

The Outsider

An Original Screenplay
by
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PROLOGUE TITLE
*If a word can change the world, and
it surely can, then a story can
shatter the universe.*
-Santush the Story Spinner

FADE IN:

INT. LAUNCH BAY

An athletic black man, DOMINGO ST.CROIX, 40, is led to a small space capsule by lime-green uniformed attendants. As he is ushered in, a camera crew moves in close.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Legendary footballer Domingo St.
Croix is taking his place in the
pod and is just moments away from
exploratory.

Oddly, Domingo appears groggy.

REACTIONS

A stoic Latino at a control panel; a beautiful Asian woman crying, being restrained; an exotic Hispanic woman behind a dark window in an upper gallery.

ON A LARGE TELESCREEN

Domingo is strapped into the pod.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
We'll be back with the historic
blastoff in just a moment, but
first a word about the Island's
newest attraction.

CUT TO:

EXT. GHETTO STREET -- NIGHT

Lively, brightly-lit, with all manner of street hustlers, loose women, assorted bad guys. There is an over the top quality to this cityscape.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
First the Carnival of Rio, then the
Plains of Zimbabwe. Now, Island
Entertainment is proud to present
Mean Streets, New York City!

POV SHOT

Weaving through the crowd of lowlifes.

SULTRY WOMAN
Hey foxy, want to party?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HUSTLER
How about a watch? Genuine Rolex.

The Hustler opens his trenchcoat, displays his wares. No dice. Now a THUG steps up, whips out a sawed-off shotgun.

THUG
Think fast, asshole.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF INTERVIEWS

YOUNG MAN
Frosty! I nearly wet my pants.

YOUNG WOMAN
I've never been so scared. It
stimmed me to the max.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN
Very realistic. Cutting edge
stuff.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Electronically enhanced hypnotic
suggestion makes this zone, like
all our others, beyond virtual
reality, a true experience.

Subtitles flash: "No actors! Not a role play! Only 20K!"

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Your adventure custom designed by
our programming experts. Fully
monitored with exit remote always
at hand.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. LAUNCH BAY

Secured in his pod, Domingo looks confused as the hatch is shut.

At the control panel the Latino, CHAVEZ, punches some buttons.

CLOSE

On LED readout: "Auto-detonation: 3 minutes." Another button is punched. The 3 changes to 30.

CHAVEZ
(sotto voce)
Good luck, brother.

ON THE TELESCREEN

A view of the pod with an electronic counter in the upper left. As the counter winds down to 00:00:00, the pod jolts out an open bay.

EXT. SPACE

Still on the telescreen. The pod becomes a tiny dot of light zipping away from a vast city, floating in space.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

One small step for a man, one giant step for mankind. Domingo's destination is Alpha Centauri, his quest, a new home for humanity.

As the pod disappears into the firmament the CAMERA PANS past a distant but familiar sight, the moon. As the pan continues, the screen is filled by the surface of a strange planet, glowing orange.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Island in the Sky remains committed to maintaining the highest quality of life, while insuring life goes on.

The image on the screen DISSOLVES to the Island logo, a spiral inside a square.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

Actual space, not the telescreen. The pod rockets past - the floating city a distant object in the background.

The CAMERA PANS as the pod WHOOSHES by. The surface of a familiar planet - blue and brown - comes into view. The pod arcs toward a land mass below.

EXT. MESA -- DAY

The pod blazes through the sky before skipping like a stone across desert terrain. It skids hard through the sagebrush before finally coming to rest.

CLOSER

On the smoking pod. Domingo, unconscious, is glimpsed through the tiny hatch window.

Suddenly, an OLD MAN clambers up, pries the hatch open with a thick tree branch, drags Domingo out, slaps him hard across the face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLD MAN
Come on, sonny.

Domingo's eyes flutter open. Propped by the old man, he wobbles off. A few seconds later the man hurls Domingo into a ditch, dives on top of him just as:

THE POD

Explodes into smithereens.

IN THE DITCH

The old man covers his head, waits for the debris to settle. It finally does. He stands up. Domingo gazes up, dazed.

OLD MAN
(indicating sky)
Somebody up there doesn't like you.

CUT TO:

INT. HOGAN -- DAY

An eight-sided adobe structure with fireplace and chimney. The Old Man, SANTUSH STILLWATER, tends to Domingo.

SANTUSH
I was wondering when you'd get here.

DOMINGO
Get...where?

SANTUSH
This place is called New Taos.

DOMINGO
What star system?

SANTUSH
Plain old solar system, sonny. It may not be glamorous but we like it just fine.

Domingo looks at him, bewildered.

SANTUSH (CONT'D)
You're on Earth.

DOMINGO
Earth? The Earth is dead.

SANTUSH
Dead is it? Does this look like a portrait of death to you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Santush throws open wooden shutters - a red desert landscape dotted with pinion pines, canopied by a deep blue sky with moody clouds. It is achingly beautiful.

Domingo rises to his feet, staggers to the window, peers out.

SANTUSH (CONT'D)
Easy there, space jockey.

DOMINGO
It can't be.

Santush chuckles.

SANTUSH
Where in the devil do you suppose
you are then?

DOMINGO
I don't know.

Santush approaches, puts an arm on Domingo's shoulder, leads him back to a wooden bed.

SANTUSH
You'll get answers soon enough,
friend.

CUT TO:

EXT. MESA -- DAY

A small open vehicle resembling a dune buggy WHIRS across the terrain. In it are two young women, CALABRIA, 20, brunette, fit, and DESDEMONA, 21, blonde, delicate.

DESDEMONA
This is great!

Calabria puts the pedal to the metal. The dune buggy jumps a desert mogul. The young women WHOOP in delight.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOGAN -- DAY

Santush walks with Domingo, now noticeably more coordinated and alert. He sees a bird fly overhead, watches in awe.

SANTUSH
Never seen a hawk before?

DOMINGO
Only on the telescreen. And in
Zimbabwe.

SANTUSH
Been to Africa, have you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Domingo doesn't understand.

DOMINGO
Where I come from, there is no sky.

SANTUSH
I'll bet it's missing a few other things too. What do you remember?

DOMINGO
Not much. I was...somebody.

SANTUSH
That's not much all right.

DOMINGO
No, I mean someone important.
Look.

Domingo shows Santush his hand. His fourth finger is circled by a gaudy ring - a large synthetic stone surrounded by an inscription. Santush arches his eyebrows.

SANTUSH
"Island Champions - 2096." Could be a clue. What else do you recall?

DOMINGO
Something happened. Something that hurts me here.
(indicates chest)
But every time I try to remember, all I see is darkness.

SANTUSH
Do you want to remember?

DOMINGO
I don't know.

EXT. VILLAGE -- DAY

Tidy, with signs of nascent technology. Young people, mostly women, move with purpose. One group practices martial arts.

Amid this activity, Calabria and Desdemona drive up in the dune buggy, call out.

CALABRIA
New speed record - forty-five on the mesa.

DESDEMONA
And the batteries are still at fifty percent.

A female MECHANIC gives Calabria the thumbs up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MECHANIC

That's just the beginning.

The mechanic hands Calabria a note. She reads it.

DESDEMONA

What's wrong?

CALABRIA

Aunt Alana.

INT. ALANA'S HOME -- DAY

A single large room with a sweeping view of the Mesa. The accouterments of culture and new technology adorn the residence of ALANA, dignified, with compassionate eyes.

Alana is watering plants as Calabria enters.

CALABRIA

No way I'm going to see that old fool.

ALANA

Hello Calabria.

CALABRIA

Send someone else.

Alana regards Calabria patiently.

ALANA

Care for some tea?

CALABRIA

No.

ALANA

Do you remember when I told you a day would come when you must serve your people?

CALABRIA

He's not one of us, Alana.

ALANA

Santush sees things differently. That doesn't change the fact he's your father.

CALABRIA

What's that got to do with it?

ALANA

Like him, you have the gift. You need to develop that gift.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALABRIA

Why?

ALANA

Our commitment to technology and strength must be balanced with a knowledge of the spiritual ways. Those ways tell me change is coming.

CALABRIA

What kind of change?

ALANA

That is a mystery for you to unravel.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The floating city suspended in the firmament.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A luxurious high tech board room, in low light. Council members seated around a long table watch a large telescreen on the far wall.

ON THE TELESCREEN

The Island logo DISSOLVES to a computer-enhanced image of the floating city, gliding across the heavens.

A title SUPERIMPOSES over: "Diamond Anniversary On The Island, Where Your Every Dream Is A Reality."

The title and floating city FADE OUT as an infomercial video, grainy, washed out, FADES UP. A distinguished gray-haired man, JEROME GOODWIN, cuts a ceremonial ribbon.

The CAMERA PANS to reveal a lovely resort - tennis courts, golf course, luxury condos.

INFOMERCIAL NARRATOR (V.O.)

Goodwin Enterprises is proud to announce the opening of the new eighth wonder of the world, Island in the Sky. What is Island in the Sky? A world class resort with a difference.

LONG SHOT

Of the resort. It slowly begins to rise into the air. INTERCUT shots of Goodwin overseeing a team of engineers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INFOMERCIAL NARRATOR

Built in the Sonora Desert, Island in the Sky is the first commercial development to ever employ the technology of reverse gravity propulsion.

Goodwin speaks to the camera.

GOODWIN

In these troubled times, people need a place to relax and forget about the turmoil of day to day life. What better place than forty thousand feet above it all?

SERIES OF SHOTS

Of vacationers enjoying the Island's amenities. In one shot they soak in a giant hot tub with a huge picture window, a view of the distant Earth below. The happy vacationers give the thumbs up sign.

GOODWIN

Completely safe, completely controlled, Island in the Sky is the place where dreams still come true.

The infomercial DISSOLVES to a vista of a much vaster development, a whole city, rising off the desert landscape. The image is now bright and clean; a new narrator speaks.

TELESCREEN NARRATOR (V.O.)

Island in the Sky, the resort, was but a prelude to Island in the Sky, the city, which became a virtual Noah's Ark for humanity when the surface troubles worsened.

Shots of the various entertainment zones - Rio, Zimbabwe, New York; of athletes playing Island Football; of people strolling through exquisite Kyoto Gardens.

TELESCREEN NARRATOR (V.O.)

For seventy-five years your Island has continued to serve, bringing the best in entertainment, sport, and quality of life. The Island, where the future is bright and getting brighter.

Again the computer enhanced image of the city soaring through space, with a superimposed title: "2099 - Happy Anniversary!" The telescreen FADES OUT.

THE BOARD ROOM

Is now fully revealed as the lights come up - large blowups of the Zones and football action cover the walls, along with a portrait of Jerome Goodwin. The diverse members of the Partnership Council, nameplates before them, politely applaud.

At the head of the table is LAWRENCE GOODWIN, early 40s. He is flanked by TERCITA DIAZ, the exotic woman first glimpsed in the launch bay gallery.

GOODWIN

Thank you. It is a tribute to my grandfather's vision that things have run so smoothly the past seventy-five years.

Goodwin pauses to regard the portrait of the older gentleman.

GOODWIN (CONT'D)

But alas, nothing is perfect, even on the Island. This emergency session of the Partnership Council has been convened to discuss an issue of grave importance. My wife, Terecita Diaz, will explain.

He turns to Terecita, who stands. A respectful hush falls over the council.

TERECITA

Fellow Council members, we are rightfully proud of what we've accomplished. Diamond Anniversary is a time for celebration. But it is my duty as Vice General Partner to inform you of a disturbing development.

On the telescreen behind her a chart appears: "Island Birth Rate."

TERECITA (CONT'D)

Over the past five years, births on the Island have declined dramatically. Despite the best efforts of our scientists, infertility has reached the point where our future is in jeopardy.

A low buzz from the Council.

TERECITA (CONT'D)

While we continue to seek a scientific solution, we have no time to waste.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

On the screen: "ERC - Elite Reconnaissance Corps." As Terecita continues, images of Marine-like soldiers and shuttle space craft appear.

TERECITA (CONT'D)
The secret Elite Reconnaissance Corps was formed to handle situations like this, and is already poised for action.

On the screen, long range surveillance images of communities on the surface. Terecita uses a mouse to point out structures.

TERECITA (CONT'D)
We've been tracking a Survivor society in a region that was once the Southwestern United States, populated by a high ratio of hosts who are healthy and fertile.

Another surveillance shot: a grainy image of numerous women bathing in a natural pool.

TERECITA (CONT'D)
An adoption mission has been greenlit for next cycle. With an adequate number of hosts and the accelerated term pregnancy procedure, we will be able to secure the future of the Island, and civilization.

The Council Chamber is quiet. Finally, one Council Member ventures a query.

COUNCIL MEMBER
What about security? With the adoption of outsiders, the potential for leaks will be great.

TERECITA
This mission has the highest classification. All ERC personnel will be electronically debriefed, and the hosts eliminated once harvesting is complete.

CUT TO:

INT. HOGAN -- DAWN

Domingo sleeps restlessly.

INT. STARDOME (BLUE TINT)

Slow motion shot of Domingo, in Island Football rugby-style jersey and shorts, loping onto the field.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A massive crowd rises as one, their thunderous cheers echoing through the stadium.

Domingo brushes hands with teammates, wears a game face that is calm, focused.

IN THE STANDS (BLUE TINT)

The beautiful Asian woman and a six year-old girl applaud warmly.

Lawrence Goodwin and Terecita Diaz watch dispassionately from a luxury box.

INT. HYPNOSIS CENTER (BLUE TINT)

POV shot of white-jacketed techs holding down an unseen figure. One of the techs brings a large syringe into view, plunges the needle down hard, just out of sight.

INT. HOGAN -- DAWN

Domingo bolts upright, a terrified look on his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOGAN -- DAY

Domingo walks with Santush, who feeds dogs, cats, chickens, a goat.

SANTUSH
Your task is to remember.

DOMINGO
Who I was?

SANTUSH
No, who you are.

DOMINGO
But I don't even know my name.

SANTUSH
Names are a nuisance and a burden.
Be glad you don't remember yours.

DOMINGO
I don't understand.

SANTUSH
There's a story that's been told
about you, not of your own making.
This story doesn't do you justice.
Once you remember it, you must
forget it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DOMINGO
Then what?

SANTUSH
Then you are free to fulfill your
destiny.

DOMINGO
And what is that?

SANTUSH
I haven't a clue.

DOMINGO
Great.

SANTUSH
We could ask the rings.

DOMINGO
Rings?

SANTUSH
Story rings. But I don't know if
you're ready for that.

Domingo gives Santush a piercing stare.

INT. HOGAN -- DAY

Dark, the daylight shuttered out. A small fire burns in the
hearth. Domingo sits as Santush fumbles through a box.

SANTUSH
Haven't used the rings in awhile.
No one's had a question worth
asking. Ah, here they are.

Santush holds up a leather cord which secures a number of
turquoise stone rings, small, roundish, irregular. He unties
the cord, detaches a ring, hands it to Domingo.

SANTUSH (CONT'D)
There you go.

Domingo fingers the ring uncertainly.

DOMINGO
What do I do with it?

Santush plucks it from Domingo's fingers.

SANTUSH
I'll show you. But there are a few
rules.

DOMINGO
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SANTUSH

When you ask the rings a question,
they don't give a direct answer.
It's more like a dream.

DOMINGO

A dream?

SANTUSH

Actually it's a series of images
that funnel into your third eye.

Santush touches a spot on Domingo's forehead, just above the
bridge of his nose.

SANTUSH (CONT'D)

I know it seems like a bunch of
hocus-pocus, but trust me, it
works.

DOMINGO

What will I see?

SANTUSH

It's different every time. The
rings only show what you're ready
to see, like pieces of a puzzle.
Want to give it a whirl?

DOMINGO

What have I got to lose?

SANTUSH

That's the spirit. Settle down
now, close your eyes, focus on your
breath.

DOMINGO

Okay.

SANTUSH

Shush.

Santush holds the ring high over his head, then lowers it to
a wooden table, where it stands upright.

SANTUSH (CONT'D)

Great Spirit, we ask for your
wisdom and guidance. May the story
you spin be for the highest good of
all concerned.

(to Domingo)

Now ask your question.

Domingo considers a few moments.

DOMINGO

Is this really the Earth? Who am
I, and why am I here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SANTUSH
Whoa, that's three questions.

DOMINGO
Sorry.

SANTUSH
The ring will decide what to show
you.

Santush gently touches the upright ring, giving it a slight spin. It picks up speed of its own accord, becomes a glowing blur.

DOMINGO'S FOREHEAD

Slowly lights up.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MIDDLE EAST -- DAY

A vast desert dotted with oil rigs. A soothing female voice is heard.

RING NARRATOR (V.O.)
The Great Cataclysm of 2025 was the result of global warming, a series of earthquakes and eruptions, and nuclear conflict over oil. The Earth was pushed too far out of balance. A threshold was crossed, from which there could be no return.

The sky over the landscape turns a glowing red-orange, then is engulfed by a gigantic tidal wave of smoke and flame.

RING NARRATOR (V.O.)
All over the planet, the wave of fire decimated the societies of man.

Other shots of the tidal wave of flame, sweeping over cityscapes and rural settings alike.

EXT. SEA OF ASH -- DAY

A plain scorched gray and black, as far as the eye can see.

RING NARRATOR (V.O.)
Your history teaches that life had ended. But out of the ashes of devastation arose a new hope.

INT. CAVES

Low light. A massive chamber in which hundreds of people appear to be sleeping.

RING NARRATOR (V.O.)
The Dream People knew the cataclysm was coming. They prepared their bodies for the Long Sleep in the caves, their spirits taking refuge in dream time.

EXT. CAVES -- DAY

Rocky high desert. The sky is blue again. Tiny seedlings and fresh green vegetation dot the landscape.

RING NARRATOR (V.O.)
After five years the surface had healed. Plants and animals that survived the inferno returned. So did the Dream People.

A handful of people emerge from the cave opening, stand in awe for a moment, fall prostrate, kiss the ground.

RING NARRATOR (V.O.)
They had been spared, for a purpose.

EXT. ADOBE COMMUNITY -- DAY

The Dream People perform a ritual around a small fire.

RING NARRATOR (V.O.)
They formed new societies in accord with nature. Their task - to bring the sky back to the earth and the earth back to the sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOGAN -- DAY

The turquoise ring wobbles, disappears as the glow on Domingo's forehead subsides. He opens his eyes. Santush looks over.

SANTUSH
Don't say a thing - that story was just for you.

Just then a WHIRRING SOUND is heard. Santush peeks through a shutter.

SANTUSH (CONT'D)
Wonders never cease.

EXT. HOGAN -- DAY

Calabria and Desdemona pull up in the electric dune buggy.

DESDEMONA
This where your dad lives?

CALABRIA
Yeah.

DESDEMONA
Strange place. I didn't know you
had a father.

CALABRIA
I don't.

Santush emerges from the hogan.

SANTUSH
Calabria, what a pleasant surprise.

CALABRIA
I'm only here because Aunt Alana
ordered me to come.

SANTUSH
I see. Who is this?

DESDEMONA
Desdemona. My friends call me Des.

SANTUSH
Ah yes, I've heard about you.

DESDEMONA
Really? What have you heard?

SANTUSH
That you are my daughter's partner
and that you love each other very
much. A pleasure to meet you. My
name is Santush.

CALABRIA
This is not a social call.

Domingo emerges from the hogan. Calabria regards him
suspiciously.

SANTUSH
This is a friend. I'd introduce you
but he has temporarily misplaced
his name.

CALABRIA
By the looks of him he's from the
Island.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A look of recognition takes Domingo's features.

DOMINGO
Island in the Sky.

CALABRIA
What did you do to become an
outcast?

DOMINGO
Outcast?

CALABRIA
Only outcasts are shit down on us
by the Island. Of course they
usually arrive fried to a crisp.

SANTUSH
Have some courtesy, Calabria. This
man has a noble mission.

CALABRIA
Oh really, did you see that in a
vision? Your magic is useless.

SANTUSH
How can I help you, child?

CALABRIA
Alana says I have the gift.

SANTUSH
Yes, you do.

CALABRIA
She says I must develop it to help
our people.

SANTUSH
That requires training. No telling
how long it'll take.

CALABRIA
I won't leave my tribe.

SANTUSH
That is your choice.

Calabria considers, shoots a glance at Desdemona.

CALABRIA
I have done my duty. I will tell
Alana what you say. I will tell
her not to waste our time.

SANTUSH
As you wish.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Calabria storms back to the dune buggy, Desdemona following.

EXT. MESA -- DAY

Calabria drives the buggy aggressively. Desdemona studies her.

DESDEMONA
That went well.

No response from Calabria.

DESDEMONA (CONT'D)
He seems nice. Why are you so
nasty to him?

CALABRIA
My mother died in an epidemic. I
was only a little girl. He refused
to have her treated with the new
medicine. It cost her life.

EXT. HOGAN -- DAY

Domingo approaches Santush, who's lost in thought.

DOMINGO
Is she Dream People?

SANTUSH
She was. But she joined the Strong
Women, a group that split off from
us.

DOMINGO
Why?

SANTUSH
They thought the spiritual ways too
passive. They believe in using
force when necessary, and the
restoration of technology. In
other words, they're hell bent on
repeating the error of the old
ways.

DOMINGO
You need to be patient with
children.

SANTUSH
Indeed. How do you know about
children?

DOMINGO
I have a daughter.

The import of what Domingo has said hits him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DOMINGO (CONT'D)
Her name is Kara. And my name is
Domingo, Domingo St. Croix.

SANTUSH
Tell me Domingo St. Croix, why were
you cast out from the Island?

DOMINGO
I was, wasn't I? I don't know.

SANTUSH
The answer to that question will
answer many more.

DOMINGO
I've got to get back.

SANTUSH
To the Island? Why?

DOMINGO
To tell them the Earth is alive.

SANTUSH
You need to learn the value of life
on Earth before you tell anyone
anything.

DOMINGO
Teach me.

SANTUSH
Even if I could, how would that
help you?
(indicates sky)
They're up there and you're down
here.

DOMINGO
There is a way.

SANTUSH
What is it?

DOMINGO
I don't know. I just know there
is.

CUT TO:

INT. SHUTTLE CRAFT

Chavez and ERC crew make final preparations for their
mission. The ERC are fit, young, both male and female.

ERC MALE
I hear Survivor chicks get pretty
gnarly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERC FEMALE

No sweat. If one starts kicking
your ass, I'll watch.

ERC MALE

If one starts kicking my ass, I'll
introduce her to my friend.

The ERC male pats a sidearm. Chavez notices, strides over.

CHAVEZ

(to ERC male)

If any of the indigenous population
receives so much as a scratch,
you'll find yourself shoveling
virtual elephant turds in Zimbabwe.
You understand me, soldier?

ERC MALE

Yes sir.

CHAVEZ

(to all)

This is a code five mission. The
well being of the subject targets
is highest priority. Save the
macho horseshit for your bonus trip
to Rio.

The words "bonus trip" take the crew by surprise.

CREW

Yes sir!

EXT. MESA -- DAY

Half a dozen Survivor women and a couple of men dash across
the mesa on makeshift mountain bikes. Leading the way are
Desdemona and Calabria.

DESDEMONA

Last one to the falls pollutes.

CALABRIA

You know better than to challenge
me, girl.

The bikers pick up their pace.

EXT. GORGE -- DAY

Santush leads Domingo to a cliff that overlooks a spectacular
gorge, half a mile wide, a thousand feet deep.

DOMINGO

Why have we come here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SANTUSH

To remind you of the power of faith.

DOMINGO

Remind me?

SANTUSH

Yes. The faith you once had gave you the power to do great things. You could have used it to leap this gorge, for example.

DOMINGO

That's impossible.

SANTUSH

So it seems. But what some people call impossible is commonplace to one with faith.

Santush approaches the edge, flexes his legs, swings his arms.

SANTUSH (CONT'D)

Okay, ready?

DOMINGO

No.

SANTUSH

To leap across this gorge is easier than returning to the Island. Neither is impossible.

Santush turns and walks back onto the mesa.

INT. TERCITA'S QUARTERS

Opulent furnishings, occult artifacts, and the ubiquitous telescreen. Watching it are Terecita and Goodwin.

On the screen, a surveillance shot of the ERC shuttle, cruising above Earth.

CHAVEZ (O.S.)

Ten minutes to landing. Resume transmission on mission completion. Chavez out.

The telescreen image breaks up. Terecita picks up a handful of small, polished bones, tosses them on a table. Goodwin picks up a slick magazine with holographic photos of beautiful women.

GOODWIN

I'm beat - the caseload for chronic depression is up forty percent.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOODWIN (CONT'D)
Half of them will end up in the
zones.

No response from Terecita.

GOODWIN (CONT'D)
I need a break. I'm leaving for
Rio at the end of this cycle.

Terecita gasps, staring at the bones.

GOODWIN (CONT'D)
What?

TERECITA
One of the new hosts will be mother
of the child.

GOODWIN
What child?

TERECITA
The prophesied one.

GOODWIN
I thought that was taken care of.

TERECITA
The child's protector has been
eliminated.

GOODWIN
So what's the problem? I really
need this trip to Rio.

TERECITA
Silence. If this child is
mishandled there will be no more
Rio.

GOODWIN
I don't like it when you talk to me
like that.

TERECITA
Just be here for mission return.

Goodwin sulks off as Terecita contemplates the bones.

CUT TO:

EXT. FALLS -- DAY

A majestic waterfall crashes into a large natural pool.

Winded Survivors pull up on their bikes at the crest of the
falls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Calabria is first, with Desdemona and the others close behind. As they dismount, Calabria raises her arms in victory.

CALABRIA
Okay, who's the polluter?

DESDEMONA
The last one in the pool.

Desdemona darts down a path. The others race after her.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Shouts and laughter as the group continues, shedding shirts along the way. Desdemona dives gracefully into the pool.

PULL BACK to reveal Chavez and ERC, hidden behind red boulders, watching through mini-binoculars.

EXT. POOL -- DAY

Gorgeous turquoise water in a red rock alcove, the falls thundering in the background.

The Survivors frolic in the water, throw a ball around. A whooping SCREAM is heard.

It's Desdemona, who arcs high on a rope swing, releases, plunges into the water below.

Calabria watches, smiling. Suddenly she seems to hear something, turns anxiously - nothing. She shakes her head, as if trying to dispel an unwanted sensation.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT -- DAY

Domingo and Santush at the edge of a dry gulch.

SANTUSH
Baby steps.

DOMINGO
Come again?

SANTUSH
The unimaginable journey begins with a single baby step. Think you can jump it?

Santush indicates the other side of the gulch, twenty feet away.

DOMINGO
I don't know.

(CONTINUED)