

"Advent: Recoking" - Pilot/Second Eyelids

Written By

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN.

EXT. CROSS MANOR - AERIAL VIEW - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A large castle-like mansion lies peacefully beyond an extravagant maze garden at the center of which sits a FOUNTAIN.

SUPER: Cross Manor, Salem, MA.

EXT. MAZE GARDEN, CROSS MANOR COURTYARD - DAY

Piercing the serene blue sky, LIGHTNING strikes the FOUNTAIN creating a FLASH of light. When the light fades -

CUE: Ominous Music

The sky has become a deep crimson. The waters of the fountain, likewise have turned a blood red and the garden itself has withered and died.

Long, semi-translucent spiked CHAINS with an ominous crimson-colored are everywhere, appearing to originate from beneath the FOUNTAIN of blood.

NARRATOR:

And to put a stop to the Eternal War, the Creator tore the world asunder, splitting it into three realms; Heaven, for his loyal angels, Hell for the Betrayer and his Rebellion, and Earthrealm, a place for the Creator to experiment with new life.

EXT. CROSS MANOR - AERIAL VIEW - BLOOD RED SKY

The manor still sits just beyond the garden, but now it is anything but peaceful. Thousands upon thousands of massive CHAINS strangle the building like snakes, coiling and constricting their grip; It is not unlike a scene out of a nightmare.

INT. CROSS MANOR - LIBRARY

In a large room lined floor to high-ceiling with BOOKS, CHAINS stretch across the floors and shelves, squirming in an infinite matrix of wires. In the middle of the room are GLASS CASES with older, more fragile BOOKS resting inside. At the core of the room, on a massive stone LECTURN, is an ancient TOME, bound by hundreds of crisscrossing CHAINS.

ANGLE on TOME. The CHAINS recede as the book opens to a faded page with indecipherable writing.

NARRATOR:

For reasons one can only speculate, the creator left a failsafe, 12 fractures in reality, immediately sealed over with powerful magic that only mortals could release. Should the seals ever be undone, the realms will suffer a violent reintegration ... and the Eternal War will continue.

The page turns, revealing a slightly less worn page with text written in english that reads;

1693, Salem: We have discovered a Thirteenth Seal.

OVER BLACK

CENTERED TEXT ON SCREEN: ADVENT. 1. "Second Eyelids"

TEASER

EXT. PUBLIC SEATING AREA/COURTYARD - FINANCIAL DISTRICT - BOSTON - EARLY AFTERNOON/SUMMER SUN

FADE IN.

SUPER: 11:53 AM

LIAM QUEST, 31; suited, with swept light brown hair and CALLUM QUEST, in floral button-down and khaki shorts are seated facing an open LAPTOP at a circular table beneath a shade umbrella in a bustling public seating area.

CALLUM QUEST

--Not *all* of them. I have proof that Cimeron's CEO, Gabriel Cross *himself* has knowledge his project VALKYRIE kills people.

LIAM QUEST

Well that's about as serious as it gets...

CALLUM QUEST

--and Cross just announced this morning that he plans to release Valkyrie to the public in *one* week.

LIAM QUEST

Valkyrie; the project you just claimed killed 52 people? And he's going to release that to the public?

CALLUM QUEST

That's right. Next week.

LIAM QUEST

Welp. You were right brother; That is pretty goddamn huge. Where's this proof?

CALLUM QUEST

It's on this fla..

Callum is mid sentence when -- FFFFWHOOOPBAM -- Blood - screams -- everywhere. Callum's head, now adorned with a hole clunks against the keys of his laptop.

Liam's eyes widen. Sound becomes MUDDLED.

SOUND KICKS BACK IN -- Screams. People flee for cover in all directions, hiding behind anything they can.

Liam instinctively pulls the USB DRIVE from the laptop. He briefly touches his brother's hand, leaving a smear of blood. Then he runs. He runs as fast as he can.

EXT. ROOFTOP - OVERLOOKING PUBLIC SEATING AREA/COURTYARD - SUNNY

SOMEONE watches through the scope of a sniper rifle as Liam Quest, down on the ground below pulls the USB drive from his brother's laptop and runs.

The scope tracks Liam and loses him when he enters a parking garage.

EXT. OUTDOOR PARKING GARAGE - LEVEL 2 - SUNNY

Liam, out of breath and still clutching the USB DRIVE opens the driver's door of a BLACK BMW 6 SERIES COUPE with the same hand.

Lights flash on. The BMW rolls out of its spot and with its driver looking through the rear windshield, swerves out with the tail end of the vehicle higher up on the incline.

INT. INSIDE BMW

Behind the wheel, Liam looks straight ahead. A dark figure stands between him and the exit ramp, blocking the way forward.

CLOSE on DARK FIGURE -- Blurry -- The man raises something out in front of his body. In Focus -- It's a HANDGUN pointing right at Liam.

BANG, BANG, BANG! He fires.

The first bullet DENTS the windshield, the next forms a CRACK and the third PIERCES the glass, just missing Liam as it penetrates the seatback inches to his right.

Liam ducks down inside the vehicle, then steps down on the gas as far as it goes.

EXT. OUTDOOR PARKING GARAGE - LEVEL 2 - SUNNY

VRR. VRR... VROOO. The car revs.

The large black vehicle accelerates down the path, barreling towards the gunman, picking up tremendous speed over a short distance.

The gunman continues to fire at the car.

Like a bat straight out of hell, the bullet-ridden beast charges at the gunman. Seconds to impact - Liam sits up in his seat staring right at his opponent, a square-jawed Asian ASSASSIN dressed in black bodysuit with sleek, fitted carbon fiber armor.

Liam jerks the wheel to the right. The front of the car now facing the east, the back SMASHES into the gunman -- pinning him up against a SUPPORT BEAM. CRUNCH.

Seconds pass. Then; CLICK --the passenger's side door is pushed open from the inside.

Liam, bruised and weak crawls out of the car, onto the concrete. He sprawls out on the ground and peers beneath the car.

He sees the HANDGUN lying still on the ground, then, blood to the left of it. He follows the trail of blood with his eyes, and that's when he hears it.

CRRRNNNGGCC -- the crunching of metal.

Liam rolls to his right, as from the other side, the all-but-crushed assassin lifts the entire vehicle in the air, and drops it with a THUD a good two feet away from him.

Now Liam can see clearly the man who had attacked him. His legs were underneath the rear tire -- now they are but a memory, a crumbled, broken, gooey red memory.

Never losing sight of the assassin, Liam struggles to his own feet. It takes him a few moments.

BOODOOP. PLURP. Palpitations.

Liam's gaze settles upon the man's crushed legs and freezes.

Just a second ago, the man's bones were exposed. Now ... muscle appears to be actively growing, moving around his legs. Liam watches in horror as the muscular tissue builds, followed closely by skin.

Liam peers into the car and finds the USB DRIVE on the floor. He grabs it and runs, not looking back.

Liam makes it about 30 feet when -- BANG.

He freezes in his tracks and slowly turns around. The attacker has returned to his feet and once again points a HANDGUN at him with smoking barrel.

ASSASSIN
(Japanese accent)
That wasn't very nice.

Liam shuts his eyes.

CLINK. A sudden flash of silver.

NEW ANGLE - A massive 6'7 CHAKRAM-WIELDING MAN with short spiked white hair, and 5 intricate circular tattoos running down the lengths of his tree-trunk arms stands just in front of Liam. In his hand he holds a silver CHAKRAM, a versatile, bladed cylindrical weapon that looks like one of his tattoos incarnate.

The bullet falls to the ground landing on the floor just below the Chakram.

CHAKRAM-WIELDING-MAN
(To Liam)
Stand back.

The assassin and the mystery man square off.

Liam's attacker takes a few slow steps forward.

BANG. He fires again.

The massive man reacts like lightning.

TIME SLOWS. He SLICES the bullet in two with a quick and momentous swing of his bladed chakram. Sparks fly, and the two halves of the bullet CLINK to the ground. TIME RESUMES.

The assassin holsters his weapon.

ASSASSIN

You must be Tristan. My employer speaks highly of you.

TRISTAN DECKER

And who might your employer be?

ASSASSIN

You will know when he wants you to. That is -- if I don't kill you first.

TRISTAN DECKER

Come, then.

The assassin draws something from behind his back. The silver of its blade is reflected in the sunlight, forcing Liam shield his eyes.

When last he is able to look upon his attacker again, he is brandishing a KATANA and charging, ninja-like at the massive man in front of him who rushes to meet him half way.

As CHAKRAM and KATANA CLASH, Liam loses his footing and falls on his butt, watching the ensuing fight from the ground up.

The two warriors engage one another with a series of quick and precise strikes.

At one point, the assassin stabs at Tristan, who catches the blade within his CHAKRAM and attempts to knock it out of his opponents hands. However, the man proves to skilled of an opponent and delivers a kick to Tristan's knee which allows him time to recover his posture.

ASSASSIN

You can't hope to beat me like this.

TRISTAN DECKER

I don't need to beat you. I just need to --
 (noticing Liam sitting in fear)
 What are you doing!? Get out of here!

Complying, Liam gets up to run.

BANG.

The ground lights up in front of him. He stops in his tracks.

Liam turns around and watches as the assassin battles Tristan with a KATANA in one hand, and once again, a HANDGUN pointed at him in the other!

TRISTAN DECKER
(to assassin)
You left yourself open.

Tristan takes a few steps back from the assassin. Neither man seems to have a scratch on them, though only Tristan appears to be out of breath. Suddenly -- all five of the circular tattoos on his arms begin to glow and uncoil --sliding down along his skin, heading towards his hands.

When they reach his hands, they extend out of his palms, coming to life like a cartoon jumping off of a page. Still glowing and two-dimensional, the five semi-circles look like ancient scrolls as they float mid-air around Tristan and begin to take shape, becoming three-dimensional. As they cease to glow, they resemble the CHAKRAM Tristan holds in his hand.

Liam looks at the identical CHAKRAM Tristan holds in his hands and puts together that this too, was a tattoo.

Tristan charges at the assassin, swinging with his Chakram. The man has no choice but to block, leaving himself open from the back. The five floating CHAKRAM, as if remote-controlled, fly through the air, circle behind the assassin and strike him in the back.

Cut to shreds from behind, the man drops to a knee, slamming his KATANA in the concrete blade first to keep himself from completely falling over.

Tristan delivers a powerful kick to the man's face, sending him flying across the ground and knocking the Chakram out of his back where they were lodged in.

The 5 CHAKRAM on the ground, as well as the one in his hand begin to float once again. Then -- glowing, they become two-dimensional and flow back into Tristan's hands returning to their original places as tattoos on his arms.

The assassin isn't moving.

ASSASSIN
I'm not healing...

TRISTAN DECKER
Not from this.

ASSASSIN
So this is what my employer
meant... by exorcist.

The assassin struggles to stand up, but does. He slowly picks up his KATANA and then, with a burst of speed, FIRES at Liam with his HANDGUN.

Tristan rushes in front of Liam, taking a bullet in the shoulder.

ANGLE on the concrete floor - Blood DRIPS. One drop. Then two; then, a stream.

Tristan holds his shoulder. When he looks up, the assassin is gone -- as if he was never there at all.

Liam looks at the silhouette of the massive, bleeding figure in front of him, then to his wreck of a CAR. He drops, and his eyes close as he loses consciousness.

END OF TEASER

ACT I: PROJECT VALKYRIE

INT. LOBBY - CIMERON BUILDING - BOSTON - DAY

SUPER: One week Later.

GABRIEL CROSS, 42, slim and handsome, but in a dangerous way stands on a raised platform at the back of the Cimeron building's futuristic lobby addressing a swarm of eager JOURNALISTS. Above him is a large SCREEN displaying a rotating 3D version of the Cimeron logo. Standing to Gabriel's immediate right is his security detail, headed by one KENSHI UEMASA, still wounded from his battle with Tristan in the parking garage last week. Kenshi has abandoned his sleek carbon-fiber body armor in replace for a slim-fitted suit and secret-service style ear piece.

GABRIEL CROSS
Now if everyone would be so kind as
to hold all their questions until
after the video, I believe you'll
find Christmas might come early
this year.

The journalists laugh and then settle down. The lights dim, and the large screen above Gabriel's head begins to display a pre-recorded video.

GABRIEL CROSS (CON'T)

I give you... the Cimeron Valkyrie

The screen behind Gabriel displays a small, sleek ear-bud, with a C-V etched in the side. CAMERA FLASHES light up the room and there is a low MURMURING from the crowd.

Gabriel steps down from the raised platform to give the journalists an unimpeded view of the video.

ZOOM on video screen.

VIDEO MONTAGE

A.) INT. HIGHLY FUTURISTIC ELEVATOR - THE FUTURE

MUSIC CUE:

A man in futuristic clothing rides in an egg-like glass elevator ascending a massive illuminated tower with the CIMERON logo on the top, resembling something from the TRON universe. In his ear is the Cimeron VALKYRIE with its etched C-V.

P.O.V - Elevator man - Floating in the man's field of vision are a series of translucent holograms that resemble a cellphone's home screen. As if his thoughts control what he sees, the web-browser icon starts to spin and a web-browser page opens up across the man's field of vision.

BYUBYUUP. The elevator comes to a stop and the curved glass doors open.

INT. CIMERON OFFICE - THE FUTURE

The man steps out of the elevator and onto an executive floor; white and sterile with blue neon lights and holographic screens and keyboards everywhere. The web-browser in his field of vision shrinks and moves to the right and out of his way. The words, "CIM DOW" appear in the text field.

The web-browser pulls up the Dow Jones stock listing for Cimeron in the year 2050.

FEMALE NARRATOR (V.O)

This is the year 2050.

B.) INT. 21ST CENTURY ELEVATOR - PRESENT

The same man, dressed in a modern style Italian suit rides up a square glass elevator ascending the current CIMERON building in downtown Boston. In the man's ear is the Cimeron Valkyrie.

P.O.V - Elevator man - The same holographic home screen floats in the mans field of vision. The web browser icon spins.

DING. The elevator comes to a stop and the steel doors open.

INT. CIMERON OFFICE - PRESENT

The man steps off the elevator onto an executive floor in the Cimeron building. Cubicles, office supplies, clutter. The web-browser in his field of vision once again shrinks and moves to the right, out of his way. the words, "CIM DOW" appear in the text field.

The web-browser pulls up the current Dow Jones stock listing for Cimeron in the year 2015.

FEMALE NARRATOR (V.O)
Introducing the Cimeron Valkyrie --
making the distant future ... a
present reality.

END OF MONTAGE.

APPLAUSE and loud MURMURS from the crowd. Gabriel steps back up onto the raised platform. The video screen behind him once again displays the Cimeron Valkyrie ear-bud.

GABRIEL CROSS
Earlier this year I released a
statement saying that Cimeron's
next phone would radically change
the mobile industry forever. I
stand by that statement. I now give
the floor over to our lead product
designer, Aiko Kotomine to explain
how the Valkyrie works.

Gabriel steps down off the raised platform and gestures for AIKO KOTOMINE, a small, 30-something, attractive woman in large glasses to take his place.

APPLAUSE.

AIKO KOTOMINE
(slight Japanese accent)
Thank you. The Cimeron Valkyrie is,
for all intents and purposes, a

simple, singular ear bud. The materials are high-end synthetics coated in 18-carrot gold. Inside the device is a water-proof nanochip. You simply fit the Valkyrie into your ear like you would earbuds. The Valkyrie is loaded with Cimeron's latest operating system, boasting unparalleled 4G connectivity. Using an electrical signal I helped to develop, the Valkyrie converts the Cimeron OS into an ocular signal, the same type that our eyes send to our brains. The brain then receives this signal, and believing it to have come from the eyes, displays the Cimeron OS right into your field of vision -- essentially delivering the internet ... right into your head. We call this new type of forward thinking ... a brain hack.

The crowd goes wild with APPLAUSE and questions, and even the occasional accusation of being an affront to God.

AIKO KOTOMINE

We can control the device ... directly with our thoughts. No longer will fat fingers be an excuse for slow typing. I would just like to say ... please do not operate a vehicle or any dangerous machinery while using some of the more ocular functions. I will now take questions.

JOURNALIST

Can this device cause brain damage!?

AIKO KOTOMINE

Absolutely not. Although, I would still advise using judgment when browsing some of the darker corners of the internet.

There is LAUGHTER amongst the crowd.

Aiko points to another journalist raising his hand.

JOURNALIST 2

How have you managed to keep something like this a secret for so long?

Gabriel quickly steps up to the podium.

GABRIEL CROSS

I can answer that. If I told you, I'd have to have you killed.

Gabriel smiles.

The crowd LAUGHS.

GABRIEL CROSS (CONT)

Hah, CEO jokes. Couldn't kill you myself, that would raise too much suspicion. No, we just kept all aspects of development internal and localized to Boston. The Valkyrie is 100% made in America .. by Japanese scientists.

More LAUGHS.

END OF ACT I

ACT II: GABRIEL CROSS, THE DEVIL YOU KNOW

INT. CROSS MANOR - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

SUPER: 6 Months Ago. Salem, Massachusetts.

GREGOR CROSS, with translucent skin and sunken-in eyes lies in a king-size bed with maroon colored velvet sheets in an enormous and lavishly decorated master bedroom. An IV bag hangs from a pole situated next to the bed filtering a clear solution into his bloodstream. Light shines in from a single large window to the east of the bed, off the screen.

Opposite the bed, the double doors to the room BURST open and GABRIEL CROSS enters unannounced, wearing an angry expression as he advances toward his father.

GABRIEL CROSS

You think you can appoint someone else as heir to Cimeron without my knowledge?

He stops directly in front of his dying father's bed.

Gregor sits up slightly and COUGHS.

GREGOR CROSS

I wasn't going behind your back. I simply did what I believe to be best for the company.

GABRIEL CROSS

Best for the company, you say? In the short fiscal year I've been running Cimeron, we've expanded from the United States to the UK and now to Asia. Our profits have more than quadrupled. So tell me, father, how is appointing someone else as CEO in the best interest of the company?

GREGOR CROSS

I've always said you were too ruthless a businessman, Gabriel. You cut costs, you treat employees like subordinates, you lack your competitors respect, and most importantly, you forget that Cimeron ...

Gabriel interrupts.

GABRIEL CROSS

-and you would know all this from beneath the velvet comforter of your sickbed?

GREGOR CROSS

I'm not dead yet, Gabriel. I've done more damage control in the year you've run Cimeron than I've had to do in the 20 odd years I ran the company.

Gabriel walks around to his fathers bedside and sits down in an ornate WOODEN CHAIR next to him.

GABRIEL CROSS

You know I'm not going to let you unseat me as acting CEO, right?

GREGOR CROSS

I'm afraid it's out of your hands my son. I'm giving control of Cimeron to Edward Dawes, effective immediately.

GABRIEL CROSS

That's where you're wrong
father. -- you see, I know you
haven't had the chance to amend
your will. No, I'm quite sure it
still says *everything* you own goes
to your beloved son, Gabriel should
you meet an untimely end. Were that
to happen, I'm afraid the company
would remain mine...

Gregor's expression becomes bewildered, and then frightened.
Gabriel's own remains calm.

GREGOR CROSS

What are you saying Gabriel!?

GABRIEL CROSS

Still sharp huh? No more talking.
You can die now, father.

Gabriel takes a velvet PILLOW from beneath his father's
head, and proceeds to smother him. Gregor is too weak to
resist. When at last life has left Gregor for good, he
places the PILLOW back behind his fathers head then grins,
ever so subtly.

Gabriel CRACKS his knuckles and walks over to the window. As
he looks outside, A dark expression takes him over.
Something is different ... the sky. The sky is blood red and
all crops are withered and dead. It is as though he is
looking into a world that reflects the color of his soul.

Gabriel grimaces and puts his hand to his forehead. Pain.

INTERCUT TO:

EXT. MAZE GARDEN - BIRDS EYE VIEW

The sky is blue, the grass green and everything looks
normal. Gabriel can be seen in the window staring out.

INT. CROSS MANOR - MASTER BEDROOM

Gabriel looks out the window at the blood red sky and
haunted garden. Deep red blood flows from the fountain at
garden's center.

DRIP. DRIP.

Gabriel spins around.

Blood drips onto the floor from his father's corpse. Gabriel
steps closer to examine the source of the blood.

As he approaches, Gregor's body melts before him into a pool of viscous black OOZE, spewing onto the floor and encircling Gabriel's feet.

In all haste, Gabriel hops out of the blood.

GABRIEL CROSS
What in God's name?

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O)
Not ... God...

Gabriel freezes. He spins, scanning the room, but nothing catches his eye. His gaze returns to the ever-thickening puddle of black OOZE that only moments ago was his father.

The muck has already started to expand, flowing outward like a water stain, leaving a trail of black across the polished mahogany floor.

But the expanding doesn't stop. It clearly has begun to move towards the doorway and continues to do so at an alarming rate, as if it is being guided by an unnatural force.

GABRIEL CROSS
What the hell?...

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O)
Follow...

Obeying, Gabriel follows the OOZE out the door.

INT. CROSS MANOR - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

The OOZE pools out of the master bedroom and glides across the hallway, then down the right staircase of a double-sided master stairwell in the mansion's foyer. Gabriel follows.

EXT. CROSS MANOR - FRONT ENTRANCE - RED SKY

FOCUS on ornate barred DOORS.

PAN DOWN

A murky black liquid seeps beneath the doors. It moves down the steps and onto the dead grass of the courtyard.

The doors open and Gabriel Cross steps outside, following close behind, hand still clutching his head. More pain.

Indistinguishable VOICES can be heard, as Gabriel drunkenly follows the ooze.

EXT. MAZE GARDEN - VINE TRELIS PATH - RED SKY

Gabriel follows the OOZE down a dark, narrow wooded corridor of deadened vines; light emanating only from the red sky above. The MURMURING of the VOICES continue.

EXT. FOUNTAIN CLEARING - MAZE GARDEN - CROSS MANOR COURTYARD
- RED SKY

Gabriel stands in the clearing as the black ooze heads straight for the large stone FOUNTAIN in the center of the maze garden.

First, his eyes catch hold of the color of the water; an opaque blood red. Then, he notices as the black OOZE begins to seep beneath the fountain. He steps closer.

DRIP ... PLOP DRIP ... PLOP. It sounds as though there is a large space beneath the fountain.

Gabriel feels around the fountain's stone base for a loose stone or a switch of some kind, but finds nothing.

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O)

Enter...

Now he knows what he must do. Gabriel steps up onto the stone base of the fountain and shuts his eyes. Then, he steps off -- and he's gone -- his whole length disappearing into the blood as if he was never there.

INT. SEAL CHAMBER - BENEATH THE FOUNTAIN

Gabriel's eyes open slowly. At first, darkness. Then -- the red-tinted walls of a circular stone chamber come into focus.

Lining the walls of the chamber are eight SCONCES, each giving off an eerie red glow unlike any fire Gabriel has ever seen.

Gabriel gaze switches to the floor, tracking a series of deep grooves that form a circular pattern as each branch eventually dips into one large circular recess at the room's epicenter where an approximately 4-foot high stone PEDESTAL with unusual grooves sits on a small island.

Gabriel looks on as the black OOZE drips from above, filling the grooves on the floor. The ooze flows through the grooves towards the pedestal.

As it reaches the recess surrounding the PEDESTAL'S base, the ooze defies gravity, flowing upward through the strange groove in the PEDESTAL towards a large bowl sitting at the top. The bowl begins to fill with the dark liquid and as it does, the air heats up, visibly distorting reality.

In no time, the bowl is full of the thick black goop - and that's when he see's it. The eye. From within the darkness, a sinister demonic iris manifests, as if something from hell has cast a reflection on the surface of the black water.

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O)
(louder and clearer)
Advent Reckoning, Gabriel Cross.
The beginning is almost upon us.

The pain in his head intensifies and Gabriel takes to his knees, wincing.

GABRIEL CROSS
The beginning of what? What is this
place? Where am I?

Gabriel struggles to stand and looks around the room for the source of the voice.

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O)
The beginning of the end of
everything. Thou art at a precipice
two-fold. The metaphysical, a door
to thine own future; the actual, a
false purgatory meant to bind It. A
thirteenth Seal of Abaddon.

GABRIEL CROSS
I don't see you... Where are you!?

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O)
Neither here nor there. Whilst This
One's physical body hath been
banished to the cursed domain, It's
anima is bound to this forsaken
tomb.

GABRIEL CROSS
Just what the hell are you?

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O)
This One has been known by many
names in as many cultures.
Ba'alzebub, Apollyon, Asmodeus,
Mammon, Samael, Iblis, Ahriman,
Abraxis, Dagon, Asag, Pazuzu, to
name just a few. To thou, This One
is Belial, First Son of the
Creator, Betrayer, and Kind of
Demons.

The word *demon* echoes inside Gabriel's mind. A bead of sweat forms on his brow.

GABRIEL CROSS

What.. do you want from *me*?

BELIAL

42 rotations of thine human world past, This One observed an unequivocal potential for darkness inside a lone human child and planted a seed. With thine actions tonight, under this moon, that seed is alas strong enough to release This One from its prison. Thou shall be It's vessel, Gabriel Cross, as thou were always meant to be.

GABRIEL CROSS

(clever)

I ... might not be a saint, that's true. But I would hardly consider myself an *unequivocal darkness*... Surely, I am an unworthy vessel for a king of demons.

BELIAL

Thou thinketh too small, Gabriel Cross. Thou art but a fragment of thine self. This One can maketh thou whole.

GABRIEL CROSS

Meaning what? Exactly.

BELIAL

Sip from the chalice; accept This One into thine own Anima and become he with no equal, god among men.

Gabriel crosses his arms, using body language to help himself regain composure against the invisible king.

GABRIEL CROSS

Interesting...but at what cost?

BELIAL

Nothing thou hast not already paid.

GABRIEL CROSS

So; all the power in the world at no cost? Tell me, demon, why should I believe you?

BELIAL

This One doth apologize if it has
led thou to believe this was a
negotiation. Drink from the
Chalice. Gabriel Cross.

Gabriel paces.

GABRIEL CROSS

I will not. A negotiation is
exactly what this is. Demon King or
not, it would seem that without me,
you will remain trapped, perhaps
forever. So -if you want *my* help;
you tell me everything. No lies.

BELIAL

Human, dost though *still* not
realize there are *two* souls trapped
in this hallowed grave?

Gabriel stops pacing and looks around for an exit. How did
he come to be in this place? He fell through the fountain of
blood. Gabriel looks up at the ceiling of the chamber. There
is no exit. He *is* trapped.

ZOOM out -- blackness in every direction stretching to
infinity. The chamber is no longer on earth.

BACK TO SCENE.

Gabriel cups his hands together and plunges them into the
bowl atop the PEDESTAL. The visage of the eye disappears.

Gabriel shuts his eyes and moves his cupped hands closer to
his lips. They begin to shake.

BELIAL

Swallow thy sins, Gabriel Cross.
Free us.

Gabriel drinks the black blood.

END OF ACT II

ACT III: ADVENT RECKONING

EXT. PUBLIC SEATING AREA/COURTYARD - FINANCIAL DISTRICT -
BOSTON - EARLY EVENING/SUMMER SUN

SUPER: 11:28 AM

LIAM QUEST, still in suit, having just come from work- enters the open area of a bustling public square.

BLOOP. Liam looks down at his SMARTPHONE to check an incoming text.

"At center table, waving."

Liam looks up from his SMARTPHONE and scans the area for the waving man. He spots him right away seated by himself at a circular table in the courtyard, waving. Liam waves back. They make eye-contact.

Liam pockets his SMARTPHONE and approaches. CALLUM QUEST, dressed in floral button-down, khaki cargo shorts and sunglasses looks suspiciously inconspicuous as he sits by an open LAPTOP. Callum stands and greets his guest with no less than a hug and pat on the back.

INCONSPICUOUS MAN

Congrats on the big win! You're all over the news.

After embracing, Callum motions for Liam to sit in the empty chair beside him, also facing the LAPTOP.

LIAM QUEST

You're looking at the youngest attorney to make senior partner--

CALLUM QUEST

You got promoted?! That's fantastic man! Good for you, really. Mom would be so proud.

Liam solemnly stares into space for a few microseconds at the mention of their mother. He sits.

LIAM QUEST

Yeah.

LIAM QUEST (CONT)

(with reinvigorated enthusiasm)

So! You said on the phone you needed some legal advise for something? Whats up?

CALLUM QUEST

Right.

Callum becomes more serious.

CALLUM QUEST (CON'T)
Where to begin...

LIAM QUEST
The beginning works.

Callum gestures he likes the suggestion. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a SMARTPHONE, switches it off and places it on the table beside the LAPTOP.

LIAM QUEST
Didn't you have a different phone the other week?

CALLUM QUEST
Turn yours off. After what I'm about to tell you, I'm almost certain you'll get a new one as well.

Liam raises an eyebrow, but complies. He pulls out his PHONE, switches it off and places it on the table next to his brothers'. Liam's Cimeron phone is sleek and more stylish.

LIAM QUEST
Is that so? I've got to say, I'm quite happy with my C7. Does this have something to do with Cimeron?

CALLUM QUEST
You could say that. Long story short; A lot more people are going to die if I don't bring this to light quickly.

LIAM QUEST
Die? Whats this all about Callum?

Callum reaches into his pocket and pulls out a USB DRIVE. He fumbles to stick it into the LAPTOP, then turns to face Liam once more.

CALLUM QUEST
Okay. A few months ago rumors began circulating that Cimeron was working on a new device that would, quote, radically change the mobile industry forever. I'm sure you've heard similar things.

LIAM QUEST

Yeah. Cross said that a few months ago. They released the C7 not even a week before spreading rumors about the next one.

CALLUM QUEST

Well, upon hearing a top Fortune 500 company make such bold claim, my boss wanted AIB to be the first to get the inside scoop. Naturally, he put me on it. So I started looking for any information I could get on specifications or details about this new device.

Liam listens intently to his brother, who sounds more manic and intense than his usual laid-back self.

LIAM QUEST

Go on. Wha'd you find?

CALLUM QUEST

After some rather intensive digging, I found out that Cimeron had already begun conducting field tests for an unspecified project that no-one seemed to know very much about. Believing this to be the same device hinted at in the rumors, I asked Cimeron to comment on whether or not the product was further along than they let on. Not only did they refuse to comment, but they outright denied the existence of any field tests.

LIAM QUEST

Well you know companies like that. They like to keep their technology under lock and key should a competitor try and steal ideas.

Callum nods.

CALLUM QUEST

So I tried a different approach.

LIAM QUEST

Nothing stupid I hope.

CALLUM QUEST

Me? Of course not.

CALLUM QUEST (CONT)

I went to Cimeron Headquarters here in Boston, turned on the ol' charm and flirtatiously inquired if anyone had been *let go* recently. I figured if anyone knew anything about what Cimeron was really doing and would be willing to tell me about it -- who better than disgruntled, recently fired employee?

LIAM QUEST

Good thinking. Did you find your guy?

CALLUM QUEST

I did.

LIAM QUEST

And wha'd he tell you?

CALLUM QUEST

He told me that Cimeron *had* in fact, been conducting field tests on something called *Project VALKYRIE*. After the last of four trials concluded, it was his job to send out checks to every participant.

LIAM QUEST

(snide)

That sounds like a fun job...

CALLUM QUEST

Anyway, when he wasn't able to reach more than half of the participants he went directly to Gabriel Cross and told him he believed something odd was going on. The next day, he was let go with no explanation. This was a few weeks ago.

Liam opens his mouth to speak, but see's that Callum has more to say and lets him continue.

CALLUM QUEST (CONT)

Well, he gave me a list of all the participants in the field test and I went about tracking them down.

LIAM QUEST

And?

CALLUM QUEST

They're dead, Liam. All of them.

LIAM QUEST

Whoa whoa whoa wait, what?! How?

Callum turns to his LAPTOP and double clicks on the USB Drive's folder. Inside are a series of .PDF files and a couple of .JPEGs that look like brain scans. Callum double clicks on one of the .PDFs. It's an autopsy report.

CALLUM QUEST

This is the *official* autopsy report for one of the testers. Take a look.

Liam looks at the .PDF. The cause of death is listed as, **"Heart attack"**.

LIAM QUEST

Heart attack? Okay...

CALLUM QUEST

That's what they all say. All fifty two of them.

LIAM QUEST

Fifty two?! Why hasn't anyone questioned Cimeron about this?

CALLUM QUEST

Because no-one other than Cimeron, and now you and me knows they participated in a field test. All documentation of their participation, save for what my source gave me is under lock and key at the Cimeron Building.

LIAM QUEST

Well clearly they died because of something that happened during these field tests.

CALLUM QUEST

Yes.

Callum closes the .PDF window and opens up another .PDF.

CALLUM QUEST (CONT)

This is the *actual* autopsy report for the same person. I called in a favor with an ME I have some dirt on. Take a look at the cause of death.

Liam looks. It is listed as,

"electrical signal interference, brain ceased functioning"

LIAM QUEST

Electrical... signal interference?
-The hell's that? So, what --
Cimeron paid to have the autopsy reports falsified?

CALLUM QUEST

Oh yes, and they did a good job too. These reports are as official as it gets. And the worst part is -- they are going to get away with it all. So you see -- this is why I need your advice Liam.

LIAM QUEST

What do you mean?

CALLUM QUEST

I mean, technically speaking, Cimeron hasn't actually done anything illegal. Nothing one could go so far as to prove, anyway. According to my source, all of the people who died had signed confidentiality agreements with a byline saying something to the effect of, "if, for any reason you are to perish during the course of this field test -- Cimeron cannot be held responsible." Of course Cimeron would have them sign something like that. So should anyone, such as yourself try to take any legal action against them -- these documents will mysteriously appear in the hands of their attorneys.

LIAM QUEST

Jesus Callum. What can I even do...
It sounds like they've covered all
their bases.

CALLUM QUEST

Not *all* of them. I have proof that
their CEO, Gabriel Cross *himself*
has knowledge his project VALKYRIE
kills people.

LIAM QUEST

Well that's about as serious as it
gets...

CALLUM QUEST

--and Cross just announced this
morning that he plans to release
Valkyrie to the public in *one* week.

LIAM QUEST

Valkyrie; the project you just
claimed killed 52 people? And he's
going to release that to the
public?

CALLUM QUEST

That's right. Next week.

LIAM QUEST

Welp. You were right brother; that
is pretty goddamn huge. Where's
this proof?

CALLUM QUEST

On this fla--

Callum is mid sentence when -- FFFFWHOOOPBAM -- Blood -
screams -- everywhere. Callum's head, now adorned with a
hole clunks against the keys of his laptop.

Liam's eyes widen. Sound becomes MUDDLED.

SOUND KICKS BACK IN -- Screams. People flee for cover in all
directions, hiding behind anything they can.

Liam instinctively pulls the USB DRIVE from the laptop. He
briefly touches his brothers hand, leaving a smear of blood.
Then he runs. He runs as fast as he can.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV: HE WITH NO EQUAL, GOD AMONG MEN

INT. CROSS MANOR - MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

SUPER: 5 months ago. Salem, Massachusetts.

In the same bed where he murdered his father not one month ago, Gabriel Cross lies in a coma. Like his father before him, an IV connects his arm to the pole by the bed. Next to the IV pole is a small VITAL SIGN MONITOR, BEEPing every few seconds. From Gabriel's beard it is clear that he has been out for roughly 4 weeks.

CLOSE ON vital sign monitor - the sin wave comes to a stop.
BEEP BEEP

The double doors to the room BURST open and a NURSE rushes over to Gabriel's bedside.

As the nurse nears, Gabriel's eyes shoot open --his irises now emulating the reflection in the seal chamber; red, demonic. As he bolts upright in bed, a powerful shockwave emanates outward in all directions, sending everything in the room flying.

The Nurse SLAMS into the wall by the double doors and is knocked unconscious.

Unreceptive to all that surrounds him, Gabriel touches his face, feeling the stubble. Half naked, he climbs out of bed and walks over to a large standing mirror by the west wall where he examines himself as if he's never seen his own reflection. At one point, he rather unnaturally tilts his head to the side. He is in excellent physical shape.

INT. CROSS MANOR - KITCHEN

Gabriel, partially obscured by the open STAINLESS STEEL DOOR peers into an open full-size REFRIGERATOR. He reaches inside and takes something, then closes the door, revealing a fresh RED APPLE in his left hand.

Gabriel, fully visible now, still dressed only in his boxers takes a loud BITE out of the apple.

INT. CROSS MANOR - UPSTAIRS MASTER CLOSET

Gabriel feels the fabrics of his massive suit collection, looking for something that strikes his fancy. He stops when he comes to a velvet burgundy SPORTSCOAT with black lapel.

CUT TO: A MOMENT LATER

Gabriel stands in the closet in front of a large mirror. He is wearing the burgundy sports coat over a black-button down with a thin black tie, Onyx cuff links, dark dress pants and crimson Oxfords.

CLOSE on Gabriel's eyes. The reds of his irises match his look. They reflect the light.

INT. CROSS MANOR - UPSTAIRS MASTER BEDROOM

Brandishing his new digs, Gabriel stands in the center of the master bedroom where the furniture is still scattered all across the room.

Gabriel extends his arm towards the bedside CHAIR he once sat on, now toppled over by the east window. The chair SLIDES over to him on its own and stops by his feet.

CLOSE on GABRIEL - He winks.

CUT TO: BLACK

FADE IN.

Gabriel slowly opens his eyes.

CLOSE on Gabriel's eyes -- normal, human eyes.

Gabriel sits in a lone chair in the center of the room. It looks as though a tornado has passed through. A nurse lies unconscious against the northern wall. *What on earth happened here?*

Gabriel looks at his hand. He is wearing a velvet burgundy suit. *When did he put that on?*

He checks his surroundings. *Nothing makes any sense. How did he get here?*

Suddenly -- all lights in the room go out. The curtains slide shut, cutting off all sunlight save for a single beam fixated on the western wall.

Gabriel bolts up and scans the room. Nothing. That's when he sees it. The shadow on the western wall -- it isn't his.

Its humanoid in shape ... but taller, slimmer, and with long curved horns coming from the sides of its head.

(Throughout the below conversation, all of Gabriel's movements are mimicked by the demonic shadow on the wall. When Belial speaks, it comes from Gabriel's mouth, but uses the voice actor for Belial)

GABRIEL CROSS

You..! What happened here!? How did I get here? The last thing I recall is ... that's right .. I saw to my father and then ...

CLOSE ON Gabriel's eyes - One of his eyes glows red.

BELIAL

My my. Would Thou try not to look so confused? It's so unattractive. This One would surmise that the anima convergence was too much for thine weak human body to handle. It would appear that it has taken quite some time for us to recuperate. Such is the cost of freedom, This One supposes.

He extends his arm out at an overturned NIGHTSTAND that had been sent flying earlier on and uses his telekinesis to return it to its proper place.

GABRIEL CROSS

Would you speak plainly? ...better yet --why speak at all?

BELIAL

It supposed This One might have to "join the club" eventually. Human, What year did you say it was?

GABRIEL CROSS

Two thousand and eighteen?

BELIAL

Two thousand and eighteen? That doesn't seem right... no, no, not at all.

Gabriel/Belial restores the IV pole and VITAL SIGN MONITOR.

GABRIEL CROSS

Just how long were you trapped, exactly?

BELIAL

Lets put it this way; the last time I saw a human they had only just acquired the ability to write things down.

He restores a COAT RACK which only narrowly misses impaling the unconscious nurse.

GABRIEL CROSS

That... would have been several thousands of years ago!

BELIAL

But you just said the year is only two thousand and eighteen.

GABRIEL CROSS

Uhh. Its a bit complicated. This .. prophet died, and we reset the calendar to 0

BELIAL

I *really* don't care. Come then Gabriel Cross, let us get down to the first order of business. We must eliminate the forces this world has set up to protect the remaining 12 Seals of Abaddon.

Gabriel/Belial restores an ARMOIRE and the rather nasty hole it made in the wall.

GABRIEL CROSS

The *remaining* seals of Abaddon? Who guarded this one?

BELIAL

Why, that would be your father... Why did you think I was only able to contact you after he died?

GABRIEL CROSS

I...

BELIAL

My, you really don't know anything, do you? Many millenia ago, to quell my rebellion against him, my father tore open the fabric of the reality, and split the world into three realms. Hoping I would eventually come around to his way of things, he created a means for the realms to be rejoined, 12 realmtears, protected by 12 Seals of Abaddon no supernatural being could interact with.

GABRIEL CROSS

Hang on; before you mentioned there were 12 other seals. Wouldn't that make 13 total?

Belial restores a FLAT SCREEN TV that had fall off its ENTERTAINMENT UNIT and shattered. He reconstructs the screen, fitting all the glass fragments back together.

GABRIEL CROSS (con't)

And What the hell is Abaddon?

BELIAL

Exactly. But I was never there.

GABRIEL CROSS

So ... you were never in hell, but somehow you became imprisoned inside a thirteenth Seal?

BELIAL

I managed to avoid the initial split of the realms by hiding away on earthrealm. When my father found out, he created the 13th seal as a prison just for me... but not before I ensured my own eventual escape.

Gabriel/Belial levitates the unconscious nurse over to where he is standing in the center of the room. The nurse hovers in the air, limbs dangling.

GABRIEL CROSS

How did you pull that off?

BELIAL

Simply by telling man about the existance of the 12 seals; I knew that man, tainted by the very warmongering angels in whose image he was created would eventually do the exact opposite of that. Now then, Gabriel Cross, I grow impatient. Why don't you go and invite your father's council over for milk so the culling can begin.

GABRIEL CROSS

Milk?

BELIAL

Do ... humans not drink milk anymore? What would I know?

Gabriel/Belial reaches out and grasps the Nurse's forearm, checking for a pulse.

GABRIEL CROSS
She's alive.

BELIAL
Well that's no fun. I was going to
show you something cool.

GABRIEL CROSS
Oh? No, by all means, please do.

Gabriel/Belial smiles.

The shadow on the wall takes hold of the Nurse's dangling
arms.

Then --

An EXPLOSION of BLOOD as the shadow rips the nurse apart,
all but liquefying her.

Gabriel is drenched from head to toe in blood.

BELIAL
Ah, son of a bitch. I forgot about
the suit. It is so weird having a
body!

Gabriel blinks.

EXT. CROSS MANOR - COURTYARD - MIDDAY

SUPER: 4 months ago.

Time-Lapse shot: Various COUNCIL MEMBERS arrive by
themselves, or in groups of two until 11 men and 1 woman
have entered cross manor.

KENSHI, dressed in a charcoal sharkskin suit, holds open the
door to Cross Manor, greeting them as they enter.

INT. UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM - CROSS MANOR

All 12 COUNCILMEMBERS are seated in black Gothic chairs
around a gigantic conference table in a wooden paneled room
fit for a royal banquet.

GABRIEL CROSS enters the room from a small doorway.

GABRIEL CROSS
Gentleman! -- And lady. I'm sure
you are all wondering where my
father is. Unfortunately, the
circumstances under which I have

invited you all here are rather grim. I'm afraid my father has passed away.

There are GASPS and MURMERS among the council.

Gabriel gestures for everyone to calm down.

GABRIEL CROSS (CONT)

Calm down, everyone! Gregor was sick for a long time. He knew his time was running out and so he appointed me as his successor.

There are SIGHS of relief among the council.

GABRIEL CROSS (CONT)

Though I've been seeing most of you for you my whole life, we have never officially met. I am Gabriel Cross, the proud new guardian of the Salem seal.

Gabriel walks over to the first council member, seated closest to the doorway. The only female in the room, she is grey haired and fair skinned. As Gabriel approaches, she stands to greet him.

Gabriel shakes her hand.

GABRIEL CROSS

Madam.

ELENA ROSYLAKOVA

I am so sorry to hear about your father. I've known Gregor for over half my life, he was a kind man. I am Elena Rosylakova, guardian of the seal in Sofia Bulgaria.

GABRIEL CROSS

And how is your seal, Elena?

ELENA ROSYLAKOVA

No activity. All is well.

GABRIEL CROSS

That is most excellent.

Elena sits down.

Gabriel approaches the next council member, an African man of the darkest variety. He motions to him that he need not stand, and shakes his hand whilst he remains seated.

JONAS ISEMA

I am Jonas Isema, guardian of the seal in Tarkwa, Ghana.

GABRIEL CROSS

How do you do?

Gabriel takes the only empty seat at the end of the long table, closest to the door.

GABRIEL CROSS (CONT)

Excellent, excellent. Now allow me to tell you all a quick story. You may recall my father as being a kind individual.

The crowd nods.

GABRIEL CROSS (CONT)

And indeed, he was, in parts. However, a kind man is an ineffective leader. The kind man doesn't have what it takes to make the tough, often ruthless decisions to get ahead in the world. And let me tell you, growing up with a kind man, when you yourself are not, is no bed of roses. While on one hand, the kind man doesn't neglect you, or beat you, like some fathers would, they hold you to the same kind standards that they set for themselves. I am not a kind man, but I *am* a leader. And so I have been very successful in my life, always coming out on top. But never once did I ever earn my fathers approval or respect because even though I succeeded, I never shared his kind way of doing things. You might be wondering where I am going with this...

The crowd nods once again.

GABRIEL CROSS (CONT)

You see, it was ultimately my father's kindness, I believe, that made him so blind to reality. Had he attempted to understand his own son, he might not have had on that truly pathetic expression when that very son ended his life.

Some of the council members stand, confused and outraged.

JONAS ISEMA

What is the meaning of this?!

GABRIEL CROSS

Mmm, yes. You see, I lied before, about poor Gregor dying of natural causes. No, it was I who killed him. And it may very well have been the best decision I've ever made in my life.

ELENA ROSYLAKOVA

Gabriel, is this true? What are you saying.

Some of the council members begin to pack their things and attempt to leave.

GABRIEL CROSS

SIT DOWN.

Gabriel's eyes flash red, and everyone is forced back into their seat through his power.

COUNCILMAN

What did you just do?!

GABRIEL CROSS

For it was only when I killed my father, that the seal was left unprotected.

The council members eyes widen.

GABRIEL CROSS

And it was only when the seal was left unprotected that...

Gabriel's voice changes -- Belial begins to speak through him, echoing throughout the room with deep, demonic resonance.

BELIAL

I was able to contact Gabriel Cross. Had the father paid more attention to his son, he might have noticed the seed of darkness I planted inside of him all those years ago. Alas, he did not. Not until it was too late.

Belial LAUGHS.

JONAS ISEMA
What in the devil are you?

BELIAL
Exactly.

ELENA ROSYLAKOVA
Let us through! You can't keep us
here.

Belial LAUGHS once more.

BELIAL
Did you know it was I, illenia ago
that started the very order you all
belong to? I appeared before you as
the angel Lucifel and told you to
protect the seals with your
lives. The very fact that I am
standing here before you means you
are all flawed and predictable.
Just like we were.

Jonas picks up his CHAIR and charges at Gabriel.

MUSIC CUE: Valkyrie, Wagner.

Gabriel extends his arm out at the charging man who is sent flying into the far wall. Gabriel then telekinetically raises the CHAIR Jonas was holding high in the air, and lets it fall on top of him.

SCREAMS among the council. They are trapped in the room with Gabriel.

Gabriel's eyes turn red as he shatters each of the windows in the room and sends the glass shards flying in all directions, cutting the council to pieces like a murder of crows.

Then, like a conductor, Gabriel draws his arms in, up, and then out once more. As he does, 11 PENS in a metal cup on the conference table hover in the air. Each of the PENS is sent flying directly into the skulls of all the council members, save for Jonas --killing them instantly.

Gabriel steps over Elena's body towards Jonas, still crumpled in the corner.

JONAS ISEMA
You will not get away with this.

GABRIEL CROSS
 Won't I, though?

Gabriel picks Jonas up by the collar until he is holding him in the air like a puppet and plunges his fist into his chest, pulling his still beating HEART out from within.

Gabriel lets go of the body and Jonas drops to the ground. Gabriel chucks the heart on the floor without a care, places his hands in his pockets and walks out of the room.

END OF ACT IV

ACT V: SOME THINGS EXPLAINED

INT. NARTHEX - CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS - EARLY MORNING

SUPER: **Boston. Present.**

LIAM QUEST lies passed out on a PEW in a far back row to the right of the nave, still in yesterday's suit. The church is empty.

Liam stirs. He painstakingly brings himself to an upright position as he comes to. He is both confused and dizzy but takes in his surroundings.

Liam clutches his head, it still hurts from the air bag going off. Then -- his eyes widen. He bolts up and he frantically searches his pockets for Callum's USB drive. In it's place he finds a BUSINESS CARD. It reads;

**Tristan Decker;
 Exorcist
 St. Suite X.**

**1400 Washington
 O:(666)END-EVIL**

LIAM QUEST
 (thinking outloud)
 Exorcist...?

Still clutching the card, Liam lowers it to his side and heads outside.

EXT. IN FRONT OF CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS - BOSTON - FOGGY

Liam stands under scaffolding, protecting him from the heavy rain. An eerie fog masks any natural light.

Liam raises an arm over his head and darts out from under the scaffolding. He quickly spots a sign in the grassy area to the right of the Church's entrance. It reads,

Church of the Holy Cross; 1400 Washington St.

LIAM QUEST
Son of a bitch.

Liam heads back under the scaffolding, wetter than he was before.

INT. NARTHEX - CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Liam stands just inside the large doors to the church. An elderly PASTOR enters the narthex from an obscured hallway to the right of the far crossing. Liam makes his way down the nave.

LIAM QUEST
Excuse me -- father.

PASTOR
Oh, it's you. You're awake.

LIAM QUEST
Uhh. Clearly. How ... did I get here?

PASTOR
You were out like a light when Tristan brought you here last night. He mentioned you were in grave danger but that you would be safe in the church.

Liam remembers;

EXT. OUTDOOR PARKING GARAGE - LEVEL 2 - FLASHBACK FILTER

The assassin struggles to stand up, but does. He slowly picks up his KATANA and then, with a burst of speed, FIRES at Liam with his HANDGUN.

Tristan rushes in front of Liam, taking a bullet in the shoulder.

CLOSE on the concrete floor - Blood drips. One drop. Then two, then; a stream.

Tristan holds his shoulder. When he looks up, the assassin is gone -- as if he was never there at all.

Liam looks at the silhouette of the massive, bleeding figure in front of him, then to his wreck of a CAR. He drops, and his eyes close as he loses consciousness.

INT. NARTHEX - CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS - PRESENT

LIAM QUEST
 ...and is he - here now? I believe
 he has something that belongs to
 me.

The pastor points to an old Gothic doorway with an "X"
 etched on it beneath the right side of the raised chancel
 platform.

LIAM QUEST
 Thank you.

Liam holds up the BUSINESS CARD once more -- the Xs match.
 He PUSHES open the old door.

PASTOR
 Be well, child. May God bless you.

INT. SUITE X STAIRWAY - CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS -

Liam descends a dimly lit spiral staircase with brick walls
 of grey stone leading down into the lower depths of the
 cathedral.

As he nears the bottom he hears VOICES from up ahead.

After descending for what feels like minutes, he comes to an
 identical Gothic wooden door. On the door is a small sign
 with the words, "**Knock, hard**" and the familiar "**X**" logo
 etched in.

As he approaches the door, the VOICES stop.

DEEP MALE VOICE (O.S.)
 Coming in?

He hadn't made a sound, but somehow he was detected, even
 through a thick door.

Liam swallows; opens the door. At the same time, MARA DECKER
 opens the door from the inside, and it WHACKS Liam in the
 head.

MARA DECKER
 Oh shit, sorry!

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - SUITE X - BENEATH CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Liam sits in a CHAIR with an ICEPACK to his head. MARA DECKER, 19, cheerful, goth, with crimson red hair in dual ponytails and a unique red-tinted sunglass-monocle covering her right eye is squatted down in front of him, still apologizing.

Liam looks around the room. It is made entirely of old stone.

TRISTAN DECKER sits in a comically small wooden CHAIR by an old DESK in the rooms leftmost corner; A bloody bandage is wrapped around his massive bicep from where he took a bullet yesterday. To Tristan's right are two old ceiling-high bookshelves filled with ancient texts -- and just to the right of that, is what appears to be an armory housing all sorts of weaponry from medieval, to modern.

LIAM QUEST

Who exactly are you people?

Tristan SLIDES his tiny CHAIR closer to Liam to be in the conversation.

TRISTAN DECKER

I'm Tristan Decker. This is my daughter, Mara. We are Exorcists.

MARA DECKER

(making a peace sign)

Yo.

LIAM QUEST

Maybe I should ask that again when I don't have a concussion.

Mara frowns.

TRISTAN DECKER

I'm sure you many questions, but there will be time for all that later. You are still very much in danger and I would like to find out why.

Liam looks at Tristan, taking in his six chakram tattoos and unnatural white hair.

TRISTAN DECKER (CON'T)

Do you know why you were targeted Mr. Quest?

LIAM QUEST
How do you know my name?

MARA DECKER
It was on your business card.

LIAM QUEST
Ah... I wasn't the target. He was
after... That's right! My Flash
drive, where is it?!

Mara produces the USB drive in front of Liam.

MARA DECKER
You mean this?

LIAM QUEST
So you did have it ... thank god.
Did you look at it?

TRISTAN DECKER
We haven't really had the chance.
So you were saying the assassin was
after what's on this thumb drive?
Do you know who he is?

LIAM QUEST
Yes. My brother...

MARA DECKER
(interrupting)
The assassin is your brother?!!

Liam begins to SOB, softly. He places the ICEPACK down
beside him.

TRISTAN DECKER
The assassin killed his brother,
Mara.

MARA DECKER
Oh shit, so sorry dude!

Liam pulls himself together.

LIAM QUEST
My brother was telling me about a
story he was researching. He is ...
was... an investigative reporter.
The story involves a new product
Cimeron plans to release next week.
Something called Project Valkyrie.

TRISTAN DECKER

Cimeron?

LIAM QUEST

It's dangerous --deadly. And Gabriel Cross, the CEO, plans on releasing it in spite of the fact. If whats on this drive isn't made public within the week -- thousands of people could die.

MARA DECKER

Well that doesn't make any sense, why would...

TRISTAN DECKER

Did you just say Gabriel Cross?

LIAM QUEST

Uh..yeah. Do you know something?

Tristan paces.

TRISTAN DECKER

Are you sure your brother mentioned him specifically?

LIAM QUEST

Y-yes.. he said Gabriel Cross knows that the device is dangerous and plans to release it to the public one week from now. That's why...

Tristan goes pale.

TRISTAN DECKER

Oh boy.

MARA DECKER

(excitedly)

what what what what what?

Tristan SIGHS.

TRISTAN DECKER

Agh. Mr. Quest, if I tried to explain my current line of thought to you right now I'm afraid it wouldn't make any sense.

MARA DECKER

Well, tell me, then!

TRISTAN DECKER

It's just a theory right now, but if I'm right, this could change everything. We will need the Oracle to confirm it.

MARA DECKER

Ooh.. you're in for a treat.

LIAM QUEST

Who is.. the oracle? Does *he* look like a comic book character to?

Mara takes that as a compliment.

TRISTAN DECKER

Come, there's no time to waste. We are going to pay a visit to the Oracle.

END OF ACT V

ACT VI: KNOW THY ENEMY

EXT. ALLEYWAY - BOSTON - DAY

Tristan and Mara lead Liam into an underwhelming alleyway overlooking a brick building with a fire escape.

Liam is both surprised and refreshed by his mundane surroundings.

LIAM QUEST

Why are we stopping? This isn't the place... is it?

MARA DECKER

(Flapping her arms)
Yup! this is where the Oracle lives.

TRISTAN DECKER

What... were you expecting?

LIAM QUEST

I dunno... not ... this. That's for sure.

The three of them make their way up a small staircase leading to the building's back entrance. Tristan produces a KEY and unlocks the large unmarked door.

Tristan suddenly turns around.

TRISTAN DECKER
Before we enter there is something
you should know.

Tristan pauses. Liam looks at him intently.

TRISTAN DECKER (CON'T)
The other day, you encountered
things you'd never seen before.
Things you probably wish you'd
never seen. In the next few
moments, you're second eyelids will
be officially opened. The man you
are about to meet -- is possessed
by a demon.

MARA DECKER
Ah, yes! Good thinking Tristan. You
may have just saved the poor guy a
trip to Arkham.

TRISTAN DECKER
Arkham?

MARA DECKER
Asylum! It's the looney bin from
Batman.

Tristan shrugs at Liam.

Liam is silent.

TRISTAN DECKER
Right, so; once again I'm sure you
have more questions than you know
what to do with, but try and just
observe for now. Remain focused on
the task at hand; justice for your
brother, and preventing mass
casualties. Are you ready?

LIAM QUEST
You just told me demon's exist; and
that I should hold all my
questions... I am most definitely
not ready.

TRISTAN DECKER
Excellent.

INT. MAIN STRETCH - ORACLE'S MAN-CAVE - BRICK BUILDING

A huge open loft, narrow and long with shiny epoxy floors and brick walls - all completely unfurnished except for a massive computer rig off in the distance about 10 feet in front of a large, floor-to-ceiling window overlooking the city.

MARA DECKER

This -- is the Oracle's Man-cave.

LIAM QUEST

Alright! This is admittedly a lot more impressive than it seemed from the outside.

They make for the computer rig.

Halfway down the long room, Liam looks off to his right. Through a large open doorway he can see a furnished, messy, low-key apartment with a bed, couch, television, and full-sized refrigerator.

MARA DECKER

(Hand over mouth)

It is pretty cool, but the Oracle has no concept of efficient space.

TRISTAN DECKER

Indeed; like a Chase bank. The waste of space makes me cringe, and I'm not a particularly squeamish person.

As they approach the computer rig, the details become clearer. Mounted on large metal beams from the ceiling is a system of 4 medium-sized 4K TV MONITORS surrounding a gigantic 5th MONITOR. Below the monitors is a long workbench supporting a high end COMPUTER. Off to the left and right of the workbench are large server TOWERS; two columns on each side. An empty WHEELCHAIR rests by one of the server towers. In front of the command center, seated in a comfortable looking recliner GAMING CHAIR, is the back of a man.

TRISTAN DECKER

Gary!

GARY closes down whatever he was looking at on his screens, pushes some buttons and then spins around to face them. He is an extremely scrawny, geeky, 30 something man with straw blond hair.

GARY

What the hell?! Who do you think you are just barging in here like

that! What If I was doing top
secret work?!

(noticing them)

Oh... its youuu people.

Mara bends over and pulls her cheek down below her eye like
an Anime character. (A gesture of poking-fun at someone.)

MARA DECKER

That's a pretty fancy rig for porn
you've got there 'Gar.

Gary throws his hands up in the air in anger.

GARY

For crying out loud, what is it
with you people? You are addressing
the ORACLE. Nobody calls us Gary!

LIAM QUEST

Us?

Gary looks to Liam.

GARY

(Monotone)

Who the *#&@ is this prick?

TRISTAN DECKER

This is Liam Quest.

GARY

Liam Quest... Liam... That hotshot
lawyer who took down that bastard
Larry Sackhoff's multi-billion
dollar ponzi scheme?

MARA DECKER

You've actually heard of him?

GARY

Heard of him? This dude's face was
plastered all over the TV screens
during that scandal.

MARA DECKER

(talking fast and mumbling)

Huh. I don't watch TV. More of a
Netflix girl myself-

TRISTAN DECKER

Oracle, Consider him a temporary
addition to our ... mission.

GARY
The 'let's all kill demons'
mission? *fan-fricken'-tastic*.

LIAM QUEST
You're ... the Oracle?

GARY
Not what you expected, eh?

CLOSE ON GARY. Gary spins his CHAIR around.

SUPER: Garreth "The Oracle" Orphyn

GARY
The Oracle is my hacker name. Real
name's Garreth-

Gary's voice doubles and his eyes turn red.

DEMON GARY
Yet these sanctimonious flesh apes
have taken to calling it Gary! For
this blasphemous transgression,
This One shall reap their souls
from their lifeless husks!

Liam nearly jumps out of his skin, but takes a deep breath,
remembering he is safe with Tristan and Mara.

LIAM QUEST
Son of a bitch. A goddamn demon...

DEMON GARY
This One is called Orthon. Gary is
It's shell; a weak pussknucle of a
human.

Mara shakes her head.

MARA DECKER
You have nothing to worry about
from *That One*, Liam. *Orthon* might
be a demon, but he's stuck together
with his pussknuckle. They're
totally harmless!

DEMON GARY
(Hissing)
Harmless!!? This One will show you
harmless you she-witch!! Though
it's partially true; This One did
not expect to possess a flesh ape

incapable of walking with its own two, disgusting monkey legs.

LIAM QUEST

(to Tristan)

Keeping ... questions to a minimum, if he really is a demon... and you two are exorcists ... why do you work together?

TRISTAN DECKER

Ah. Very perceptive, Mr. Quest. Gary and I actually have a deal.

Gary's eyes return to normal and he places one arm akimbo.

GARY

I'd hardly call it a deal. It's more like a completely one-sided non-aggression pact. I help them, and in exchange they don't break my fricken' arms to match my fantastic legs.

TRISTAN DECKER

Because of his ... unique situation, Gary was able to develop software that allows him to track demonic energy. It's actually how we were able to find you just in the nick of time. I was tracking a rather large spike in demonic energy that turned out to be your Cimeron assassin.

LIAM QUEST

So then ... him regenerating like that ... he was .. also possessed?

TRISTAN DECKER

I promise in time Mara will tell you all about possession. She will answer all your questions and many, many more. But yes, your assassin was most definitely possessed.

LIAM QUEST

Well; shit.

Liam stares off into space for a few moments, lost in thought.

Tristan produces the USB drive and hands it to Gary.

GARY

What's this?

TRISTAN DECKER

This is the reason for our visit. Mr. Quest's brother was investigating a large-scale, deadly cover-up when he was ... attacked. The assassin then attempted to kill Mr. Quest as well, but fortunately, thanks to you, we we're able to prevent that.

MARA DECKER

(aside)

Oh, smooth! I love how you slid that compliment in there. You're like a Gary whisperer.

GARY

I see, I see. All very interesting. However ... WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME?!!

Mara spins Gary's CHAIR around.

GARY

Waagh!

DEMON GARY

Sheeeee-witch!!!

TRISTAN DECKER

I was hoping you might be able to track the assassin's signature back to where he came from. If we can confirm, without a doubt that Cimeron has demons working at their behest then I'm afraid this whole deadly experiment of theirs might be far, far more sinister than you or your brother could ever possibly imagine.

LIAM QUEST

How do you mean?

MARA DECKER

He means that, you might want to be more careful about pissing off a multi-billion dollar corporation that has demonic assassins working for it.

TRISTAN DECKER
Actually that's not it.

MARA DECKER
It's not?

TRISTAN DECKER
Six months ago, Gregor Cross -- Gabriel's father passed away. Gregor was a member of a sacred order known as the Council of Sacrem Ordinem, and the guardian of one of the thirteen seals of Abaddon. I know this only because I used to work for Gregor. With his death, the barrier on the seal was left vulnerable and an unknown assailant released the seal. One month later, the entire council was found massacred...

LIAM QUEST
The seal of what now? The council of who? You worked for Gabriel's father?

TRISTAN DECKER
Questions...

Liam looks down like a sad puppy and stops talking.

TRISTAN DECKER
Gabriel Cross was believed to be present at the massacre. But his body was never found. The Vatican felt this could mean one of two things. Either Gabriel was a victim like the rest...

LIAM QUEST
Or Gabriel was the culprit.

TRISTAN DECKER
That's right. If your demon assassin works for Gabriel Cross and Gabriel Cross is the mastermind behind Cimeron's deadly experiments...

MARA DECKER
Then Gabriel Cross is a billionaire conducting an experiment that could lead to the deaths of thousands of

people ... and he's a demon
responsible for the death of the
entire council of sacrem ordinem.

TRISTAN DECKER

Right...

LIAM QUEST

Okay, I'm sorry - what the hell
does that mean?

TRISTAN DECKER

It means, Mr. Quest --let's hope
we're wrong.

LIAM QUEST

(to himself)

What did Callum get me into?

Liam looks around for a place to sit but there are none.

GARY

You can sit in my wheelchair.

LIAM QUEST

I am *not* sitting in your
wheelchair.

GARY

Don't sit in my wheelchair, then.

LIAM QUEST

You know what? I'm fine now. Lets
just get on with this.

Gary pulls up his demonic tracking software. It looks like a blue tinted map of the world with sporadic light blue dots appearing and disappearing with no rhyme or rhythm. At the top of the screen is a timeline organized by date and a search bar to select a specified date.

TRISTAN DECKER

Let's do this; Pull up Boston from
yesterday, around 11:45 am.

Gary zooms in on the world map to the U.S. then clicks on Massachusetts, and zooms into Boston. On the timeline, he then clicks the tab for yesterday, and then a second timeline below it for the hours and minutes.

A larger light blue dot appears in the financial district where Liam was meeting with Callum.

TRISTAN DECKER
There. That big dot is your
assassin. Lock onto his signature.

Gary clicks on the blue dot.

TRISTAN DECKER (CON'T)
Does anyone know the address of the
Cimeron Building?

GARY
I can Google it.

Gary alt-tabs to an internet browser and types in, "Cimeron
Building, Boston" -- the address comes up.

GARY (CONT)
Got it.

TRISTAN DECKER
Okay, create a marker of that
address so we can reference where
our assassin is in relation to the
Cimeron headquarters.

Gary types in the address and a red X appears on the map.

TRISTAN DECKER (CON'T)
Now, lets find out where our
assassin came from that day.

MARA DECKER
What if they didn't meet in person?

TRISTAN DECKER
That's actually a very good point.
Hmm. Okay, lets go about this a
different way. Mr. Quest, when did
your brother say that Gabriel Cross
was spotted at the Cimeron
Building?

LIAM QUEST
He said it was a few weeks ago; but
Mara's point still holds true.
Unless the assassin's dot is ever
directly at the Cimeron building,
it doesn't definitively prove that
he was working for them.

TRISTAN DECKER
Huh.

GARY

You know -- I... can try hacking his cell phone and tracing his calls.

TRISTAN DECKER

What? You can do that?

GARY

Well, yeah -- I mean, we know exactly where he was and when he was there so I can just look through all the people in that area who were using their cellphone at that moment and see if any of them received a call originating from the Cimeron Building. If they did -- then that's got to be your assassin, and then that would prove that he is working for Cimeron.

Everyone is silent.

TRISTAN DECKER

Do that, then.

MARA DECKER

Yeah, do that.

Gary shakes his head and does it.

GARY

There is one call -- 10 seconds long originating from the Cimeron building to the area where Liam and his brother met.

TRISTAN DECKER

Can you play it back.

GARY

(mocking)

Can I play it back?

Gary double clicks on a sound wave, and an audio file plays.

STATIC.

KENSHI UEMASA (V.O.)

Sir, it's me. I have the target in sight. He is meeting with someone. Do I take the shot?

GABRIEL CROSS (V.O.)
Can you hear what they are saying?

KENSHI UEMASA (V.O.)
No, they shut their phones off.

GABRIEL CROSS (V.O.)
Take them both out, to be safe.
Call me when its done.

KENSHI UEMASA (V.O.)
Sir.

CLICK.

Silence.

LIAM QUEST
That was the assassins voice, I'm
sure of it. But who was the other
one?

TRISTAN DECKER
Gabriel Cross.

MARA DECKER
You're certain?

TRISTAN DECKER
I'm afraid so.

LIAM QUEST
Then that means...

Tristan shuts his eyes. Gary turns around to face him.

CLOSE ON Tristan.

MONTAGE.

A. INT. UPSTAIRS STUDY - CROSS MANOR DAY

A teenage Gabriel Cross is talking to his father. Tristan
can be seen in the shot, appearing to be about 20 years
younger.

TRISTAN DECKER (V.O.)
When Gabriel was a boy, I remember
him telling his father that he
could hear voices coming from the
maze garden. Having worked as
Gregor's personal bodyguard for
most of my life, I know that the

Seal of Abaddon he was charged with
guarding is located directly
beneath their maze-garden.

B. EXT. CROSS MANOR - MAZE GARDEN - RED SKY

Gabriel Cross follows his father's blood through deadened
maze-garden to the fountain where disappears into the pool
of blood.

TRISTAN DECKER

It's my fear that, when Gregor
died, those voices may have been
able to reach Gabriel. If it was he
who opened the seal, something of
great evil must have latched onto
him.

END MONTAGE.

BACK TO SCENE.

TRISTAN DECKER (CON'T)

Gary, Pull up Salem Massachusetts,
6 months ago today.

Gary complies. And that's when they see it for the first
time; A demonic signal so large that the light blue dot
nearly takes up the entire screen.

MARA DECKER

What in god's name...

DEMON GARY

That signature...! It's
unmistakable.

TRISTAN DECKER

You recognize it?

Demon Gary begins LAUGHING MANIACALLY.

DEMON GARY

But this doesn't make any sense ...
How could .. unless... Yes!! Yes!!

TRISTAN DECKER

What is it? Speak, demon.

DEMON GARY

Every Demon knows that signature.
Belial; the king of demons and
prince of darkness is here on
earth!

MARA DECKER

King of demons ...? Here? How is that possible?

DEMON GARY

Lord Belial was never trapped in Abaddon with the rest of us. None of us had any idea where he was. When you're fool Gabriel Cross opened that seal -- our lord, who must've been trapped inside it was released. Oh joy! Oh joyous day! This One can see it now.

MARA DECKER

See what?

DEMON GARY

See the flesh being ripped off your despicable human bodies as your world burns and our dark lord signs his name with your corpses!

Mara spins Gary's chair.

DEMON GARY

(hissing)

Sheeeee-witch!!!

END OF EPISODE