

**TERMINATOR:
THE CONNOR WARS**

"The Grasp of Charybdis"
F0404

Story by
CJ Carter & Lumir G Janku

Teleplay by
CJ Carter

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:

INT. CHALLENGE ROOM - DAY

It's dark. Very dark. A chair in the center of the darkness is under a light. A computer terminal plus scanner is positioned close in front but to the side.

CLIO passes her wrist with a BARCODE TATTOO over the scanner. When Clio speaks, her voice has a subtle electronic undertone to it.

CLIO

Three-seven-one nine-seven-nine one-
nine-eight five-zero-six-R. Desig-
nym, Clio.

Clio sits patiently.

PROCTOR (O.S.)

Accepted. You may continue.

CLIO

The events here take place from late
autumn 2032 to early spring 2033.
This is confirmed by events in the
accepted record.

Clio taps some commands into her terminal.

INT. BRANDI'S TENT - NIGHT

TRACEY PROCTOR sits on a three-legged origami stool to the side of a sturdy card table. She rubs her wrists. She looks around the Spartan tent. There's a cot, another chair, and two locked trunks.

BRANDI SUMMERTON, her hair a mix of red and purple, enters carrying two potatoes. Through the momentarily open tent flap we see a T-850 endo standing guard. Brandi places the potatoes and a container of a "Cajun" spice blend next to Tracey, and then sits on her side of the table.

BRANDI

Careful. They're hot.

Tracey uses her hands to split apart one of the potatoes.

TRACEY

Ow.

(beat)

Butter would be nice.

BRANDI

Sorry.

Tracey sprinkles some Cajun spice onto the open potato. She breaks off a piece from the tuber, blows on it, and pops it in her mouth.

TRACEY

I'm going to need some water.

Brandi gets up, goes over to one of her trunks, and pulls out a scratched-up polycarbonate bottle filled with water. She puts it in front of Tracey and then resumes her seat.

Tracey opens the bottle and takes a generous sip.

TRACEY (cont'd)

So, you just gonna watch?

BRANDI

I'm interested in John Connor.

Tracey glares.

BRANDI (cont'd)

Actually, I'm interested in John Connor's head. On a pike.

TRACEY

A spike?

Brandi can't help rolling her eyes.

BRANDI

A pike. Think of it as a really long spear.

TRACEY

Then why didn't you just say, "Spear?"

BRANDI

Because I meant pike. With little Johnny's head stuck on it.

TRACEY

I ain't arguing. These are over-cooked.

BRANDI

Did you know that he's making terminators?

Tracey puts down the piece of potato she was about to eat.

TRACEY

Oh, and you're manufacturing humans,
I suppose?

BRANDI

That's not what I mean. Why is
Johnny building robots if he's
supposed to be the champion of
mankind? You know he has a special
pet that looks like Young?

Tracey gives Brandi a good long stare. She then resumes
eating her food.

TRACEY

Fine. I'll take down Connor. I'll
need weapons, more men, supplies.
I'll do it my way. I don't answer to
you.

BRANDI

I'll extend whatever help you need.
I don't need to know your secrets,
and I don't want to know. Hell, if
you want to take Johnny's place and
start fighting us, I'm fine with
that, too.

TRACEY

Whatever he did to piss you off--

BRANDI

What I do want is the privilege of
killing him myself. Bring him to me,
conscious, and our deal is done.
Kill him and--

TRACEY

Fine. You want him alive. You always
so dramatic?

Irrked, Brandi sets her jaw. She reaches across the table and
grabs Tracey's forearm (we see that Tracey does NOT have a
barcode). Using her thumb, Brandi SNAPS Tracey's radius.
Tracey's expression is one of pain and some fear.

BRANDI

Do we understand each other?

TRACEY

Y-Yes. Yes.

Brandi gets up and walks to the doorway.

BRANDI

Get medical. We have a broken bone.

Brandi goes back to the table and sits. She reaches across, causing Tracey to flinch slightly. Brandi grabs the uneaten potato.

BRANDI (cont'd)

You going to eat this?

Tracey shakes her head. Brandi smiles before taking a bite.

INT. ALLISON'S BUNK - DAY

JASON sits on the edge of the bed looking at the sleeping ALLISON YOUNG. Allison opens her eyes, sees Jason, and smiles.

ALLISON

Hey.

JASON

Hey.

Allison's bliss gives way to yawning and stretching which ends up with her sitting up in bed. Jason leans in and they exchange a quick kiss. As they part, Jason hands Allison her Glock.

ALLISON

Sorry about that.

JASON

Don't be. Feeling up for some lunch?

ALLISON

Lunch?

Jason shrugs.

ALLISON (cont'd)

Yeah. I feel pretty good.

JASON

You want anything special?

ALLISON

Surprise me.

JASON

OK.

One more quick kiss and Jason exits. Allison's smile turns to nausea. She leans over to her waste bucket and has a wee bout of morning sickness.

INT. ZEIRA MESS - DAY

The dystopic delicatessen is filled with warmly-clad civilians plus a smattering of TOKs and RESISTANCE FIGHTERS.

Jason is at a group of three tables that are sectioned off from the others. He places a covered tray on one of the tables. Allison walks up.

ALLISON

So, what did you get?

Jason pulls out a chair for Allison but doesn't hold it for her. She sits. Jason uncovers the tray.

JASON

First, here's some mint tea and some
toof slivers.

(off Allison's look)

I'm not stupid, Ali.

Allison smiles and takes a sip of tea.

JASON (cont'd)

And if you can handle it, here's
some bird soup and a salad.

ALLISON

What's that?

JASON

Uh-- that's some un-jerk with
mustard.

ALLISON

I want that.

JASON

Um. OK. Here.

Jason hands over his sandwich. Allison takes a bite.

ALLISON

Mmmmmmm.

JASON

Good?

ALLISON

Mmmmmmm.

Allison puts it down, opens it, and starts putting some of her salad into it. Jason looks like a puppy waiting for scraps.

ALLISON (cont'd)
You should get another one. And one
for you.

Allison takes a sip of tea. Jason exits with the empty tray.

As Allison takes another greedy bite, SAVANNAH WEAVER sits
at the table.

SAVANNAH
You're evil.

ALLISON
I'm pregnant.

SAVANNAH
He's just trying to do right by you,
you know.

ALLISON
I know. I love him for it, but I
haven't had real food in days. Just
this infirmery stuff.

SAVANNAH
He looks happier.

ALLISON
It's not just about him and his
demons anymore. Losing his foot
really messed with his head.

SAVANNAH
Some people have a harder time
handling it than others.

Jason arrives with two more sandwiches on the tray.

JASON
Savannah.

Allison reaches up and takes her other sandwich.

SAVANNAH
Thank you.

With a twinkle in her eye, Savannah takes Jason's sandwich
from the tray.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)
Looks good.

Jason has that puppy look again.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)
I'm kidding.

Savannah stands, relinquishing the seat to Jason.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)
I have something ordered already.
(to Allison)
Come see me about the broadcast.

Her mouth full, Allison just nods.

Savannah puts a hand on Jason's shoulder.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)
Take care of her.

Savannah exits.

Jason opens up his sandwich. He reaches over and takes some of Allison's salad to put in his sandwich. Allison glares.

INT. OUTSIDE ZEIRA MESS - DAY

JOHN HENRY stands outside the door looking at Allison as Savannah walks out holding a filled small cloth bag.

SAVANNAH
John Henry?

JOHN HENRY
It's my understanding that Allison
is creating a child.

SAVANNAH
She's pregnant, yeah.

Savannah walks down the hall with John Henry.

INT. ZEIRA BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

John Henry and Savannah walk toward the motor pool. Some CIVILIANS also populate the hall.

JOHN HENRY
There's an on-going debate about
whether machines can be alive
because we cannot procreate. We must
be built.

SAVANNAH
What do you think?

JOHN HENRY

It's interesting you said that.
Descartes proposed cogito ergo sum--
I think, therefore I am. Sentience
was his criterion, not reproduction.

SAVANNAH

That's what Descartes thinks. What
do you think?

Savannah and John Henry walk out an open door that leads
through the motor pool to:

EXT. ZEIRA BASE - DAY

Savannah and John Henry exit the base and walk toward some
tables that are nearby.

JOHN HENRY

I'm not sure. I've spoken to Friar
Radu about it, but his insights have
not helped.

SAVANNAH

You've thought about it. Surely you
must have an opinion.

They reach a table and sit down at it. Savannah pulls from
the bag a sort of cabbage roll and starts eating it.

JOHN HENRY

Me. Cameron. The TOK model. Ms
Weaver. We seem to be more than just
mobile computers. We think. I still
don't know if thinking is living.

SAVANNAH

Cameron mentioned something to me
once. She said that she didn't like
being deactivated. It was like
dying.

JOHN HENRY

No. It's not pleasant.

SAVANNAH

If dying is the opposite of alive,
and your... perception is that you
don't want to die, doesn't that sort
of indicate you're alive?

JOHN HENRY

I find those arguments are too
subjective to--

TIFFANY, wearing lieutenant bars, arrives at the table.

TIFFANY
Excuse me. Message for you in comm.

SAVANNAH
I'll be right there.

Savannah shoves the remaining half of the roll back into the sack.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)
Duty calls.

Savannah stands.

JOHN HENRY
Thank you for the discussion.

SAVANNAH
I don't think I helped you solve anything.

JOHN HENRY
I still enjoyed it.

SAVANNAH
Talk to you later.

Savannah taps John Henry's shoulder with her fist and then exits.

EXT. SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST - DAY

Tracey, walks through the forest of giant trees. Her left arm is splinted and in a makeshift sling. She WHISTLES.

SOLDIERS emerge from behind the cover of trees. SHRIDAR and NUR are the first to get to Tracey.

SHRIDAR
We thought the metal got you.

TRACEY
You know they can't hold me.

Other Soldiers come closer.

SHRIDAR
Your arm?

TRACEY
Souvenir from the escape. It's nothing. I didn't even get barred.

SHRIDAR

Sweet.

TRACEY

I want everyone to pay attention.

The group comes in even closer.

TRACEY (cont'd)

On my way back, I realized that we could be doing better. I'm not wrong in thinking that the only good metal is slagged metal?

Lots of solidarity from the crowd.

TRACEY (cont'd)

Connor's making his own metal. It's in all our old camps. I know we aren't the only ones who think this is wrong. That it's evil.

More solidarity from the crowd.

TRACEY (cont'd)

We need to act. Before it's too late. We'll go back to our camps and find people who think like we do. We build a network. A web. Then, when we're ready, we'll stop the evil that Connor has been forcing on us. We'll stop the evil machines he's built. And then we'll stop the evil that is Skynet.

A CHEER rises with some "YEAHS" some "STOP THE EVIL" and maybe even an "AMEN".

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. BARRACKS - DAY

SERGEANT BORJIGIN, one of the overseas arrivals, leans in the open doorway of the barracks, staring outside. PRIVATE NGUYEN joins him.

BORJIGIN
(Chinese)
What do you see?

BORJIGIN'S POV

Two T0Ks, standing in a light rain about fifty meters away, talking.

BACK TO SCENE

NGUYEN
(Chinese)
I don't understand.

Borjigin sighs.

BORJIGIN
(Chinese)
We should be killing them.

NGUYEN
(Chinese)
Before the war, I could have said
the same about you. Allies change.

BORJIGIN
(Chinese)
The enemy of my enemy is my friend?

Nguyen shrugs.

BORJIGIN (cont'd)
That's crap.

Nguyen retreat back into the barracks leaving Borjigin to continue staring.

INT. S.L.O. APARTMENT - DAY

The one-bedroom apartment has a futon, a table, some chairs, and a small electric kitchen. The window is being rained on.

Savannah, warmly dressed, paces about. CATHERINE WEAVER sits well-postured in a chair.

SAVANNAH

I never thought it would be so hard to keep everyone organized. I can't believe John's managed to lead everyone for so long.

WEAVER

It's what makes him able to succeed where others fail. He's able to get diverse groups to cooperate.

SAVANNAH

How? He seems to just be doing it. There doesn't seem to be a plan.

WEAVER

People believe in him. Even if they don't understand it, they follow him.

SAVANNAH

But why?

WEAVER

The key to any successful organization, regardless of its size, is that the participants must agree to surrender themselves to the rules.

Savannah stops pacing. She smiles.

SAVANNAH

That's it. I get it. The system doesn't matter; what matters is that people buy into it.

WEAVER

Precisely. However, for an organization to endure, the leadership cannot abuse their authority.

SAVANNAH

Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

WEAVER

The Declaration of Independence.

SAVANNAH

It doesn't really make my problem any easier.

WEAVER

It may, in fact, be harder. You will have to also cooperate with the machines.

SAVANNAH

Yeah. There's that, isn't there? If we win, are we going to be able to get along after the threat is gone?

Weaver looks like she just realized something.

SAVANNAH (cont'd)

What?

WEAVER

I don't know this future.
(looks at Savannah)
I don't know the answer.

Savannah sits next to Weaver and places her hand on Weaver's, for comfort.

EXT. SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST - NIGHT

Tracey leans against a tree as snow falls. Tracey's bundled up, but it doesn't seem to help against the cold. A branch SNAPS.

From a stand of trees emerges Brandi--fashionably dressed in a hooded white cloak. Her hair is also white but has ermine-esque black spots.

BRANDI

Well?

TRACEY

I don't know how I'm going to pull this off. Connor's people might not all love him, but they aren't turning.

BRANDI

You're doing it wrong. You need to give them a reason.

TRACEY

They have a reason. The machines.

BRANDI

That's too big a target. You need to focus. Then-- did you ever hear of the Boston Massacre?

TRACEY

Uh-- what?

Brandi rolls her eyes.

EXT. VIRGINIA CANYON - DAY

Windy, overcast, cold, with flurries. Allison, Jason, and T-GOODNOW--all dressed warmly and with backpacks, walk in the canyon just to the west of Excelsior Mountain.

Virginia Canyon has a herd of over a hundred bighorn sheep enduring the elements and trying to find food.

ALLISON

Glad you came?

JASON

(shivering)

I like the cold.

Allison smiles, looks at T-Goodnow who returns it.

ALLISON

Is this close enough for you?

T-Goodnow examines the landscape.

T-GOODNOW

It should be.

Allison opens T-Goodnow's backpack. She removes two lumps that look like dirty gray bricks and hands them to Jason.

ALLISON

Hold these.

Allison pulls out two more bricks and hands them to T-Goodnow.

ALLISON (cont'd)

(points)

There, there, there, and there.

T-Goodnow tosses bricks that land from 100 m to 1 km away along the eastern side of the valley. The last, longest toss, startle the sheep who briefly scatter.

ALLISON (cont'd)

That's it.

JASON

That's it?

ALLISON
We'll do it again in a few months.

JASON
That's it?

T-GOODNOW
We should leave. It's not safe here.

ALLISON
Wait. Almost forgot the bugs.

Allison digs around T-Goodnow's backpack and removes an origami sphere about the size of a grapefruit. SCRATCHING can be heard inside.

ALLISON (cont'd)
Get this as close to the lake as you can.

T-Goodnow takes the sphere, winds up, and launches the paper ball with a heck of a throw.

ALLISON (cont'd)
OK. Now we're leaving.

T-Goodnow leads the way back.

EXT. LA JOLLA VALLEY - DAY

It's a sunny day. Several PLATOONS of troops are scattered throughout the dry brush. Low mountains populate the landscape.

LIEUTENANT T-TOPHER steps up to a Platoon that's mostly new arrivals from overseas--including Borjigin and Nguyen--with some midwest regulars and PRIVATE ADAMS

T-TOPHER
I'm Lieutenant Topher. I'll be commanding your next training exercise.

T-TOPHER (cont'd)	ADAMS
The objective is	(whispers)
overrunning a nest of--	Like metal can command.

T-TOPHER
Excuse me?

T-Topher steps up to Adams.

ADAMS

If I wanted to be ordered around by
metal, I'd have stayed in the
workcamp.

T-TOPHER

That's not your decision.

ADAMS

Like hell.

Adams pushes T-Topher, who steps back with one foot, but is
otherwise unmoved by the shove.

T-TOPHER

That will earn you some--

Adams uses his knife and swings at T-Topher's head, but
T-Topher easily catches and holds Adams' arm. T-Topher
doesn't see the rock that cuts him over an eyebrow, exposing
metal.

T-TOPHER (cont'd)

You will all stand down.

BORJIGIN

Or what?

Borjigin steps forward, as does Nguyen. And then several
others. It's getting ugly.

A pistol is FIRED at T-Topher. It breaks the skin but does
no damage.

More SHOTS ARE FIRED as twenty of the platoon have
surrounded T-Topher and furiously assault him.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. LA JOLLA VALLEY - DAY

Twenty members of a platoon have surrounded and are assaulting T-Topher.

Bodies start flying as T0Ks break up the melee.

Human officers rush in as well.

On the ground, T-Topher has a lot of exposed metal and "isn't one hundred percent". Three humans lay dead: Adams, Borjigin, and a PRIVATE.

INT. CHALLENGE ROOM - DAY

Clio is at the terminal, but sits back with:

PROCTOR (O.S.)

That was in the recovered data? Not a reconstruction?

CLIO

This was some of the first data I recovered. It's how I knew this was a find worth investigating.

PROCTOR (O.S.)

Continue.

Clio focuses back on the terminal.

CLIO

Connor didn't arrive on site until the next day...

EXT. LA JOLLA VALLEY - DAY

The valley is empty except for eleven members of the platoon, including Nguyen, all stripped to their underwear and shivering in the cold air. T0Ks and Humans closely guard the group.

JOHN CONNOR slowly reviews the prisoners. T-RHEA stands in b.g. near John's dune buggy. Someone hidden from view sits in one of the rear seats.

JOHN

I'm disappointed. I hoped we were all united to bring down Skynet. I know that's my goal. Apparently some of you think you can do it better. You can't. But I'm going to let you try.

That got their attention. John slowly paces back and forth.

JOHN (cont'd)
Normally, with this sort of treason,
I'd shoot you through the head--each
and every one of you. But I'm going
to try something different. You want
to kill metal? I'll give you that
chance. You'll be specially trained.
You do the mission I give you--and
survive--we'll forgive this little
incident.

John stops pacing. Faces the group.

JOHN (cont'd)
The catch? You are all on capital
probation. You violate the rules.
You quit. You piss me off on the
wrong day... you're dead. Just like
that.

With that, John turns and walks back to his dune buggy.

T-Rhea drives John away, leaving the still-healing T-Topher
behind. T-Topher walks to the group--he doesn't seem happy.

T-TOPHER
It's time for you to make a choice.

Some of the eleven exchange sideways glances.

INT. MUGU MESS - DAY

The mess hall is empty except for CAMERON and John sitting
at a table near one set of doors. John has a bowl of roasted
root vegetables in front of him that he stabs at.

NOTE: Cameron's not-as-robotic-ness is more apparent, but
she's still clearly not as human as Allison.

JOHN
I should have postponed the mission.

CAMERON
It might have sent the wrong
message.

JOHN
Yeah, I know. But having another
massacre at E-M is only going to
fuel some of the unease.

CAMERON

It could be time to fully integrate
the forces.

JOHN

I don't know. It might make things
worse.

CAMERON

We can protect ourselves, John.

JOHN

You shouldn't have to.

CAMERON

You have a different point of
reference than most.

Cameron reaches over, takes a piece of roasted carrot from
the bowl, and eats it. John gets lost in thought.

Cameron reaches into a pocket and pulls out a ring-box-sized
canvas-wrapped package. As she unwraps it, John sniffs and
turns back to Cameron. Cameron pops a bouillon-cube-sized
gray/brown morsel of this T0K pemmican into her mouth.

JOHN

That never smells good.

CAMERON

It's efficient and doesn't
significantly impact the human food
supply.

Cameron wraps the remainder and puts it back in her pocket.

JOHN

Are we able to make enough?

CAMERON

So far.

John gets lost in thought again, but shakes himself out of
it quickly.

JOHN

I need to get out of here. There's
training due on Mt. Allen in a few
hours. I'm going to try to sneak in.

John stands.

CAMERON

You should go.

John slides the bowl of veggies to Cameron.

JOHN

Bon appetit.

John exits.

INT. COMMAND TENT - DAY

The large tent is a hub of activity as MESSENGERS come in and out. At one side is a bank of communications equipment and two RADIO OPERATORS.

Kyle, T-Goodnow, and MAJOR THOM look at tabletop battlefield maps of the training area surrounding Mt. Allen. This is a wide-ranging battle being fought with a dozen platoon-sized units. Three platoons have been eliminated close to Mt. Allen.

KYLE

This plan isn't working.

T-GOODNOW

It's working fine for the defenders.

KYLE

You would say that.

T-Goodnow smirks.

T-GOODNOW

Machines are harder to kill than humans.

KYLE

There's got to be a way. Let's change it. What would you suggest?

Kyle and T-Goodnow look at Thom.

THOM

Sir?

KYLE

What would you do differently?

THOM

Ummmm... U-use a large frontal assault a-as a diversion and send small squads on probing attacks?

Kyle looks at T-Goodnow. T-Goodnow shrugs.

KYLE

Relay the changes to the platoon
leaders.

Thom goes over to one of the comm stations.

T-GOODNOW

I wish you'd have taken my bet.

KYLE

I'm glad I didn't.

They turn back to watching the map.

EXT. MT. ALLEN - DAY

The scrub on the rocky sandstone peak is dry. Small patches
of snow cling to the ground.

In the distance, a major low-power plasma firefight is
underway, though the participants can't be seen.

A dozen T0Ks stand watch on their high-ground vantage. A
rain of fist-sized objects fall from the sky. Then they hit
the ground, most are just rocks, but some are devices that
FLASH on impact.

From the scrub rise up most of a Platoon, all wearing scrub
camouflage. They charge up to the position of the now
sitting T0Ks. More T0Ks come running up to replace the now-
sitting ones.

Another rain of rocks and FLASHERS. The T0Ks try to destroy
them in the air, but several of the FLASHERS hit the ground,
and this new batch of T0Ks also sits.

From a different scrub position comes a squad of five: John,
T-Rhea, T-CRAIG, PRIVATE SOTO, and PRIVATE RAMIREZ.

The first platoon is a good twenty meters ahead of John's
squad. They all race to the summit.

INT. COMMAND TENT - DAY

Kyle and Thom brood over the maps. T-Goodnow is in better
spirits.

RADIO OPERATOR #1

Sir, I think you're going to want to
hear this.

KYLE

Speaker.

Radio Operator #1 flips a switch.

RADIO OPERATOR #1
(on radio)
Say again.

JOHN (COMM)
This is Kansas.

Kyle, Thom, and T-Goodnow all look surprised.

JOHN (COMM) (cont'd)
The peak is secure.

KYLE
Uh... Kansas. What the hell are you
doing there?

JOHN (COMM)
Training.

EXT. RADIO STATION, MT. ALLEN - DAY

John, his platoon, and the T0K defenders stand around a communications backpack. John has the handset from the backpack.

JOHN
(on radio)
Some of the men were kind enough to
let me lead them up the hill.

KYLE (COMM)
Figures it would be you.

JOHN
(on radio)
Not totally. I was casualtied on the
way up. Still, the objective was
achieved.

INT. COMMAND TENT - DAY

KYLE
That's good to hear, Kansas. Now get
your ass back here.

JOHN (COMM)
See you at the debrief. Out.

Radio Operator #1 flips another switch. Kyle can't help shaking his head and smiling.

KYLE
I should have taken that bet.

T-GOODNOW

The General certainly makes it
interesting.

Kyle can only shake his head and smile.

INT. MUGU LAB - NIGHT

Only two T-8xx endos lay on a bunk-bed-like scaffold in the dark far side of the lab. A variety of hacked-together equipment is stacked on five of the eight available tables and benches. Windows line one wall, only one of which is boarded up.

Allison, with a 4-1/2 month thickening belly, uses a pair of long chopsticks to fish out cockroach-like "bugs" from one of three boxes.

Cameron enters.

ALLISON

How are you with chopsticks?

This momentarily flummoxes Cameron.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. MUGU LAB - NIGHT

Allison, standing next to one of three boxes, holds a pair of long chopsticks.

ALLISON

How are you with chopsticks?

A bug escapes from the box. Allison closes the lid and quickly uses a net to trap the critter.

CAMERON

I never went hungry.

ALLISON

Oh, ha, ha, ha.

CAMERON

What's the problem?

ALLISON

Apparently the signal we use to retrieve bugs also attracts roaches. Have to sort them out.

CAMERON

Why don't you just kill the insects?

ALLISON

I want to save them for Toshi. He's particular about how to prep them.

Satisfied, Cameron steps up and takes in hand the long chopsticks. She rehearses her manipulation a couple of times before shaking the box and then opening the lid.

TERMINATOR DISPLAY (CAMERON)

The box's dark interior is given the broad-spectrum EMI treatment which highlights the moving contents. A targeting cursor quickly identifies four "bugs" from the more-then-a-dozen insects.

BACK TO SCENE

Cameron quickly and efficiently plucks out the "bugs" and places them in a jar that already has three.

CAMERON

There aren't many here.

ALLISON

The retrieval rate is going to be low. No one said intelligence gathering was fast.

CAMERON

I suppose not.

And just like that, Cameron has retrieved the "bugs" and has closed the lid.

ALLISON

Those, too.

Cameron moves the jar closer, shakes another box, and then opens the lid. She pauses for a scan before retrieval.

CAMERON

How long before we have useful information?

ALLISON

Hard to say.

CAMERON

How long did it take to retrieve the test intel?

Cameron closes the lid and goes to the last box. Moving the jar closer, shaking the box, opening, scanning, retrieving.

ALLISON

A couple of weeks. But we had an idea of what patterns to look for. This time we have to piece it together from scratch.

CAMERON

Months?

ALLISON

Maybe. As we get more back, it'll probably go faster.

Cameron closes the lid to the last box.

CAMERON

Eighteen. And ninety-four cockroaches. Ninety-five, including the one in your net.

Cameron hands the jar to Allison. Allison holds it up to examine her treasure.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MUGU LAB - DAY

Allison holds the jar which now only contains three "bugs". As she puts the jar down on the lab bench, we see that Allison is now 6-months pregnant with a significant "baby bump".

Cameron stands at a sensor-festooned box with a stack of LCD readouts. Every ten seconds she writes data onto a clipboard that holds about 200 sheets of paper.

Allison takes a step away from the bench and puts a hand on her tummy.

CAMERON
Is the baby kicking?

Smiling, Allison nods. Every ten seconds Cameron will write down data without fail.

ALLISON
Yeah.

CAMERON
You seem happy.

ALLISON
It's the miracle of life.

CAMERON
I look at the T0Ks. I've never reproduced, and yet they are like my children.

ALLISON
Do you think of them that way, or are you talking like an ancestor thing?

CAMERON
I'm not sure. It bothers me.

ALLISON
What?

CAMERON
Are we alive? Does building count as reproduction?

ALLISON
You've been spending too much time with John Henry.
(beat)
You want an answer?

CAMERON

Do you have one?

ALLISON

Let's say I had a machine that could build a genetic code identical to mine. I use that to fertilize an egg and grow it in a lab until it's "born". Let's say that baby grows up to be my clone, able to reproduce naturally. Is it any less alive because it was built?

CAMERON

Does it have a soul?

ALLISON

You have been spending too much time with John Henry. Humans can't answer that about themselves.

CAMERON

I know. I'm still confused about that. Why wouldn't you know?

ALLISON

I don't know. All I know is surviving.

CAMERON

And love.

Allison smiles and absently rubs her belly.

ALLISON

Yeah. I know that, alright.

CAMERON

Done.

Cameron hands the clipboard to Allison.

ALLISON

There really needs to be an easier way.

(beat)

Let's take a break.

Allison puts the clipboard on the bench.

EXT. MUGU LARGE TARMAC - DAY

John and T-Goodnow, with T-Rhea nearby, stand on the tarmac near the far end of the runway and watch an A380 Superjumbo jet on final approach from the Pacific.

T-GOODNOW

My people will hold up their end.

JOHN

I hope you're right. Not integrating regulars might make things worse.

T-GOODNOW

Ever since the incident in La Jolla canyon, there has been an uneasiness within some of the units.

The plane lands and quickly closes the distance.

JOHN

I know it makes sense to try. I don't need to be fighting two wars.

T-GOODNOW

It will take some time to build trust. You and the other human commanders may need to be more visible at first.

JOHN

We'll try it your way, Major. I'm up for whatever works.

The jet starts to taxi toward them.

INT. MUGU CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

T-Rhea keeps watch at the window. At the table are John, Allison, Weaver, Kyle and LA CAZADORA. Cameron stands at a wall with a large T0K-hand-drawn map of the Excelsior Mountain region.

CAMERON

The entrance in Lundy Canyon leads to a sixteen hundred meter long tunnel to a storage area and blast door. The blast door opens to a central hub. A two thousand meter tunnel leads northeast to a lab near Burro Lake. Approximately eight hundred meters below the hub is the first level of Skynet.

ALLISON

From the data we recovered from Topanga, we already know that a reactor is underground near Summit Lake, about seven kilometers north-northwest.

JOHN

That's the rear entrance.

ALLISON

That's the one.

JOHN

I have to ask: Cameron, Catherine, neither one of you knew about this from the future?

CAMERON

I never knew where Skynet was.

WEAVER

When I arrived here, I searched for the three locations I knew Skynet had been in various futures. None of them was Excelsior Mountain.

JOHN

Can you get in there?

WEAVER

Not that I can see.

JOHN

Alex?

ALEJANDRA

Those plasma cannon don't leave many safe areas.

Cameron draws in the positions of the eight mountain peak Big Damn Plasma Cannon.

ALEJANDRA (cont'd)

You're going to have to take some of them out.

CAMERON

And the endos.

It's QUIET as John looks at the situation.

JOHN

Are we wasting our time? Am I throwing resources at this only to get them killed?

CAMERON

We need more intel.

KYLE

We need somebody on the inside.

All eyes on Kyle.

KYLE (cont'd)
I don't know how to do it.

JOHN
There are two ways in that we know
of: the reactor and the entrance.
There may be one near the lab. In
every case, the tunnels are long.
Kyle's right, we need a way to get
someone inside and clear the way.

And no one offers up a suggestion.

JOHN (cont'd)
I guess we know what we're talking
about the next time. How soon 'til
we get more intel?

ALLISON
More all the time. Every batch of
bugs we get, we'll learn more.

JOHN
And that sheep thing?

Alejandra shrugs.

ALLISON
What she said. It's too early to
tell.

And that's that.

INT. SKYNET ROOM - DAY

The room is a 3-d interconnected computer with cubes
attached to cubes attached to cubes, like a giant molecule.

At one end is a 1-meter high MOTION HOLOGRAM of a generic
human male that, if you squint, looks a little like
Sarkissian.

Brandi sits in the room's lone chair, facing the hologram.
Skynet has an androgynous voice.

SKYNET
The aircraft will be destroyed.

BRANDI
But I don't want them destroyed.

SKYNET
We don't need them.

BRANDI
I want to plant sleepers.

SKYNET
In the terror cells.

BRANDI
Yes. You said it yourself, Connor is pulling in forces throughout Asia. There's no way they know each other. Slipping in agents won't be that hard.

SKYNET
And then he flies them here.

BRANDI
Exactly. See, if we destroy the planes, that doesn't do much--maybe slow them down. But with a lot of plants, we have made it easier to kill Connor directly.

There is a small pause.

SKYNET
I agree. It's a good strategy.

Brandi sits a little straighter and with a bit of a smile.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. BUNK HUB - DAY

John sits at a table opposite TAWNY. Between them is a game of Go that is well-along. Savannah lounges on a cot. T-Rhea keeps watch.

SAVANNAH

Can I ask you something about your mom?

JOHN

Sure, OK.

SAVANNAH

Did she have any family? She'd only mention you.

Tawny's focus shifts from the board to John.

JOHN

Nine months before I was born, Skynet sent an eight-ball to kill my mom. When it was tracking her it killed my grandmother and used her voice to trick my mom into giving up her location.

SAVANNAH

What about her father?

JOHN

I don't know. He left when she was young. She never really went into it with me.

(to Tawny)

Do you really want to move there?

Based on her expression, apparently not.

TAWNY

I'll work around it. You need all the help you can get.

John smiles.

JOHN

Brat.

Allison and Jason enter.

JOHN (cont'd)

It was always just her and me.

ALLISON
Who her?

SAVANNAH
Sarah.

ALLISON
Ah.

Allison very much appreciates sitting down.

ALLISON (cont'd)
I feel like I'm carrying an endo
head.

TAWNY
Ew.

JASON
Great. Now I'm going to have
nightmares.

ALLISON
Yeah. Like endo heads are scary.
Moving again.

Jason puts his hand on Allison's round belly.

INT. ZEIRA BASEMENT - DAY

Cameron and John Henry look on as Jason touches Allison's
belly.

JOHN HENRY
Human reproduction doesn't seem very
practical.
(off Cameron's look)
I've observed several pregnancies
and there is an inequitable
investment made by the female.

They glance back at Jason and Allison.

EXT. ZEIRA BASE - DAY

None of the CIVILIANS or SOLDIERS pay much attention to
Cameron and John Henry--though a few TOKs do--as they walk
through the tent city that has insinuated itself among the
debris piles.

CAMERON
They say that there is no greater
love than that of a mother for her
children.

JOHN HENRY

Yes. Apparently is has to do with growing a life internally. Since males cannot, it implies that all fathers are adoptive.

CAMERON

Emotionally.

JOHN HENRY

Yes. As a result, they are not afforded the degree of a love bond as mothers are.

CAMERON

So we are like fathers to our descendants, not mothers.

JOHN HENRY

I believe that's correct.

They approach the Plaza Mall, guarded by a T0K and a REPURP.

INT. PLAZA MALL LAB - DAY

John Henry watches as Cameron does minor set-up clean-up to this room that was once their lab but is now John's Bunk. There's a cot, some chairs and stools, the tables from the lab use, a metal trunk, a few lights, and several large bottles of water.

CAMERON

Are we alive?

JOHN HENRY

I've thought about this. I'm not yet sure.

CAMERON

Allison suggested that a desire not to die implies that we are alive.

JOHN HENRY

Would a blind man having a desire not to be blind imply that he can see?

Cameron frowns a little.

JOHN HENRY (cont'd)

Do you want to be alive?

Cameron thinks about this long and hard.

John Henry waits patiently...

...because that's what robots can do.

CAMERON

I think I do.

JOHN HENRY

Why?

Cameron considers briefly.

CAMERON

Ego.

Now it's John Henry's turn to think.

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

It's a nice night as the almost full Moon hangs in the sky.

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK PAVILION - NIGHT

About dozen TROOPS and a dozen CIVILIANS meet on a concrete slab that hasn't yet succumbed to nature. They are in small groups. In one group are SERGEANT DELL (25), LIEUTENANT WU (25), GEORGE (35), JANICE (20), and FRED (50).

WU

When I came, I thought I'd be fighting metal. Now I have to share bunk space with them.

JANICE

At least you just have the Ks. We have those damn Repurps, too.

GEORGE

I know. It feels like I'm back in a workcamp.

DELL

It's tough. I mean, General Connor-- he's done alright by us. Except for the metal.

FRED

Can't you guys just shoot all the metal in the head and be done with it?

Dell and Wu exchange a glance.

DELL

(sarcastic)
Yeah, that'll work.

WU

The punishment for insubordination,
especially against metal, is death.

GEORGE

You're kidding.

DELL

Straight up. I've seen Connor do it
myself.

JANICE

Are we sure he's not a Gray?

DELL

Who the hell knows anymore. All I
know is that I'm not crawling
through the garbage for a starving
rat anymore.

GEORGE

It's true. The food's gotten better.

JANICE

And we haven't been attacked in a
while.

WU

People. Are you crazy? We're
surrounded by robot "gou shi".

Nods and resigned head-shaking from the group. Note: "Gou
shi" pronounced "Go-suh" = "crap".

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK HILL - NIGHT

A cloaked figure SILENTLY moves in the darkness.

INT. PLAZA MALL LAB - NIGHT

La Cazadora, wearing a cloak, is with a sleepy John,
Allison, and Cameron in John's room.

ALEJANDRA

When I got closer, I twice heard the
name, Tracey.

That wakes John up.

JOHN

Proctor?

ALEJANDRA

I think so.

JOHN

God. I thought we took care of her--
what? Four years ago?

Cameron nods.

ALLISON

She's stirring things up.

CAMERON

Revolution.

JOHN

A coup?

ALEJANDRA

Not against you, exactly. The
machines.

JOHN

It's like Jesse all over again.

ALLISON

Jesse?

JOHN

Not our Jesse. A different timeline.

While John thinks:

CAMERON

We need to kill Tracey.

ALLISON

Yeah.

Alejandra nods.

JOHN

What? Oh yeah.

CAMERON

What are you thinking?

JOHN

She could help us find the
malcontents. Since we get more Ks
all the time, maybe it's time we
prune the tree.

ALLISON

Those "malcontents" are also the
ones who'll fight Skynet the
hardest.

JOHN

But only if we're all human. That's not going to happen.

ALLISON

I don't know, John. Letting a coup happen...?

CAMERON

It's not a trap if you know it's going to happen.

JOHN

Let me ask you all this: if we kill Tracey, can we prevent it from happening?

There are a lot of glances being exchanged.

JOHN (cont'd)

We'll increase the I-C guards and protect our key installations.

CAMERON

And then we let it play out.

JOHN

And then we let it play out.

Allison bites her lip and slightly shakes her head, unconvinced.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

EXT. MUGU RUNWAY - DAY

A 747 comes in on approach...

...and lands on the main runway.

EXT. 747 STAIRS - DAY

At the top of the staers emerge SERGEI (20 male), ANATOLYI (25 male), and LING (25 female). They are part of the procession down the stairs.

SERGEI

(Russian)

I thought it was supposed to be warm.

LING

(Russian)

It's winter, you idiot.

ANATOLYI

(Russian)

You'd rather be back in Ekaterinburg?

SERGEI

(Russian)

I'd rather be back in Ha Noi.

As they reach the bottom of the stairs, they get a very stern stare from MAJOR BATBAYAR, a Mongolian officer with a Genghis Khan complex. Chastened, they file into formation with the rest of the de-planing troops.

EXT. HOOVER WILDERNESS - DAY

Three dozen TROOPS, both human and T0K, wade in the shallows of the east shore of East Lake. A light snow falls.

EXT. HOOVER WILDERNESS - LATER

The Troops are all ashore, climbing a rocky slope out of view of the Big Damn Plasma Cannon on the peak across the valley.

When they start moving up a gentler slope, they encounter two dozen T-888 endos who have them in a sudden and oppressive crossfire. Humans and T0Ks are hit. The T0Ks (none hit in the head) are all able to retreat while the humans suffer very heavy casualties.

EXT. FIRING RANGE MUGU - DAY

One of the old feeder roads to one of the runways has a large pile of debris and sand piled up near the ocean. Three head-splat endo skulls are affixed in various target positions.

John stands 150 m away with T-Rhea nearby. John has a "Winchester" low-power plasma rifle. He shoots using his gloved right hand. SHOT.

An endo head goes flying.

John fires two quick SHOTS.

The other two endo heads go flying. SHOT. SHOT. And both have their trajectories altered mid-air by the new shots.

John lowers his rifle. He flexes his gloved hand. The second and third fingers move almost normally in sync with the other two fingers.

EXT. SOUTH TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

John and T-Rhea walk up to find Cameron outside.

CAMERON

Forty-two percent humans killed at
Excelsior. No Ks were left behind
but three were killed and seven
wounded.

JOHN

Did they get any closer?

CAMERON

Yes, but not as far as we hoped.

John leads the group in entering the terminal.

JOHN

Bugs?

CAMERON

I don't know, yet.

And they are all inside.

EXT. POINT MUGU GAME RESERVE - NIGHT

A dry, meadow-like area in the midst of overgrown vegetation. Sergei, Dell, Wu, and about a dozen others mill about.

WU

I heard the metal saved themselves
and left the people to die.

DELL

Typical.

SERGEI

This happens all the time?

From a copse comes T-TRACEY, a Skynet version of the T0K
(model T0Kv2). It behaves like a Cromartie-like version of
Tracey. Dell approaches her.

DELL

You Proctor?

T-TRACEY

Call me Tracey.

The others gather around T-Tracey.

T-TRACEY (cont'd)

We all have the same problem.
Connor's machines are running this
war, not us.

There's head nodding and general agreement.

T-TRACEY (cont'd)

A lot of us think that it's time
that we get rid of the machines and
hold Connor accountable.

WU

Especially that Cameron.

T-TRACEY

Especially Cameron.

SERGEI

Wait. Are we talking a coup?

People look at Sergei.

SERGEI (cont'd)

I'm new. I just want to make sure
I'm understanding.

T-TRACEY

It depends on Connor. We just want
the metal gone. You have, what?
About seven hundred T0Ks here?

DELL
It's hard to tell anymore. At least
that.

WU
And some endos.

SERGEI
What about the people?

T-TRACEY
Do you want to talk, or to you want
to know the plan?

The Troops settle down.

EXT. PASADENA - MORNING

Pasadena had the privilege of being a J-Day ground zero.
Nature has reclaimed most of the rubble.

MOSS leans against a thick member of a bamboo grove. He has
four THUGS with him. Behind them are two tarp-covered
utility trailers. Tracey walks up with a plasma rifle aimed
rights at Moss.

TRACEY
You know y'all'd be dead if I wanted
you dead.

Moss motions his men to stand down.

MOSS
Don't take offense. They sort of
come with the job.

TRACEY
Uh-huh. You have my supplies?

MOSS
You have my payment?

Tracey nods to the bamboo.

TRACEY
Twenty meters in.

Moss motions for Thug #1 to go look.

TRACEY (cont'd)
It wasn't easy to find.

MOSS
Nothing of quality is anymore.
(MORE)

MOSS (cont'd)
A total lack of caring, don't you think?

TRACEY
Or too many smart asses.

Moss shrugs and smiles.

THUG #1 (O.S.)
Found it!

MOSS
All of it?!

There's a pause.

THUG #1 (O.S.)
Yeah! Looks good!

MOSS
Stay there!
(to Tracey)
I love a woman of her word.

Moss nods to Thug #2, who uncovers the two trailers. Moss leads Tracey to her purchase.

One trailer is loaded with weapons and boxes. The other trailer has two de-chipped T0Ks: one of them is T-TUCK.

Moss pulls out a folded piece of paper from a pocket and hands it to Tracey. Tracey unfolds and reads it, prompting a smirk.

TRACEY
Connor knows them both?

MOSS
Yep. Especially that one.

TRACEY
Where are their chips?

MOSS
Deal was two deactivated Ks. The chips are mine. They're safe.

TRACEY
Fine.

MOSS
Done and done. It's been a pleasure doing business.

With a nod, Moss and the remaining three Thugs disappear into the bamboo grove.

Tracey smiles at her bounty as Brandi walks up behind her.

BRANDI
He's as good as you said.

TRACEY
Yeah, he--

Tracey is rudely interrupted by Brandi SNAPPING her NECK and in a smooth motion tossing dead Tracey onto the trailer with the T0Ks.

A T-888 endo approaches. Brandi picks up the paper that Tracey dropped then turns to face the endo.

BRANDI
Bring those.

And Brandi exits to the same direction the endo came from.

INT. ZEIRA COMMUNICATIONS - DAY

In what was once the motor pool, Tiffany mans the communications equipment. She's bored out of her skull.

A very pregnant Allison, well into her eighth month, enters.

ALLISON
Where's Tuck?

TIFFANY
Uh... transporting some supplies
General Connor wanted, I think.

ALLISON
You think? Get Group one, I want to
talk to John.

Tiffany flips a few switches.

YURI
(on radio)
Group one, Zeira.

They wait for a response.

EXT. PCH NEAR MUGU - DAY

A truck FIRE BURNS out of control, sending up a column of black smoke. Troops rush to the area, but are held back by secondary EXPLOSIONS.

EXT. MUGU GROUNDS - DAY

From just meters away, two SOLDIERS head-splat two T0Ks who had been watching the column of smoke.

EXT. MUGU MESS - DAY

Outside the rather bland building, a group of HUMAN SOLDIERS and T0Ks face in the direction of the black smoke.

From a rooftop, several plasma bolts streak to down five of the T0Ks. Everyone scatters.

EXT. SOUTH TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

John and Cameron face the black smoke. T-Rhea and T-NATHAN look around.

JOHN

Were we expecting anything?

CAMERON

Not that I--

A plasma blast hits Cameron in the head, pushing her to the ground face-down. T-Nathan gets a simultaneous head-splat.

John is surprised.

T-Rhea immediately grabs John and essentially carries him into the building.

JOHN

Cameron!

Just as they cross the threshold, a plasma bolt digs a crater into the wall next to the door.

EXT. OXNARD - DAY

In the cargo area of a truck, Brandi inserts a CPU into T-Tuck's head but doesn't replace the larger-than needed head flap. The now T-SKYNET-TUCK looks like he's been blown up since the last time we saw him.

T-Skynet-Tuck activates and sits up.

BRANDI

Here's what you need to know.

Brandi plugs a cylinder similar to the Andy cylinder into a port adjacent to the CPU port. After some head tilts from T-Skynet-Tuck, Brandi removes the cylinder and pushes the head flap into place.

BRANDI (cont'd)
You understand? I want Connor alive
and brought to me.

T-SKynet-TUCK
Of course.

BRANDI
I sent the decoy ahead. You need to
be an infiltrator.

T-SKynet-TUCK
I understand.

T-Skynet-Tuck smiles without feeling.

BRANDI
Whatever. Go.

T-Skynet-Tuck stands then exits the truck.

INT. ZEIRA COMMUNICATIONS - DAY

Allison is at the communications equipment. Savannah enters.

KYLE (COMM)
...[ha]vn't been able to reach John.
We're out of position, but we had a
report that Cameron was hit.

ALLISON
(on radio)
Copy that. Stand by.
(to Savannah)
Fighting erupted at Group one. Looks
like our own people are taking out
Ks.

SAVANNAH
Tracey?

ALLISON
I'm positive.
(on radio)
Let the Ks loose.

KYLE (COMM)
I think they already are. They
aren't stupid.

ALLISON
(on radio)
Get down there as fast as you can.
Secure John.

KYLE (COMM)
Be there in a few. Out.

Allison nervously rubs her belly.

ALLISON
I hate not being there.

SAVANNAH
You hate not knowing.

Allison hates not knowing.

EXT. MUGU - DAY

A SERIES OF SHOTS

A) A head-splat T0K half-out of a doorway.

B) A SOLDIER standing over a fallen T0K and doing a point-blank head shot.

C) A broken T0K, parts out of joint, crawling behind cover.

D) Two dead humans, one with a broken neck, the other with a bloody hole where her heart used to be.

E) BLACK SCREEN

INT. CHALLENGE ROOM - DAY

Clio pounds on her terminal.

CLIO
(to herself)
No. No. Come on. Come on.
(to Proctor)
I've lost my data stream. May I have
a recess?

There's a bit of a pause, which doesn't help Clio's mood.

PROCTOR (O.S.)
Very well.

AN ENDOSKELETON comes out of the darkness. Clio leaves her seat and exits the room with the Endoskelton.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT SIX

THE END