TERMINATOR: THE CONNOR WARS

"Of Course You Realize" F0317

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This document is fan-produced fiction based on the television series, Terminator - The Sarah Connor Chronicles. This is done in the spirit of fan fiction - to have fun and enrich the total fan experience beyond the limitations of the official story vehicle.

In that spirit, and holding to the long tradition of free support and promotion that fanfic brings to a fictional "universe", this story is being made available for entertainment purposes of the loyal fans of the show for as long as the powers that be don't object.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INSERT PHOTO

GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT in his union blue uniform.

JOHN

After Gettysburg, General Ulysses S. Grant hounded the Confederate army. In seven weeks he suffered sixty-five thousand casualties. The South, close to a hundred thousand. The Union won because the North could sustain the losses. The South couldn't.

EXT. PLAZA MALL - NIGHT

JOHN CONNOR and CAMERON stand outside the giant rubble pile near the entrance. John wears a thin, form-fitting leather glove on his right hand.

CAMERON

It was your fault.

JOHN

My fault? That the crew mutinied?

CAMERON

Yes. When you didn't tell Commander Flores the details of the mission, it created the wrong impression with the crew.

JOHN

That I'd sided too far with the machines.

CAMERON

Or that we were in charge.

Headlights approach.

JOHN

So you're saying that killing Dietze was a mistake.

CAMERON

No. Even now his biases would have been a danger.

The Chevy Volt pulls up. It's headlights are turned off. ALLISON YOUNG gets out from the driver's side.

ALLISON

We clear?

Cameron takes a quick scan around.

CAMERON

Clear.

Allison pops the trunk lid open. John, Cameron, and Allison go to the trunk. John aims a flashlight and we see...

...T-ELLISON, the spitting image of JAMES ELLISON, awake. dressed in a Navy service khaki uniform with the naval rank of captain, and folded into the trunk.

JOHN

Oh, that's creepy.

ALLISON

I've been trying to tell you that. Thank you.

JOHN

No. I mean, I know him. Or, I knew him. The human him.

ALLISON

We really should get him inside.

JOHN

Right. Captain, if you'd join us?

T-Ellison climbs out of the trunk. Allison closes the trunk lid.

JOHN (cont'd)

Did you brief her on everything you and Flores talked about the other day?

ALLISON

Yeah.

JOHN

OK, then. Let's hope this works.

John nods to Cameron. Cameron gets in the driver's side. She doesn't turn on the headlights before putting the car in gear and driving off.

EXT. STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

The field outside the Dodger Stadium ruins is lush with fall vegetation. Though wild, there is semi-cultivated order. A 15cm cube of ice parachutes in.

It EXPLODES fairly silently about 5 meters above the ground. The paper parachute and shrouds just float away.

In the distance, another QUIET EXPLOSION from another parachute. And another.

EXT. PORT OF LONG BEACH PIER F - MORNING

Cameron's car pulls up near the Jimmy Carter, which has been moved to a middle harbor. SAILORS work on and around the submarine.

Cameron (as Allison) gets out of the car. Cameron looks over at the sub and sees COMMAND MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER HAYES (50) out on deck.

CAMERON

Excuse me, Chief!

HAYES

Colonel?

CAMERON

Where can I find Commander Flores?

HAYES

Probably down in the mess.

CAMERON

Permission to come on board?

HAYES

Granted.

Cameron crosses on the gangplank.

INT. COMMAND AND CONTROL - MORNING

John steps into the surprisingly busy room. DWAYNE and TIFFANY man the communication equipment. FRANK LIN (30) marks the big plastic situation board that JASON stares at while other SOLDIERS move about.

JOHN

What's up, Jason?

JASON

I don't know.

John joins Jason at the board that shows exaggerated views of L.A. and California, as well as some tables of numbers.

JASON (cont'd)

We lost track of one division out of Simi Valley.

JOHN

Hawks?

JASON

No. Ground metal. It's just tough to figure. After losing Topanga, Skynet's been moving troops around.

JOHN

Tell Brave Deer to keep an eye out. They might try a blitz to get Topanga back.

JASON

You got it.

JOHN

Allison and I are going down to the ports. I'll be back by afternoon.

JASON

OK to send the Rooters out?

JOHN

Sure. Might as well stock up while we have this breather. Anything else?

JASON

That'll do it.

JOHN

Great. See you in a few hours.

John exits.

INT. JIMMY CARTER MESS - MORNING

COMMANDER JESSE FLORES sits at a table near a bulkhead. She has a tray of food and two log books. Two SAILORS are clearing out. Only the COOK remains at his station. Cameron enters and heads straight to Jesse.

JESSE

Yes, Colonel?

CAMERON

May I?

Jesse shrugs. Cameron sits opposite Jesse.

CAMERON (cont'd)

John sent me ahead to see if you needed anything.

JESSE

You mean other than a captain?

Cameron shrugs.

JESSE (cont'd)

You know, Colonel, what I want you can't give me.

CAMERON

What do you want?

Jesse leans back in her chair and considers Cameron.

JESSE

Can I say something off the wall? Just between us.

CAMERON

Sure.

Jesse leans in.

JESSE

I've been on this sub for eleven years. Seen three captains. Managed not to get killed by Skynet. In those years, you know what I learned?

CAMERON

What?

Cameron takes a piece of Jesse's toast and bites into it.

JESSE

Humans aren't as good at submarine warfare as metal is.

Cameron makes a face. Jesse smiles.

JESSE (cont'd)

I take it you've never had vegemite?

Cameron shakes her head as she drinks some water.

CAMERON

Go on.

JESSE

Right. You know, back in Oz we tried to reprogram a trippie to pilot the JC.

CAMERON

What happened?

JESSE

What do you think happened? Once it rebooted, it killed most of the lab techs before its head was blown off.

CAMERON

It's happened here, too.

JESSE

The weird part is that the crew would be OK with it. Metal. After all, our lives are spent living inside a machine.

CAMERON

The crew would really be OK with it?

JESSE

Well...maybe not one or two. One's gone AWL. Dietze. Good man, but hates metal.

CAMERON

May I ask you something?

JESSE

Sure.

CAMERON

Why are you telling me this? Some people would shoot you.

JESSE

I overheard Perry and Connor talking about you fighting with reprogrammed endos. Figured I'd make a pitch. In the meantime, would you like a tour?

Cameron indicates the log books.

CAMERON

You're busy.

JESSE

Nothing that can't wait. How often does a groundie get to be on a nuclear submarine?

Cameron smiles.

CAMERON

Thanks. I'd like that. But only if I'm not in the way.

JESSE

No worries.

Jesse and Cameron stand.

INT. VOLT - DAY

John drives and is nearing the pier where the Jimmy Carter is docked. T-Ellison sits in the passenger seat. Allison sleeps on the back seat.

JOHN

I just want to make sure that we're clear.

T-ELLISON

We are.

JOHN

It's just until the crew gets used to you.

T-ELLISON

I understand. I don't want there to be any problems.

JOHN

If you need the processing power, don't hesitate.

T-Ellison faces John.

T-ELLISON

I really do understand.

(taps head)

Metal. Not wood.

John does a double take and can't quite stifle half of a smile. John parks the car in front of a multi-story building.

JOHN

Allison, wake up. Time to set the stage.

Allison yawns and stretches.

EXT. PORT OFFICE - DAY

Cameron and Jesse approach John standing near his Volt outside of a multi-story building down the pier from the Jimmy Carter.

CAMERON

Wait here for a second.

Jesse stops several meters away from John and waits as John and Cameron have a quick conversation. John looks somewhat surprised but pleased. John moves toward the office building and motions for Jesse to enter.

JOHN

Commander.

Jesse enters the building followed by John and Cameron.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. TOPANGA - DAY

On a school blacktop, twenty SOLDIERS of both genders are engaged in a game of soccer using a beat-up volleyball.

MARTIN BEDELL leads a squad of 30 SOLDIERS to the school.

BEDELL

Ten minutes then we move out.

Most of Bedell's Soldiers just sit and watch the game. Some retreat to the cover of some trees.

Bedell goes over to KYLE REESE who at first glance looks like he's watching the game but instead is staring, deep in thought.

BEDELL (cont'd)

Derek?

KYLE

He hated soccer. Said any game where you couldn't touch the ball with your hands should be banned.

BEDELL

Where'd you find the ball?

KYLE

There's an equipment room.

(beat)

Where you headed?

BEDELL

Patrol. I'm just stretching my legs. Have to get back to C-and-C. Don't forget, you're on at twenty-two hundred.

KYLE

Night watch. Great.

BEDELL

I don't make the orders.

Bedell heads back to his men.

INT. PORT OFFICE ANTEROOM - DAY

The large one-time reception area is bare except for a few chairs and a reception desk. Rising from one of the chairs is T-Ellison. Upon seeing him, Jesse hesitates.

JOHN

Captain James Ellison, this is Commander Jesse Flores.

With a smile, T-Ellison steps forward and extends his hand.

T-ELLISON

I'm looking forward to working together.

Jesse takes his hand.

JESSE

Thank you, sir.

The door to the office opens. In walks Allison, terminatorlike, with a plasma rifle at the ready.

Jesse does a take, looking quickly between Cameron and Allison. Jesse reflexively reaches for her sidearm and is surprised to find it missing.

John holds up the gun.

JOHN

Please have a seat, Commander.

A little stunned, and outnumbered, Jesse takes a seat, as does T-Ellison.

JESSE

What's going on?

JOHN

I hear that you'd be OK with a machine running the Jimmy Carter.

Jesse glances at Cameron.

JESSE

Yes sir. I said that.

JOHN

It looks like you're going to get your wish.

JESSE

What?

JOHN

Captain Ellison.

JESSE

He's...? You're a machine?

T-ELLISON

I am.

Jesse stands.

JESSE

Is this a joke?

CAMERON

No. It isn't. Captain Ellison is a machine.

(off Jesse's look)
You said that it's what you wanted.

JOHN

You have to understand this, Commander, he's not reprogrammed. He's never been under Skynet control and is doing this of his own free will.

JESSE

Free will? Are you saying that it thinks?

JOHN

Do you want to take this, Captain?

T-ELLISON

I think. Not like you do, but my mind is... It's free. As free as yours.

Jesse lets this sink in a bit before noticing Allison again, still standing near John, holding a plasma rifle.

JESSE

What's her story? She metal, too?

CAMERON

No. I am.

Jesse's face expresses "what?"

Cameron briefly glows her eyes blue. Jesse smirks.

JESSE

Does he know how to be captain?

JOHN

That's why we're here, so everyone knows what their duties are. Cameron, could you keep watch?

Allison hands Cameron the rifle, which Jesse watches. Cameron walks off to stand quard.

Allison and John bring chairs to sit with Jesse and T-Ellison.

EXT. STADIUM FIELD - DAY

A large group of ROOTERS, which includes PIERCE, fan out with their gathering baskets through the vegetation looking for edibles.

Several SOLDIERS, in pairs, keep watch 50-100 meters away around the perimeter.

RASHA (12) runs through the brush toward one of the guard pairs.

RASHA

I found this.

He hands ZACK (20) the paper parachute and shroud lines that fell the previous night.

ZACK

Where did you find it?

RASHA

Over there, where that group is. The four.

ZACK

Thanks.

Rasha smiles and goes back.

ZACK (cont'd)

You recognize this?

The other Soldier shakes his head, "no". Zack stuffs it in a pocket.

ZACK (cont'd)

I'll turn it in when we get back.

And that's that.

EXT. PORT OF LONG BEACH PIER F - DAY

Jesse, Allison, and T-Ellison walk up the dock to the Jimmy Carter. Sailors and Hayes all notice the new officer.

JESSE

Chief! Care to join us?

Hayes quickly crosses the gangplank, stops in front of the trio, stands at attention and salutes. T-Ellison crisply returns the salute.

JESSE (cont'd)

Chief, let me introduce you to our new skipper. Captain Ellison.

T-ELLISON

As you were, Chief. It's a pleasure to meet you.

T-Ellison smiles warmly and extends his hand, which Hayes shakes. He faces Allison.

HAYES

Where did you find a sub commander?

JESSE

He's metal.

HAYES

Seriously?

T-ELLISON

I am at that.

Hayes tries twice to say something.

HAYES

Seriously?

ALLISON

That's not going to be a problem?

HAYES

He's not going to... You're not going to kill us?

T-ELLISON

That's not my first choice. No.

ALLISON

The captain and commander have a joint command.

Jesse nods affirmation, but Hayes stands still a little stunned.

JESSE

Chief?

HAYES

Um.... welcome aboard, sir.

T-ELLISON

Thank you.

JESSE

Why don't you take the skipper on board and show him around? I'll be up soon.

HAYES

Uh...yes ma'am. Sir?

Hayes leads T-Ellison across the gangplank.

ALLISON

That went a whole lot smoother than I thought.

JESSE

You live your life in a tin can, you sort of get a different perspective.

ALLISON

I guess. So, I'll leave you to it. I'm going to go up and check on the progress with the weapons and head back.

JESSE

Before you leave... I just want to make sure I'm not putting my boat at risk.

ALLISON

How? What can I say?

JESSE

Connor. The other you.

ALLISON

Yeah. Cameron. All I can tell you is that John trusts her more than anyone else. Any one else.

JESSE

All right. She'll be apples, then.

That confuses Allison, but she shrugs it off.

ALLISON

I'll see you, Commander.

JESSE

You too, Colonel.

Allison goes inland, Jesse crosses to the Jimmy Carter.

INT. VOLT - DAY

John and Cameron are in the front seat. The back seat has three chip-removed T-888s. They are in the barren and still-charred landscape of the central L.A. Basin. The road is in surprisingly good shape...gravel-filled potholes notwithstanding.

JOHN

This thing drives like a truck with all the endos.

CAMERON

Sykes has been doing a good job.

JOHN

What does this bring us up to? Fifty?

CAMERON

Fifty-three at Zeira. Four with Sykes.

They drive in silence.

For a bit. Not too long.

CAMERON (cont'd)

John?

JOHN

Yeah?

CAMERON

How long are you going to continue commanding in the field?

JOHN

What? Why?

CAMERON

It's dangerous. You're becoming too important to lose.

JOHN

They aren't going to lose me.

Cameron touches John's scarred face.

CAMERON

We almost did.

JOHN

They have to know that I'll die for them, too.

CAMERON

It worries me.

JOHN

You're worried?

Cameron quiets, like she said too much.

JOHN (cont'd)

Cameron.

CAMERON

It's like your mom said: if you die, Skynet wins.

JOHN

OK. I'll think about it. Okay?

CAMERON

OK.

And that seems to satisfy Cameron for the moment.

EXT. TOPANGA COMMAND TENT - DAY

The tent, close to the recently blown-up former shopping center, is a simple ridge tent with an awning under which the map table is placed. MARTIN BEDELL and EMILY BRAVE DEER share lunch together at the map table...several maps pushed to the side.

BEDELL

I'm just glad we didn't accidentally destroy the food.

BRAVE DEER

The grays eat well.

A PRIVATE walks quickly to the pair.

PRIVATE

Excuse me, ma'am.

BRAVE DEER

What is it, Private?

PRIVATE

We found several of these scattered around.

The Private puts four of the parachutes on the table. Bedell picks one up.

BEDELL

Paper.

PRIVATE

They all are. We figured they're new.

BRAVE DEER

Where did you find these?

PRIVATE

They're everywhere. Maybe a hundred meters apart.

BRAVE DEER

You see these when you were out?

BEDELL

I don't know. Probably thought it was trash from one of the explosions.

(beat)

Anything attached to them?

PRIVATE

Not that we saw.

BRAVE DEER

Thanks, Private. You're dismissed.

The Private exits.

BRAVE DEER (cont'd)

What do you think?

BEDELL

Looks like a parachute.

Bedell pulls together the shroud lines and demonstrates.

BRAVE DEER

What would they have dropped in? Couldn't be big.

BEDELL

Insect drones? They couldn't be more
than bug-sized.

(beat)

Crap! Bugs.

BRAVE DEER

Bios.

Both get up from the table.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. COMMAND AND CONTROL - DAY

John walks in as Jason, Dwayne, and Tiffany are huddled at the comm equipment. Frank is at the board but not really paying attention to it.

JASON

John! I'm glad you're here.

JOHN

What's wrong?

JASON

Bio-attack. Bedell's on the line.

John goes to the radio.

JOHN

This is Kansas. What's your status?

BEDELL (COMM)

Skynet parachuted what we think are bios. Most here have been exposed, we think. The first person with contact is already getting sick. We're quarantining as best we can.

JOHN

Send up a list of symptoms when you can. If it's what I think it is, maybe we can help.

BEDELL

I hope so, Kansas. This isn't how I want to go out.

JOHN

Hang tight.

John moves over to Tiffany.

JOHN (cont'd)

I need you to contact all of the other bases--see what their status is and alert them.

TIFFANY

On it.

Tiffany's hands start dancing on the comm equipment.

JOHN

And tell Palisades: Alpine Yellow.

TIFFANY

Alpine Yellow. Yes sir.

JOHN

And Perry should stay there for now.

TIFFANY

Yes sir.

Jason stands from the radio.

JASON

What now?

JOHN

OK. Um... We're going to convert the motor pool to quarantine. If it's not enough, we'll move into the tunnels, make this entire level the infirmary.

JASON

OK.

JOHN

Anyone out?

JASON

Rooters.

JOHN

Yeah, I forgot. Contact them. I'll start clearing the motor pool. We'll have to hold them there for a while.

John exits. Jason turns back to Dwayne and his comm console.

EXT. TOPANGA COMMAND TENT - DAY

The TROOPS have gathered in the shopping center area. Bedell and Brave Deer are in front of the larger group of over a hundred; KYLE REESE stands upwind and tens of meters away from the remaining fifty-plus.

BRAVE DEER

(to troops)

As best we can tell, we're all infected. Meds should be on their way very soon.

The sound of small POPS start popping.

BRAVE DEER (cont'd)

In the meantime, we're operating under quarantine.

The POPS are getting closer.

BRAVE DEER (cont'd)

We'll shelter here while...

The Troops are getting restless as the POPS get LOUDER.

Not far off, some puffs of an aerosol can be seen synched with the POPS. They are getting closer.

BEDELL

Gas!!!

BRAVE DEER

Shelter! Go! GO!

The troops break ranks and head for the buildings in a surprisingly orderly fashion.

INT. JIMMY CARTER BRIDGE - DAY

The really irritating GENERAL ALARM KLAXON sends out it warning. Sailors move about. Jesse, Hayes, T-Ellison, and several CREWMEN are at their stations.

HAYES

All sections sealed. All vents closed. Moorings free.

T-ELLISON

Thank you, Chief.

JESSE

So, I guess we just wait it out.

T-ELLISON

I want a continuous watch for hostiles. Be prepared to get underway if necessary.

JESSE

Yes sir. Chief, you can shut off the alarm.

Hayes punches in a command and the ALARM STOPS. T-Ellison grabs the PA mic and turns on the system.

T-ELLISON

Attention. This is Captain Ellison. We are sealed because Skynet has launched a regional attack. It appears the bios intended for us over-shot. We have not been infected.

(MORE)

T-ELLISON (cont'd)

We will stay on-station and buttonedup until the situation changes. That is all.

T-Ellison turns of the box and replaces the mic.

Jesse and Hayes exchange an approving but surprised look.

EXT. ZEIRA BASE - DAY

The Rooters and all the outside guards start rushing into the motor pool. All the vehicles and spare parts are sitting outside the large open doors.

SOLDIERS

Hurry! Hurry!

A closing-in line of pops of aerosols quickly moves toward the base. The motor pool doors are closing. Some people are still some distance away, including VINCENT who is coming from the Plaza area.

INT. VOLT - DAY

Driving in, only a few hundred meters away from the Zeira entrance, Allison can see the chemical attack. She stops between the motor pool and the main entrance as the pops sweep over her.

Allison clambers to the back seat and pulls down the seat back to access the trunk. She claws around and emerges with a gas mask and a small antidote pack. She dons the mask.

EXT. ZEIRA BASE - DAY

Allison runs from the Volt and quickly examines the fallen Vincent. He's dying from a nerve agent as are several OTHERS now struggling on the ground.

Allison runs to the main entrance and POUNDS on the door. Nothing. She POUNDS some more.

Looking back, another wave of chemical pops approaches.

The door opens and Allison is pulled inside by two gasmasked SOLDIERS. The door closes before the chemicals reach the base.

INT. ZEIRA BASE ENTRANCE - DAY

Allison pulls out the antidote pack, takes an autoinjector, and jabs it into her thigh.

Allison and the Soldiers are quickly sprayed with a slightly milky liquid followed by water. They are then moved away from the entrance.

INT. INFIRMARY - DAY

Allison, her mask off, sits on a cot and is examined by the DOCTOR. Her pupils are constricted and her nose is running. She breaths quickly, but without much difficulty.

John rushes in.

JOHN

Doc?

DOCTOR

She should be fine inside of a day.

JOHN

Clear for duty?

DOCTOR

Yeah, what the hell.

The Doctor exits toward the motor pool.

ALLISON

Vincent's dead.

JOHN

I should have prepared better. I knew this was coming.

ALLISON

You knew?

JOHN

The other John. Honestly, I didn't think it was going to be this big. Palisades. The Basin. Palmdale. Topanga.

ALLISON

I guess you managed to piss Skynet off.

Something flashes in John's mind.

JOHN

Dammit.

(to Allison)

Our endos. Cameron doesn't have a radio.

ALLISON

I'm not going out there again. I'm just sayin'.

Allison blows her very runny nose on the cot's blanket.

JOHN

We're going to have to wait until she figures it out. Damn I hate this. I'd rather be fighting head on.

Allison blows her nose again on the blanet.

JOHN (cont'd)

You sure you're OK?

ALLISON

I'm fine. Ah-ah...no argument. Not until you can make a fist with your right hand.

John glances at his gloved hand, but doesn't try making a fist.

ALLISON (cont'd)

Seriously, John. You fight when you can fight. You run or hide when you can't. It's the way it always is.

JOHN

Not if you want to win.

John leaves. Allison blows her nose again.

INT. TOPANGA ROOM - EVENING

This conference room is now an infirmary. Tables and chairs have been pushed against a wall as compactly as possible. The floor is covered with really ill people having the sweats and spasming in pain.

Bedell's blotchy face is covered with his helmet by Brave Deer.

INT. BUNK HUB - NIGHT

John sits with his head on his arms at the table where Derek used to plan. Zeira is QUIET. Allison enters.

ALLISON

Bedell's dead.

John lifts his head. He seems older.

ALLISON (cont'd)

Gas.

JOHN

Sit-rep?

ALLISON

Topanga is in rough shape. At the port, Sykes is sick. I told her to give her radio to one of the endos. It's sending back reports. Peter's sick as is half of Palmdale, but they have vaccine and should be able to ride it out. Heinrich and Vallejos are both sick. Their men, the ones who survived the chem attacks, are mostly OK.

BENNY, scrawny as ever, runs in and heads straight to John. Benny whispers in John's ear.

JOHN

I'll be there soon.

Benny runs off, never acknowledging Allison in the shadows.

JOHN (cont'd)

Cameron's with Moss. She came in the back.

(beat)

Is Kyle still OK?

ALLISON

Yeah. He and his men got to shelter.

JOHN

Have him and his men pull back to the Palisades. They'll be Perry's reinforcements.

ALLISON

And the rest?

John has to swallow down his anxiety a couple of times.

JOHN

They're on their own. Tell them John Connor says to use their best judgment.

ALLISON

John. You know what that--

JOHN

(interrupts)

I can't get vaccine to them. I can't defend the position. I can't risk them infecting others.

(beat)

I'm going downstairs.

John walks out, the impending deaths of a hundred brave souls very much on his shoulders.

INT. ZEIRA BASE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

POUNDING outside the door. Two gas-masked soldiers open it.

Outside are four environment-suited MEDICS. In front is LAUREN FIELDS (35). They have several storage boxes.

INT. MOSS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Cameron sits on the love seat currently at the side of the eclectic office. MOSS stands warily...after all, he knows what she is.

John enters. Cameron stands.

JOHN

Could we have the room?

Moss, with a relieved look, exits. Cameron seems a little concerned.

CAMERON

It's bad?

John sits heavily in a chair.

JOHN

It's bad.

CAMERON

What can I do?

JOHN

(pauses)

Give me a minute.

John closes his eyes and leans back into the chair. Cameron stands and watches for a few seconds before turning around and keeping an eye on the door...just like she used to in the past.

JOHN (cont'd)

Bedell's dead.

CAMERON

I'm sorry.

John opens his eyes.

JOHN

And Vincent.

CAMERON

I saw.

John takes a deep sigh and stands.

JOHN

It's time the endos come out of hiding.

CAMERON

Are you sure?

JOHN

Can they detect chemical weapons?

CAMERON

Yes. But not biological ones.

JOHN

That'll have to do. After I brief the basin troops, we'll send twenty down to defend the ports with the ones already there. The rest will clean up the base and defend it if necessary.

CAMERON

I'll make sure.

JOHN

And I'll get you a few radios. I don't want you out of touch again. Wait here.

John exits. Cameron waits.

INT. ZEIRA BASEMENT - NIGHT

John has entered the basement when Jason approaches him.

JASON

Here's the latest.

Jason gives John a small piece of paper. John reads and seems to die just a little more.

John hands the paper back to Jason.

 $$\operatorname{JOHN}$$ Get everybody together at the hub. I need to tell them something.

Jason exits.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. SUB-BASEMENT (2027) - NIGHT

Cameron, now with three radios, walks ahead and faster than John. She exits.

John stops at Pierce's hovel. TAWNY (8) is inside, asleep.

John goes inside and kneels next to Tawny's pallet.

JOHN

Tawny.

John shakes her a bit.

JOHN (cont'd)

Tawny.

Tawny moves.

TAWNY

Imawake.

JOHN

Tawny, wake up.

TAWNY

I'm awake.

JOHN

It's John.

Tawny opens her eyes.

TAWNY'S POV

John looks so dejected and sad.

BACK TO SCENE

Tawny closes her eyes and starts crying QUIETLY.

John touches her hair like Sarah used to do with him.

INT. BUNK HUB - NIGHT

All of the SOLDIERS are gathered in and around the hub. Soldiers part like the Red Sea for John and Allison to make it into the middle. John stands on a locker.

JOHN

Skynet's hit us hard. (MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)

Jason has the current figures for anyone who wants to know. For now, we're basically defenseless, just like Skynet wanted us to be.

(beat)

But we aren't. Colonel Young and I have been engaged in a project. One that has to be revealed because it's just about the last option we have.

(beat)

For a while, now, we've been capturing and reprogramming triple-eights.

The crowd breaks out in a group MURMUR.

JOHN (cont'd)

They helped us win the ports. In a few minutes, they will be deployed outside the base to clean up the mess Skynet sent our way.

More MURMURS. Allison steps up to the box.

ALLISON

The endos are not to be considered safe. If they are threatened, they will fight back. They are only programmed to answer to the orders of certain command individuals.

Allison looks at John who gives a resigned nod.

ALLISON (cont'd)

Something you need to know. Quiet! (beat)

This is Zeira only, for now... We also have a skin job on our side.

The Soldiers are definitely restless.

ALLISON (cont'd)

She looks like me. Most of you have already met her at least once.

The Soldiers are now an ugly mob. SHOUTING and pressing forward.

John replaces Allison on the locker. John almost immediately gets hit in the arm with a mug with water that would have clocked Allison's head.

VOICE (O.S.)

Gray!

The Mob almost immediately simmers down in the glare of John's angry face.

JOHN

This isn't a debate. Look, I know you want to fight. It sucks having to sit on our butts. I hate it. When we get the chance, we'll make Skynet pay. You don't have to like how I'm going to do it, but in the end, we're going to win. Anyone with a problem with that better shoot me now...but if you do, Skynet wins. End of species.

(beat)

OK. A vaccine has arrived. That was another project you didn't know about. It's too late for some...

John pauses as he becomes a little verklempt.

JOHN (cont'd)

Allison will give you guidelines and answer questions. Dismissed.

John hops off and walks through the initially stunned but increasingly boisterous crowd. Allison is besieged. John pulls out a radio.

JOHN (cont'd)

Tin-miss, Kansas. Do it.

John keeps on walking.

EXT. PLAZA MALL - NIGHT

From the entrance come a stream of endos. Twenty of them get into formation and double-time it out of Zeira to the ports.

Ten Endos emerge with various containers and begin to reconnoiter the grounds for chemical delivery systems.

One endo picks up a canister that EXPLODES. The endo is undamaged. Even through the thick walls of Zeira, you can hear the DOGS BARKING up a storm.

In the doorway, Cameron talks into her radio.

CAMERON

One-run, Tin-miss. Be aware that some of the--

Another EXPLOSION

CAMERON (cont'd) --devices are explosives.

EXT. TOPANGA - DAY

Various models of ENDOS march into the hilly/mountainous terrain of Topanga. They face no resistance. Except for the sound of the Endos, it's QUIET. The Endos head straight to:

EXT. TOPANGA COMMAND TENT - DAY

It's deserted. The only things moving are a few now-torn parachutes in the breeze and the endos.

INT. TOPANGA ROOM - DAY

Endos enter the room to discover several dozen bodies. Some are laid out with diligence. Most, including Brave Deer, are simply splayed, the result of their self-inflicted terminal wounds.

It's a fairly grizzly scene. Then the room EXPLODES.

EXT. NORTH OF HUNTINGTON BEACH - DAY

It's a major firefight. HUMANS fighting alongside ZEIRA ENDOS. The Endos are more toward the front. The landscape looks like nobody bothered to clean up after the nuclear blasts fifteen years ago. Charred ruins. Still some charred skeleton pieces.

Dozens of HKs and a few dozen SKYNET ENDOS return the fire. Plasma rounds are flying fast and furious.

In the distance, AERIAL HKs close in.

More HUMAN SOLDIERS reinforce the troops already there. With them is GARY HEINRICH (55). He's on the bulky mobile radio carried in a backpack by his RADIOMAN.

HEINRICH

(on radio)

One-run, this is Rose Petal. Holding firm. Repeat, holding firm.

Three plasma rounds whiz by Heinrich who completely ignores them.

INT. COMMAND AND CONTROL - DAY

YURI (25) and ALYSSA (16) man the comm equipment.

YURI

Roger that, Rose Petal. Have need?

HEINRICH (COMM)

I could use a warm bath.

YURI

Say again?

HEINRICH (COMM)

Not at this time. Will check in after ten.

YURI

Copy that. One-run out.

Yuri scribbles something on a small scrap of paper.

YURI (cont'd)

Plebe, give this to Connor.

Yuri hands the note to a non-uniformed PLEBE(14). The Plebe exits.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. SUB-BASEMENT (2027) - DAY

John is with Tawny in Pierce's area. A CROWD mills about nearby. There's a BUZZ in the air about John. John doesn't notice as he's leaning against a wall, napping. Tawny has her back to the crowd and reads a well-worn book.

The crowd quiets a bit and backs off as Cameron walks to the entrance.

CAMERON

John.

John startles awake...well, his eyes are sort of open, at least.

JOHN

Cameron?

Cameron enters. As John tries to clear the cobwebs:

JOHN (cont'd)

Tawny, Cameron. She's a cyborg.

TAWNY

We met.

CAMERON

I know about your father. I'm sorry for your loss.

TAWNY

Yeah.

Tawny isn't exactly Miss Cheerful at the moment.

CAMERON

Skynet's devices have been cleared. The perimeter is quarded.

JOHN

Help me up?

CAMERON

Are you hurt?

JOHN

(quietly)

We need to put on a show. Make you seem like a nice robot.

Cameron seems a little confused, but helps John up.

JOHN (cont'd)

(quietly)

Support me.

(normal)

Tawny, let's get some food.

John puts his arm around Cameron as she bears his weight. They exit the room. Tawny stays close to Cameron on the other side as John.

The Crowd watches intently and slightly follows.

INT. MESS - DAY

John, Cameron, and Tawny are at a table near a wall. Several Soldiers watch without watching. John has "coffee", Tawny has a bowl of a simple vegetable stew.

Allison enters leading Lauren Fields, now dressed in beat-up jeans and a dirty sweatshirt. Lauren has a tool-box-like vaccine kit with her.

ALLISON

There he is.

Soldier eyes dart between Cameron and Allison as Allison and Lauren go to John's table. Cameron recognizes Lauren.

ALLISON (cont'd)

OK, John. You're the last one, like you wanted.

JOHN

Do we have enough for the civilians?

LAUREN

We have enough.

John removes his jacket.

CAMERON

I remember you.

LAUREN

Me, too. Thanks for saving my life, by the way.

JOHN

You know each other?

Lauren's ready to give the shot, but John's only now rolling up his sleeve.

CAMERON

She's Lauren Fields.

And the shot is given.

JOHN

My mom said she liked you a lot.

LAUREN

I liked her, too. Wish it had been under different circumstances.

JOHN

Yeah, tell me about it.

ALLISON

John, they want you in C-and-C.

John gets up.

JOHN

Tawny, you stay with either Cameron or Allison until I get back to you.

TAWNY

OK.

John leans in and whispers in Lauren's ear [about Pierce's death]. Lauren almost manages to mask her compassion.

LAUREN

Sure.

JOHN

Thanks.

John exits. Lauren preps another shot.

LAUREN

So...Tawny...John said you were the next one to get a shot. Is that OK?

TAWNY

Is it going to hurt?

LAUREN

Maybe a little, but it's not bad.

ALLISON

Cameron?

Cameron stands and moves closer to Allison while Lauren gives Tawny a shot.

ALLISON (cont'd)

Do we have any triple-eights that haven't been re-coded?

CAMERON

Yes. Eight. John and I brought five back with us.

ALLISON

I'm thinking we might need them.

CAMERON

I'll work on it right away.

Cameron turns to Lauren.

CAMERON (cont'd)

I have to go. It was nice seeing you again.

LAUREN

Yeah. Good to see you, too.

And Cameron exits...a few soldiers follow.

ALLISON

Guys!

The Soldiers stop.

ALLISON (cont'd)

What did I tell you?

Allison looks very serious. The Soldiers relent to the wishes of serious Allison. Allison sits where Cameron was.

The shot done, Tawny still mopes with her stew.

ALLISON (cont'd)

How do you know Cameron?

Lauren has put away her medical stuff.

LAUREN

Maybe later.

Lauren gets up and exits.

INT. COMMAND AND CONTROL - DAY

John sits next to Tiffany at her station. Yuri still mans the other station. Frank is at the board.

JOHN

(on radio)

Rose Petal is still holding ground. I sent reinforcements.

GENERAL PERRY (COMM)

Endos are starting to cross over the hills here. Looks like we finally got interesting.

JOHN

(on radio)

Wish I could send you help.

INT. PALISADES COMMAND AND CONTROL - DAY

GENERAL PERRY, armed and helmeted, is alone in the ruins of a garage. A portable radio backpack sits on a table. He has a clear view from the northwest to the east. Right now all he sees are the clean ruins left by Skynet and the remains from the previous battles.

GENERAL PERRY

(on radio)

You already did. It's not a lot, but--

Perry stops because his position has been strafed by an AERIAL HK.

GENERAL PERRY (cont'd)

(on radio)

I have to go, Kansas. Watch the flanks, we'll hold. Out.

Perry turns off the radio, stows the handset, and dons the pack himself.

EXT. PALISADES - DAY

Perry, not noticeably slowed by the very bulky pack, strides to Kyle, who is dug in with his men.

GENERAL PERRY

Reese.

KYLE

Yes sir.

GENERAL PERRY

I want you to take your men and fortify the ridges on either side of Trailer Canyon. More on our side. Take canons and whatever artillery you can find. I don't want Skynet looking down on us.

KYLE

Yes sir.

GENERAL PERRY

Go.

Kyle goes back to his men while Perry double-times it into the interior.

EXT. PORT OF LONG BEACH PIER F - AFTERNOON

Torpedoes and missiles, stacked on wheeled cradles, are on the dock and being loaded into the Jimmy Carter. Jesse watches on deck with Hayes.

JESSE

What's on your mind, Chief?

HAYES

Metal skipper. Skynet weapons...

JESSE

I'm more worried that we're taking orders from a kid.

HAYES

Yeah, about that...

(steps forward)

Hey! Let's get the torpedo into the boat without detonating it?

SAILOR

Sorry, Chief.

Hayes steps back.

JESSE

Perry says Connor's the man.

HAYES

What kind of war are we running?

JESSE

Long as we kick Skynet's silicon ass, Perry could put a goat in charge for all I care.

HAYES

Yeah, I suppose.

JESSE

Have a little faith, mate. At least our racks will be full of fish.

Hayes chuckles.

HAYES

What the hell. I didn't want to live forever, anyway.

JESSE

That's the spirit.

With smiles on both their faces, Hayes goes to tend to the weapons loading.

EXT. PALISADES - NIGHT

Endos and HKs emerge from the mountains and move into the Palisades. HKs ride over the dead bodies of fallen endos, clearing a path. Plasma bolts fly through the air, keeping the battlefield somewhat lit.

Perry, along with six FIGHTERS, is behind an HK carcass remaining from Palisades-1. Four of the Fighters have RPGs loaded with what look like double pipe-bombs made of paper.

Two HKs close on their position, their canons firing incessantly.

GENERAL PERRY

Set?

Everyone nods.

GENERAL PERRY (cont'd)

Lighting 'em.

Perry and one of the Fighters without an RPG light fuses on the bombs.

GENERAL PERRY (cont'd)

Don't waste them.

Perry ducks down. The Fighters watch the fuses closes. When a fuse gets short, a fighter fires the weapon. In short order there are four successful launches.

The bombs arc toward the pair of HKs. The first lands, EXPLODES, and quickly starts a thermite reaction. The second misses. The last two each hit separate HKs. Soon both robots stop their advance, thermite burning through them quickly.

EXT. RIDGE - NIGHT

Kyle fires with his men at the reflections in the canyon climbing up the hill. The men on the opposite ridge are doing the same.

The endos don't fall quickly. They are hard to see even with their shiny bodies.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hawks! One o'clock.

KYLE

Keep firing!

Kyle looks up, scanning for reflections. By the time he sees them, they are already raining fire down on the far ridge.

KYLE (cont'd)

Canon! Target the hawks!

The firing at the endos from the other ridge have ceased. All their remaining fire is directed skyward.

Thick plasma beams now shoot across, downing some of the aerial HKs. There is no more ground fire rising from the other ridge.

KYLE (cont'd)

Pairs! Ones target hawks, twos target endos!

The aerial HKs shift their attention to Kyle's men, but the Aerial HK losses are quickly mounting.

INT. PLAZA MALL LAB - DAY

John sits, exhausted. He leans on a table with his eyes closed. Cameron enters, carrying some endo electronics. John opens his eyes.

JOHN

How did I do this before?

Cameron takes the electronics to a work table.

CAMERON

You believed. You made others believe.

JOHN

I didn't see this coming.

CAMERON

You aren't always going to win, John.

JOHN

Could you stop doing that and talk to me?

Cameron stops fiddling with the parts, grabs a chair, and sits next to John.

JOHN (cont'd)

I've been preparing to do this since I was a kid. I never imagined it would be this hard. Losing so many people.

CAMERON

I know.

JOHN

I suppose you're going to tell me that this is war and that people die in war.

CAMERON

They do, but you have something most of them don't.

JOHN

What? What do I have?

CAMERON

You care.

JOHN

What?

CAMERON

Your soldiers. The people. You care. You feel.

JOHN

Sometimes I wish I didn't.

CAMERON

I know. But it's what makes you strong.

John thinks about that for a moment.

JOHN

We've talked about this before.

CAMERON

Yes.

JOHN

You know. I always wondered about that--when you'd say we talked a lot. I understand, now, why.

Cameron subtly smiles.

CAMERON

Everyone needs someone to talk to.

JOHN

Yeah. I guess they do.

ALLISON (COMM)

Kansas, D-G-W.

JOHN

(on radio)

Go.

ALLISON (COMM)

Skynet's pulling back.

JOHN

(on radio)

Brief me when I get there. Out.

CAMERON

Good news.

John is so tired.

JOHN

Yeah. Good news.

With effort, John stands and walks out, grabbing the plasma rifle he left beside the door. Cameron watches John leave and sits in the chair for a few moments. Cameron then gets up and returns to the components.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

EXT. ZEIRA BASE - DAY

As John walks back to base, holding his rifle with his left hand, the doors to the motor pool open. John stops and watches as, one-by-one, bodies are carried out and taken out of sight. Lauren sees John and waves him over. They meet halfway.

LAUREN

Ten.

JOHN

Ten.

LAUREN

It could have been way worse.

JOHN

Yeah. I'm glad that you and your sister were in this timeline.

LAUREN

And that the virus Skynet used was the same one we had serum for.

JOHN

How was your sister with all of this?

LAUREN

Tired of getting stuck with needles.

JOHN

I was never a fan of them, either.

LAUREN

You know...I've thought about you for almost twenty years. You're exactly how I imagined. Younger, you know, but still the same.

JOHN

Is that good?

LAUREN

Don't know. You're like your mom. Tough. About saving lives.

JOHN

Yeah, I did a great job of that.

LAUREN

You did. Everyone's talking about it. They're sad, yeah, but they know it could have been a lot worse. Why can't you see that?

JOHN

Maybe I'm just tired.

LAUREN

Sorry. I didn't mean to keep you. I've just been waiting to meet you for a while.

JOHN

When I get a minute, I'll find you. We can swap lies about my mom.

And with a tired grin, John exits and Lauren goes back to the motor pool.

INT. JOHN'S BUNK - NIGHT

Allison pokes her head in the door to discover Cameron sitting on the bunk opposite John's.

ALLISON

I thought someone was in here.

CAMERON

I was done in the lab. It made more sense to be close by than to wait there.

ALLISON

John?

CAMERON

He's in the sub-basement with Tawny.

ALLISON

I think he feels responsible.

CAMERON

He does that.

ALLISON

Does what?

Cameron nods her head slightly for Allison to come in. Allison sits on John's bunk.

CAMERON

In the previous timeline, that John found a girl who lost her parents. He took care of her.

ALLISON

Me.

CAMERON

Yes. John never knew his father. He feels protective, sometimes.

ALLISON

Isn't it distracting?

CAMERON

I don't know. It might give him something to fight for.

Allison has a brief thousand-yard stare as she says:

ALLISON

Yeah. I know how that is.

Cameron knows something happened there, but doesn't know what.

ALLISON (cont'd)

Does John know that he and I...?

CAMERON

I never told him.

ALLISON

OK. That's just between us, then.

CAMERON

Just between us.

The corner of Allison's mouth slowly rises along with the twinkle in her eyes. She holds out her hand, fingers closed, little finger extended.

ALLISON

Pinky swear.

CAMERON

I don't understand.

Allison lowers her hand.

ALLISON

Probably doesn't work with robots anyway.

Cameron is confused.

EXT. PALISADES - MORNING

The sun has just risen to cast light on the recent battleground. A couple columns of smoke rise from smoldering rubble.

John stands by himself looking at the scene. It looks like a hospital unit with triage patients covering a large area.

The dead are arranged in the distance like the legend on a map.

Soldiers are scattered about in their units, resting. John just shakes his head.

GENERAL PERRY (O.S.)

You did an amazing job, John.

John turns to see Perry. We see that Cameron has been nearby all along.

JOHN

How can you say that?

Perry looks at John, almost studying him.

GENERAL PERRY

I keep forgetting where...when...you came from. I know what it must look like.

JOHN

Almost an entire command killed here? A third of another in the basin?

GENERAL PERRY

John, look at me. We have never repelled a WMD attack. Never. Not since J-Day. Skynet rarely launches something this big...anywhere; not for more than a decade. You got them worried.

Perry starts walking, prompting John to walk with him. Cameron follows not far behind.

JOHN

I'm worried that this was Gettysburg and I'm Lee.

GENERAL PERRY

Losing a war of attrition?

JOHN

Yeah.

GENERAL PERRY

That could happen. We've been buying territory with blood.

JOHN

Too much blood.

GENERAL PERRY

Skynet still has the advantage there. No doubt about that. Still, you're the first person since 2019 who's been able to push back. We've been dying for years.

A SQUAD of exhausted soldiers rise to their feet as John and Perry pass. There's some nodding and WHISPERING going on.

JOHN

I'm moving the civilians to Zeira and Century.

GENERAL PERRY

We got lucky. Skynet attacked where they had been camped. One day earlier...

JOHN

Derek started the relocation. I'd forgotten about them.

GENERAL PERRY

It wasn't your job to remember. Speaking of civilians, there's someone you should talk to.

JOHN

Who?

INT. PALISADES COMMAND AND CONTROL - DAY

The garage ruins have been upgraded to include a large canvas tent adjoining the ruins. Inside, RACHAEL SUMMERTON stands from the stool she's been sitting on, her arm splinted and a large bandage on one side of her torso.

GENERAL PERRY

Rachael Summerton. Codename: Chagall. She's been giving us information for years.

Rachael stares at John.

RACHAEL

You almost look the same.

JOHN

What?

GENERAL PERRY

Chagall also happens to be Brandi's mother.

JOHN

I almost look the same as what?

RACHAEL

You knew my husband. Margos. Margos Sarkissian.

JOHN

Sarkissian?

Cameron immediately steps inside the tent.

JOHN (cont'd)

Wait. Brandi is... She's the little girl from WiFi'd It.

RACHAEL

She hates you.

JOHN

For killing her father.

RACHAEL

So you did do it.

JOHN

Yes. I did.

RACHAEL

You did the world a favor.

JOHN

Your daughter doesn't see it that way.

RACHAEL

No. You are Skynet target of opportunity number one, and she's the lead hunter.

Rachael sits down, obviously in pain.

GENERAL PERRY

Are you alright?

RACHAEL

No, but I'll live. Listen, you have to keep up your offensive. They're scared. They hadn't planned on you.

CAMERON

Do you know where Skynet is?

John goes down on a knee to be at Rachael's height.

RACHAEL

Not exactly. Somewhere in the Sierras. You'll never get to it. It's inside a mountain.

JOHN

Does it have a weak spot?

RACHAEL

There's a nuclear power plant. In the north, near San Luis Obispo--

JOHN

(interrupts)

Serrano Point.

RACHAEL

Right. That's the key to Cali.

JOHN

The Raptors got their asses kicked.

GENERAL PERRY

It's well-defended, that's for sure. But you've got resources the Raptors didn't.

John quickly mulls it over.

JOHN

It's still almost three-hundred klicks away.

(beat)

I guess that's why they attacked Fresno. Took away our backdoor.

(beat)

Serrano.

John stands.

JOHN (cont'd)

That's our goal.

There's no argument.

EXT. ZEIRA BASE - DAY

In an extensive graveyard, years old, surrounded by debris mounds. Nineteen fresh graves have been dug by endos. Most of Zeira, military and civilians, are gathered.

One by one, bodies are being lowered.

EXT. PALISADES - DAY

A long mass grave has been dug on the south side of the Palisade to accommodate a few dozen bodies. Military and civilians, injured and healthy, are gathered. Perry presides.

JOHN (V.O.)

One hundred ninety-one dead at Topanga and the Palisades. Captain Martin Bedell. Colonel Emily Brave Deer.

EXT. BASIN - DAY

Bodies have been lain in three square mass graves in what used to be a park. Military are scattered about, but it's endos doing the earth moving and interment. Heinrich presides.

JOHN (V.O.)

Two hundred eighteen dead in the Basin. Colonel Maria Vajellos. Sergeant tech-com Sykes.

EXT. PALMDALE - DAY

One grave in the graveyard at one end of runway 7. A handful of PEOPLE. PETER presides.

JOHN (V.O.)

1 dead in Palmdale.

EXT. WALKER PASS - DAY

A road cutting through dry mountains and scrub. Nothing else.

JOHN (V.O.)

None dead at Walker Pass because they weren't there.

EXT. ZEIRA BASE - DAY

The graves are being filled in. Some people are wandering back inside.

JOHN (V.O.) Nineteen dead at Zeira.

John stands with Tawny, who's crying. Cameron is nearby.

JOHN (V.O.) (cont'd) Including Pierce. My friend.

John, Tawny, and Cameron walk away.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT SIX

THE END