

BRADLEY ASHE
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FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

A view from space shows a three-tiered horizontal star. Closer on the star shows that an asteroid comes into focus. Standing out on the asteroid is a medium sized building.

CLOSER ON THE BUILDING

INT. COMBAT TRAINING ROOM - DAY

SUPER: "THE ASTEROID ALTERIA"

The floor is a shiny hardwood. Beautifully framed pictures are on the walls of famous robots and action figures from Earth.

Buzz Lightyear, Robot from lost in space, R2D2, Transformer Action Heroes and G.I. Joe. The largest and positioned highest of all is a picture of Pinocchio in a very special frame.

Seated on the floor in a semi-circle are RECRUITS of the ALTERIAN ARMADA. It is a race of PUPPETS, MANNEQUINS and HUMANOID ROBOTS.

The puppets movement depicts movements of stringed puppets. When the mannequins are seen, it is a pose that is an advanced movement from their last. The humanoids move like normal humans.

RENALDI, a caped, unique metal humanoid soldier with a metal head and wide owl eyes strides out in front of the class.

RENALDI

Next two! Recruit left standing is
declared winner!

The beautiful young puppet COLESTIE, daughter of Renaldi steps center mat for the match. Her OPPONENT, a female puppet stands opposite.

Keeping eyes on each other, they bow. COMMANDER ZERLOCK enters the training room, stands and watches. Both challengers take a fighting stance.

RENALDI

Begin!

The opponent rushes with a series of lunge punches. With cotton stuffed arms Colestie blocks, and averts the attack. She comes back with a series of kicks and punches that are all blocked.

The opponent throws a side kick, Colestie drops to the floor and sweeps the other leg. The Opponent falls to the ground beaten. The match ends. The cloth on Colestie's right knee is flapping.

RENALDI

Colestie wins! Class, line-up!

The students line up and stand at attention.

RENALDI

Training was very good today. Next time we start weapons training. Class dismissed.

As the other students exit, Colestie stays behind.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Your work with our young, the fleet training, it is very noble, Renaldi.

Colestie listens. She smiles as she gathers her gear.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

I knew the day I found you, you would someday become the most powerful robot on the asteroid.

Renaldi smiles.

RENALDI

You like to shoot for the crescent, Commander.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Always, that way even if I miss I'll land among the stars.

Commander Zerlock leaves the room.

Renaldi reaches behind him, and pulls out a small box labeled, "Revitalization Kit." He opens it, looks through and takes out a threaded needle. He ties the end of the thread into a knot.

COLESTIE

What did he mean, found you, Father?

RENALDI

When my seamster designed me I was a late bloomer, so I was discarded. Commander Zerlock took me in.

Renaldi bends down on one knee and extends his hand.

RENALDI

Colestie. Come sit here.

Colestie sits on her buttocks with her knees facing Renaldi.

COLESTIE

Did it take a long time for me to finally get it, Father?

He pinches the fabric on her knee together and begins to suture.

RENALDI

You've blossomed long before I did. You're at the top of your technical classes and way ahead of the curve.

He finishes suturing, Colestie takes a close look.

COLESTIE

Dad, you're the best.

INT. HIGH COMMAND CENTER - DAY

SUPER: "THE PLANET GORGON"

The walls are huge carved sculptures of dragons. Sitting at a console are silhouettes of two hooded creatures, sisters EURYALE and STHENO. They view a holographic map of space.

Among the stars they focus on their planet located in an intergalactic universe. Euryale's long green fingernail points out and circles an asteroid in orbit on the map.

EURYALE

Computation of the asteroid's orbit shows that it must follow a parallax of zero point zero astronomical units. They are on course to impact.

STHENO

The weapon is complete, sister. The asteroid that has been in rotation around our world for centuries will be no more.

EURYALE

Very good. This insignificant little asteroid has been like a pebble under my scales.

INT. EARTH - HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

SUPER: "COASTAL CITY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA"

GRADY, 21 a gang type is in the quaint living room of KISTHENA, a gray haired old lady with sinister speech.

KISTHENA

The creatures you describe are ancient. Hundreds are falling by their hand and many more fell long before your lifetime. But they have a weakness.

Grady nods.

KISTHENA

There is a little book with a black cover, Biblion Ebeninos Pall. Your answers are there.

GRADY

Little book with the black cover?
Where do I find it?

KISTHENA

The creatures live in shrines of demonic worship. You will find the book there.

EXT. APARTMENTS - BACK COURTYARD - DAY

Grady peeps his head over a patio fence of an apartment, looks side to side then climbs over into the patio.

Staying low, he looks left and right then rushes to the sliding glass back door. He removes a small tool from his pocket and pries the door open.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Grady enters.

He stoops and peeks as he tiptoes into the

LIVING ROOM

and goes to a wall shelf full of books. He pulls a few out, then sets them down on a table. He walks down a

HALLWAY

leading to a bedroom. He enters. The wall clock in the background reads: 6:15pm. Minutes later the wall clock reads: 6:23pm.

The bedroom door opens, Grady emerges and steps back into the hallway. The black book is in his hand. He removes a small plastic bag from his pocket and places the book inside.

The bag is too small, part of it is exposed. He hears off camera sounds of the sliding glass door from the point where he entered the house. He steps into the

HALLWAY BATHROOM

and quickly exits through a window above the bathtub.

EXT. APARTMENT - COURTYARD - DAY

Grady finds that he has lost his bearings and can't find the exit gate.

He sees a

PAVED DRIVEWAY

with garages on each side and walks the path.

Inside one of the open garages, Grady sees ladies gathered around a 1957 Chevy. They work under the hood. Kisthena turns, looks at Grady. Her sisters THRASILLA and BENZANOIE also look.

GRADY

I don't know how to get outta this damn place. Can you help me?

Kisthena approaches. She looks at the bag in Grady's hand.

KISTHENA

Go straight down the walkway, turn left at the third apartment and-

A ringtone to the tune of Ray Charles's rendition of "America the Beautiful" blasts from the cell phone in her pocket. She is slow in answering. Her voice is an unintelligible whisper.

She lifts a quick finger at Grady and talks into the phone. Grady looks nervous, he takes off running. The woman watches him run down the paved road then turn left. He finds his way to the

COURTYARD ENTRY GATE

where he is surprised by the cloaked and hooded Stheno and Euryale. Dark gauze hides their faces.

INT. DEMONIC SHRINE - NIGHT

Carved sculptures of dragons, bronze wings, candles, walls decorated with pictures of winged dragons, charts, maps, statues of dragons, and a mirrored ceiling.

Grady is being held hostage, and forced to lie on a gurney. His hands and legs are bound. The dark, hooded silhouettes of Stheno and Euryale stand above him with covered faces.

Stheno's scaly green hand removes the lid from a jar of small, green, slug-like creatures. Long fingers, with bronze fingernails, reach in and take one out.

STHENO

We have what you call a present.

Stheno, the shorter of the two creatures holds Grady's mouth open. Dark shadows of the creatures stand over him.

GRADY

No! Please! No! Get off me, bitch!
Get back! No! Don't. Oh my God! No!

EURYALE

This will assure your allegiance.

GRADY

No! Please! No!

EXT. SPACE

Three dragon-like spaceships orbit the three-tiered asteroid of Alteria.

An army of hooded, winged, birdlike creatures called GARGOYLES disembark from two of the spaceships. They are armed with automatic rifles and missiles and descend upon Alteria.

The third spaceship leaves the area.

EXT. ALTERIA - DAY

Sirens blare. The city streets are much like Earth's. They are populated with puppets, mannequins and humanoid robots, all Alterian people. They scramble for a secure shelter.

EXT. MILITARY COMMAND CENTER - DAY

Oversized, super-strength humanoid SOLDIERS scramble to the tarmac and line-up. Each wears metal hooded capes and knee-high boots. A sickle in a side belt sheath, and firearm on the other.

RENALDI, strides in front of the fleet.

RENALDI

Brothers and sisters, sensors detect
that once again our enemy is near.
We have fought countless battles and
many on both sides have fallen.

The struggle for our existence will
not be taken lightly.

The soldiers stand at attention.

RENALDI

Your steady training and constant
battle readiness will prevail. The
Gorgonians will learn that Alteria
is our home world, and we mean to
defend her with all that we are.

Empowered, the soldiers begin to swell.

RENALDI

We will be victorious. As we take to
the skies may the Supreme Being ride
along beside each of us.

Flying Gargoyles shower the asteroid with gunfire and missiles.
Bombs explode on the tarmac as the soldiers rally to the hanger.

INT. HANGER - DAY

Alterian soldiers in their aircraft taxi to the tarmac. A
missile enters the hanger and comes for Renaldi. He ducks.
It explodes, he is blown into the air and falls injured and
dazed.

Alterian aircraft #1 taxis out the door.

EXT. HANGER - DAY

Alterian aircraft #1 clears the hanger. As it barely gets
airborne, it is blown away by a bomb from flying Gargoyle #1.

Gargoyle #1 continues ahead. It flies into the hanger.

INT. HANGER - DAY

Gargoyle #1 fires at Renaldi as he takes cover behind other
aircraft. As Gargoyle #1 flies closer, Renaldi, wounded, removes
his sickle.

He takes aim and hooks Gargoyle #1's head, slicing it cleanly
from its body. Headless, it crashes into the side of an aircraft
and dies.

Red blood with tiny worm-like creatures spill out.

Amidst the smoke and ash, Renaldi sees Colestie enter the hanger.

RENALDI

You have yet to evolve, Colestie.
The battlefield is a dangerous place
for puppets. You should not be here.

COLESTIE

And miss my chance to help the most
powerful robot on Alteria?

She helps Renaldi to his feet. He gets into his aircraft, gives her a nod, then taxis out of hanger door.

EXT. IN FLIGHT - DAY

As Renaldi takes flight, he shoots down three Gargoyles. He takes a hit and goes down.

FADE TO BLACK:

COLESTIE (V.O.)

Father?...Father?

INT. ALTERIA - LABORATORY - DAY

It is a warehouse. On the higher shelves are robot and mannequin parts. Below are shelves of puppet and rag doll parts.

Below them, a G.I. Joe action figure stands in a corner alone. On the bottom are rolls of fabric. The floor has swivel seats, tables with sewing machines, needles and many spools of thread.

Commander Zerlock and LIEUTENANT SANTOURI address a group of rag-tag Alterians, all damaged and in need of repair.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Can we hold out much longer? I don't
know, but we will never capitulate.

COLESTIE

Commander? Lieutenant? He's awake.

Renaldi lies on a gurney, Zerlock and Santouri rush to his side.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

Thank-you, my dear.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

He's far advanced from a dummy. He can take a recharge.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

Revitalization is not predicated on whose humanoid, puppet or mannequin!

Renaldi opens his eyes.

Zerlock, Santouri and Colestie stand over him.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Santouri, for the record there is no evolutionary humanoid specialist I trust more than you.

Renaldi's metal head is torn on one side, there are holes in his torso and one of his legs is twisted backward.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

But I need soldiers to secure our refuge! The fate of our world sits on the threshold of space.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

But, he has digressed Commander!

Renaldi raises his clinched fists.

RENALDI

I am Renaldi. I had surpassed those phases of my industrial arranged existence eons ago.

He shows signs of weakness from his display of bravado.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

Along with others, I've had him on recharge the three days we've been holed up here in this makeshift lab. I can't repair them fast enough.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Destroyed by attrition. A ridiculous war with an opponent thinking our asteroid vapors are causing orbit decay.

COLESTIE

If their concerns are the jet forces evaporating from our world, I mean, if we're not losing our orbit, we need to show it to the Gorgonians.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Indeed. I have seen over eight hundred creation anniversaries. Long ago, we were at truce with them.

Colestie's eyes widen.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

I had only one hundred creation anniversaries when our crowned leaders and I met with their high command. We showed them our minimal evaporating material. Our scientists ran simulations and sub-programs.

Santouri nods.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

We've proved it to them. Alteria's burn off is just not great enough to adjust our world's orbit. We are not on a collision course with Gorgon. They mocked us killed the crowned leaders.

COLESTIE

Why not you?

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

I was the messenger. We have been at war ever since.

Santouri takes Renaldi's hand.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

Renaldi has faithfully fought them for many years, and shows the battle wounds to prove it. Recharges completed in minutes, take days now.

Renaldi drifts in and out of consciousness.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

I tried to find ports, poked and prodded him so much that his energy runs low once again.

Zerlock steps closer and compassionately lowers his head.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Could he be evolving? Could he be, the one?

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

I have, in fact, been told stories of divine risings, but I have seen none in my entire existence.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

With no hope of evolving and unable to sustain a recharge, what do you recommend?

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

I recommend the only hope we have, Sir. The emergency recharge room.

Zerlock looks at him in disbelief.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI (CONT'D)

Like you said, you need soldiers, Commander.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

I understand completely. Of all my soldiers he is the most pure. Do it.

Zerlock leaves the room, as does Santouri and the Alterians. Bright sunlight shows outside the window as they all leave Renaldi alone.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALTERIA - LABORATORY - NIGHT

Darkness is showing outside the window. Renaldi's eyes open, he lifts his head.

RENALDI

Hey!...someone!...need
recharge...drained!...can't protect
myself, let alone Alteria!

There is silence. Renaldi lifts himself to a seated position and looks around. He sees a door marked: "Do Not Enter, Emergency Recharge Room."

He wobbles across the room using the wall for balance. He nearly passes out at the door. He grabs the doorknob to catch himself. It is padlocked. After a pause, he pulls the lock, breaking it.

He looks into the recharge room. An expression of shock is on Renaldi's face. He sees beat-up and dismantled Alterians in parts and stripped of their copper linings.

Renaldi does not turn around as he senses a presence behind him. Renaldi stands there drained, labored breathing, staring at pieces of his expired brothers and sisters.

RENALDI

What happened to them?

Lieutenant Santouri stands behind him.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

Their pulsation emitters never
re-imaged. Since evolving into
robots.

Renaldi nervously steps back.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI (CONT'D)

...like you, they were recharged
several thousand times. Now they
won't take a recharge.

RENALDI

You don't have to tell me. My
pulsation emitters are gone too!

Lieutenant Santouri shakes his head. His eyes began welling up.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

I tried. It was no use. But your
copper linings can be harvested to
help other robots.

Renaldi still gropes for strength.

RENALDI

That's why you left me alone, so my
power cells would drain! You and
father were in on it.

With a dread expression, he turns, faces Lieutenant Santouri.
Standing behind Santouri are the Alterians. With their presence,
Renaldi's expression changes to one of restored confidence.

As Lieutenant Santouri steps aside, the Alterians approach
Renaldi. He sees they are wielding screwdrivers and wrenches.

Colestie is in back of the crowd.

COLESTIE

Leave my father alone!

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

With no power, you would collapse
out there, depriving us of your
copper linings! You cannot last!

Renaldi steps back, takes several deep breaths and is overcome
by a change in his body structure.

COLESTIE

No! Wait! He is evolving!

The Alterians are amazed when Renaldi's muscles enlarge and his
body emits a neon green glow.

He strides across the room to the window.

ALTERIAN #1

Great stars, he's changing!

ALTERIAN #2

Oh, oh, he is the one!

ALTERIAN #3

Will he help us?

RENALDI

Seclusion and solitude has tested our tempers. But how can war be waged against a measure of serenity?

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

You have achieved the higher divine. Still you are only one against the Gorgonian armada. What can one soldier hope to achieve?

RENALDI

Peace. The enemy is out there, if they will listen. There is a chance.

COLESTIE

I want to help!

From the back of the room Colestie pushes her way to the front. They gladly make a pathway for her to reach Renaldi. She meets him at the window. Renaldi bends down on one knee. They embrace.

RENALDI

You have yet to evolve, daughter. One day you will become all powerful. It is that day that I will summon your help.

COLESTIE

But, but what if you don't return?

RENALDI

Mine is a mission of peace. I will return, and set Alteria right again. But regardless, you must go on.

He vanishes. His wide owl eyes are last to disappear.

There is a wind as the Alterians gather to the window.

EXT. ALTERIAN SKY - NIGHT

A light streaks through the stars. Renaldi re-appears in the foreground. In the background Alteria is suspended in space.

INT. ALTERIA - LABORATORY - NIGHT

Santouri and Colestie are together at the window.

COLESTIE

He vanishes, he flies without
aircraft. Will he evolve further?

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

I don't know. Even he may not know
the dimensions of his evolution.

EXT. SPACE

Renaldi sees two Gorgonian spaceships and heads for them. A weapon is aimed and he is fired upon by one. The missiles strike him with a fiery blaze. They stun him knocking him off course.

The two spaceships then aim their weapons on Alteria and fire a beam of light. The beams come together. The asteroid explodes.

RENALDI

NO! COLESTIE!

Renaldi is wild with anger and flies toward the ships. One fires a weapon at him. A deflector bubble appears and shields him. As he advances the second ship adds a beam. The bubble slows.

With no effect against his shield, the beam stops. Renaldi's bubble disappears. Suddenly a collective beam from both spacecrafts pulses toward him.

Renaldi places the palm of his one hand up reflecting the beam into his other palm. He ricochets the beam back at the Gorgonian spaceships. The two spaceships explode in a mighty blast.

With a look of anguish and despair, Renaldi drops his head into his hands in resignation. Through tears, he thinks to himself.

RENALDI (V.O.)
My home, my world, Colestie all
gone. Where do I go? What will I do?
What would she have wanted me to do?

Alone in space, Renaldi raises his head.

QUICKFLASH - LABORATORY - NIGHT

Renaldi is on one knee in front of Colestie.

RENALDI
...you must go on.

END QUICKFLASH

EXT. OVERVIEW OF THE BAY BRIDGE - NIGHT

SUPER: "COASTAL CITY"

A small twister comes down from the sky and splashes into the bay off the coast of downtown Coastal City. Moments later, Renaldi walks out of the water onto the shore.

EXT. OVERVIEW OF THE CITY - DAY

One building stands out among the view.

CLOSER ON THE BUILDING

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

In a seedy district, there are sights and sounds of a busy neighborhood. Traffic, people crossing the boulevard, some drinking, talking and texting.

Like hieroglyphics, graffiti is written on the walls, telephone poles, curbs and a dumpster.

With Grady stands in front of the apartment complex two more gang types, FOX, 25, and RIM, 19.

Fox is muscular. Behind him stand Grady and Rim. Secretly they sell drugs. Their eyes dart back and forth.

As people pass, Fox advertises his product. His smile reveals straight, even pearly whites.