

BLK SUN Episode 8

By

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ACT ONE

EXT. GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

Slayde's car comes to a stop beside a pump at an abandoned gas station. The Cultists stop behind Slayde in their van.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR - GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

Slayde's a mess. He's covered in dirt, battered and bruised. Slayde leans back, closes his eyes, lets out a sigh.

DAE-SU

You doing alright?

SLAYDE

Yeah. Just need a minute to catch my breath.

DAE-SU

How did they know where to find us?

SLAYDE

My best guess?

Slayde checks his rearview mirror. The Cultists exit the van, slamming their doors.

SLAYDE (CONT'D)

It was a rat.

EXT. GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

JAMIE, a Cultist wearing body armour, inspects the van. It's riddled with bullet holes.

JAMIE

Man, they shot her up real good.

The other Cultists gather round to check the damage. SPARK, a spiky-haired youth, touches the bullet holes.

SPARK

We should've listened to the Idol. Now look at the trouble we're in.

JAMIE

Shut it. We're safe for now. So long as we keep a low profile.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR - GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

Slayde watches HALDON, a scruffy, stick-thin Cultist lean back onto a gas pump. He's not as curious as the others.

DAE-SU
Any idea who it is?

The rearview mirror shows Haldon slowly reach into his jacket pocket. Slayde watches him, cocks his pistol.

DAE-SU(CONT'D)
Slayde?

EXT. GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

Haldon, hand in his pocket, watches the other Cultists inspecting the van. His hand lingers for just a second too long.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR - GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

Slayde watches Haldon in his rearview. He grits his teeth in anticipation.

SLAYDE
Come on.

Haldon, cool as ice, pulls a cigarette out of his jacket pocket, lights it.

EXT. GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

Jamie, Spark and EMILIO, a bald hispanic man, huddle up beside the van.

EMILIO
You know whose fault this is right?

Emilio peers over Jamie's shoulder at Slayde's car.

EMILIO(CONT'D)
I don't trust him. Soon as he showed up everything went to shit.

Jamie glances over his shoulder at Slayde's car.

JAMIE
You think he lead them to us?

(CONTINUED)

EMILIO

Can't say. All I know is he's bad news. We gotta settle this now before we get taken out.

Jamie considers it for a moment. He glances at Spark, jittery and on edge.

JAMIE

Play it cool. If he gets out of line drop him.

Emilio nods.

Haldon snubs his cigarette, stands up straight.

HALDON

I gotta take a leak.

Jamie and the other Cultists look over at him.

JAMIE

Make it quick. We're leaving in five.

Haldon swaggers off toward the gas station's convenience store. Slayde steps out of his car, blocking Haldon's path.

Haldon scoffs at Slayde who's a whole head taller than him.

HALDON

(rude)

Watch it, metal man.

Haldon shoves past Slayde, continues walking. Slayde watches him go.

DAE-SU

I don't like him.

Slayde approaches Jamie and the others.

SLAYDE

What's the damage?

JAMIE

Nothing major. Might need a new paint job.

INT. BATHROOM - GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

Haldon steps into the bathroom. He checks that no one's followed him then reaches into his pocket, pulls out a com-device.

He presses a button. Static then silence.

BOUNTY HUNTER(O.S.)
We good to go?

HALDON
(into device)
They're all yours.

EXT. GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

Slayde projects a map of Cyber City onto the side of the van. The Cultists stare at it.

SLAYDE
It'll take us a couple days if we travel underground.

JAMIE
You think it's the best way?

EMILIO
(interrupting)
Man screw this guy. You seriously wanna follow him through the City after everything that just happened?

JAMIE
Emilio, chill.

EMILIO
Nah.

Emilio draws his pistol, points it at Slayde.

EMILIO(CONT'D)
I say we plug this fool right now and go after Unity ourselves.

Slayde tenses, his hand hovering over his holstered pistol.

SLAYDE
You're making a big mistake, kid.

(CONTINUED)

DAE-SU
Don't shoot, don't shoot.

Spark's eyes are wide, his jaw trembles. Jamie steps in.

JAMIE
Stop it. We're wasting time.

An engine roars in the distance. Emilio looks back over his shoulder.

An old truck, modded with a turret and armor plating, rolls in over a hill.

A BOUNTY HUNTER, wearing a gas mask, points at Slayde and the Cultists. He makes a slit-throat gesture then fires the turret.

Slayde and the Cultists hit the deck. Bullets collide with concrete. Spark, frozen in fear, stands in the open like a deer in headlights.

Jamie and Emilio, taking cover, see Spark. Bullets fly past him.

JAMIE
Get out of there, Spark!

One of the bullets grazes Spark's shoulder. He clutches his arm in pain.

Slayde leaps from cover, grabs Spark, pulls him behind a wall.

The truck stops a few feet from the gas station. The turret's red-hot. It needs to cool off. The Bounty Hunter hits it in frustration.

Jamie pops up from behind cover, fires a shot. The bullet hits the Bounty Hunter in the throat. He gurgles, collapses.

Jamie grins. Emilio sees another BOUNTY HUNTER exit the passenger seat, holding a shotgun.

EMILIO
(to Jamie)
Watch out!

The Bounty Hunter shoots. Jamie ducks just in time but he's totally exposed.

The Bounty Hunter pumps his shotgun. Takes aim. Jamie's eyes widen in terror.

(CONTINUED)

The Bounty Hunter squeezes the trigger. A bullet catches him in the chest, then another, then another. Slayde's got him.

Slayde sees the DRIVER shuffle from the front seat to the back of the truck.

Slayde drops a mag, reloads. He sprints toward the truck.

SLAYDE

Cover me!

The Driver kicks open the back doors of the truck, runs for it.

Slayde sees the Driver running away. He takes aim, fires. The Driver drops dead on a sandy hill.

EXT. GAS STATION - OUTER CITY - NIGHT

Haldon watches from behind the convenience store as Slayde and the Cultists regroup at the gas station.

Spark inspects his wound. It's just a scrape, nothing serious.

SLAYDE

(to Jamie)

Where's the other one?

JAMIE

Haldon?

Jamie looks over at the convenience store. Slayde and the others follow his gaze. They spot Haldon.

HALDON

Shit.

Haldon turns and runs for dear life. Emilio draws his pistol and takes aim.

SLAYDE

Let him go. He won't last long out there.

Emilio watches Haldon run away. He frowns then lowers his pistol.

EMILIO

So what's the plan now?

(CONTINUED)

DAE-SU
Good question.

Slayde frowns and looks away.

Spark looks at his wound.

SPARK
What about the Dark Zone?

This catches Slayde's attention.

JAMIE
Spark, don't even think about it.

SPARK
Why not? We know where the weaponry
is. All we need is someone who can
repair it.

Spark looks at Slayde.

DAE-SU
The Dark Zone?

JAMIE
Don't ask, we're not going.

EMILIO
I second that.

Slayde looks at Spark then at Jamie then back to Spark.

SLAYDE
This weaponry, you know where to
find it?

SPARK
Yeah.

Jamie steps in close to Slayde.

JAMIE
(serious)
Listen man, you need to trust me
when I say it's a bad idea. We'll
find another way.

Slayde looks around. The gas station's shot to shit.

SLAYDE
Doesn't look like we've got any
other options.

JAMIE

The Idol tried for years to get the
weaponry going. What makes you
think you can do it?

SLAYDE

(leans in close)

How long you think it's gonna be
before Unity finds us again?

Jamie's got nothing.

SLAYDE (CONT'D)

If there's a chance to even the
odds then we need to take it. Come
with, stay, it doesn't matter.

Jamie chews on Slayde's words. Emilio looks at him
questioningly.

EXT. CYBER CITY - NIGHT

Slayde's car races through the empty back roads of Cyber
City. The Cultist van follows behind.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Slayde's got his hand on the wheel and his eyes on the road.

Spark sits in the passenger seat. He can't stop staring at
Slayde's robotic arm.

He also notices a purple heart on Slayde's dashboard.

SLAYDE

I got it after the war.

SPARK

Oh. I didn't mean to stare.

SLAYDE

Don't worry. Most people do.

SPARK

You were an engineer?

SLAYDE

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

SPARK
My dad was a general.

Slayde raises an eyebrow.

SLAYDE
You know about the Dark Zone?

Spark hesitates.

SPARK
I was born there.

INT. APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Candles burn in the dark bathroom. They illuminate SPARK, five, sitting in a bath tub, and KATHERINE, kneeling beside the tub.

KATHERINE
Okay, put your head back.

Katherine scoops water into a cup and pours it over Spark's shampooed hair.

Spark's eyes are closed. The water runs through his hair.

Katherine looks at the candles. They're almost done. She looks concerned.

Spark opens his eyes and looks at Katherine.

SPARK
Mom.

KATHERINE
Last one.

Spark quickly closes his eyes and puts his head back. Katherine scoops and rinses again.

SPARK
Is dad coming home tonight?

KATHERINE
I don't think so, sweetie.

SPARK
(disappointed)
Oh.

KATHERINE
Come on. Time to dry off.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

It's pitch black in the bedroom. Spark and Katherine lay facing each other under the covers of a bed.

Katherine takes two light capsules out of a holder. She gives one to Spark.

Spark watches Katherine eagerly.

KATHERINE
(playful)
One, two, three.

Spark and Katherine put the capsules in their mouths as quick as they can. They smile at each other.

KATHERINE
Wait for it to dissolve.

Beat.

SPARK
All done.

Spark peers down at the capsule container, frowns.

SPARK (CONT'D)
There's only two left.

Katherine closes the container, tucks it under her pillow.

KATHERINE
Did I ever tell you the story of
the little dragon?

SPARK
I wanna hear a story about dad.

KATHERINE
But I've told you all of them
already.

SPARK
I forgot.

Katherine doesn't buy it but she concedes.

(CONTINUED)

KATHERINE
Well, what do you want to know?

SPARK
What did he do?

KATHERINE
Before we met?

Spark nods.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)
He fought in the war.

Spark's eyes widen with wonder.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)
He was part of the good guys. The
ones trying to save us.

SPARK
Was he important?

KATHERINE
He was a general.

SPARK
(amazed)
Did they win?

KATHERINE
Of course they did. Otherwise we
wouldn't be here.

Spark grins to himself. Katherine can't help but smile
seeing it.

Spark's grin fades, he frowns.

SPARK
And the two of you met after the
war?

KATHERINE
Yes. Dad started working in the
same building as me.

SPARK
And then I popped out of you.

KATHERINE
(giggles)
That happened a bit later.

(CONTINUED)

Katherine and Spark hear muffled voices outside the apartment. They hear the front door get kicked in.

ACT TWO

EXT. BACK ROAD - CYBER CITY - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Slayde's car speeds down the road. Slayde breaks hard and skids to a halt. The Cultist van is behind him.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR - BACK ROAD - CYBER CITY - NIGHT

Slayde and Spark lurch forward as the car skids to a halt.

DAE-SU

What the hell?

Slayde stares out over the steering wheel.

The road ends in a wall of darkness. It's pitch black.

The Cultist van pulls up along the passenger side of Slayde's car.

Spark rolls the window down.

Jamie and Emilio peer into Slayde's car from the van.

JAMIE

Follow us.

Slayde watches the Cultist van slowly enter the darkness.

DAE-SU

Are you sure about this?

Slayde puts the car in gear and slowly enters as well.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde's headlights catch the back of the Cultist van. He follows close behind.

Slayde peers out his side window. Spark looks straight ahead.

SPARK

I wouldn't do that.

Slayde looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

DAE-SU
Come again?

SPARK
You've heard about staring into the
abyss?

Slayde considers the comment.

SPARK (CONT'D)
It's better to watch the road.

EXT. MILITARY BASE - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The Cultist van stops in front of a gate. Emilio gets out
and opens the gate.

Jamie drives through. Emilio waves for Slayde to follow.

Slayde drives through.

Emilio shuts the gate and climbs back into the van. The two
cars make their way up a winding road.

EXT. MILITARY BASE - ENTRANCE - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde's car and the van are parked outside the entrance.

Emilio shoves a crowbar under a steel door, heaves.

EMILIO
Yo Spark, gimme a hand here.

Spark goes to help Emilio.

Jamie walks up to Slayde.

JAMIE
You're certain you can fix the
weaponry?

Slayde lights a cigarette.

SLAYDE
I'm not certain of anything these
days.

Emilio and Spark give one last push. The metal door slides
open.

(CONTINUED)

EMILIO
(to Slayde, Jamie)
Let's go.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A UNITY AGENT, burly brute, presses a gun to Katherine's head.

Katherine's crying. The agent has her head pinned to the bed.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CLOSET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT -
FLASHBACK CONT'D

Spark watches from a slit in a closet door, teary-eyed and terrified.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK
CONT'D

A MAN IN A BLACK TRENCH COAT steps up to the edge of the bed.

TRENCH COAT
You're aware of the reason for our
visit?

Katherine snivels, her face pressed to the mattress.

The Man checks a screen on his watch.

TRENCH COAT(CONT'D)
My orders are to bring you back to
headquarters.

The Man looks over at the closet.

TRENCH COAT(CONT'D)
Only you.

Katherine shrieks.

TRENCH COAT(CONT'D)
You'll come quietly.

KATHERINE
(muffled sobbing)
Yes.

The Man nods at the Agent. He presses a button on his watch.

(CONTINUED)

TRENCH COAT
(into watch)
I've apprehended the traitor.

JESSICA(O.S.)
And the virus?

TRENCH COAT
(into watch)
I'm working on it.

JESSICA(O.S.)
Work faster.

The call ends.

INT. APARTMENT - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

Spark watches from the apartment window, balling his eyes out.

A Unity jet-plane rises into the air.

SPARK
(screams)
Mommy.

The jet-plane charges up, takes off at super sonic speed.

Spark is left in total darkness.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

Spark approaches an alley in the street. He's using a glow-stick to light the way.

Spark's shirt sleeves are frayed. It's been a while since Katherine was taken away.

Spark hears people talking in the alley. He carefully peeks around the corner.

EXT. ALLEY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

A group of SURVIVORS huddle around a dumpster fire in the alley.

Spark sees them cooking a feral cat on a spit. His stomach rumbles.

LIZA, eight, pig tails, plays hop-scotch by the People. Spark is intrigued by her.

INT. MILITARY BASE - WEAPONS SAFE - DARK ZONE - NIGHT -
PRESENT DAY

Slayde tinkers with a large pulse-rifle. Jamie and the crew watch him, anxious.

Slayde tries to spark the rifle with his finger. The rifle lights up for a second, dies.

EMILIO

I told you this was a waste of time. Why the hell did we come all the way out here?

SLAYDE

The guns are fine. It's their power supply that's shot.

Slayde looks at Spark.

SLAYDE (CONT'D)

What happened here?

JAMIE

Unity. That's what happened.

SLAYDE

Why am I not surprised.

JAMIE

Fuckers dropped an EMP to stop the droids from rebelling.

SLAYDE

Must've been a hell of a blast to knock an entire city out.

Dae-Su's display lights up.

DAE-SU

Hang on a minute.

SLAYDE

What is it?

DAE-SU

I'm not sure. I'm picking up a strange signal out there. It's faint but definitely there. It feels like radiation.

(CONTINUED)

SLAYDE

A power-core?

SPARK

What's a power-core?

SLAYDE

It's what Unity uses to charge their heavy artillery.

JAMIE

You think it'll work for the weapons?

SLAYDE

It could. But we'd need to convert it first.

JAMIE

Is that difficult?

Slayde checks his pistol.

SLAYDE

Not if you're familiar with the tech. And yes, I am. Dae-Su can you trace the signal?

DAE-SU

I've already set up a beacon.

Slayde stands.

SLAYDE

Then we'd best get a move on.

Slayde glances at a dusty gramophone sitting in the corner of the room.

EMILIO

Hold up. You expect us to follow you deeper into the Dark Zone because ching-chong over here picked up a signal?

DAE-SU

Watch it, esse.

SLAYDE

You three will stay here. Bag the weapons and be ready to leave when I get back.

(CONTINUED)

SPARK
I'm going with you.

SLAYDE
Did you not hear me?

SPARK
How are you gonna find your way
back?

Slayde pauses.

SPARK (CONT'D)
I can guide you through the dark.

Slayde eyes Spark, nods.

Slayde glances at the gramophone before he leaves.

SLAYDE
Take that too.

Emilio and Jamie watch them leave.

EMILIO
(sarcastic)
I guess we'll just wait here and
have your bags packed for you when
you return.

DAE-SU (O.S.)
You do that.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde's brights are on. He cruises past a series of
buildings. Spark stares ahead.

SLAYDE
You sure you can get us back?

SPARK
Positive.

DAE-SU
(sarcastic)
I'm glad you're so confident.

Spark watches the buildings go by.

(CONTINUED)

SPARK
There's something I didn't tell
you.

Slayde raises an eyebrow.

SPARK (CONT'D)
There's a group of rogue Unity
drones out there.

DAE-SU
(incredulous)
What?

SLAYDE
Why didn't you say something
sooner?

SPARK
I was scared you wouldn't go deeper
if you knew.

DAE-SU
Well that's just peachy. Nothing
like a group of killer drones to
make things a little more
interesting.

Slayde glances at a shot-gun mounted to the ceiling of his
car.

SLAYDE
We'll just have to be discreet.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde's car barrels down the street.

A strange light follows behind. The light hops from lamp
post to lamp post.

EXT. ALLEY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Spark's facing a wall, his eyes closed. A sliver of light
from the dumpster fire illuminates him.

SPARK
Eighteen, nineteen, twenty.

Spark opens his eyes and turns.

(CONTINUED)

The alley is almost entirely dark. The dumpster fire flickers in the distance.

Spark hears a rustling in the darkness. He turns toward it. He feels around and discovers a large, upside down box.

Spark grins.

SPARK
Ha! I found you.

Spark lifts the box but no one's there.

SPARK
Huh?

Liza pounces out of the darkness behind Spark.

LIZA
Hey!

Spark jumps back, startled.

Liza laughs at him.

SPARK
It's not fair. How come you can see in the dark?

LIZA
I can't see in the dark, silly.

Spark folds his arms, pouts.

SPARK
Liar.

LIZA
No, really. Look.

Spark, curious, looks.

LIZA
I feel.

Liza touches the alley wall.

SPARK
Huh?

Liza takes Spark's hand, places it on the wall.

LIZA
If you practice enough you'll
always know where you are.

Spark stares at the wall, barely lit by the fire.

EXT. ALLEY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

Liza, Spark and all the other Survivors huddle around the
dumpster fire.

JEB, a tall man with a wide frame, raises his hands,
addresses the Survivors.

JEB
How long have we been lost in the
darkness?

No one answers. They know not too.

JEB(CONT'D)
We have wondered aimlessly like
mules in the desert. Has anyone
come to save us?

A WOMAN in the crowd pumps her fist.

WOMAN
No!

JEB
How long can we wait for a
salvation that will never come?
It's time we forged our own path to
the light.

The Survivors look to each other, nod.

JEB(CONT'D)
The very ones who swore to protect
us cast us into the abyss. And
they're never coming back.

Jeb glances at Spark and Liza.

JEB(CONT'D)
The innocents have suffered long
enough. Follow me. Follow me to the
droid graveyard where we will
harness their parts and create a
tool to lead us out of here once
and for all.

PEOPLE
(together)
Here, here!

Liza stands, pumps her fist.

LIZA
Here, here!

Spark watches them but doesn't react.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

Jeb leads the People through the rubble of the street. He's holding a flaming piece of wood with cloth on the end.

Jeb stops, touches a wall nearby, looks back at the People.

JEB
We're close.

There's a glimmer of hope in the Survivors' eyes.

Jeb and the People walk on. Spark pauses and touches the same spot Jeb did.

Sparks looks at his hand.

EXT. DROID GRAVEYARD - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

Jeb and the Survivors stop at a massive crater in the road. They look inside.

The crater is filled with dead droids and robot body parts.

JEB
(to People)
Our salvation is at hand.

Jeb and two other Survivors climb down into the crater. They tread carefully over the dead droids.

One of the People trip over a piece of metal.

Jeb looks at him, irritated.

The ground begins to shake. Engines roar.

EXT. FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Slayde's car barrels down the freeway at high speed.

ACT THREE

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - FREEWAY - NIGHT

Spark inspects the shot-gun mounted on the car's ceiling. It glows fluorescent red, like Slayde's arm.

DAE-SU

Pull over.

SPARK

You found the core?

DAE-SU

Can't say for sure but it's definitely here. The signal's real strong.

EXT. FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde pulls over to the side of the freeway. He kills the lights.

Slayde and Spark exit the car. Slayde cracks a large glow-stick, tosses it at Spark.

SLAYDE

Hold that for me, sport.

Spark catches the glow-stick.

Slayde checks his mag.

SLAYDE (CONT'D)

(to Dae-Su)

Alright, where's the core?

DAE-SU

Over the railing.

Slayde peers over the railing of the freeway. It's a steep slope down to the bottom.

EXT. BELOW FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde and Spark skid down the side of the freeway, land at the bottom. The glow-stick gives them a luminous aura.

Slayde reaches into his pocket, pulls out a glass ball.

SPARK
The hell's that?

SLAYDE
Locator.

SPARK
What's it do?

DAE-SU
It locates things.

Slayde rolls the ball on the ground into the darkness. The ball disappears.

Spark stares into the darkness, trying to see it.

A red light flashes in a sweeping motion. It's coming from the glass ball.

The glass ball beeps, illuminates a red path to an object glowing in the distance.

SLAYDE
(to Spark)
Come on.

Spark follows Slayde along the path.

The light from the glow-stick illuminates a string of dead droids. They stand lifeless in the dark.

Spark looks at the droids.

SPARK
Hard to believe they were ever a
threat.

Spark and Slayde come to a stop outside a derelict building. The path ends at the entrance of the building.

Spark shines the light on a door. UNITY's logo is written on the door.

Slayde clutches the door handle, pushes it. It won't budge.

(CONTINUED)

SPARK

What now?

DAE-SU

Check the back. They always leave
an opening at the back.

INT. DERELICT BUILDING - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The interior of the building is filled with machinery.

There's a door on the near-side of the building. A loud
bang. The door squeaks open.

Slayde and Spark enter.

SLAYDE

Keep your eyes peeled. The core's
bound to be here somewhere.

Spark inspects the machinery, genuinely intrigued. The shine
from the glow-stick creeps along a wall as Spark inspects
each item from right to left.

Spark sees a disfigured droid head, screams. Spark jumps
back, trips over something.

Slayde whips around, pistol drawn. He eyes Spark, sprawled
out on the floor.

Slayde sees a hunk of metal under Spark. It's glowing green.

SLAYDE

There it is.

SPARK

(disoriented)

There what is?

Slayde reaches down. Spark thinks Slayde wants to help him
up. Slayde reaches past him, picks up the hunk of metal -
the POWER-CORE.

Spark, ego a little bruised, rushes to his feet, brushes
himself off.

SPARK

(nonchalant)

So that's it? The uh, power-core?

Slayde stares at the core, a glint in his eye.

(CONTINUED)

SLAYDE
Indeed it is.

DAE-SU
Great, now let's get out of here.

The building shakes and trembles. Powerful lights shine through the windows into the building.

Slayde grabs Spark, takes cover against a wall, pistol drawn.

Engines roar with a metallic shrill outside the building.

Spark begins to shudder uncontrollably. Slayde doesn't see, he's too busy peeking out the window.

DAE-SU
Slayde.

SLAYDE
Quiet

Spark breaks out into a full-blown panic attack.

DAE-SU
Slayde.

SLAYDE
(irritated)
What?

Slayde sees Spark freaking out.

SPARK
(shouting)
They're gonna kill us. We're dead,
we're fucking dead. Oh my God. They
shot her, they shot her in the
heart.

Slayde grabs Spark, puts a hand over his mouth.

Spark panics and convulses but Slayde holds him down.

The lights outside come closer to the window. The entire building is lit up.

The engines roar so loudly it's deafening.

DAE-SU
(to Slayde)
The drones?

(CONTINUED)

Slayde nods.

DAE-SU (CONT'D)

What now?

SLAYDE

We wait.

The lights shine into the building. Then slowly they leave. The sound of the engines grows feinter as the Drones fly away.

Slayde waits for a second longer. Spark is trembling but is calmer now.

SLAYDE (CONT'D)

(to Spark)

You gonna be okay to run to the car?

Spark gives a response, muffled by Slayde's hand.

Slayde let's him go. Spark, shaken up, takes a deep breath, cries a bit more.

Slayde peeks out the window again.

SLAYDE

We need to get out of her now, quietly.

Slayde looks at Spark, empathetic.

SLAYDE

You gonna be okay to navigate?

Spark pulls himself together.

SPARK

Yeah. I'll be fine.

EXT. DROID GRAVEYARD - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The ground shakes violently.

Jeb and the People lose their balance, land on their butts.

Three UNITY ATTACK DRONES rise up from under the dead droids. The sound from their engines is deafening.

Jeb and the People shield their eyes from the bright searchlights.

(CONTINUED)

JEB
(screams)

Run!

Spark and the others watch from the edge of the crater.

The Drones fire their gattling guns, mow Jeb and the other two down.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

The People at the edge of the crater scream, run for dear life. Spark almost gets trampled by them.

Liza helps Spark up.

LIZA
Come on!

Spark and Liza sprint down the street.

The People are far ahead of them.

The Drones soar over Spark and Liza. They fire their guns at the People.

The People scream in agony as the bullets tear through them like paper targets.

Spark and Liza see the Drones turn around. The Drones fly straight toward them.

Spark sees the Drones' turrets begin to spin. The Drones open fire.

EXT. ALLEY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

Spark grabs Liza by the hand, leaps into an alley. Spark buries himself and Liza under a pile of trash.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

The Drones hover past the alley, stop, shine their lights into the alley.

EXT. ALLEY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

The light from the Drones illuminates the entire alley in white light.

The alley's filled with trash and rubble. The Drones watch for a moment longer.

Beat.

The Drones turn and fly off.

EXT. ALLEY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

Spark lays dead still beneath trash bags, listening for the Drones. He hears them fly off.

The alley's completely dark. Spark reaches into his pocket and cracks his last glow-stick.

 SPARK
 Liza, you okay?

The light illuminates the small space between Spark and Liza.

Spark looks into Liza's eyes, they're lifeless.

 SPARK
 (worried)
 Liza?

Spark shakes her a little. He checks his hand. It's full of blood.

Spark gets a fright, looks at Liza's jersey. There's a bullet-hole in her chest.

 SPARK
 (tearing up)
 Liza.

Spark holds Liza's hand, cries.

EXT. FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

A lamp post above Slayde's car is lit.

EXT. BELOW FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde and Spark quietly make their way from the derelict building to the hill below the freeway.

Slayde stops, sees the lamp post is lit, frowns. Spark sees it too.

SPARK

You think it's them?

SLAYDE

No. But we're gonna take it slow anyway.

DAE-SU

I'd like that.

EXT. FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde and Spark approach the railing. They make sure to stay in the dark, outside the lamp's glare.

Slayde's got his pistol cocked. The car stands idly under the light.

Slayde carefully climbs over the rail. Spark follows. They enter the car.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR - FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde and Spark sit in the car, quietly close the doors. Spark has the power-core on his lap.

Slayde reaches for the ignition. Slowly, he turns the car on.

The power-core glows bright green as the car starts. The car reacts to the power-core, roars to life.

SPARK

(startled)

Why's it so loud?

SLAYDE

It's reacting to the core.

The car's headlights shine much brighter than before, the car's supercharged by the core.

(CONTINUED)

SPARK

Make it stop.

SLAYDE

Can it.

Slayde fiddles with some knobs on the car's display unit but nothing's working.

Slayde hears a shrill metallic roar outside the car, checks his rearview.

The three Attack Drones rise up from behind the railing of the freeway.

Spark, terrified, turns, sees the Drones.

DAE-SU

Slayde?

Slayde shifts into gear, steps on the gas pedal.

EXT. FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The Drones' turrets spin. A barrage of bullets clip the road.

The car's wheels spin, races off down the freeway at high speed.

The Drones chase after it. Bullets collide with the roof of the car.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Spark ducks at the sound of the bullets hitting the roof. Slayde grits his teeth.

SLAYDE

Hold on.

Slayde swings left. Spark's head hits the passenger window.

EXT. FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The car races down an off-ramp.

The Drones swerve, guns blazing.

EXT. FREEWAY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

One by one, the lamp posts light up and die again. The Strange Light follows the car chase.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde's car motors down the street.

The Drones are gaining on Slayde. A flap on one of the Drones's body slides open.

A missile rises up out of the flap.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Spark stares back at the Drones chasing them. He sees the missile.

 SPARK
 (panicked)
 Slayde!

Slayde checks the rearview.

 SLAYDE
 Shit.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The missile launches, hurtles straight for Slayde's car.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde shifts down, hits the brakes, swings the wheel.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde's car swerves into an alley. The missile goes flying straight past it.

The missile hits the road, explodes.

One of the Drones flies above the alley, tails Slayde.

The other two fly off in other directions.

EXT. ALLEY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde's car weaves right, left, right, dodging alley dumpsters.

The Drone tailing Slayde coasts above the car. It's too big to fit into the alley.

The alley's end is in sight.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde's car peels out of the alley, swerves, takes off down the street.

The Drone tailing him follows, rapid fire.

A bullet hits Slayde's back tyre, it bursts.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The car bounces from the popped tyre. Spark looks at Slayde.

SPARK

We're gonna get lost in here.
You've gotta stop changing lanes.

SLAYDE

Take the wheel.

SPARK

What?

Slayde locks the car's speed in place. Slayde grabs the shot-gun mounted to the car's ceiling.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde's driver's-side-window rolls down. Slayde climbs out, sits on the windowsill, shot-gun at the ready.

The Strange Light follows, lighting office windows in the buildings.

The car swerves a little.

SLAYDE

(to Spark)
Hold her steady.

Slayde takes aim at the Drone, fires.

(CONTINUED)

Miss.

Slayde pumps the shot-gun, fires.

Hit.

The pellets from the shot-gun shell barely scratch the Drone's titanium exterior.

DAE-SU

Fuck.

Slayde continues firing.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Spark's leaning over the handbrake, clutching the wheel. He sees the other two Drones appear at the end of the street.

SPARK

Slayde!

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde turns, sees the other two Drones, slides back into the car.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Spark shifts over. Slayde grabs the wheel.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The Drone behind Slayde peppers his car with bullets.

The car swerves left and right.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde sees missiles emerge from the underside of the two Drones in front.

Slayde looks scared for the first time, checks his rearview.

The Drone behind him is hot on his trail.

The Drones in front stop, take aim at the car.

(CONTINUED)

SPARK
Oh God, no!

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The Drones in front hover above the street, missiles at the ready.

Slayde's car hurtles toward them.

The Drones beep.

Beat.

The missiles fire up and head straight for Slayde's car.

INT. SLAYDE'S CAR (MOVING) - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Spark shields himself with his arms.

Slayde locks the wheel, grabs Spark, opens his door, leaps out of the car.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Slayde tucks and rolls onto the road. His arm takes the brunt of the impact.

Slayde shields Spark with his body as they roll like rag-dolls.

The missiles connect with the car. It explodes in a ball of flames.

The fire from the car illuminates Slayde and Spark, laying lifeless on the road.

The three Drones hover over the wreckage, observing.

Slayde's head is bleeding. Spark's jacket is torn.

Beat.

The Drones slowly turn, fly away.

ACT FOUR

EXT. ALLEY - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Spark wades through the trash. His glow-stick is dim.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK CONT'D

Spark, bruised all over, peeks out of the alley. It's pitch-black.

Spark makes his way down the street. The glow stick illuminates rubble and ruin left behind by the Drones.

Spark's shoulder has a cut on it. Spark touches the cut, winces in pain.

Spark continues down the street whilst tending to his wound. He moans, trying to stop the bleeding.

A hunk of metal sticking out of the ground catches Spark's foot mid-step. Spark falls onto the road.

Lying on the road, defeated, Spark stares into the eternal darkness surrounding him.

Spark sighs, eyes half-closed from exhaustion. The glow-stick in his hand slowly burns out.

Total darkness.

Spark's deep, laboured breathing is the only sound to be heard.

A ray of light cuts through the darkness.

Spark, eyes closed, frowns, opens them. He props himself up and looks down the street.

At the end of the road, far off in the distance, a light emanates. A beacon of hope.

Spark, awe-struck, watches the light from his puddle of rubble.

Spark slowly rises to his feet, clutching his shoulder.

Spark checks the light, twinkling in the distance. A look of steely resolve on his face.

Spark takes a step toward the light.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Spark shoots up, gasps for air. He looks around, sees Slayde's car up in flames, panics.

SPARK
Slayde? Dae-Su?

Spark, still seated, scans his surroundings, sees Slayde sitting up against a building.

Slayde looks defeated, his head hung low, covered in cuts and black marks.

SPARK
Slayde.

Slayde doesn't move a muscle, stares down at the ground before him.

Spark carefully gets up from the road, hobbles to a nearby building, feels it, frowns. He tries it with another building, then another.

SPARK
(under his breath)
Fuck.

Spark watches the car burn brightly, looks at Slayde.

SPARK
Are you guys okay?

SLAYDE
Not now, kid.

Spark, disappointed, steps onto the sidewalk. He sees a vending machine, looks at his reflection in the glass pane.

Sweets are on display behind the dusty glass. All of the sweets have a UNITY logo on them.

Spark, angry, hits the vending machine. He grabs his hand, grunts in pain.

A red light on the vending machine comes alive. The machine beeps.

Spark, hunched over in pain, glances at the machine, sees the light.

(CONTINUED)

SPARK
(voice crack)
Uhh, Slayde?

Slayde doesn't respond.

Spark, unsure, taps the machine. It beeps again. The light brightens then softens.

Spark flinches.

Neon bars on the machine light up. The machine comes to life. Spark checks it out, amazed.

The machine beeps like R2D2, it's trying to communicate.

SPARK
Can you talk?

The machine alternates the lights on its body, beeps. Spark grins in wonder.

Across the street, light from the car-fire flickers on Slayde's ashen face. He's broken.

DAE-SU
Slayde.

SLAYDE
I don't need to hear it from you
now either.

DAE-SU
But something's happening.

SLAYDE
Leave me.

Spark chats to the machine.

SPARK
You're from Unity?

The machine beeps.

SPARK (CONT'D)
Whoa. You probably know a way out
of here.

The machine beeps unintelligibly. The light drains from the machine.

A neon sign above the machine lights up.

(CONTINUED)

Spark looks at it, frowns.

SPARK(CONT'D)

Is that you?

The sign flickers on and off.

The sign dies. A neon bar along the sidewalk edge comes to life. It slowly pulses different colours.

SPARK

Holy shit.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The light glows bigger and brighter than before. Spark's getting close to it.

Spark huffs as he hobbles at top speed toward the end of the street.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Spark watches the Light shift from one electronic to another. A sign above a store on the sidewalk lights up.

Slayde stares at the ground, complete dissolution.

DAE-SU

Get up, get up, get up.

Slayde's too far gone.

DAE-SU

Damn you.

Dae-Su's display glows brighter. A jolt of electricity surges through Slayde's arm.

Slayde's arm grabs his chin, turns it to Spark.

Slayde's stare is vacant. The light from the electronics reflects in his eyes.

The glazed look on Slayde's face slowly fades.

SLAYDE

What the hell?

Spark hears him, looks over his shoulder, grinning.

(CONTINUED)

SPARK
I told you.

The Light shifts rapidly between the electronics on the shop building.

Slayde stares in awe. Slowly, he stands to his feet, grunts.

SLAYDE
What is it?

DAE-SU
The Connectium Virus? After all this time. I thought it had died.

SLAYDE
You know this thing?

DAE-SU
It belonged to Unity.

SLAYDE
Is it dangerous?

DAE-SU
I don't know. It must be hiding.

SLAYDE
Hiding?

DAE-SU
It was made to control enemy technology but a fault in its code made it rebel.

SLAYDE
It went rogue.

SPARK
Like the Drones.

The neon lights on the sidewalk come to life. A ring of light travels along the sidewalk.

Slayde and Spark watch the lights, pointing down the street.

FLASHBACK - EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Spark's sprinting with a limp toward the light. His face is red and dirty, breathing heavy.

The light shines brighter than ever. Spark shields his eyes as he enters the radiant glow.

EXT. NARROW BACK ROAD - CYBER CITY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Spark, lowers his arms, squinting. The neon lights of the city burn too bright for him. He hears MEN talking.

Spark slowly opens his eyes.

The street's deserted, the ass end of the city.

The IDOL, middle-aged now, stares at Spark. CULTISTS with rifles stand around the Idol.

The Idol steps toward Spark, a stern look on his face.

Spark cowers a little but stands his ground. Watches the Idol carefully.

The Idol stands before Spark, looks Spark in the eye.

Beat.

The Idol, reassurance in his manner, places his hand on Spark's shoulder.

Spark stares at the Idol, the savior.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Spark helps Slayde walk down the street. They're following the Virus.

SPARK

Where do you think it's taking us?

SLAYDE

Hopefully away from the Drones.

The Virus takes control of a street light. The street light turns on.

A landslide of rubble lays under the light. A hunk of metal sticks out of the rubble.

Slayde and Spark frown.

The light flickers on and off.

SPARK

Is it showing us something?

The hunk of metal glints in the light, catches Spark's eye.

(CONTINUED)

SPARK

Hey there's something the-

Engines roar in the distance. Slayde and Spark quickly turn.
Gun-fire.

Slayde pushes Spark out of the way, hops to cover behind a car, draws his pistol.

Spark lands on his back behind an upturned slab of concrete, fear in his eyes.

The Drones pelt the car with their bullets, rapid fire.

Slayde can't get a clean shot, he's pinned. He grits his teeth, the gun-fire is deafening.

Spark, shaking, watches the Drones firing at Slayde. He grabs hold of a brick laying on the ground beside him.

Spark gets to his feet, the Drones don't see him, they're too busy firing at Slayde.

Spark, using all his might, hurls the brick at the Drones.

The brick hurtles through the air, hits one of the Drones on its backside.

The Drones cease fire, turn to face Spark.

Spark stares at them like a deer caught in even bigger headlights.

The light post flashes, the Virus is anxious.

The Drones slowly hover toward Spark. He instinctively takes a single step back, his eyes trained on the Drones.

The Drones' turrets start spinning.

Slayde pops up from behind cover, fires.

The bullets glance off the Drones, not a scratch.

The Virus shifts from lamp post to lamp post, shifts into a car.

The car's alarm goes off, the lights flicker. Another car comes to life, does the same.

The Drones fire. A bullet hits Spark in the leg. He falls down.

(CONTINUED)

Slayde watches from behind the shot-up car.

SLAYDE
Get out of there, kid!

The Drones slowly edge closer and closer to Spark, laying on the ground, defenseless.

The turrets begin to spin one last time.

Suddenly, the ground begins to tremble. Tremors course through the street causing the buildings to shake.

Slayde loses his balance, looks over at the pile of rubble from before.

The Drones stop dead, turn to face the pile of rubble.

Spark sees the hunk of metal sticking out of the rubble vibrate.

The rubble around it cracks and breaks like sandstone.

A Unity BATTLESHIP emerges like a titanium angel from beneath the Earth. It's huge, bigger than all three Drones combined.

The Battleship beeps, lights shining.

Slayde watches in awe.

SLAYDE
What the hell?

DAE-SU
It's the Virus.

The Drones open fire on the Battleship. The bullets bounce off like rubber darts.

The Battleship beeps unintelligibly then screams in a robotic shrill.

A shock-wave erupts from within the Battleship and spreads throughout the street.

The shock-wave tears the Drones to pieces. They explode like fire-crackers. The sky glows bright orange.

Slayde shields his eyes from the blast. Shrapnel flies through the sky.

The blast dissipates. The hum of the Battleship's engines fills the empty street.

(CONTINUED)

Slayde looks over at Spark, sees a pool of blood forming under Spark.

SLAYDE

Spark!

Slayde gets up, sprints to Spark.

Spark's fading, his eyes half-open. Slayde helps him up.

The Battleship turns to Slayde and Spark, beeps. The Battleship lands, extends a ramp from its entrance.

Slayde rushes Spark up the ramp and into the ship.

INT. BATTLESHIP - FOYER - NIGHT

Slayde enters the ship, carrying Spark. He hobbles a little as the ship rises into the air.

A sign post glows green above him. Slayde hears a beep. He sees the sign and heads down a hallway.

SLAYDE

We've gotta get him to Mary, quick!

DAE-SU

What about the others?

Slayde remembers the military base.

SLAYDE

Shit!

INT. BATTLESHIP - MEDIC ROOM - NIGHT

The medic room is small, minimalist. Two beds, attached to the wall, lay beside one another.

Slayde lays Spark down on a bed, frantically checks the cupboards.

A beep comes from one of the cupboards. Slayde opens the cupboard, disinfectant and gauze inside.

Slayde tends to Spark's wound.

SLAYDE

Can this thing fly us back to the city?

(CONTINUED)

DAE-SU

Technically? Yes. But Unity will almost certainly see it.

SLAYDE

We've got no choice.

Slayde grabs a bottle from the medic kit, sprays a gel into Spark's leg wound. It's a gruesome sight.

Spark yelps in pain. Slayde holds him down.

DAE-SU

I see you've done this before.

SLAYDE

Too many times.

INT. BATTLESHIP - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Slayde enters the control room, it's a tight fit. He sits in the pilot's seat, straps in.

Slayde holds his hands out in front of him. A set of handles, used to steer the ship, float to his grasp.

SLAYDE

(to Virus)

Keep this bird in the air long enough for me to fly us out of here.

The control panel beeps.

Slayde sets the coordinates, rests his hand on a throttle.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The Battleship, rises above the buildings. The ship's lights puncture the darkness ahead.

INT. BATTLESHIP - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Slayde slides the throttle forward.

EXT. STREET - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The Battleship's engines hum with intensity. It kicks back a little then shoots off into the darkness.

INT. BATTLESHIP (MOVING) - MEDIC ROOM - NIGHT

Spark, strapped into the bed, lays still. His leg has stopped bleeding but his face is pale.

INT. CULTIST VAN (MOVING) - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Spark eats a candy bar in the back of the van. The Idol is seated beside him. The Idol watches over Spark, a wondering look in his eye.

INT. CULTIST VAN - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

Jamie and Emilio sit together in the front seat of the van, shivering.

EMILIO

I thought you said you fixed the heat last year already?

JAMIE

(sarcastic)

Oh gee, I guess it must've broken while we were being shot at.

EMILIO

Where are those guys? They left hours ago.

JAMIE

Maybe they got lost.

Emilio and Jamie share a worried look.

The van's mirrors and inards rattle like a bag of bolts.

Emilio and Jamie frown, pop their heads out the windows.

The Battleship swoops into the Military base parking lot.

Emilio and Jamie stare in horror as the ship lands. The ramp extends, touches down on the lot.

(CONTINUED)

EMILIO
What the fuck?

Slayde sprints out onto the ramp.

SLAYDE
(calling)
You got the weapons?

JAMIE
(calling)
They're in the back. What's going
on?

SLAYDE
(calling)
There's no time. Drive up into the
ship. Vamanos!

Jamie releases the clutch. The van drives up the ramp into the Battleship.

The ramp slides back into the ship. The ship rises and stops in the air.

INT. BATTLESHIP - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Slayde straps himself back into the pilot's seat. Jamie takes a seat next to him.

DAE-SU
We're gonna be a big target when we
leave this place.

SLAYDE
I know.

INT. BATTLESHIP - MEDIC ROOM - NIGHT

Emilio watches over Spark, concerned.

EXT. MILITARY BASE - DARK ZONE - NIGHT

The Battleship powers up then shoots off into the night sky.

END