

A group of planes, F-15s, F-16s, F-18s and F-22s make vertical ascents behind the Seahawk.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND - DAY

The island is on full alert in preparation for Tyran’s attack.

CATAPULTS are out. The DEFENSIVE PERIMETER WALL is up. Troops are stationed along the wall inside and outside.

A nervous Lt. Orlando looks through field binoculars for any sign of his commanding officer.

Outside the wall, Adina commands a the Centurias detachment.

Inside the wall, the Queen and more troops are prepared as the second line of defense.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND AIRSPACE - DAY

The blue lightning lights up the sky. The chronoslide opens and the Argonaut flies back through followed by a squadron of jets that Tyran has co-opted to his purposes.
The catapults fire their payloads at the planes and take a couple down.

The jets return fire with missiles and weaken the Tower Island's defenses. Walls are felled Centurias are killed.

Another round of catapult fire dispatches Tyran's remaining fighter planes.

The Centurias on the outer perimeter fall back to help protect the city.

Lord Tyran broadcasts from the Argonaut ...

LORD TYRAN
Lay down your arms and surrender Captain Brent to me and I will spare you. Refuse and be destroyed.

Lord Tyran puts the Argonaut in hover mode.

Then he launches a missile at the tower that imprisoned him and blows it up. He launches a second at the Royal Residence and levels it.

EXT. CENTURIA TEMPLE SPIRE - DAY

Captain Brent's Seahawk hovers over the spire. It is hollow at the top and emits a shaft of light. Captain Brent rappels down into the spire. This is the secret location of the SHIELD GENERATOR Emitter and CONTROLS.

He places the crystal into a key slot on the emitter console.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND AIRSPACE - DAY

From overhead a visual of the deactivation of the shield. Slowly the island becomes visible.

INT. CENTURIA TEMPLE SPIRE - DAY

Captain Brent fires a flare.

INT. SEAHAWK HELICOPTER - DAY

The rappel master sees the flare and winches the Captain back into the helicopter.
The radio comes back on.

CAPT. BRENT
Attention air and sea support
make your approaches and
engage the enemy.

(to the pilot)

Now let's go get that son of a bitch.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND AIRSPACE - DAY

The Seahawk flies over the defensive wall and toward the Argonaut in a game of chicken.

Orlando sees this.

ORLANDO
He made it!

Orlando signals Wellington, Caffrey and Adina.

EXT. TOWER ISLAND AIRSPACE - DAY

The Seahawk continues its approach and turns perpendicular to the Argonaut and Captain Brent jumps out onto the nose.

INT. ARGONAUT - COCKPIT - DAY

Lord Tyran sees Captain Brent on the aircraft and smiles as he sees Captain Brent calling him out.

CAPT. BRENT
I heard you wanted a word
with me?

LORD TYRAN
Yes Captain. The choice word
would be, die.

CAPT. BRENT
Well you're gonna have to
come out here and do the dirty
work yourself.

Lord Tyran pushes the canopy panels off the Argonaut and steps out and onto the canopy to face Captain Brent
EXT. ARGONAUT - DAY

The final fisticuffs between Brent and Tyran.

Tyran raise his fists.

LORD TYRAN
Are we settling this like men then?

CAPT. BRENT
No, we're just settling it.

Capt. Brent steps toward Tyran with the TRIDENT in his hand behind his back.

CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)
See I figured something out. If I dropped the shield you'd be subject to the same rules as we mortal men are. This craft is a weapon to dangerous for anyone to have. Most of all you.

Capt. Brent throws the Trident directly at Lord Tyran's heart and impales him.

LORD TYRAN
This is Uhl's handiwork.

CAPT. BRENT
That's right, but I thought I'd add a special touch.

LORD TYRAN
I'm going someplace much worse than The Tower this time.

CAPT. BRENT
That's right. And I'm gonna make sure you get there.

Captain Brent bends down pulls his glove up just enough for his bare palm to make contact with the ship.
CAPT. BRENT (CONT'D)

Computer. Drop all defenses on my mark.

COMPUTER VOICE
Acknowledged Captain Brent.

A warning alarm goes off. Captain Brent pulls his glove back down, stands, runs to the edge of the aircraft, and gives the go sign to the crew in the Seahawk.

CAPT. BRENT
Activate!

COMPUTER VOICE
Acknowledged Captain Brent.

Then Captain Brent jumps off the Argonaut. The wind catches underneath his SQUIRREL SUIT wings and he sails out of harm’s way.

Two F-15 fighter jets fly into range and open AIM-7 Sparrow and AIM-9 Sidewinder missile fire at the Argonaut and clear the scene as the missiles hit their target.

Two F-16s fire Gatling Guns.

Two F-18s fire AIM-120 air-to-air missiles.

The Argonaut explodes in a spectacular display over the shores of Tower Island.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOWER ISLAND - DAY

Rebuilding takes place on Tower Island. The Battleship U.S.S. Glenn and Aircraft Carrier U.S.S Armstrong permanently station off the shore as a diplomatic gesture from the NATO governments.

On shore, a recuperated Captain Brent stands with his men Orlando, Wellington and Caffrey ready to return home.

QUEEN CALIFA
Captain there is no way we can thank you for your service.
CAPT. BRENT
After you finish rebuilding are you going to put the shield back up?

QUEEN CALIFA
My daughter seems to think we should reconnect with the world and I agree.

A seahawk helicopter lands to take the Valkyries back to the U.S.S. ARMSTRONG.

CAPT. BRENT
Well then I guess this is goodbye your majesty.

QUEEN CALIFA
Let's say until we meet again. You and your men are welcome here anytime. And my daughter, you must come and visit your mother and sisters often.

ADINA
Mother what are you talking about I have work to do here. There is a kingdom to run.

QUEEN CALIFA
It will run just fine while you get reacquainted with the mortal world. It seems only appropriate that you should help defend the world of those who helped us save ours.

ADINA
Do you mean?

QUEEN CALIFA
That is correct. I am giving you leave. Captain, take care of my daughter and take care of yourselves.
CAPT. BREN'T
You bet your majesty.

Captain Brent spins Adina around and they finally kiss.

FADE OUT