

(THE POST)

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(3rd Draft)

EXT. THE POST — DAWN

The sun rises upon THE POST, a bunker, a watchtower and a field of crop located in a remote, valley wilderness.

Exiting the bunker, THE SENTINEL, in an exo-suit and beak-helmet. He strides into the open with a tarp and a rifle.

ROANNA (V.O.)

The sentinel commands the post... and the post commands the sentinel.

The Sentinel rolls the tarp onto the dirt. He kneels on the tarp, sets his rifle aside and removes his helmet. Only his long black hair is revealed. The Sentinel bows in prayer.

THE POST — LATER (BEGIN MONTAGE)

With his helmet on, he resets a post in the wire perimeter fence. He fascines the wire fence back into the post.

The Sentinel squats before a COMMUNICATION BOX. He opens the box, looking to fuses and cables. The Sentinel flips through the box's INSTRUCTION MANUAL, cocking his head.

INTERCUTTING BETWEEN SENTINEL AND MANUAL

English text instructs how to repair the Communication Box. There are simple pictures on the page. Flipping the fuses on and off brutishly, he doesn't get the device working.

THE WATCHTOWER — LATER

The Sentinel sits on top of the watchtower, whittling a wood carving with a well-worn knife. He looks to the valley beyond, watching over The Post.

SUPER:

"THE POST"

INT. THE BUNKER — NIGHT

Without his helmet — face unseen — he eats corn at a table. On the table are wood figures. The figures are facing him.

Lying in bed, The Sentinel peers out his window. A VIOLET PLANET gleams amongst the stars.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS – MORNING (END MONTAGE)

The Sentinel patrols the perimeter with his rifle. He looks up at smoke rising from behind a cluster of boulders.

EXT. THE BOULDERS – MORNING

Moving around the boulders, The Sentinel walks up on an abandoned, smoldering campfire. He jolts aside at approaching FOOTSTEPS, pointing his rifle.

Stops abruptly, ROANNA (20's) a native scout, a dark haired woman outfitted in crude tech-gear and drab clothing. Looking at The Sentinel, Roanna turns fleeing the boulders.

The Sentinel flips a lever on his rifle and a light goes GREEN. He fires and Roanna is hit with a particle blast. She collapses to the ground. The Sentinel lowers his rifle.

He drags Roanna's body toward The Post..

EXT. THE WATCHTOWER – DAY

Cleaning his rifle, The Sentinel sits on the watchtower. He nods to GRUNTS AND GROWLS growing below the watchtower. The Sentinel quickly moves down the ladder.

ROANNA (O.S.)

Show yourself, interloper!

EXT. THE POST – DAY

Roanna is sitting against the watchtower tied to a stilt.

ROANNA

I'm a member of the regional militia and
I demand an audience with my capturer!

The Sentinel drops from the ladder, aiming his rifle.

THE SENTINEL

Eyahn!

ROANNA

Untie me, devil!
(The Sentinel cocks his head)
The war is over!

The Sentinel turns away, approaching the Communication Box.

ROANNA
Your people are leaving!

The Sentinel kneels, recovering the Instruction Manual. He opens the Communication Box, looking at fuses and cables. He reviews the Manual, tampering with the cables clumsily.

ROANNA
... You can't speak our language, can you?
(Sentinel turns back briefly)
Serves you right, devil, for seizing our
outpost. A repair manual you can't read
is as useful as a king without subjects.

The Sentinel bangs on the side of the Communication Box. Roanna starts to laugh. The Sentinel approaches Roanna with vexing haste. He shoves the Instruction Manual in her face.

ROANNA
I'd rather die than help you.

The Sentinel snarls, motioning with the Instruction Manual. Roanna gazes up at him sternly. She shakes her head "no." The Sentinel springs up, pointing his rifle at her...

He lowers his rifle, looking at Roanna. He storms off.

EXT. THE POST - NIGHT

Heavy wind is HOWLING. Roanna shivers tied to the stilt. She looks to a dim light coming from inside the bunker.

INT. THE BUNKER - NIGHT

The Sentinel whittles a NEW WOOD FIGURE at the table. The WIND HOWLS and he looks at the window. He keeps whittling.

EXT. THE POST - DAWN

Roanna stirs awake. She's damp and shaking. She peers up as The Sentinel exits the bunker with his tarp and rifle. She watches curiously as he kneels over the tarp and prays.

Rising, collecting the tarp, The Sentinel catches Roanna's glance. He watches her for a moment. He moves away quickly.

LATER — DAY

A husk of corn is tossed at Roanna's feet. She flinches as The Sentinel drops in, cutting her ropes with his knife. She turns up at him tense. The Sentinel steps back...

Roanna scrambles for the corn and starts eating ravenously. The Sentinel stands over Roanna, watching her eat.

He extends the Instruction Manual to her. Roanna looks up at him finishing her corn. Hesitant, she takes the Manual.

Roanna stomps toward the Communication Box. Kneeling before it, she opens the box. She looks back to The Sentinel. He stands behind her with his rifle loosely in his grasp.

ROANNA

(Under her breath)

I can't believe I'm considering this...

She sighs, looking over the Instruction Manual. She regards the fuses and cables. The Sentinel paces behind her. Roanna flips a series of fuses and the Communication Box turns on.

The Sentinel kneels, nudging beside Roanna, he examines the Communication Box. He sees that the Satellite on top of the device is spinning. He rises, pointing his rifle at Roanna.

She looks at The Sentinel apprehensively. He nods to the wilderness beyond The Post. She stands uncertain. He nudges her with his rifle, pushing Roanna toward the wilderness.

Roanna steps back slowly. The Sentinel lowers his rifle. After a pause, Roanna flees The Post. He watches her go.

LATER — LATE DAY

Kneeling at the Communication Box, The Sentinel scans the frequencies. He stops on a broadcast of a DEEP VOICE.

DEEP VOICE

(Static/Repeating)

Breka ule vheelo! Et cahn oto Brah!

The Sentinel listens as the broadcast repeats. He bangs his rifle against the box until the device powers down. He nods up to the sky. The Violet Planet gleams beyond the clouds.

ON BLACK,

ROANNA (V.O.)

The sentinel commands the post... and the
post commands the sentinel.

EXT. THE POST – DAWN (BEGIN MONTAGE)

Exiting the bunker, The Sentinel strides into the open.
He's carrying his tarp and his rifle.

He rolls his tarp out, kneeling. He sets his rifle aside.
Removing his helmet, he bows in prayer. His face is unseen..

LATER – DAY

With his helmet on, The Sentinel clears foliage and twigs
from the windows of the bunker.

Beside the perimeter fence, he cleans his rifle thoroughly.

INT. THE BUNKER – DAY

At the table with no helmet – face unseen – The Sentinel
cuts details in the New Wood Figure. He blows away sawdust.

EXT. THE WATCHTOWER – DAY (END MONTAGE)

The Sentinel sits on top of the watchtower. He peels the
husk from an ear of corn. He gazes out at the valley and
sits up quickly. He tosses the husk moving down the ladder.

Beyond the watchtower a squad of troopers is advancing.

INTERCUTTING BETWEEN THE POST AND OUTSKIRTS

Dropping down from the ladder, The Sentinel jogs forward.
Taking up his rifle, he ducks behind the perimeter fence.

Stopping beside the boulders, CAPTAIN DREMN (30's) short
hair, long beard, armed with a rifle in tech gear and drab.
He stands beside three armed SKIRMISHERS in similar attire.

CAPTAIN DREMN

Attention interloper! By authority of the
The regional militia, we've come to retake
our outpost! You will surrender or die!

The Sentinel flips the lever on his rifle and the light goes RED. He springs up, firing from behind the fence.

Captain Dremn and The Skirmishers scatter as plasma blasts zip by. They break for the rocks, returning fire.

The Sentinel ducks behind the fence as bullets hit the posts. He pops up, shooting repeatedly.

A Skirmisher is hit as Captain Dremn and the others drop behind the rocks.

A shower of bullets strikes the left side of the fence near The Sentinel and he turns to his left flank.

Marching through the fields, Roanna and PRIVATE BOSCH (20'S) dark goggles, armed with a pistol. They advance on the Sentinel from his flank, firing, approaching The Post.

The Sentinel darts up, striding alongside the fence. He fires at Roanna and Private Bosch.

Roanna and Private Bosch dash aside, taking cover behind the shrubs.

Captain Dremn and The Skirmishers rise from behind the boulders with suppressing fire.

The Sentinel backpedals toward the Communication Box as bullets zing by. He fires his rifle toward the boulders.

Captain Dremn turns aside as another Skirmisher is shot down. He takes aim steadily and fires.

The Sentinel is shot in the shoulder and he stumbles over, falling to the ground. He crawls backward in the dirt.

Captain Dremn and the last Skirmisher quickly climb over the boulders, coming up on The Post.

The Sentinel props himself against the Communication Box and fires at the approaching troops.

The last Skirmisher is blasted and Captain Dremn takes cover behind the perimeter fence.

The Sentinel staggers up, pacing after Captain Dremn...

Private Bosch and Roanna rush up on The Sentinel's flank, aiming pistols at him.

PRIVATE BOSCH

Halt, interloper!

The Sentinel stops, taking his finger off the trigger. Captain Dremn hops the fence, charging, aiming his rifle.

CAPTAIN DREMNI

Lower your weapon and surrender!

The Sentinel raises his arms, surrounded, holding his rifle by the grip.

The Sentinel glances at Captain Dremn and Private Bosch. They keep their guns on him. The Sentinel turns to Roanna. He watches her steadily. She nervously grips her pistol.

The Sentinel lifts his rifle at Captain Dremn. Roanna shoots The Sentinel first. Captain Dremn and Private Bosch gun down The Sentinel and he falls to the ground.

Roanna, Captain Dremn and Private Bosch approach The Sentinel, aiming their guns. The Sentinel bleeds out on his back, looking upward. He wheezes with long-winded breaths.

The Sentinel stops breathing. Private Bosch steps up, nudging The Sentinel with his boot. The Sentinel is dead.

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PRIVATE BOSCH

Stubborn devil, wasn't he?

Private Bosch lowers his pistol and begins exploring The Post. Captain Dremn squats beside the Communication Box. He switches it on and the satellite begins spinning.

DEEP VOICE

(Static/Repeating)

Breka ule vheelo! Et cahn oto Brah!

CAPTAIN DREMNI

(Turning off device)

Doesn't make sense... they were ordering a stand down.

Roanna looks at The Sentinel's body, approaching it slowly.

INT. THE BUNKER – DAY

Private Bosch enters the bunker, guiding inward with his pistol. He moves to the table, looking at the wood figures. The Trooper picks up The Sentinel's New Wood Figure.

EXT. THE POST – DAY

Roanna kneels to The Sentinel, hesitant. She removes his helmet. He's pale, with bright violet eyes. He appears homo sapien. Private Bosch exits the bunker approaching Roanna.

PRIVATE BOSCH

Roanna!

Private Bosch tosses the New Wood Figure to her. Captain Dremn glances over. Roanna examines the New Wood Figure... It depicts a beautiful young woman. It looks like Roanna.

ROANNA

(Looks down at The Sentinel)

Human, after all...

The Sentinel's dead eyes are fixed upward. The Violet Planet gleams beyond the clouds.

END