MORTAL KOMBAT

ANNIHILATION

Written By:

BRENT V. FRIEDMAN

&

BRYCE ZABEL

Larry Kasanoff
Threshold Entertainment
(310) 452-8899

First Draft
May 22, 1996

MORTAL KOMBAT
ANNIHILATION

FADE IN:

EXT. TEMPLE OF THE ORDER OF LIGHT - EARTH - DAY

Dark clouds trample the sky and obliterate the sun.

Fierce WINDS swirl and howl, ripping limbs from trees and uprooting bushes.

From deep beneath the ground, a terrible RUMBLE surfaces in a crescendo of destruction as --

-- glorious, centuries old Asian temples, clustered around the base of a mountain, disintegrate into rubble --

-- Birds fall dead from the skies, their colorful feathers torn from their carcasses --

-- Water is sucked from the lush temple ponds and streams, draining down into jagged fissures in the Earth, leaving behind only a barren, cracked crust of dirt.

A massive SHAPE coalesces in the black clouds above. Vaguely human, definitely evil. Then, from this looming projection, a figure hurtles forward. It's:

SHAO-KAHN ... evil leader of Outworld ... a terrifying presence in full battle gear and a fearsome mask ...

Flipping through the air, landing expertly on an outcropping high above the destruction below. From behind Shao Kahn emerge his war generals:

SINDEL ... once ruled Edenia as Shao Kahn's reluctant Queen ... resurrected after her mysterious death ... now a ghastly sight ...

SHEEVA ... once Sindel's personal protector ... Shokan ... a beautiful, towering, four-armed fighting machine ...

MOTARO ... horned Centauran warrior ... sworn enemy of Sheeva ... his race rules the highlands of Outworld ...

BARAKA ... a bald mutant ... mouth full of razor-sharp teeth ... retracting blades on his arms ...

ERMAC ... appears like a traditional ninja, only in red ... mysterious telekinetic powers ...

Kahn confidently steps to the front of the pack, to the very edge of the outcropping where he roars:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAHN
The Earth was created in six days! So too shall it be destroyed! And on the seventh day, mankind will rest ... in peace!

WE PULL BACK to find five humans standing among all the chaotic destruction. They are heroes all, standing their ground. They are the CHOSEN ONES:

RAYDEN ... an Immortal who chooses to live on Earth and stand with humans ...

LIU KANG ... the rebellious warrior who has grown into a man by defeating Shang Tsung ...

KITANA ... a child of Edenia, now incomparably old, yet awesomely beautiful ...

SONYA BLADE ... the fiercest female warrior the Earth has to offer ...

JOHNNY CAGE ... a one-time celluloid fighter who has found real courage and devotion to his cause ...

As our heroes stare in disbelief up at the imposing figure of Shao Kahn -- his generals behind him are only indistinct figures -- the wind violently whips their hair and clothes.

RAYDEN
Shao Kahn. I should have known.

JOHNNY
This is not good.

LIU
(to Rayden)
I thought our victory in Mortal Kombat closed that ... 'door?'

KITANA
The Portal.

RAYDEN
What closes can also open again.

SONYA
What does <u>that</u> mean?

RAYDEN
This is not good.

Johnny pushes forward, flexing for combat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

JOHNNY
Somebody's gotta remind this windbag, cheaters never prosper.

But Shao Kahn has come prepared ...

OUTWORLD EXTERMINATION SQUADS literally "rain" down from the Portal executing perfectly synchronized martial arts flips.

These humanoid, hooded, Outworld warriors are nearly a hundred strong, and are armed with hand-to-hand combat weapons, this Army of Darkness is your worst nightmare.

Johnny turns back to the others, his bravado lost.

JOHNNY
Any volunteers?

No time to wait. The Extermination Squad quickly fans out to form a formidable half-circle around our heroes. Kahn orders his generals down from the outcropping and into battle.

Rayden steps forward, taking charge of his group, trying to keep them confident and together.

RAYDEN
There are many of them, but they do not think for themselves. That is your advantage.
(beat)
I will handle Kahn.

Out of eyesight to the others, Johnny squeezes Sonya's hand.

JOHNNY
Usually on a second date, I go with a romantic dinner at my place. Oh well ...

Now, all the Chosen Ones begin a mighty defense of the Earth against the Outworld Warriors of the Extermination Squad.

Johnny is faced with three Outworld Warriors. He bobs and weaves like Ali in his prime, a tough target to hit.

Liu is attacked by two Outworld Warriors armed with menacing combat weapons. He grabs hold of one of the warrior's weapons, using it to block, then attack, the second warrior.

Sonya must use her gymnastic abilities to flip through mid-air and counter her attackers.

Two other Outworld Warriors attack Kitana with their long bo staffs, whirling them like airplane propellers, driving her backwards ...

CONTINUED: 3

Kitana turns and sees Queen Sindel, twenty yards away. She gasps in shock at the gruesome sight. Do her eyes betray her?

KITANA
Mother ...? You ... You're ...

Filled fear, revulsion and confusion, Kitana is hit by Ermac before she can get any closer.

Kahn double-flips down from his precipice, landing face-to-face with Rayden. They are inches apart.

RAYDEN
As long as I have the power, Kahn, you will never rule this world!

Kahn begins to swing his arm like a sledge hammer, threatening Rayden.

KAHN
As long the Portal remains open, your powers grow less every second. And my Extermination Squads will have safe passage to this realm.

In the middle of this chaos, Kahn and Rayden, two Immortals, circle each other. Scorpions in a bottle. Rayden uses his paqua technique to dodge and weave. Kahn's temper flares, and he clashes his wrist guards together, ejecting SHARP SPIKES.

Meanwhile, Johnny, Sonya, Liu and Kitana -- all highly skilled warriors themselves -- are scrapping for their lives, but the momentum of the battle seems to belong to the side of evil --

SONYA

Spins around to find Baraka ready to fight, razor sharp daggers gleaming. She lunges at him with a spinning crescent kick, but Baraka quickly ducks it and swings his blades back at Sonya.

She jumps over them to be caught by Baraka whirling in the other direction. He kicks her legs out from under her and she comes crashing to the ground.

JOHNNY

Takes out a warrior, only to find Motaro awaiting him, the creature's tail whipping in anticipation.

JOHNNY
Why do I always get the ugly ones?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 4

Lightning quick, Motaro elbow smashes the mortal into the ground. Johnny handsprings back up and comes at Motaro with a shadow kick, pushing Motaro back. He tries another, but Motaro blocks it and hits him with an uppercut, sending him reeling.

LIU

Flips out of danger and lands right in front of Sheeva. He cranes his neck up, up, up along her awesome body to a monstrous face that promises only pain.

Liu quickly gets up and launches a fury of kicks -- a roundhouse to the face -- blocked by her upper arm. A reverse kick to her stomach -- blocked by her lower arm -- a jump snap kick -- grabbed by both her arms. Sheeva laughs for a moment then effortlessly tosses Liu into the air.

KITANA

Becomes interlocked with Ermac. Armed locked in a death struggle, Kitana tries to use her Jujitsu to break free, but Ermac twists his body around and uses her own move against her, throwing her to the ground.

This will be the greatest triple bill in fight history. But Rayden senses the danger and cleverly tries to bait Kahn.

RAYDEN
Only we can win or lose this battle, Kahn! We both know that. But do you have the courage!?

Kahn sneers at Rayden but raises his arms high above his head. As if on cue, the Generals and Outworld Warriors back off their opponents. Silence descends on the battlefield. With that, the two Immortals fight ferociously --

-- Kahn uses his shoulder charge move to knock Rayden off his feet, throwing him into and breaking a stone column --

-- With Rayden stunned, Kahn fires an ENERGY PHOTON projectile. Rayden must do a double front twist to avoid the deadly blast which continues to destroy another section of the temple. While in mid-air, Rayden untucks and does a double fisted flying punch into Kahn -- knocking him to the ground.

-- more buildings are demolished, trees still standing are scorched.

Rayden fights valiantly, actually gaining the upper hand on Kahn with his shock-punches and acrobatic quadruple flip-kicks. Watching from the sidelines, Liu is impressed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 5

LIU
Awesome.

JOHNNY
The shoes. It's gotta be the shoes.

Indeed, here on Earth, Rayden appears to be too powerful for Kahn who is knocked to the ground, forced to crawl. Sensing he's losing, Kahn desperately grabs up the whip of a defeated Outworld Warrior and lashes out at --

-- Sonya who is lassoed around her legs by the whip, then yanked violently away from her friends --

-- Shao Kahn reels her in, and before she has a second to react, he steps down hard on her windpipe.

KAHN
This ends now!

Rayden holds his fire.

RAYDEN
You hide behind a human?

KAHN
(derisive)
Why not, 'Lord' Rayden? You have hidden your entire, pathetic life behind them!

During this, Johnny breaks away from his friends. He circles behind Kahn, leaping through the air, using a shadow kick to attack him, trying to free Sonya from his clutches.

SONYA
No, Johnny!

Kahn releases his foothold on Sonya, then savagely turns on Johnny. Although Johnny fights valiantly, he is no match for Kahn. A blow stuns Johnny who, out cold, stands a beat before collapsing under a merciless rain of blows.

Kahn hoists Johnny's pummeled body and holds it above his head, like a trophy.

KAHN
Surrender, Rayden, or this one dies!

Rayden, standing with Liu and Kitana, holds a hand in the air, generating SWIRLS OF ELECTRICITY that arc around him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 6

RAYDEN
Then I will take your Generals, because Earth does not bend to the will of tyrants.

He points a charged finger at Motaro, Sheeva, Sindel and Baraka -- all now standing at the forefront of the Extermination Squad -- and encircles them with electricity.

Sonya clenches her fists, waiting breathlessly. Kahn stares directly at Rayden. It is now a battle of wills.

KAHN
You would never let one of your precious humans die.

RAYDEN
Trade me for Johnny Cage.

Kahn considers this a moment, then lowers Johnny's body a little, giving the impression of concession.

KAHN
Come to me and kneel, Rayden! Throw yourself at my mercy!

Rayden looks uneasily at Liu, Sonya and Kitana.

RAYDEN
I have no choice.

Rayden releases his electric hold on the Generals and starts towards Kahn ...

KAHN
You fool!

Kahn lets out a blood curdling SCREAM, then throws Johnny to the ground so hard he literally dents the Earth!

SONYA
JOHNNY!

Sonya rushes to Johnny, critically wounded. Kahn's mocking laugh adds insult to injury.

Rayden is clearly shocked. Before he can act, however, Kahn uses the moment to catch him off-guard with a massive ENERGY PHOTON BLAST.

Liu and Kitana watch in fear as their mentor is BLOWN TWENTY FEET BACKWARDS!

Sonya, kneeling down at Johnny's side, struggles to find the words to express her emotions.

CONTINUED: 7

SONYA
Johnny, I just want you to ... I mean, what you did ... I ...

Sonya's eyes well up with tears. Johnny struggles to speak.

JOHNNY
I know ... Me ... too.

Kahn, who looms over Johnny and Sonya, extends down a rigid hand and focuses all his energy.

KAHN
His soul is mine.

SONYA
Noooo!!

Ruthlessly, Kahn kicks Sonya away, then slowly closes his hand, drawing Johnny's ETHEREAL SOUL from his seizuring body into Kahn's fist.

KAHN
Let this be a warning! All those stupid enough to be a 'hero' shall bow to me!

Kahn inhales Johnny's soul from his hand, then imbued with momentary super strength, impossibly leaps and flips back up onto the outcropping.

KAHN
It has begun!

Rayden, finally shaking off the brutal photon attack, lunges after Kahn, who wisely disappears back through the Portal just as it irises shut:

Kahn's evil, bellowing laugh rumbles like thunder in the blackening skies ...

A RUMBLE begins to emanate from deep underground. Slowly, but powerfully, a stone GARGOYLE from Outworld begins to jut up through the Earth's crust. As it does, the others are forced to step back. The gargoyle raises Johnny's dead body in its arms, altar-like above the ground.

LIU
(enraged)
We just stand here and take this!?

The Extermination Squad, however, has stayed on this side of the closed Portal. They begin to advance on our heroes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 8

RAYDEN
This is not a fight we can win here. We must go.

Rayden indicates a nearby cave, which they all make a break for, chased close behind by the Extermination Squad.

INT. CAVE - EARTH - DAY

Rayden and the surviving heroes (Liu, Kitana, Sonya) enter on the run. Everyone yells at each other to "Hurry up!" or "Look out!" Only Rayden stays calm.

RAYDEN
Everyone move back.

He indicates the inner area of the cave behind him. We are expecting him to fight, or to blast the fast approaching Extermination Squad. Instead, he looses a powerful ELECTRICAL ENERGY PULSE at the ceiling of the cave.

Rocks begin to rumble and separate. Soon, a mound of boulders have blocked the entrance. Without light, they are now in COMPLETE BLACKNESS.

RAYDEN
We are safe. For now.

Rayden sends an electrical charge to the dried remains of a dead tree limb, causing it to catch fire. In the reflected light, the faces all seem scared and tense. Their dialogue is terse and overlapping.

LIU
I don't know if I call being trapped in a cave 'safe.'

RAYDEN
Kahn has opened the Portal. Your planet and Outworld have begun to merge into one realm.
(bottom line)
Think of it as 'Hell on Earth.'

KITANA
(awash in emotions)
My mother ... resurrected ... is it possible?

RAYDEN
If I am correct, your mother Sindel is the key to all this --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIU
This can't be! We won the tournament. The rules say the Earth is safe for another generation --

RAYDEN
-- Kahn has obviously cheated and broken the rules.

KITANA
(angry)
How could the Elder Gods possibly allow this?

RAYDEN
I do not know. But Kahn must be stopped or your world will perish. We have only six days until annihilation --

LIU
(ready to fight)
I beat Shang Tsung. I can beat Kahn.

RAYDEN
Yes, you beat a great sorcerer to win the tournament. But you are no match for Kahn.

Kitana sees Liu's frustration and consoles him.

KITANA
I share your anger. Kahn killed my father and stole my mother. He took the family I loved from me. I want him destroyed, but I won't lose you to Kahn.

Sonya, who has been silent until now just staring with unblinking inner fury at the burning embers, speaks up:

SONYA
If anyone's going to kill Kahn, it's going to be me.

KITANA
(shakes head)
No. Shao Kahn has lived for eons. His power is immeasurable.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

RAYDEN
Listen to her. If we do this right, no one should have to fight Kahn. To save the Earth ... we must close the Portal.

SONYA
So close it! You opened the last one, didn't you?

RAYDEN
It is not that simple. Kahn was clever. He buried the body of his bride on Earth. Resurrecting her gave him access to this realm.

KITANA
(horrified realization)
My mother. Kahn used my mother.

RAYDEN
And so will we. By reuniting you with her, Kahn's spell will be broken. Your mother's soul will be at peace. And the Portal closed.

LIU
Listen to yourself. This is insane!

SONYA
I'm with Liu. I don't buy any of this. I say we just take our best shot with those zombies outside.

LIU
Rayden, we can beat them --

RAYDEN
-- ENOUGH!
(he gets their attention)
You feel your hearts racing. Adrenalin clouds your senses. You think you are ready for what lies ahead. But, believe me, you are far from it.

Downcast looks from Sonya and Liu do not go unnoticed by Rayden, who delivers a final "pump them up" sermon.

RAYDEN
I am telling you this for your own good. I have no powers in Outworld.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 3

RAYDEN (CONT'D)
And as the two realms merge, I will lose my powers here on Earth. Each of you must grow stronger.
(bottom line)
Together we are the hope.

SONYA
(still bitter)
Together we couldn't even save Johnny.

Rayden ignores Sonya, turns and shoots a BLAST OF LIGHTNING at the back of the cave! Rocks and earth fall away, revealing a hidden passageway which leads to a glowing green light up ahead.

INT. UNDERWORLD CAVERN - DAY

With a torch in hand, Rayden leads the group from the claustrophobic passageway.

LIU
What is this place?

RAYDEN
During the Ice Age, your ancestors fled below ground. As you will see, the Great Wonders of your planet are not all on the surface.

PULL BACK to reveal this chamber has huge vaulted, cathedral-like walls. The cavern has a mystical AURA, as it is lit by green iridescent rocks. As the others crowd around, Rayden gestures.

RAYDEN
You will find these caverns wherever you travel on Earth. Any cave above ground will lead to one.

SONYA
So?

LIU
Are we splitting up?

RAYDEN
We have no choice. There is too much to do and very little time.

SONYA
What happened to your 'all for one, one for all' pitch?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAYDEN
We will all meet again in two days at the top of Mount Gaia. Hopefully by then we will be prepared for what lies ahead.

SONYA
And what exactly is that?

RAYDEN
To get to Sindel we will have to go through Kahn's generals. His warriors will fight to their deaths ... or ours.

LIU
What's so important about Mount Gaia?

RAYDEN
If we are in trouble, we can call on some old friends there.

Rayden looks solemnly at all the others.

RAYDEN
You will face unimaginable odds, formidable foes ... Face it, we're screwed.
(breaks into smile)
Only a joke. Relax. You can't go into battle without a sense of humor.

During this, Liu examines some ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHS carved into the walls. The symbols accompany arrows and what appears to be an intricate tunnel track grid.

LIU
I hope somebody's got a map. I can't read these directions.

RAYDEN
Kitana will guide you. And I will guide Sonya. We both have used the velospheres many centuries before.

Rayden gestures to an earthen-style hangar at the back of the cavern. A sort of underground Grand Central Station:

REVEAL VELOSPHERES!

Spheres of different sizes, up to fifteen feet in diameter. Iron-frame globes reminiscent of some bizarre design by Leonardo Da Vinci.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

All are "parked" on stone pedestals lining a funneled main line track WHOOSHING with wind. The main track connects to a labyrinth of other other tracks.

LIU
What do these things do?

KITANA
Once inside, you can travel to anywhere on Earth in mere hours. The inner winds propel you.

To illustrate this, Rayden walks up to the main track and drops his torch into the tunnel -- WHOOOOOOSH! The torch is immediately extinguished and carried off into the labyrinth.

SONYA
You can count me out.

Rayden places a hand on each of Sonya's shoulders. He looks her directly in the eye.

RAYDEN
We need help, Sonya. I will take you to find your Special Forces partner, Jax.

SONYA
Forget it. If I die that's fine, but I'm not losing anybody else.

RAYDEN
Alone, you are vulnerable. But if you work as a team you two can overcome much. The sooner you learn this, the more valuable you are to the rest of us.

Slightly humbled, this momentarily shuts Sonya down. Liu indicates himself and Kitana.

LIU
We have to take action, too.

RAYDEN
You two will travel to the Hopi Mesa.
(off his reaction)
You did great last time, Liu, but you will need help for what we're about to face.
(the plan)
Seek out the counsel of one called Nightwolf. I will find the Elder Gods and demand answers for what Shao Kahn has done.

EXT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

A blackened, evil version of Mount Olympus, as it towers over the rubble of monuments of previous world's conquered. At closer inspection, the foundation, walls and supports are all made up of the skeletons and carcasses of millions of warriors who found and lost to these evil forces.

Now bound to serve Kahn's empire, these imprisoned bodies and souls literally construct this vast monument to Kahn's successes. The different stages of the structure range from bones and ash of century old battles to some actual souls, trapped in the construction of the walls and pillars.

Shokan and Centaur guards stand sentinel along the towering walls. A noxious, gray fog serpentines around the turrets. Looking at these surroundings, we feel the eerie energy, as the tortured souls seem to gasp for breath. We are not pleased to be here.

INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - GRAND HALL - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

Kahn, now unmasked, revealing his battle scarred face, sits on his throne, holding a long, segmented Outworld worm. Where mortals have an aquarium, Kahn has a glass "battle pit." He flings the writhing worm inside. Instantly, several hairy, crab-like creatures attack the worm from both ends, then engage in combat over the food. It's a vicious battle filled with nasty sounds.

As Kahn enjoys this horrorshow, an ominous SHADOW falls across the far wall, accompanied by a mysterious flickering of all the torches lighting the hall.

SHINNOK (O.S.)
You think this is a game?

Startled, Kahn rises from his throne and spins to see:

SHINNOK ... a tall, hooded figure ... his piercing, unblinking black eyes are the only feature we see of his face ...

Kahn breaks into a twisted smile.

KAHN
Father! Where have you been? The Portal is open. Earth is under attack. It is glorious.

Shinnok keeps his distance. There is no closeness in this family.

SHINNOK
Tell me, did you make Rayden beg for his life before destroying him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The smile tightens on Kahn's face. He looks away.

KAHN
Rayden is of no concern to us for as long as --

Before he can even finish his sentence, Shinnok extends a hand yanking his son into a threatening hold by his battle leather. Shinnok's power is awesome and instantaneous. The speed of light.

SHINNOK
(furious)
You let him live!?

KAHN
He could not be stopped!

SHINNOK
I have no use for excuses!

Shinnok repels his son halfway across the grand hall.

SHINNOK
We have broken the Sacred Rules to open the Portal! If the Elder Gods learn of our plot, we shall both suffer the consequences.

Shao Kahn writhes on the floor in obvious pain.

KAHN
I do not understand ... How can <u>you</u> fear the Elder Gods?

SHINNOK
Until the sixth day has passed we can take no chances with Rayden and his mortals. Do not underestimate the power of human spirit. Do you understand?

KAHN
(rises to his feet)
I will not fail you, father. I have another plan for Rayden and his mortals. A plan that will lead them straight to their destruction.

SHINNOK
(skeptical)
We shall see.

And as he mysteriously appeared, so to does he disappear. A sickening noise prompts Kahn to peer back into his "battle pit" to see that both the crab-like creatures are dead, and like a snake, the victorious worm consumes them whole.

INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

More guards line the walls which feature cobalt tile murals, Gothic-style tributes to war and destruction. A collection of Kahn's lieutenants are assembled at the massive war table: Sindel, Sheeva, Motaro, Baraka and a masked GENERAL, who points at an ancient map of Earth and proclaims:

GENERAL
My squads have already claimed thousands of innocent souls on Earth.

MOTARO
I would have claimed millions.

SHEEVA
By now, you would be behind bars, on display in a zoo.

MOTARO
If the bars could keep you away, I would welcome it.

Sheeva lunges for Motaro, grabbing him around the neck with all four hands.

QUEEN SINDEL
Why Kahn tolerates you two wretched mongrels I cannot fathom, but I will advise him to have you put to death as quickly as possible.

As the two creatures' struggle intensifies with grunts and growls, Kahn strides into the room.

KAHN
Silence!
(to General)
What is your report?

GENERAL
Two of Earth's best warriors have already been taken.
(proudly)
Kabal and Stryker.

KAHN
And did you make them beg for their lives before you destroyed them?

Much as Kahn flinched uneasily before Shinnok's same question, the General now cowers before Kahn.

GENERAL
But Master, I thought if I let them live that we could --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAHN
(echoes Shinnok)
I have no use for excuses. You suck!

Kahn picks up his war hammer off the table and spins, slamming the hammer into the general's gut. The General goes flying across the room, hits the wall, and lands in a lifeless slump. Kahn turns to the others, all now cowering with fear.

KAHN
But it does appear I am in need of a new general.

Both Motaro and Sheeva exchange uncertain glances. Who dares put their life on the line.

KAHN
To die in duty, or here at my hand. Let the decision be yours.

Motaro gets the point and hesitantly steps forward.

MOTARO
Centaurans are known for their hunting prowess. As your general, I will hunt down every single human soul and spare no one.

Not to be outdone, Sheeva too steps up for consideration.

SHEEVA
Motaro can't be trusted. Long ago I proved myself as the personal protector of Queen Sindel. Your orders are mine to follow.

MOTARO
Was it not under Sheeva's watchful eye that the Queen killed herself?

Kahn looks between Motaro and Sheeva, strokes his beard. Both creatures are standing tall, side by side, too scared to breath as Kahn contemplates their fate. Finally:

KAHN
No. You are both too impetuous for such important work.
(to Sindel)
You are my new general, Queen Sindel.
(to Sheeva, Motaro)
Unless you have another point of view?

Sheeva and Motaro glance at the lifeless body of the Extermination General. Not a good point of view.

INT. UNDERWORLD - EARTH - DAY

Inside a velosphere, Rayden fastens leather straps around Sonya's wrists. She looks very apprehensive.

RAYDEN
You will be moving so fast ... it will be as though you are not moving at all.

SONYA
(sarcastic)
That's comforting.

Rayden steps into the contraption along with her. Standing back-to-back, he grasps the second set of leather straps. Liu moves closer to the velosphere. He's worried but trying not to show it.

LIU
What if Kitana and I don't make it to Mount Gaia on time?

RAYDEN
We will wait. Without Kitana, we cannot close the Portal.

KITANA
(also wary)
Are you sure there's no other way?

RAYDEN
If there is, only the Elder Gods will know.
(to Sonya)
Roll to your left!

With their combined weight, they roll the velosphere off its pedestal. (Because the contraption is gyroscopic, the globe spins but the passengers do not.) As the vehicle teeters on the lip of the funnel track, Liu grabs a hold of the frame.

LIU
Wait!
(beat)
What if <u>you</u> are not at Mount Gaia, Rayden?

RAYDEN
Follow your instincts. But trust no one. For you will be the target of all of Kahn's fighters. Remember, there are no rules this time.
(to Sonya)
Once more, to the left!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Liu and Kitana step back as the velosphere drops down into the track. We hear the sound of WHOOOSHING WIND blocked --

-- Sonya CRIES OUT as the velosphere rockets away; a bullet from a gun!

Liu and Kitana watch the vehicle disappear into the darkness of a descending tunnel. Sonya's cries echo in the subterranean cavern, then quickly fade out.

KITANA
They are faster than I remember.
(beat)
I'm glad I am not alone.

To reassure her, Liu takes Kitana's hand in his and leads them both towards their own velosphere.

INT. TUNNEL TRACK - EARTH - DAY

From inside the tunnel, WE SEE a velosphere rocketing straight toward us.

INT. UNDERGROUND RELAY STATION - EARTH - DAY

A massive, rectangular shaped chasm with towering granite walls riddled with hundreds of equal-sized circular vents.

WE HEAR a noise getting louder, drawing near then ...

BOOOOOOOSH! A velosphere rockets from one of the tunnel vents and soars through the air over a river of molten lava.

INSIDE THE VELOSPHERE

Liu and Kitana, back to back, hold tightly to their handles as the velosphere stops gimbaling. Kitana looks ahead at the oncoming wall of tunnel vents. Above each one is a HIEROGLYPH painted in iridescent paint.

LIU
What's going on!? Where are we!?

KITANA
The interchange -- Roll to your right! Hard!

As Liu follows the order and sets the velosphere gimbaling again ...

BACK TO RELAY STATION

Like a skydiver can change his trajectory, the velosphere dives right and down, disappearing into a lower tunnel vent, but clipping the wall and shedding rocks!

INSIDE THE VELOSPHERE

The jolt causes one of Kitana's leather handles to break. She flails around inside the metal globe, flung into Liu's arms as the velosphere rolls on down another tunnel.

KITANA
Liu!

LIU
Hold on!

Liu tears his hand from his strap and wraps it around Kitana, pulling her intimately face-to-face. Each of them now holds a strap with one hand and one another with the other hand. The sexual tension is unmistakable as Kitana clings to Liu.

EXT. FLATLANDS - EARTH - DAY

A heat shimmering horizon line broken only by a series of low metal structures in the distance.

Sonya appears from a cave in the shallow of the small foothills that rim the flatlands. Rayden watches her go:

RAYDEN
You will take the same track back, and turn where I showed you.

SONYA
I'll figure it out.

Sonya surveys the unnatural landscape, bubbling with searing hot tar arising up from sink holes in the crusted dirt. A black haze pollutes the heat-shimmering air. Sonya reacts, covering her face in disgust:

SONYA
Is it like this everywhere?

RAYDEN
With each hour the merger grows closer, more of Earth will die.

Squinting into the overbearing sunlight, Sonya starts for the metal structures.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAYDEN
Sonya!
(she turns back)
I'm sorry about Johnny. But it wasn't your fault. You need to remember that.

She nods, but keeps walking. Determined, focused as she makes her way through the tar field, while all around her clumps of scrub brush BURST INTO FLAMES as they are touched by the incendiary black gunk.

METAL STRUCTURE

Sonya wanders around the unmarked and windowless metal structure searching for a way inside but finding none ...

Until she steps on a loosely covered metal plate, sweeps the sand off it with her hand. There is thick grating below. Sonya begins to pry the plate loose as a small tributary of black tar runs down into the vent, sizzling all it comes in contact with.

INT. MILITARY COMPLEX - EARTH - DAY

Sonya slides straight down a concealed ventilation shaft. As she slides, we hear the sound of KLAXXON ALARMS growing louder.

She ends up dropping from the ceiling onto the floor, going into a perfect tuck-and-roll to break her fall. As she stands, she scans her surroundings with cautious eyes. The KLAXXONS are at full-volume.

She's in a secret, hi-tech military medical complex which, apparently, has already been attacked by someone, or something. Fires burn in a nearby hallway.

There is evidence everywhere of lethal struggle. Sonya moves into a hallway, sees a group from the Extermination Squad continuing their sweep in the distance. Kicking open doors, throwing over shelves, turning the place upside down. We hear minor EXPLOSIONS echoing from every direction.

Crouching, clearly wary, Sonya moves down the hallway. She hears the sound of a MECHANICAL VOICE coming from one of the rooms. Sonya sneaks along the wall. She looks in the room from where the voice has come and sees:

CYRAX ... Unit LK-4D4 ... prototype cyber-ninja built by Lin Kuei ... the perfect martial artist ... no feelings, no flaws ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Cyrax has caught the lone surviving ARMY SOLDIER in his electric GREEN ENERGY NET.

CYRAX
I seek Major Jackson Briggs.

SOLDIER
(defiant)
I am Sergeant Joseph C. Taylor of the United States Army. My serial number is three, two, two --

CYRAX
You now cease to exist.

We begin to hear the BUZZING of tiny motors. We move into an E.C.U. of the net. As we do, we realize that the fibers are made up of millions of microbe-sized "flesh-eating" robots -- the latest in nano-technology.

The net starts to tighten around the soldier and the minuscule machines begin to go to work -- tearing through the soldier's clothes -- heading straight for his skin.

Sonya doesn't stick around to watch the carnage.

INT. MILITARY COMPLEX - LOWER LEVEL - EARTH - DAY

Sonya runs down steel corridors littered with vanquished doctors and soldiers. She throws open one door after another:

SONYA
Jax!? Jax!?

Rummaging through a deserted nurse's station, Sonya rifles through all the paperwork strewn about. Something catches her eye. The words: "Briggs, Jackson". His file, with a room number where he was admitted.

As the sound of approaching Extermination Squads, Sonya darts around a corner. WE FOLLOW her as she sprints down a corridor, checking the room numbers on the door.

BIOTECH LAB

Sonya throws the door open to a large hi-tech lab.

SONYA
Jax!

JAX ... Sonya's muscular, African-American partner ... a practiced skeptic with a biting wit ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sonya sees Jax, unconscious and strapped to a chrome table. She moves quickly to free him. He begins to stir and gain awareness, but remains a little groggy.

JAX
I was supposed to be ... coming to rescue you.

Sonya struggles with the restraining straps. Her tone is clipped and impatient.

SONYA
Yeah, well, I couldn't wait.
(re: new arms)
What the hell have you done to yourself this time?

JAX
Cybernetic strength enhancers. Takes what you got and quadruples the muscle capacity.

SONYA
You've got a real confidence problem, you know that?

JAX
What's going on? What are you doing here?

SONYA
The whole facility's been trashed by an Extermination Squad. They'll be here any second.

JAX
Extermination Squad!?

SONYA
All you need to know is they're trying to kill me. And you.

JAX
Me!? What the hell've I done? Where've you been anyway?

Frustrated and impatient, Sonya can't seem to free his arms.

SONYA
Dammit! I can't get you free, Jax!

JAX
Okay. Stand back. Let's see what I'm made of ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

Sonya takes a step back from the table. Jax flexes his arms. The metal restraints bust apart at his Herculean effort. Sonya can't believe her eyes. Jax grins, proud of his newfound power.

JAX
Wish I had these in high school.

SONYA
Let's go.

Sonya and Jax run for the door but stop when they hear AN EXPLOSION down the corridor! Sonya motions for Jax to stay back, then peeks around the corner ...

SONYA'S POV - CYRAX

Striding down the corridor, Jax's file in hand, dropping round BOMBS from his abdominal launch cavity. The bombs roll to one side or another of the corridor, up to a door and -- KABOOOOOOM!

Once the door is busted open, several of the Outworld Warriors trailing behind rush into the now opened space and search for Sonya or Jax. Cyrax keeps advancing relentlessly. Destroying everything in his path.

BACK TO SCENE

Sonya reels and pulls Jax with her.

SONYA
Look for another way out!

As Sonya and Jax begin to scramble around the large lab, they hear behind them:

CYRAX (O.S.)
Death is the only way out.

They spin around to see Cyrax and his Outworld Warriors.

CYRAX
Major Jackson Briggs. And Sonya Blade. Shao Kahn will be pleased.

JAX
What the hell is that!?

Sonya boldly backsprings over to a glass supply cabinet and kicks it open in one fluid motion. Arming herself with a long chain, she's now ready to take on the warriors, who begin to encircle her with deadly menace.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jax backs up as Cyrax advances deliberately, knocking over anything between himself and Jax.

JAX
I take it this isn't something we can talk about?

In response to his question, Cyrax leaps at Jax and executes a flawless jump kick --

-- Jax is sent flipping over the operating table, totally surprised at how fast and fluid Cyrax is.

Getting back to his feet, Jax watches Cyrax throw over the table and come right for him. Nowhere to run. So Jax and Cyrax clash. With blindingly fast martial arts moves, Cyrax lands an axe kick, a front kick and a palm strike to Jax's body. He keeps coming with more punches and kicks, scoring repeated hits to body and face.

Jax tries to retaliate, but it becomes clear that he doesn't have complete control of his new arms. Trying to crush Cyrax, Jax accidentally bashes the operating table in half!

Using backspring kicks and acrobatic splits kicks, Sonya skillfully cuts through the handful of overmatched Outworld Warriors. With every victory, her intensity increases. This is one dangerous woman.

Meanwhile, Jax gets control of his arms ... but almost kills Sonya, bashing a hole in the wall as she alertly ducks in the nick of time! Jax can't seem to extricate his hand from the wall. Right before Cyrax can deliver a crushing blow to Jax --

-- Sonya bravely flips in between Cyrax and Jax! SKOOOSH! Cyrax launches his green energy net --

-- Sonya skillfully eludes his trap by jumping up and grabbing hold of an exposed ceiling pipe ... then swinging around to face-kick Cyrax!

Using her momentum, Sonya leaps onto a lab counter, then jumps off and does a handstand on Cyrax's shoulders. Turning her body in mid-air, she switches her hands to the other sides and with her forward momentum, swings down and executes a front kick right into Cyrax's back. It sends him sprawling across the room. She lands next to Jax, her adrenalin is rushing.

SONYA
(re: his new arms)
Get rid of those stupid toys Jax, you're gonna get us killed!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

Intent on proving himself, Jax finally yanks his hand free ... and half the wall with it!

Seeing an opportunity, Sonya notices a very strange reaction occurring with some spilled chemicals on the floor. The mixture gives off a phosphorescent glow.

As Cyrax comes for her with mechanical menace, Sonya scoops up a handful of the chemical mixture, lights them with a Bunsen burner and -- FROOOOOSH! Sonya incinerates Cyrax with her "Kiss of Death" fatality.

Jax stands over Cyrax's charred, shorting-out body. His mouth is agape.

JAX
I've never seen anything like this ... it's a goddamn robot.

Sonya notices a strange tattoo on Cyrax's body. Kneeling down, she inspects its colorful design: a mythological creature, half bird and half lizard.

SONYA
Look at this.

Suddenly, the TATTOO COMES TO LIFE, lashing out at Sonya, then biting its own tail and inexplicably consuming itself.

JAX
(jumps back)
Son of a bitch!

RED EYE LIGHTS start flashing from behind Cyrax's face mask. Some mechanical whirring and clicking is heard, then without warning Cyrax's arms and legs go through a process where small hydraulic rods uncouple from the shoulder and the waist. Two levers flip up and over, unlocking them.

Suddenly, they detach from his body and shoot out into different parts of the room -- sticking into walls. Clearly cybernetic bombs (e.g. no flesh), these arms and legs have rotating metal rings that turn and twist revealing a bank of LED's. They begin flashing green, then in unison, they all go red and start blinking rapidly.

His disembodied voice announces through unmoving lips:

CYRAX
Self-destruct mechanism initiated.
Ninety seconds and counting ...

The cyber-bombs are now embedded all around them. Jax looks at Sonya. No time to discuss it. They dash out into the corridor.

JAX
I think we better go now.

EXT. DESERT - EARTH - DAY

Sonya and Jax are seen sprinting through the bubbling, black desert, getting as far away from the military facility before -- KABOOOOOOM! An entire hillside explodes and collapses in a rumbling avalanche that covers the metal structures!

The blast is so powerful it blows Sonya and Jax up and over the camera.

From the fiery background in the distance, the surviving Outworld Warriors begin to emerge from the rubble.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERN - EARTH - DAY

A velosphere careens out of a dark subterranean passageway, whirling wildly like a spinning top as it exits the main tunnel and comes to a stop at a dead end in the track.

A beat, then Liu and Kitana exit the contraption and find themselves inside another large cavern. There is an urgency to their words and actions.

LIU
How do we get to the Hopi Mesa from here?

Kitana starts ahead, toward an arched stone bridge crossing a small underground spring. Several rock outcroppings jut out of the water under the far side of the bridge.

KITANA
(pointing)
We must cross that bridge.

MYSTERY POV - LIU AND KITANA

Clearly, they are being watched by someone from up high in the cavern as they begin to walk along the iridescent path which leads to the Earth's surface.

BACK TO SCENE

Kitana stops at the foot of the bridge, turns back to Liu.

KITANA
Liu, if anything happens to me ...

LIU
I've lost everything, Kitana. I'm not going to lose you, too.

Kitana smiles softly, touched by his valor. But their tender moment is rudely interrupted by:

CONTINUED:

A BURST OF FLAME that separates them! They both whirl around to see:

SEKTOR ... once a human assassin ... now another cyber-ninja built by Lin Kui ... more machine than man ...

As Sektor silently advances, his FLAMETHROWER belching fire, Kitana spins back to see a full contingent of an Extermination Squad crossing the bridge, blocking the exit out of the cavern.

Unable to cross the bridge and escape, Liu and Kitana quickly move to opposite sides of the cavern to draw their enemies into battle. Divide and conquer.

Sektor and his Extermination Warriors fan out around them. The numbers do not look promising for Liu and Kitana.

A savage fight ensues. Liu is confident, almost cocky. He delivers a series of blows, twisting side kicks, reverse wheel kicks, leg sweeps -- everything in his arsenal. But Sektor anticipates every move, the perfect killing machine proficient in every style of martial arts. Liu is losing his momentum, in awe of Sektor's amazing skill.

Kitana fights like water, she is defensive, elusive. Each attack by the warriors is blocked with precision and grace. One warrior attacks, this time with ESCRIME STICKS. Using METAL FANS she whips out from her boots, Kitana expertly slashes at the warrior, keeping him at bay. Like two gears working in harmony, the two block, duck and kick at each other. The warrior swings his staff at her head, she ducks and springs up launching a backward crescent kick --

-- which the warrior catches. He throws Kitana back. She does a triple backward somersault and lands on an outcropping -- only to come face to face with two more awaiting warriors.

Eventually the sheer numbers put Kitana in grave danger. Liu tries to get to her rescue, but Sektor's fire keeps him from rushing to Kitana --

-- An ICE POLE shoots down from the ceiling and hits Kitana's most menacing attacker. It's:

SUB-ZERO ... the elemental power of cold ... an unmasked, dashing rogue ... his own personal code of honor ...

Sub-Zero slides down the ice pole and enters the fight on the side of Liu and Kitana. With quick kicks, Sub-Zero breaks his ice pole into sections which he hurls at several Outworld Warriors, FREEZING them instantly.

While Liu is momentarily distracted by Sub-Zero's appearance, Sektor launches a MISSILE from his chest --

CONTINUED: 2

-- Liu flips out of the projectile's path at the last moment. The missile rockets past Liu and EXPLODES the stone bridge over the spring!

While Sektor tries to lock aim on his moving target, Liu copies Rayden's earlier move and Liu tries out an impressive double flip-kick ...

... Scoring a direct hit on Sektor. The kick is so devastating, it jams Sektor's abdominal missile bay doors --

-- Liu hits the "FIRE" button on Sektor's wrist. The bay doors do not open. We hear sounds of a ticking countdown. Liu spin-kicks Sektor with everything he's got and yells for the others to dive for cover --

-- Sektor stumbles backward ... and into the underground spring small-- KA-BOOOOOSH! Sektor is BLOWN UP by his own misfired missile!

Water sprays everywhere, along with a few choice pieces of Sektor and chunks of the earthen ceiling. When the dust settles, Liu hurries over to Kitana, who is helped to her feet by Sub-Zero.

SUB-ZERO
Go. There will be others.

Liu stands his ground, suspicious of the warrior who starts before him.

LIU
I killed you in the tournament.

SUB-ZERO
You killed my older brother.

LIU
(confused)
And still you helped us?

SUB-ZERO
I helped <u>her</u>. Because Kahn believes she's the key to stopping his plot ...

Sub-Zero walks over to what remains of Sektor's head, He kicks open the metal skull, revealing sophisticated robotic parts. Sub-Zero stoops to inspect the micro-chips.

SUB-ZERO
That's why he re-programmed Sektor: to come after Kitana instead of me.

KITANA
You've been following us. Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 3

SUB-ZERO
You don't have time to ask questions, Princess.

The earth SHAKES AND RUMBLES. More earthen collapse. A massive crevice splits the underground spring as a gargantuan STATUE pushes up from Outworld.

Kitana slips and nearly falls into the massive crevice, which begins to fill with FLAMING LAVA. Sub-Zero starts to reach for her, but Liu pushes past him and extends his own helping arm. Once she is safely back on solid ground:

Liu and Kitana anxiously stare across this hellish gorge. The exit passageway is on the other side, out of reach.

LIU
How do we get to Nightwolf now!?

KITANA
(to Sub-Zero)
Please! You must use your powers!

Sub-Zero considers the request with steely eyes.

KITANA
We have a common enemy. But we cannot stop Kahn without your help.

SUB-ZERO
Let's hope you succeed.

Stepping up to the edge of the collapsed bridge, using his special powers, Sub-Zero shoots ice across the broken section to stone supports on the other side, creating an ice bridge above the flaming gorge. Sub-Zero leads the way, followed by Kitana, then Liu.

THE FLAMING LAVA

A corpse floats to the surface in the burning stream of liquid rock. We are shocked when the corpse's eyes open. We recognize this as:

SCORPION ... an escapee from the Nether Realm ... owes allegiance to no one ...

As Sub-Zero, Kitana and Liu cross the treacherous ice bridge, Scorpion shoots his SNAKE ROPE from his hand up at the ice bridge wrapping several times around it --

-- Sub-Zero jumps back as Scorpion uses the rope to flip himself up onto the bridge --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- Liu pulls Kitana back, out of harm's way. Because the bridge is so narrow there is nothing they can do but watch:

-- Scorpion retracts his snake rope and shoots it at --

SCORPION
Get over here!

-- Sub-Zero who backflips, leaving an ICE CLONE of himself on the bridge --

-- The snake rope gouges the ice clone and FREEZES! Sub-Zero flips back over his ice clone and smashes the deadly snake rope --

-- Sub-Zero ducks just as Scorpion swing kicks and SMASHES the ice clone into a million pieces! Wiping the sweat from his face, Sub-Zero looks glances down as he almost slips off the bridge. Below, the flaming lava is rising quickly, filling the gorge, and MELTING THE ICE BRIDGE.

Sub-Zero tries to summon moisture from the air, but his powers are ineffective in this boiling atmosphere. Scorpion moves in for attack, as Sub-Zero is without his secret weapon now ... They exchange a series of devastating kicks and punches.

Scorpion double back flips out of the way and Sub-Zero tries to block him off the bridge with a slide move --

-- Sub-Zero is kicked from behind as Scorpion teleports behind him in the blink of an eye. Sub-Zero is sent flying off the bridge, crashing down onto one of the stone supports. The support teeters from the impact causing stones to fall off into the rising fire pit below.

Scorpion leaps down to the stone support and assails the dazed Sub-Zero with a flurry of spin kicks. Sub-Zero backs up to the edge of the support, trying to block everything Scorpion throws, inching himself closer to the precipice. There's no more room. Sub-Zero backflips off the stone pedestal onto one a few feet lower.

Scorpion dives after him but is surprised mid-air by a snap kick to the stomach. Sub-Zero sends Scorpion crashing down on to another ledge. Sub-Zero jumps down after him, knee-smashing Scorpion in the chest.

The two stand and face off again, each one unleashing a blinding fury of spinning kicks, reverse backfists, elbow smashes and more. Some find their mark, some expertly blocked. They leap from one stone ledge to the next, dodging, flipping. The more they jump, the more the stone supports disintegrate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

Scorpion catches Sub-Zero off guard, sending him crashing down on to --

-- a stone spire, where Sub-Zero dangles precariously inches above the rising lava. Before he falls to certain death --

-- Liu reaches down from the ice bridge to help Sub-Zero.

Scorpion, on the other side of the crevice now, deliberately breaks off one end of the weakening ice bridge, causing Liu and Kitana to lose their balance!

Liu slides down onto the stone support to join Sub-Zero in the middle of the flaming gorge, while Kitana clings to what's left of the melting ice bridge.

Scorpion teleports from the other side of the crevice ... re-appearing onto the thin, teetering ice bridge just as it breaks --

-- Scorpion shoots another snake rope from his other hand and catches her in midair!

SCORPION
Get up here!

Kitana's yanked up towards him, DE-MATERIALIZING with the villain just as what's left of the ice bridge collapses into the lava.

LIU
No ... KITAAAANAAAAA!!!

Too late. Liu and Sub-Zero are forced to work quickly together. They stand as the lava begins to flow over on to their stone support. Spotting another stone jutting up out of the lava, the two of them leap just as the stone they stand on begins to give way.

The two leap in unison across the flaming gorge, spire to spire, each stone collapsing as they jump to the next.

Without a moment to spare, they make it to the other side. Liu is a basket case.

LIU
I've got to find Kitana! Where could he have taken her!?

SUB-ZERO
Kahn wants you to go after her. Don't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 3

LIU
(frustrated)
You don't understand! Without Kitana, it's over! We've lost! And there's no way to --

SUB-ZERO
(stays calm)
-- You were on your way to find help. Stay your path.

LIU
(after a beat; wary)
How do I know I know I can trust you?

SUB-ZERO
You don't.

LIU
Wait ...!

But as mysteriously as he appeared, Sub-Zero ... disappears into the shadows on the other side of the cavern.

Liu is left alone, scared and confused. He finds one of Kitana's wrist bands laying in the dirt. Turning it over in his hands, he seems to find a glimmer of hope. His spirit recharged, Liu hurries off into the dark passageway.

EXT. TEMPLE OF THE ELDER GODS - EARTH - DAY

Rayden stands at the foot of a sheer, majestic stone formation carved with ancient religious iconography. halfway up the bluff, cut deep into the stone, is a triangular temple entrance adorned with ancient columns.

INT. SACRED SHRINE - EARTH - CONTINUOUS

Rayden kneels amidst hundreds of already lit CANDLES surrounding an ancient, circular shrine. Rayden bows his head in reverence then whispers a short prayer in an unfamiliar tongue.

Upon utterance of the final word, a faint WIND flutters through the shrine, bending the candle flames. Rayden rises as the wind becomes more fierce, whipping the flames into fiery flagellation.

THE SHRINE MAGICALLY TRANSFORMS ALL AROUND RAYDEN! Water seeps from the walls and pools around Rayden's feet, then begins to fall impossibly upwards from the floor, wetting neither Rayden nor the candles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The mythic wall carvings of three ELDER GODS representing Faith, Courage and Love BECOME ANIMATE for a moment, then recede into the moss-covered stone ... a split second before the water washes over them.

The ceiling above blossoms opens to reveal a brilliant celestial infinity. We are now:

INT. ETERNAL PALACE - BETWEEN REALMS - DAY

Rayden finds himself inside the Eternal Palace. A towering triangular space with three walls of sky blue water falling upwards into the twinkling heavens.

From each of the water walls emerge three ethereal, larger-than-life faces. All identical in their vaguely human, asexual appearance, but each distinct in voice. Their eyes are like the sun, powerfully hypnotic.

RAYDEN
I have come to the Eternal Palace because your Sacred Rules have been broken. Shao Kahn has invaded Earth.

ELDER GOD #1
As always, Lord Rayden, you are granted but three questions.

RAYDEN
The first must be why this treachery was ever allowed?

ELDER GOD #2
We three do not control the destiny of man.

ELDER GOD #3
Everyone possess the ability to change their fate.

Frustrated, Rayden struggles to maintain his reverence.

RAYDEN
So you will just stand by and watch the ruination of Earth?

ELDER GOD #1
You were correct in believing Kitana is the key to closing the Portal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAYDEN
But if I reunite her with Sindel, how can I be certain the Portal will stay closed until the next tournament?

ELDER GOD #2
Only when Shao Kahn is destroyed will the future be safe.

RAYDEN
Then Kahn can be defeated?

ELDER GOD #3
You have no more questions, Lord Rayden. But we three have questions for you:

ELDER GOD #1
After living among the humans do you truly believe them worth saving?

RAYDEN
More than anything I know.

ELDER GOD #2
Do you love them enough to sacrifice your own immortality?

RAYDEN
If that is what it takes, yes.

ELDER GOD #3
Are you ready to fight, and die for them?

OFF Rayden's narrowing eyes we go to;

EXT. ATOP TEMPLE OF THE ELDER GODS - EARTH - DAY

A powerful WARRIOR steps to the highest precipice of the sheer stone formation. His hair is cut in crude buzz fashion. Although his hands hold priestly garments, he wears a leather battle outfit. We realize this man is Rayden! Dressed to kill.

Closing his eyes in silent prayer, Rayden takes a deep breath, then swan dives acrobatically flipping from one ledge ...

... to another ...

... to another.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He lands perfectly on the ground at the base of the cliff.

His face reveals a moment of disbelief at his own prowess, followed by an immodest smile.

RAYDEN
I'm ready.

EXT. FLATLANDS - EARTH - DAY

Jax and Sonya both lay on the ground unconscious, their clothes singed from the recent blast. In the background, black clouds of smoke fill the air.

Wide to reveal the desert is now almost entirely covered in a shallow layer of black tar. As the disgusting gunk seeps up to and touches Jax's face ...

He awakes with a start, shaken by the stinging burn and noxious fumes. He turns Sonya over, feels for a breath. She's alive, too.

Using his enhanced arms, Jax easily lifts Sonya and begins running with her toward the safety of a nearby cave -- the same one from which Sonya arrived earlier. With powerful strides Jax splashes through the tar.

INT. CAVE - EARTH - DAY

Jax enters with Sonya, who begins regaining consciousness.

SONYA
Put me down ...

Dropping to his knees, Jax gently lowers Sonya to the earth. She defiantly wriggles free from him.

JAX
Chill out, girl. You're safe now.

SONYA
(getting to her feet)
I can take care of myself. In case you haven't noticed ...

JAX
What, you want me to leave my partner out there as vulture bait? With some kind of hit squad on our ass?

During this, Sonya ignores him and limps over to the cave entrance. Looks outside.

SONYA'S POV - THE EXTERMINATION SQUAD

Ten of the surviving Extermination Squad, a mile away, head their way across the flatlands. Their imposing figures silhouetted by the burning remains of the Army base behind them. The fire is spreading like wildfire across the widening lake of tar. This does look like Hell on Earth.

RETURN TO CAVE

Jax doesn't see what Sonya sees, so he continues his diatribe.

JAX
Alright, forget compassion. I want some answers from you before you go and get yourself wasted. Like where you disappeared to and why you ditched me at the pier?

Sonya turns back from the entrance.

SONYA
We've got bigger problems than our past. We've got to keep moving.

Sonya hurriedly drags her wounded self past Jax and towards the shadowy back exit of the cave.

JAX
(annoyed)
This is what really gets me about you, Sonya.

Jax takes a quick peek outside, then catches up with Sonya, steps in front of her, blocking the way. He means business.

JAX
You're gonna have to go through me unless you come clean.

A tense moment.

SONYA
Have it your way.
(dramatically)
The world's being invaded by Shao Kahn. Happy now?

JAX
Shao Kahn? What the hell country is that?

Sonya shakes her head, frustrated. She grabs Jax by his enhanced arms and looks straight into his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SONYA
Jax, this is all you need to know: Those guys out there are warriors -- from another place or another time -- I don't really know. But their job is to kill us.

JAX
God damn girl, what've you gotten us into this time!?

SONYA
Look, it's complicated, but basically me and some friends kicked Shao Kahn's ass. And let's just say he's a real sore loser.

Sonya pushes past Jax and heads into the darkness of the cave.

SONYA
We have to go now.

Jax follows after her.

JAX
Into a dead end cave!? I'm sorry but I don't got a death wish like you!

In the darkness, all we hear is:

SONYA (O.S.)
Jax, some things you just gotta see for yourself.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERN - EARTH - DAY

Lit by the the same eerie green iridescence. Sonya flings open the cage door on her velosphere. As she climbs inside and starts to strap herself in, Jax watches, his mouth agape at the sight of this crude technology.

JAX
Is this for real?

From the mouth of the cave, they hear the SCREECHING WAR CRY of the Outworld Warriors emerging from the darkness.

SONYA
Why don't you ask <u>them</u>.

Wisely, Jax hops inside the velosphere and starts strapping himself in next to Sonya.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAX
I take it Amtrack's out of the question.

SONYA
Just do what I say! Lean hard to the right! Now!

Several Outworld Warriors jump into the wind tunnel track and rush for the velosphere, while the others circle around to the hangar.

The combined weight of Jax and Sonya causes the velosphere to roll from its mount and into the wind tunnel track. The velosphere catches air -- WHOOOOOOSH! It starts to roll, picking up momentum quickly.

Outworld Warriors leap from the tunnel track, barely escaping the speeding velosphere!

EXT. NEW MEXICO DESERT - EARTH - DAY

A single set of footprints lead from a cave entrance, across the vast desert and disappear over a barren sand dune.

Each footstep eventually becomes a small sinkhole ... which opens up into a yawning hole between realms as the grains of sand are sucked into Outworld's eternal blackness.

FURTHER AHEAD

The footprints belong to Liu, now seen trudging beneath the searing sun. His shirt is off and draped over his head to soak up the sweat. His breath and steps have grown labored as fatigue takes its toll. Cresting another in a long procession of dunes, the wind kicking up sand around him in what almost appears to be demonic shapes, Liu stops and squints.

LIU'S POV - THE HOPI MESA

Three graduating, demon-like spires framed by a setting sun. Like a mystical stairway to heaven. Smoke plumes feather from the highest spire into the sky.

EXT. HOPI VILLAGE - EARTH - NIGHT

Burning torches in the sand surround a dozen Native American Medicine Men kneeled before an OUTWORLD RELIC rammed up through the earth, which appears ash white all around the relic. One MEDICINE MAN leads the others in a solemn CHANT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Liu kneels behind some scrub brushes, attempting to watch without being seen himself. He is startled when the lead Medicine Man now speaks from directly behind him, seemingly having appeared from nowhere.

MEDICINE MAN
Liu Kang.

LIU
(shocked)
Weren't you ...? How did you ...?

The Medicine Man points off into the darkness.

MEDICINE MAN
Go deep into the night. You will not find the Nightwolf. He will find you.

Liu nods, uncertainly. This is downright spooky.

EXT. HOPI MESA - EARTH - NIGHT

Liu can be seen by the glow of a single torch moving through the dark desert. As a HOWLING echoes in the distance, Liu stops, stiffens. More howling. Closer. He waves the torch in every direction. His eyes are wide, alert.

The howling continues, coming from all sides. Liu steps back onto something that SNAPS. He whirls around to see the SKELETAL REMAINS of a recently deceased animal. Liu relaxes a little, the tension momentarily relieved when:

A WHITE WOLF SUDDENLY POUNCES ON LIU!

He wrestles with the savage beast, rolling over and over in the sand, desperately trying to stay alive ...

The wolf gains the advantage, pinning a frightened Liu on his back.

Bearing its fangs, the wolf growls just inches from Liu's face. Liu tries in vain to squirm free until --

-- the Wolf transforms before our eyes into:

NIGHTWOLF ... a young Native American ... hip and flip ... historian of his tribe ... preserver of the Magics ...

NIGHTWOLF
Pretty cool, huh?

Nightwolf smiles, hops off of Liu, then pulls the stunned fighter to his feet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIU
Who are you? How did you do that?

NIGHTWOLF
Ha! Wouldn't you like to know?

Liu looks hard at the young man before him, sees something in his eyes.

LIU
You're the one Rayden sent me to find, aren't you?

Nightwolf circles Liu, sizing him up, somewhat unimpressed.

NIGHTWOLF
So you're Rayden's prodigy? I've seen better.
(off Liu's reaction)
Don't sweat it. I've seen worse, too.

LIU
If you are Nightwolf, you know that I won the last tournament.

NIGHTWOLF
The tournament had rules. This time anything goes.

LIU
You're no older than I am. What can you possibly teach me?

NIGHTWOLF
This body before you may have low mileage, but my soul has been handed down through generations, dating back to the time before the Ancient Tribe split.

LIU
What does all this have to do with stopping Shao Kahn?

NIGHTWOLF
After the ice melted and the Ancient Tribe of One spread out across the globe each people was given a battle secret to keep the playing field even, as they say. The keeper of this secret forever lives on Sacred Land ... which is where you now stand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

LIU
(skeptical)
You're telling me <u>you</u> are the keeper of your people's secret?

NIGHTWOLF
Something like that.

Nightwolf, something of a showboat, unhooks the tomahawk from his belt and twirls it dexterously from hand to hand.

LIU
(starts away)
Look, I don't have time for these stupid games. It was a mistake even coming here ...

NIGHTWOLF
You think you're ready, Liu Kang. But if you were, would Kitana have been caught?

This raises Liu's ire. He clenches his fists, but controls his anger and replies evenly:

LIU
Can you help me get her back?

NIGHTWOLF
Maybe. But first you gotta put yourself in a dream state.

LIU
(losing patience)
And just how am I supposed to do that?

NIGHTWOLF
Well, there's a slow way, and there's a fast way.

Nightwolf continues to perform dexterous acts with his tomahawk.

LIU
(loses it)
We don't have time for the slow way!

NIGHTWOLF
(smirks)
That's what I thought you'd say ...

Nightwolf suddenly flips the tomahawk at Liu -- KUUUUUUNK! The blunt end of the crude weapon strikes him right between the eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 3

Liu's eyes roll back into his head and he topples forward, face down at Nightwolf's feet.

NIGHTWOLF
Sweet dreams, Liu Kang.

EXT. JUNGLE - EARTH - SUNSET

WE MOVE hauntingly through a dense, jungle-like environ, blanketed by a thick gray mist seeping up from the ground that seems to be literally killing the trees right before our eyes ... stripping them of their color ... instantly drying and severing their leaves.

The solitude of the scene is disturbed by the furious sounds of THRASHING BRUSH and BREAKING TREE BRANCHES.

It's Jax, clearing a path, using his enhanced strength arms. Sonya is right on his heels. The brush is too dense to run, but they are clearly fleeing -- Jax stops in his tracks, startled.

JAX
This is the sixth one of the these damn things ... and each one gets uglier.

It's an OUTWORLD IDOL, angled up from the ground, looming large. Its gruesome visage is frozen in a stone-carved growl. Sonya stops behind Jax, takes it all in herself.

SONYA
It's the merger of the realms.

JAX
(annoyed)
You keep saying that Sonya, and it doesn't mean squat to me.

SONYA
I told you, it's the end of the world.

Sonya pushes ahead, past the idol, and Jax follows, grabbing her from behind by the arm.

JAX
Goddammit! You're talking to me like I'm some kind of idiot! Take a minute and think about how I feel, would you?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAX (CONT'D)
(has her attention now)
You drag me out of the hospital with some lunatic killers on our ass ... you put me in a spinning ball and take me halfway around the world. If I'm gonna die today, at least tell me why!

SONYA
Nobody told me why Johnny had to die. Shit happens, Jax. You're a big boy. Deal with it.

JAX
(totally confounded)
Who the hell's Johnny!?

Shutting him out, Sonya turns away. She has no intention of discussing her pain. Jax is more exasperated now than angry.

JAX
I'm your partner, girl! If you can't trust me, who can you trust!?

LIGHTNING strikes above them in the misty night sky, followed instantly by earth-shaking THUNDER. Seconds later, rainfall begins drizzling from the sky. Jax slaps at his face.

JAX
Ahhhh! Damn! What is that?

They both stop for a moment, watching the PURPLE RAINDROP hit their skin and SIZZLE! On the ground the rain gathers in shimmering oil-like puddles. Sonya shields her eyes, squints toward the skies.

SONYA
Nature's dying.

JAX
(grim realization)
Maybe this is the end of the world.

SONYA
(rare emotion)
Time's running out, Jax. It could all be over in a few days.

They look at each other for a moment, considering this heavy thought, lost in the somber quietude. Then, in the very near distance, the sound of BRUSH BEING TRAMPLED.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

JAX
We gonna keep running ... or do you want to go out swinging?

OFF Sonya's scheming face;

ANOTHER ANGLE - MUD GULLY

Sonya puts a finger to her lips. She cocks her head, attuned to the silence all around them.

SONYA
(whispers)
You hear that?

Jax listens ...

JAX
Relax. It's nothing.

Her hunch was right, but it's too late. They turn to be greeted by a flying split kick to each of their faces. The attacker lands in a fighting stance. It's:

SMOKE ... the third of the proto-type cyber-ninjas ... a chameleon killer who blends in with the mist ...

Instantly the mist swallows him up. Jax and Sonya look around in frustration. Suddenly Sonya is grabbed from behind by:

MILEENA ... an exotic, red-eyed woman ... killer body ... Kitana's illegitimate sister ...

Mileena pulls back hard, choking the life out of Sonya. Using a tree in front of her, Sonya back flips up and over Mileena, sliding her hands between Mileena's arms. Sonya lands and puts Mileena in a headlock, flipping her back into the mist. Her face disappears back into the mist. Silence.

Sonya and Jax exchange wary glances. Each second that passes the tension increases. Then:

SMOKE APPEARS FROM THE MIST inches before Jax! In a lightning succession of blows, Smoke snaps his head back like a punching bag --

-- Smoke disappears into the mist again, leaving a dazed Jax swinging wildly at air with his new arms.

JAX
(re: cybernetic arms)
Damn these things!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Almost simultaneously, Mileena flips through the mist and lands with her legs wrapped in a scissor-grip around Sonya's neck, choking her mercilessly --

-- Mileena boxes her ears repeatedly, SCREECHING with delight --

-- Sonya staggers backward and flips Mileena off of her. Getting her first good look at the villainess, Sonya notices the striking resemblance to:

SONYA
Kitana ...?

MILEENA
You wish.

Now two brutal fights begin in the mud gully:

Smoke re-appears from the mist, which ripples with his sudden presence. A RETRACTABLE 3-PRONG SPEAR shoots from his metal chest panel --

-- Jax blocks with his metal arms Smoke's repeated attempts to impale him --

-- Sonya jumps to attack Mileena ... but the villainess catches her mid-air with a spin kick, then cartwheels back into the mist. Her evil LAUGHTER echoes in the mud gully --

-- Getting used to his arms finally, Jax deftly grabs hold of Smoke's spear and, with a tremendous show of strength, pulls the robot in towards him and connects with an uppercut, sending Smoke sailing across the gully --

-- Sonya is ready for Mileena's jump front kick, and she catches her leg midair, throwing Mileena into the mud.

Mileena rolls over with a vicious HISS! Her facial mask has been knocked off in the fall, revealing her hideously OVERSIZED MOUTH and JAGGED TEETH! Whipping out her SAI, Mileena tuck rolls to attack Sonya --

-- Smoke rockets up from the mist, his head uppercutting Jax and sending him flying backwards into the mud ...

... where he lands right next to Mileena! Momentarily distracted, Mileena is jumped by Sonya. Sonya throws a reverse roundhouse kick sending Mileena flying into the air.

As she comes down, Mileena spins 180 degrees and uses her legs to bring Sonya down with her. Both women tumble into the mud, locked in a sexy death struggle --

-- Smoke re-appears from the mist again, but this time Jax is not there. A hand taps Smoke on the shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

Smoke whips around, greeted by a full-on metal fist to the face! His cranial circuitry shorting, Smoke is beaten senseless by Jax's two-fisted overhand attack. Pounded down into the mud like a railroad spike.

Containing Mileena in a choke hold with her own Sai, Sonya flips her foe hard into the mud. She holds Mileena's head beneath the surface until her arms and legs stop flailing. Jax slogs through the mud and lays a hand on Sonya's shoulder.

JAX
Hey. It's over, Sonya.

Sonya slowly releases her grip. She looks like hell as she gulps in air.

SONYA
You and those stupid arms ... I thought I was gonna have to save you again.

JAX
Again!? What the hell are you talking about?

SONYA
(no time for this)
Forget it ...

Sonya notices something on Mileena's floating body in the mud.

SONYA
We've got another one.

Jax points to another TATTOO on Mileena's back. The same as the one they found at the military base. And just like that tattoo, this one begins to move! The WINGS START TO FLAP as it becomes three dimensional!

Jax grabs for the creature, but it HISSES and eludes him as the small harpie vanishes into the swirling mist.

JAX
It's like a goddamn nightmare.

No time to debate this as they both notice the Extermination Squad has returned to the other side of the mud gully.

JAX
(barely time to breathe)
I don't know how much longer I can take this shit ...

Jax and Sonya dash off into the mist with the army of warriors in close pursuit.

EXT. HOPI MESA - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

Liu's eyes flicker open as he rouses to consciousness trying to orient himself. As he does, he is seized by terror. And with good reason --

Liu is buried in the desert up to his neck!

Nightwolf slowly circles Liu with a torch.

NIGHTWOLF
Glad you could join us. We've got a ton of work to do.

Liu is wild with panic. He screams at the top of his lungs:

LIU
Let me out!! I don't have time for this!!

NIGHTWOLF
Really? Well, I don't have time for your ignorance. So if you've got a problem, why don't you do something about it, tough guy?

Nightwolf takes a challenging stance over Liu.

LIU
I can't fight you! I can't move!

NIGHTWOLF
(smiles)
Excellent. Signs of intelligence ...

Nightwolf kneels close to Liu, speaks with conviction.

NIGHTWOLF
You've gotta learn to fight with inner strength, Liu. Your moves are important, but even the best warrior can be killed. It's the fire inside you, your everlasting faith in yourself, that can never be defeated.

Liu watches Nightwolf walk over to a 10' desert cactus. With a powerful kick, Nightwolf knocks the cactus in half.

NIGHTWOLF
I know this sounds like a bunch of psychobabble, but it really does work. If your soul is pure.

Nightwolf's torch reveals an army of SPIDERS flooding from the broken-open cactus. Liu's eyes widen with uncertainty.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIU
What are you doing?!

NIGHTWOLF
Here's the deal. You've got three tests to pass before you're ready for what lies ahead.

Nightwolf scoops up a leather pouch full of the spiders.

NIGHTWOLF
Now, the first thing we're gonna test is your courage ...
(mischievous smile)
This part's gonna blow your mind.

LIU
(nervous)
Why does it have to be spiders?

NIGHTWOLF
Because you're scared of them.

Standing over Liu, Nightwolf turns the pouch upside down and empties the spiders onto his head.

LIU
Ahhhh!

Liu shakes his head furiously, trying to get the spiders off him. Every move he makes brings about a YELP in pain.

NIGHTWOLF
The trick here is to overcome your fear. Every time you move, the spiders bite.

LIU
(enraged)
I know! I can feel it!

NIGHTWOLF
Relaaax ... Their poison won't kill you, just expand your mind beyond your current boundaries.

LIU
If you're so damn smart and brave, why don't <u>you</u> fight Shao Kahn?

NIGHTWOLF
If Kahn dares to attack our Scared Land, I will be here to protect my people ... as I have for the last two hundred years.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

Nightwolf starts to walk away with the torch.

LIU
Two hundred years!? Wait! Where're you going!? You can't just leave me here like this!

NIGHTWOLF
(calls back)
Wanna bet!?

Nightwolf disappears into the surrounding darkness as mysteriously as he appeared.

Liu's face is pale, skin beaded with sweat. As the poison takes hold, his eyes grow heavier ... and heavier ... finally falling shut.

EXT. DREAMSCAPE - NIGHT

Liu opens his eyes. He can't believe what he's seeing. Liu floats ten feet above his body!

An out-of-body experience in the vastness of twinkling space.

Liu reacts to the solid ground beneath him. He's no longer floating, but standing now in oblivion. The star field around him becomes alive. The twinkling stars are blinking eyes. Malevolent eyes that turn from white to green. Liu hears Nightwolf's disembodied voice echo in his head:

NIGHTWOLF (V.O.)
Face your fears, Liu. Through them you will find your primal power. Your animal rage.

LIU
I won Mortal Kombat! What do I have to fear?

NIGHTWOLF (V.O.)
You hide your fears with attitude. But here you cannot hide.

Liu assumes the ready position as DEMONS emerge from the dark nether regions, their only distinct characteristic those eerie, green eyes. Their ghostly, taunting voices overlap and overwhelm Liu:

DEMONS
You let your brother die ... You cannot beat Shao Kahn ... You are a worthless man ... You cannot save the world ... You will fail.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lashing out at his own personal demons, Liu punches and kicks with emotional anger, trying to silence the voices in his head, but:

THE DEMONS EVAPORATE INTO SMOKE, THEN RECONFORM!

Their hyena-like laughter creates a cacophony of ridicule. As the seemingly unbeatable demons box him in, Liu shows signs of panic.

NIGHTWOLF (V.O.)
The past cannot hurt you, Liu. Believe in your destiny. Every man has the power to change the future. Find that power within.

As the demons close in around him, Liu clenches his fists and steels his resolve. He closes his eyes and stands perfectly still.

LIU
Yes ... I can feel it.

Incredibly, REPTILIAN SCALES begin to sprout on his arms. Greenish black scales. Liu opens his eyes -- they now glow red with fury. Smoke exhales from his nose. His face contorts with anger, but stays wholly human. And as his primal rage surfaces --

-- VROOOOOOSH! Liu belches out a flame that TORCHES several of his demons -- the other demons slouch away into the shadows. It's an exhilarating, but shocking moment for Liu that subdues the rage and represses the scales on his arms, returning him to fully human.

Liu has tasted -- if only briefly and partially -- the power inside him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HOPI MESA - EARTH - DAY

No longer buried in sand, Liu lies motionless in a large ditch. The ground is scorched black but, incredibly, white snow falls all around him.

Liu awakens as snowflakes fall lightly on his face. His eyes possess the last vestige of Dragon red, but they quickly return to normal.

LIU
Nightwolf?! Nightwolf?!

Liu's calls are lost in the rush of harsh winds which cause him to shiver violently. He surveys his predicament.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Any direction he could travel appears hopeless. Still, he chooses a path and steadfastly sets out through the snow drifts.

ANOTHER ANGLE - LATER

Now Liu's hair is crusted with ice, his face bluing. He staggers and falls to his knees, starts crawling. He does not look long for this world, or any world.

Finally, a pair of long, beautifully curved legs step into his path. With trembling surprise, Liu cranes his head up to see:

JADE ... a stunningly gorgeous, exotic woman ... wrapped only in furs ... so inviting and alluring yet ...

She carries a staff, the end of which is wrapped in burning gauze to create torchlight. Liu holds his hands up to Jade's fire to warm them.

JADE
I am Jade. I have searched the mesa for you, Liu Kang. Nightwolf feared for your life.

LIU
(shivering)
So ... did ... I.

She kneels down beside him, plants the staff in the snow and uses the warmth of her own hands to caress his shaking body.

JADE
This snow. It falls from desert skies. Do you know why?

LIU
There's not much time left -- the end of the world is near.

JADE
Of all the horrors darkness holds, to die alone, that is my worst fear.

Opening her furs up, Jade pulls Liu into heat-sharing embrace that he does not resist.

JADE
With you, Liu Kang, I am not afraid.

LIU
I don't even know who you are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JADE
All you need to know is that I am here to help you.

As Jade tenderly strokes his head, Liu looks deep into her eyes, clearly affected by the sensuality of her touch.

JADE
Take my warmth, Liu. Let it give you strength for your battle.

LIU
You're almost too good to be true.

JADE
The same could be said about you ...

Falling under her spell, Liu allows Jade to tenderly kiss him on his lips.

JADE
We can defy the darkness by creating the light of new life.

Momentarily caught in her thrall, Liu moves to return her kiss ... but stops himself. Shakes away the urge.

LIU
No. I can't.

Jade snakes her arms around his waist, pulls him closer. There is a hunger in her voice, a desirous sexuality that would confound even a monk.

JADE
Together we could melt the snow, Liu Kang.

LIU
(pushes away)
Stop!

JADE
Together we could live our final days --

LIU
-- No!
(struggles)
My heart ... belongs to another.

Jade's eyes lower in apparent humiliation. Liu gently grasps her by the chin, raises her eyes to his.

CONTINUED: 2

LIU
If you're really here for me, Jade, help us defeat Shao Kahn.

SMAAAAACK! Jade suddenly backhands Liu across the face, completely shocking him.

JADE
You have chosen the wrong side, Liu Kang. Now you will die alone.

In the blink of an eye, she whirls around, shedding her furs and revealing her sexy fighting clothes. Before Liu can react --

-- Jade kicks him in the face, sending him sprawling! Their sexual tension is now vented in a fight between two lightning quick warriors:

Jade lifts Liu off the ground by the hair and knees him in the face --

-- Jade steps back, ready to fiercely kick Liu in the ribs, but Liu blocks the kick, takes hold of her foot and flips her --

-- Jade triple backsprings at Liu, scoring a savage blow with both feet. She smiles with derision:

JADE
How can you beat Shao Kahn when I alone am too much for you?

-- Liu, angered now, forgets his chivalry and comes at Jade with everything he's got in a relentless fury --

-- Jade is driven face first into the snow, whimpering in pain. She appears to be badly hurt. His conscience victimized, Liu nears the wounded woman.

LIU
I don't know whether to pity you ... or to kill you.

WE SEE that Jade is only faking her pain. Discreetly, she is arming herself with the burning staff. When Liu steps up next to her, she brutally strikes him in the knees --

-- Liu staggers back to his feet, then acrobatically evades her flaming thrusts and parries as the staff glows with a pulsing purple intensity --

-- Jade snaps the staff and it TRANSFORMS into a "living" whip. With the head of a cobra the whip strikes --

-- wrapping itself around Liu's neck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 3

Jade yanks, pulling Liu to the ground, then snaps the whip back up, forcing Liu to his feet --

-- Jade lashes Liu again, wrapping the whip around his body. She pulls him towards her, kicks him in the gut and sends him sprawling. She snaps the whip again, but Liu is ready --

-- catching the whip with his arm and twisting it around his wrist. He pulls her to him and cracks her across the face with his free hand --

-- Jade pulls him back to her, elbowing him in the chin. Tied to one another, they continue to pull each other in and duck each other's blows, fluid like a dance.

Eventually Liu kicks the whip from Jade's hand. It falls to the ground and becomes a staff again. Liu comes at her both fists blazing. When he's got her reeling, Liu sweeps Jade's legs from underneath her!

Victorious, Liu straddles a prone Jade. He is filled with contempt, ready to deliver the finishing blow.

LIU
You have betrayed us all. You will pay.

The ferocity on Jade's face melts ... turning to a smile ... and building to a playful laugh. Totally disarming Liu.

LIU
Now you laugh?

JADE
You are even more pure and faithful than I heard.
(beat)
You have passed the test, Liu Kang.

LIU
(incredulous)
A test? This was all just another one of Nightwolf's tests?

She reaches up a hand, prompting Liu, somewhat tentatively, to help her to her feet.

LIU
We could have killed each other.

JADE
But we live.

Jade does not let go of his hand, pulling him along.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 4

JADE
Come. We must get to Mount Gaia. The others will be waiting.

Liu breaks free from Jade.

LIU
No. If this was a test, it was only the second. I'm not ready.

JADE
Not ready to save Kitana? Because I can take you to the prison where she's kept.

LIU
(suddenly anxious)
You've seen her? She's alive?

JADE
For now, yes. For how long, I cannot say.

The sound of BATTLE HORNS blares in the distance.

JADE
Kahn is near. We must go.

Liu glances in the general direction of the horns, takes a deep breath, then follows Jade's lead as they jog off together across the frozen tundra.

EXT. HOPI MESA - EARTH - DAY

From atop a precipice, Nightwolf observes Liu and Jade as they flee. Worried, Nightwolf gazes to the heavens.

NIGHTWOLF
I tried, Rayden, but he's not ready. He still doubts himself.

As Kahn's BATTLE HORNS GROWS LOUDER, Nightwolf looks toward his village and departs.

EXT. HOPI MESA - PRAYER SITE - EARTH - DAY

The lead Medicine Man is now bent over on his knees. Suddenly, his head is brutally kicked. He topples over, but an Outworld Warrior pulls him back up by his long, gray hair. Although the Medicine Man can barely speak, his words are still defiant.

MEDICINE MAN
We will never surrender.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

QUEEN SINDEL (O.S.)
(mocking)
We?

It's Queen Sindel directing the torture. She's clad in dominatrix-style leathers which accentuate her beautiful nastiness. WE SEE that her victim is the sole surviving medicine man and that the holy prayer site has been shamelessly decimated.

QUEEN SINDEL
Take a look around, you imbecile. There is no more 'we.'
(sneers)
Your death will be the end of your people.

Sindel levitates above the Medicine Man, cackling with laughter as she is poised to swoop down and deliver a finishing blow --

NIGHTWOLF (O.S.)
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!

His booming voice stops Sindel from executing her move.

REVEAL - NIGHTWOLF

standing tall atop the Outworld relic, eyes burning with hatred. No longer the carefree spirit of earlier but a man possessed by his anguish.

NIGHTWOLF
This is <u>our</u> land! Sacred Land!

QUEEN SINDEL
Nothing is sacred anymore.
(to Warriors)
Destroy him!

As two dozen Outworld Warriors encircle the relic, Nightwolf lets out a war cry and dives fearlessly down atop the Outworld Warriors, taking several out in the process!

Arming himself with his tomahawk, Nightwolf cracks a few skulls with lightning quick moves.

-- Arming themselves with torches, the Outworld Warriors thrust and jab with fiery weapons. Nighwolf gathers his inner energy to exude a GREEN AURA, which violently repels his attackers like a shockwave --

-- Nightwolf war cries with each victory he scores (and he's scoring them quickly) --

CONTINUED: 2

-- More Outworld Warriors rush Nightwolf, but are devastated by his powerful shoulder charge move!

-- Four Outworld Warriors finally jump Nightwolf from behind and disarm him of his deadly tomahawk --

-- Nightwolf's anger causes his body and face to begin a its transformation into the WHITE WOLF. Halfway between man and wolf, Nightwolf HOWLS with fury and shakes off his captors!

Sensing they cannot defeat Nightwolf, the warriors keep him surrounded but dare not attack. The immediate threat gone, Nightwolf transforms fully back to human.

NIGHTWOLF
You cannot take me here!

It's a temporary standoff as Nightwolf, slightly injured and breathing hard, stands his ground amongst the circle of Outworld Warriors. The standoff is interrupted by:

The sound of a stampede and BATTLE HORNS as Shao Kahn is carried across the frozen plains on his black winged horse. Behind Kahn trot his legions of Centaurs.

As Shao Kahn leads his evil brigade through a dwindling, river, the WATER TURNS RED and starts to BOIL. Dead fish float to the surface.

Kahn arrives at the prayer site, tromping over and killing the injured Medicine Man now crawling away from the massacre through the slushy snow. Never leaving his mount, Kahn observes with satisfaction the destruction of the sacred area.

KAHN
You have done well, my Queen.

NIGHTWOLF
You will pay for this, Kahn! For my people, I will make you pay!

Kahn sizes up Nightwolf, whose eyes burn with hateful determination. We sense slight apprehension on Kahn's part.

KAHN
I could kill him now, but soon every human will be destroyed in the merger of realms. Let him live those last days knowing he could not save his own people.

Sindel smiles evilly at the cruelty of Kahn's decision.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 3

NIGHTWOLF
You are a coward! Killing old men! Fight me, Kahn! Fight me and prove your power!

Ignored by Kahn, Nightwolf is brutally restrained by the Outworld Warriors. Kahn turns to Sindel.

KAHN
I have seen enough suffering here to please me. Proceed as planned. I await your arrival in Outworld.

Nightwolf watches in mortal anguish as Kahn spurs his black steed into flight and soars off into the gray, foreboding sky. His legion of Centaurs gallop away on foot beneath him. Sindel commands her Extermination Squad to move on. They throw a despondent Nightwolf to the ground, leaving him alone among the ruins of his elders.

EXT. OUTWORLD LANDSCAPE - NIGHT

At first, this seems just another hellish scene from this hellish world. As we move closer, WE SEE a BLUISH GLOW emanating from a huge scar in the ground. Dropping deep into a deep, nasty gouge is:

EXT. OUTWORLD PRISON CAMP - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

As we move down into the opening, we are in a COBALT MINE which casts a purplish iridescent glow over the action here. Here in Outworld, prison is a place where you are punished ... and punished ... and punished ... until, mercifully, you die.

Formidable SHOKAN GUARDS line the upper perimeter, watching as hundreds of prisoners below, men and women alike, labor oppressively, breaking ground with pick axes.

Several mutant NOMADS (kin to Baraka) supervise the prison yard, their retractable blades at the ready. Dozens of Outworld Warriors serve as rank and file guards.

Disgusting, eight-legged creatures haul carts full of raw cobalt up to the stone COBALT SILOS. A weary prisoner trying to unload his heavy bushel of cobalt onto a cart, collapses from exhaustion and sinks to his knees. He is aided by a man who helps him to his feet, a man known as:

KABAL ... grotesquely scarred and kept alive by artificial respirators ... identity is a mystery ...

The prison general, Baraka, notices the prisoner's struggle and approaches.

CONTINUED:

BARAKA
Work harder, or you will pay for your laziness!

PRISONER
(spirit broken)
I have paid all a man can.

BARAKA
As long as you breathe, pain is the price I will exact.

Baraka ruthlessly backhands the prisoner, then kicks him in the face, sending the poor soul tumbling down into the forsaken depths of the prison.

Kabal is shocked, but lowers his head, avoiding eye contact. Baraka addresses the other prisoners:

BARAKA
You all work for the glory of Shao Kahn, but know this: When the Merger of the Realms is complete, whoever has mined the most cobalt will win a special prize.

Baraka points above their heads ...

It's Kitana! Dangling six feet above all this at the back of the prison yard, dressed like a sexual trophy, trapped in a small cage strung up between cobalt silos. There is much grunting and salivating from the motley men and women.

As Baraka moves off, he calls to another prisoner:

STRYKER ... leader of a riot control brigade on Earth ... adept at playing both sides to his advantage ...

Stryker falls in line with Baraka, a seemingly favored prisoner. He offers water to the prison general, who greedily slurps down most of the bucket. Using Stryker's shirt, Baraka wipes the slime off his mouth.

STRYKER
You're welcome, General.

Baraka does not perceive the sarcasm in Stryker's voice and merely grunts as he continues on his rounds of the prison.

Stryker waits until Baraka is out of earshot, then he approaches Kabal and offers him a drink of precious water from a metal cup.

CONTINUED: 2

STRYKER
(re: Baraka)
Someday Kabal, I'll get that pukeface.

KABAL
The woman, Kitana, she must know something. Talk to her.

Stryker nods his understanding when he notices Baraka eyeing him suspiciously. So he snarls at Kabal.

STRYKER
You ask for water again today, and you'll be boiled in it!

Baraka smiles, continues on. Stryker moves to Kitana's cage in the covered area at the back of the prison. Reaching up to her, Stryker offers her water.

STRYKER
The Merger of the Realms. Can it be stopped?

KITANA
Yes. But there is not much time.

STRYKER
What must be done?

KITANA
If I can be reunited with my mother's spirit, I can close the Portal.

STRYKER
Your mother?

KITANA
She was once married to Shao Kahn. Queen Sindel. She killed herself to free her soul.

The importance of this information is not lost on Stryker. The woman he's speaking to in the cage is the answer to everything.

STRYKER
I don't know exactly how, but I'll get you out of here.

Suddenly, the nomad guards ROAR and all eyes turn to the main gate, which swings slowly open ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 3

It's the grand arrival of Shao Kahn atop his black steed. He trots his beast into the middle of the yard, surveys his captives, then points directly at Stryker.

KAHN
Him! Bring him here!

STRYKER
(to Kitana)
If he kills me, Kabal will help.

As Stryker is dragged to Kahn:

KAHN
What business do you have with my decoration?

STRYKER
(on his knees)
I bring water to the prisoners, your highness.

KAHN
If they drink, they do not suffer properly.

Stryker avoids eye contact with Shao Kahn, but replies evenly.

STRYKER
But my lord, if they don't drink, they can't work properly.

Shao Kahn studies Stryker carefully. Without warning, Kahn savagely kicks him in the head.

He turns to Baraka.

KAHN
General Baraka, make sure he is one of the first given over to the Lin Kuei.

BARAKA
It will be my pleasure, your highness.

KAHN
(to Stryker)
They will turn you into a cybernetic fighter. It is a long and painful process, but in the end, your body and soul will be mine without question.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 4

STRYKER
(under his breath)
Can't wait.

Shao Kahn then takes the water bucket and approaches Kitana himself. Sitting atop his horse he is nearly eye level with her. As he offers Kitana water:

KAHN
Drink fully, my beautiful one.

KITANA
No.

KAHN
We have no reason to fight. All your past betrayals I can forgive. For you are my daughter, Kitana.

Kitana drinks fully from Kahn's offering, then defiantly spits the water back in his face.

KITANA
You destroyed my family. I am your enemy forever.

KAHN
(smiling, but ...)
You test my patience now even more than before.

KITANA
If you kill me here and now there will be a revolution.

KAHN
Foolish child. A struggling worm on the hook lands a bigger catch than a dead one.

Kahn now turns to the watching prisoners, holding the bucket high.

KAHN
Kitana does not need water. Let us honor her wishes. Today ... <u>no one drinks</u>!

Kahn tips the bucket, spilling the rest of the water in front of the thirsty prisoners. They MOAN in agony. Kahn smiles cruelly at Kitana, then spurs his horse away.

EXT. MOUNT GAIA - EARTH - NIGHT

Sonya and Jax stand at the base of a massive, mystical mountain, now fire-scarred, littered with dead trees and animal bones. At the top can just be seen a glorious burial grounds.

Over his shoulders, Jax looks back to see an Extermination Squad a ways back in full pursuit.

JAX
You know your plan about how our superior fitness and training would wear these guys out?

SONYA
Yeah?

JAX
It ain't working.

SONYA
Push harder.

As they scramble of the desolate mountainside:

JAX
Look, I'm matching you step for step. If you don't want to hear the truth --

They've come to another tear in the earth. Bubbling with a foetid, green ooze. Wide enough to give anyone pause. It's a long, long way down to a certain death.

SONYA
The truth is we are all going to die unless we find my friends. Now if you can't handle this --

JAX
Hey, I can handle anything you can.

Jax leaps across the chasm. A competitive crossroads. Sonya takes a second, then jumps after him. They regard one another silently: a brother and sister now on equal terms. Wasting no more time, Sonya and Jax hurry up the hill.

EXT. MOUNT GAIA - CEMETERY - EARTH - NIGHT

This is the top of Mount Gaia. Living GARGOYLES look down from an ancient cemetery entrance arch. The gates are open, and massive.

Sonya leads Jax inside the dark and eerie burial grounds. They both look around warily, barely able to see anything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jax steps up to a giant marble memorial, with a chiseled listing of all the deceased fighters.

JAX
What the hell is this place?

Before Sonya can answer --

-- They are both attacked from above, jumped by fighters leaping down from the marble memorial!

Sonya and Jax struggle to get up, both met by a flurry of blows. In the darkness, it is hard to discern who is doing what to whom, but kicks and punches are flying. Until:

SONYA
Liu!

Her attacker is Liu Kang.

LIU
Sonya?

JAX
You know this guy?

While Jax is looking away, Jade connects with a full on foot to the chin which knocks him down.

LIU
(to Sonya)
Is that Jax?

SONYA
Was. Yeah.
(re: Jade)
Who's she?

LIU
Jade.
(to Jade)
This is Sonya Blade.

Jax stands, extends a hand to Jade, clearly smitten.

JAX
Major Jackson Briggs. You've got an incredible set of legs. For kicking, I mean.

SONYA
Where's Kitana?

LIU
(humbled)
She was kidnapped ... by Scorpion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

SONYA
You lost Kitana!? And you picked up --
(re: Jade)
-- some stranger!?

LIU
No. We can trust her.

SONYA
You ask me, your judgment sucks.

In the distance, they hear the sound of the approaching Outworld Warriors. Liu counters Sonya's verbal jab:

LIU
Well thanks to you, now we've got more of Kahn's Extermination Squads on our tail.

JAX
Can I make a suggestion here?
(has their attention)
Let's put the petty crap aside and cover our ass.

NEW ANGLE - THE GATES

This fractured family of fighters temporarily comes together to hastily bar the massive gates behind them. As they work they speak with urgency:

SONYA
We have to find Rayden. He'll know what do to --

LIU
-- We looked. He's not here yet.

JAX
So we're just gonna sit here and wait? With all those freaks outside?

LIU
We have to. We need Rayden.

As they finish the job and enter the main cemetery beyond the memorial, WE SEE it's unlike anything we've ever seen.

There are small fire pots everywhere. Each unmarked tomb is a stained glass pyramid. Inside each, you can see the fighter's perfectly preserved corpse levitating in a twinkling blue mist.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Further ahead, an enormous onyx-like monolith rises from the center of the cemetery. A clear, multifaceted, crystalline turret rests atop the monolith.

LIU
As a kid I was taught that these are the bodies of the earth fighters who have completed Mortal Kombat.

JADE
(proudly)
Liu will rest here himself ... someday.

RAYDEN (O.S.)
Let us hope that day is not soon.

It's Rayden, moving out of the shadows himself. Liu and Sonya are visibly surprised by his new appearance.

RAYDEN
(shrugs)
It's a new look.
(re: Jade)
Who's the babe? Can she fight as good as she looks?

LIU
Better.

RAYDEN
Good. Because I was expecting a team of fighters. Instead I hear fighters at war with each other.

SONYA
Give us a break. We've been through hell.

RAYDEN
Compared to what lies ahead, you've been through nothing.

This silences the mortals, who exchange uneasy glances.

RAYDEN
Where is Kitana?

All eyes fall upon Liu, who looks stricken.

LIU
Kahn took her.
(shamed)
It's all my fault.

CONTINUED: 2

RAYDEN
This is not about blame. We are together in this. Each of us must help and support the others. Like a family.
(finally notices Jax)
What the hell's on your arms?

JAX
I've known you one minute and you're dissin' me already?

RAYDEN
Making up for lost time.

Liu intervenes, his own personal agenda surfacing.

LIU
Look, we've got to get Kitana back. Without her we can't close the Portal.

JADE
Liu is right. If Kahn has her in Outworld, we must go there now.

AAAARRRRRHHHH! It's the sound of a Sindel's DEATH SHRIEK. All the heroes look around, tensing for battle.

RAYDEN
Without victory here first, we cannot find Kitana.

The wooden gates crack and splinter under the strain of Sindel's powerful sonic shockwave.

Meanwhile, above the gates, warriors from Sindel's Extermination Squad scale the cemetery walls like commandos.

RAYDEN
(to Liu, Sonya)
My powers are leaving me. Our old friends will help you while I try to open the Portal to Outworld.

SONYA
What 'old friends'?

RAYDEN
(points to pyramids)
Them.

Rayden walks over to the onyx monolith, stops for a moment, then WALKS RIGHT THROUGH IT -- the liquid blackness swallowing him up whole.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 3

The others watch in awe as the monolith begins to pulsate and glow with radiant energy, that swells towards the apex, only to subside. A beat. Then the energy glow rises higher than before, again to die out.

JAX
Great light show. But I don't see how it solves our problem.

Suddenly, the monolith radiates brighter then ever as the energy ripples rapidly upwards, to the apex, where it coalesces into a white energy field which radiates outward from the crystalline turret, forming a dazzling electrical grid over the entire cemetery --

-- Each pyramid SHATTERS, crackling with energy!

Incredibly, the levitating bodies awaken. Reborn, the resurrected fighters join ...

... Rayden, who steps out from the monolith. He and our other heroes line up behind the resurrected fighters to square off against Sindel's advancing Extermination Squad.

It's a full out rumble in the graveyard. Liu and Jade fight side by side. As do Sonya and Jax. When one of the dead fighters is hit by a death blow, however, he/she EXPLODES into dust and bones!

To reveal the Portal, Rayden desperately tries to fire electricity from his hand at the largest mausoleum at the back of the cemetery. All our heroes watch him anxiously because ...

... The Extermination Squads are closing in on them. After several futile attempts, Rayden curses his fate and produces a final spark of power --

-- KROOOSH! The cemetery lights up. The Portal begins to form. Rayden extends a hand, which miraculously becomes one with the Portal. In seconds his entire body becomes gaseous and he is pulled with a SUCKING SOUND into the Portal.

INT. PORTAL - NIGHT

From inside the swirling vortex, looking back on the scene, Rayden reaches out a hand to pull the others to safety. The human chain of heroes is pulled into the Portal, which closes behind them in a brilliant blast of light.

EXT. MOUNT GAIA - CEMETERY - EARTH - NIGHT

As the resurrected warriors continue to fight the Extermination Squad, the cemetery gates finally shatter under the strain of Sindel's death shriek --

-- Her sonic shockwave spreads throughout the cemetery and instantly EXPLODES the remaining resurrected warriors into a thousand pieces.

Sindel stares at the mausoleum. The Portal has vanished. Rather than shriek in defeat, Sindel smiles. It is an incredibly evil smile.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

A cosmic rend rips open the night sky. Five figures are birthed from the gaping Portal, re-gaining their solid human forms, landing unceremoniously.

Rayden, the least fazed of the group by this otherworldly experience, pulls himself to his feet. The others slowly join him, checking to make sure they're all there.

RAYDEN
You never do get used to that.

Jax -- this being his first trip here -- surveys the surreal surroundings with incredulity.

JAX
I don't want to get used to this place.

Above them the Outworld moons cast a purple pall over the gray landscape.

LIU
My God ... is that what I think it is?

LIU'S POV - THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

A rusted tangle of steel, partially pushed up through from Earth, lined with the ruined hulls of commuter cars.

Perching like crows on this desecrated icon are hundreds of Shokans, feeding on what appears to be the mortal remains of those poor commuters.

RAYDEN (O.S.)
It's the merger of the realms ...

BACK TO SCENE

The group is struck by the gravity of this image.

RAYDEN
Time is also our enemy.

LIU
All those people in their cars ...

RAYDEN
Pulled between realms without protection, they never knew what happened.

SONYA
(determined)
We have to stop this. Now.

JADE
I can take us to the prison where Kitana's being held.

RAYDEN
(suspicious)
And where is that?

JADE
The cobalt mines of the Shokan There are thousands captured. The best fighters of Earth.

RAYDEN
You've been there?

Liu senses Rayden's reluctance to accept Jade unconditionally.

LIU
Rayden, if it weren't for Jade, I'd be dead. And besides, she's all we've got right now.

The others exchange uncertain looks until Rayden speaks up:

RAYDEN
We will follow Jade.

Looking vindicated, Jade steps to the front of the group and leads them down a barren slope.

EXT. ROYAL ROAD - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

Once the Royal Road of Edenia, all that now remains are ravaged, black moss-covered temples lining the desolate, stone-inlaid avenue. All but Rayden and Jade are in awe of the ruined glory surrounding them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jade sneaks up to the corner of a crumpling structure, checks for opposition. She gestures the others ahead.

Liu stops, kneels down next to a collapsed section of mural comprised of intricate tile. Wiping away years of grime, Liu exposes a virtual snapshot of Edenia's lost idyll.

CU - THE MURAL

Depicting Edenia's royal family: King Jerrod, Queen Sindel and Young Kitana. All posed before their splendid castle.

JADE (O.S.)
Kitana's family ... so many years ago.

BACK TO ROYAL ROAD

Liu's face clouds with emotion as he touches the cracked tile featuring Young Kitana. As shadows fall over him, Liu looks up to see the others have gathered around him.

This reflective moment is rudely interrupted by an inhuman BATTLE CRY. Our heroes whirl around to see:

SHEEVA!

She stands like a menacing Amazon warrior atop a temple across the Royal Road.

JAX
What in the hell is <u>that</u>?

SONYA
I thought you liked big women.

Sheeva leaps from the roof and lands in a cloud of dust. From behind her emerge a dozen Outworld Warriors.

Next Sindel, and what's left of her Extermination Squad, appear behind them, ready to block any retreat.

QUEEN SINDEL
It's a beautiful day for a massacre!

Sindel cackles sadistically as our heroes surmise they are completely boxed in on the Royal Road.

RAYDEN
They knew we were coming.

His statement is directed, almost accusingly, at Jade.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JADE
(defensive)
Obviously they followed us.

RAYDEN
Perhaps. But it may be a blessing in disguise. We need Sindel to close the Portal forever.

LIU
(to Rayden)
You get the Queen. We'll handle the rest of them.

Agreed on the battle plan, our heroes form a circle within the Outworld Warriors. Then, without warning, each of the five fighters launches an attack on their opponents.

What starts off as something of a free-for-all war develops into a series of individual battles featuring:

JAX & SONYA

They fight, back-to-back, against a dozen Outworld Warriors. Jax dispatches two warriors with simultaneous uppercut punches. Then, he watches Sonya get pummeled by four warriors at once, all getting their kicks in.

JAX
Hey Sonya! All you gotta do is ask for help!

SONYA
Forget me! Save yourself!

Sonya uses her fury to lash out at the four warriors. With a quick set of leaping splits kicks, Sonya knocks out all four warriors. She makes eye contact with Jax, who shrugs like "Not bad." In that moment of distraction, another Outworld Warrior kicks Jax from behind. Rising to his feet, Jax shakes his head and wags his finger.

JAX
That was uncool.

With a powerful combination of martial arts moves, Jax vanquishes his opponent and ends the fight by kicking him through a stained glass window! He savors the victory for a moment, only to be attacked by three more warriors ...

LIU & JADE

Battle a handful of warriors until:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIU
Jade, look out!

Jade is jumped from behind by Sheeva. The four-armed warrior moves fluidly and gracefully as she battles.

Finally, she subdues Jade by grabbing her and throwing the heroine up and over her back, where she smashes into the ground, knocked out!

LIU VERSUS SHEEVA

A spectacular fight featuring the most advanced interaction between digital effects and live-action humans ever seen before. This technical ability to create perfect, fluid unison in their combat will make this one of the most spectacular fights in the film.

-- Liu bicycle kicks Sheeva, sending her crashing through a temple wall --

-- Sheeva's immediately back on her feet charging at Liu. Her speed and agility are incredible. She throws a series of punches and kicks, each one faster than the next --

-- Liu blocks and counters as best he can, but even Liu's special techniques are no match for this four-armed battle bitch --

-- Sheeva kicks him in the gut, then shoots an ENERGY BALL at Liu, dazing him momentarily and dropping him to one knee --

-- Liu rolls out of the way seconds before Sheeva can body stomp him --

-- Sheeva keeps stomping and Liu keeps somersaulting one step ahead of her until he deftly rolls to his feet and --

BAAAAAASH! Liu lands a monstrous uppercut that sends Sheeva smashing up through the temple ceiling and onto ...

THE TEMPLE ROOF

Where she lands in a heap of stone debris! Liu pulls himself up through the ceiling hole. The fight continues.

Liu lands a few more blows, but is caught by two of Sheeva's hands.

With her other hands, Sheeva unloads on Liu's head --

-- Liu flips out of Sheeva's grasp, comes at her with a flying sidekick --

CONTINUED:

-- Sheeva staggers back and topples off the temple roof, YOWLING as she falls out of sight. We hear a splaaat!

RAYDEN VERSUS SINDEL

Without his secret powers, Rayden must rely solely on his martial arts skills. He connects with precision blows to Sindel's face and weak spots, but she just keeps coming.

QUEEN SINDEL
(enjoying this)
Could it be true? The great Rayden ... powerless in Outworld?

RAYDEN
Knowledge is power. And I know I can still beat a bitch like you.

QUEEN SINDEL
(cackles)
You know nothing!

Sindel whips her head back and unleashes her hair on Rayden! Like a snake, her wiry locks coil around Rayden before he can move --

-- Rayden is hurled, head over foot, into a nearby pile of rubble --

-- Sindel cartwheels over to a dazed Rayden and performs another "hair throw" on him --

-- Rayden is again launched painfully onto the decaying front steps of a temple.

But this time he watches Sindel cartwheeling towards him, checks what's behind him, and just as she throws her hair at him --

-- Rayden executes his amazing QUADRUPLE FLIP to escape from his spot on the steps --

-- Sindel angrily watches Rayden sail over her. She whips her neck to retrieve her hair as Rayden lands 10 feet behind her. She turns, again snapping her hair at him --

-- Rayden springs out of the way just as her hair shatters some temple bricks. She looks up to see Rayden flipping over her again, performing a double gainer, and landing 15 feet away.

Infuriated, Sindel cracks her hair at him once more --

-- Rayden is again to quick, launching his body high into the air --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- Sindel was expecting this move and redirects her hair strike the other direction ... but Rayden is not there! She coils her hair back and quickly spins around, sensing --

-- Rayden is right behind her. WHAM! He hammers Sindel, ending the battle with a sharp uppercut!

Sindel is down for the count.

With no Outworld Warriors left standing, the group gathers around Rayden and the toppled temple. Each of them shows the scars of battle.

Jax, obviously thrashed, drags his weary bones up to join the others in a loose huddle.

JAX
A few more fights like those and you'll be burying me back at that boneyard.

LIU
(out of breath)
Right next to me.

RAYDEN
We must stay strong. We have now what we need to close the Portal --

JADE
-- But you don't have Kitana.

SONYA
(to Jade)
This Shokan prison ... can you show us a way inside?

Jade nods, then kneels down and draws a shape in the dirt. As she starts to fill in details of the prison:

JADE
Getting in is as hard as getting out ...

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OUTWORLD PRISON - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

Jade's crude dirt drawing becomes an OVERHEAD VIEW of the prison, gouged into the ground, illuminated by blue cobalt.

EXT. EDGE OF OUTWORLD PRISON - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

A coil of heavy-weight rope is hurled through the air. It falls roughly down the side of the cliff, leading into the prison. So far, the Shokan guards have not detected them.

Rayden, Liu, Sonya and Jax appear at the edge of the cliff, using dead foliage as cover.

SONYA
I don't know if I feel good about leaving Jade to guard Sindel's body.

JAX
Well, you didn't feel good about bringing her along either.

Liu has heard enough. It is time for action.

LIU
I'll go first.

Liu grabs hold of the rope and begins to rappel down into the prison, hand-over-hand, his muscles bulging from the exertion.

INT. SHOKAN PRISON - GUARD STATION - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

Liu enters, surprises an Outworld guard with a flurry of punches, knocking the guard out cold. He looks through the window, sees the others rappelling down after him.

EXT. SHOKAN PRISON - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

Slumped in her cage, Kitana catches sight of something far across the prison yard.

Her face flushes with hope when she spots Liu leading the others out from the guard station to a concealed position behind a crude mining machine. Liu crouches in the shadows and whispers:

LIU
Everybody clear on the plan?

JAX
(disgruntled)
Yeah, we get the guards, you get the girl.

Liu darts out from his position, across the yard, and aside another guard station. There he waits and watches ...

A tool cart rolls up to a cluster of three Outworld guards. A tarp covers the tools.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

None of the guards know quite what to make of this. All three surround the cart while one guard pulls off the tarp covering --

-- Sonya, on her back, kicks two guards in face! Then, flipping off the cart, spring-kicks the third before he counters!

Meanwhile, Liu rushes past the occupied guards to his next holding spot. Liu motions for Jax to take out the next set of guards. They are a well synchronized rescue team.

Jax starts away, but Rayden grasps him by the shoulder.

RAYDEN
Remember, Jax. You are a skilled fighter, but your arms are not your strength. They are your weakness.

JAX
Thanks for the tip, but these things are state-of-the-art.

RAYDEN
Faith in yourself is all you need.

Rolling his eyes, Jax dashes away from Rayden, over to another group of guards ...

With no finesse or stealth whatsoever, Jax deliberately attacks all three Outworld guards with only his arms, savagely eliminating them all with a series of windmill blows. To punctuate his point, Jax looks back at Rayden and raises his metal fists in triumph.

Jax's actions allow Liu to infiltrate deeper into the prison yard, ducking into position behind a stone cobalt storage silo. From here, Liu watches Rayden skillfully eliminate the remaining cluster of Outworld guards in the prison yard.

Several of the prisoners notice that something is happening. Various eyes are now on Liu as he runs to the back of the prison where Kitana's cage hangs between two cobalt silos.

Inside her cage, Kitana clutches the rusty bars in breathless anticipation ... until she spots something:

KITANA
Liu! Look out!

Above Liu are two NOMAD GUARDS perched like wasps on the cobalt silos, using their razor sharp claws and forearm swords to support them --

-- The nomads suddenly come diving down at Liu, swords thrust forward, ready to do a little slice-and-dice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

Liu dives for cover, then rolls into position and expertly awaits the advancing nomads, who attack simultaneously --

-- Liu, caught in the middle, jump split-kicks the two warriors in the face, only to realize this had almost no effect on the these incredible creatures!

Suddenly, a blast from out of nowhere hits Liu at his feet, sending him sprawling!

Inside her cage, Kitana scans the area for the other nomad. She spots it clinging to a shadowy spot on the silo. It snaps its blades together, causing them to spark off another energy blast aimed at Liu.

KITANA
There!

Spotted, the other nomad divebombs Liu again --

-- Liu runs, flips high and strikes the nomad in mid-air! When the nomad falls to the ground, one of its forearm swords has been knocked loose.

BARAKA (O.S.)
Nothing escapes my prison!

Liu spins to see Baraka and the two other nomads closing in on him, their swords gleaming, ready for battle. Liu rolls to scoop up the other nomad's sword --

-- Baraka attacks, using vicious martial arts move to slash and slice at Liu --

-- KLING-KLANG-KLING! It's a blazing sword fight as Liu finds himself backed up against the silo. A nomad thrusts at Liu, but our hero quickly sidesteps ... and the nomad's sword lodges in the silo. Liu quickly axe kicks the sword and breaks it in two! Now he has two swords.

The battle rages on, and the nomads leap from wall to wall, relentlessly dive bombing Liu. This has become a deadly aerial battle, with opponents jumping from ledge to ledge ... flying across the prison in amazing operatic movements --

-- Liu meets one of his attackers in mid-air with a flying wheel kick --

-- The nomad is send spiraling down into the lower depths of the prison. Now it's two on one.

Baraka and the other nomad circle Liu. Baraka fakes an attack, while the other nomad charges rapidly to catch him off guard --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 3

-- Liu is prepared! Using his two swords as supports, he sticks them into the wall ... swings around them ... and delivers a face smashing kick to the nomad! Two down, one to go.

Evading Baraka's lethal advances, Liu sneaks a glance up at Kitana ...

Inside her cage, Kitana watches the fighters move into position beneath her. She's dying up here, unable to help.

Liu keeps blocking swipes ... waiting ... waiting ...

WHOOOOOSH! He hurls the sword up at Kitana's cage and severs the rope which keeps it hanging --

-- Baraka looks up just as the cage comes falling down on top of him! Squishing him like a bug.

Liu breaks the cage lock with a sharp kick. Throwing open the cage door, Liu catches Kitana as she jumps into his arms. They hug like time has stopped.

LIU
I told you I wouldn't lose you.

Kitana looks into Liu's eyes, sees the passion. But before she can kiss him ...

ON THE UPPER PERIMETER

A Shokan guard finds one of the rappel ropes and sounds a WARNING HORN!

BACK TO SCENE

Prisoners scatter in every direction as crude searchlights whipscan the yard. While Rayden, Sonya and Jax fend for themselves in their effort to escape ...

Liu and Kitana sprint hand-in-hand for the nearest escape route, only to be cut off by another regiment of nomad guards.

Just when it looks like they will be forced to take on the massive gang of guards:

STRYKER (O.S.)
Need a hand, Princess?

REVEAL STRYKER & KABAL

CONTINUED:

Behind Liu and Kitana, ready for battle. Stryker is armed with a makeshift baton while Kabal brandishes his dual hook-swords.

LIU
Can you hold them until we get out?

STRYKER
No problem. And give my best to Shao Kahn.

KITANA
(to Stryker and Kabal)
I will not forget this.

STRYKER
(winks)
We're counting on it.

As Liu pulls Kitana away to safety, Stryker and Kabal step up to fight off the onslaught of guards. Initially overwhelmed, Stryker whistles for reinforcements from the surrounding prisoners too scared to intervene.

STRYKER
We could use some help over here!!

Slowly at first, then gaining with momentum, the prisoners join in with Stryker and Kabal to crush the guards in the prison yard. The revolt becomes a fighting free-for-all.

ON THE PERIMETER

At three different vantage points we see Shokan Guards suddenly pushed from behind and sent tumbling down into the prison melee below. Into their places step Rayden, Sonya and Jax. They all exchange the look of a job well done.

BACK TO SCENE

As Liu and Kitana rush to where Liu left his rope (the one the Shokan guard found earlier), they find nothing. Several guards have survived the pandemonium and now are coming their way. It appears they Liu and Kitana are cornered ...

... when a rope suddenly falls down near them!

JAX (O.S.)
Going up!?

They look up to the edge of the perimeter. It's Jax, flexing his enhanced arms. Liu grabs Kitana.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIU
Hang on.

Liu takes hold of the rope. Jax begins to pull them to safety above. Spears pierce the dirt all around them, several missing by only inches. When they have safely reached the perimeter:

All the prisoners CHEER. Stryker smiles broadly, pats Kabal on the back. Mission accomplished.

INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - GRAND HALL - OUTWORLD - MOONSET

Kahn and Shinnok stand together at a large, pentangle-shaped window in his fortress, gazing past the imposing spires upon his wretched kingdom.

KAHN
Behold the seeds of destruction. Flowering before us...

KAHN'S POV - THE GIZA PYRAMID

The ground violently shakes and splits below. The famous Egyptian icon rises up from a molten chasm. Stones tumble from its sides as it breaches the realms, leaving the once-grand monument horribly defaced and decrepit.

KAHN (O.S.)
One more night. Nothing can stop us now.

RETURN TO FORTRESS

Shinnok shakes his head in disagreement.

SHINNOK
Had Sindel captured Rayden and his mortals in your trap, she would be here now, gloating at your feet.

KAHN
I swear to you father, on my soul, all our millenniums of planning will soon be rewarded. You will be proud.

Both men turn to see Baraka staggering towards them through the massive double doors. Green blood trickles from the downturned corner of his mutant mouth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARAKA
(death throes)
The Princess ... escaped ... Rayden ... lives.

KAHN
You worthless mutant!

WHAAACK! Showing no mercy, Kahn backhands Baraka halfway across the grand hall, sending his defeated body sprawling into a display of his various battle armaments.

SHINNOK
(grave menace)
Know this: I will take your soul myself if you fail me now.

Clearly worried, Kahn has no confident retort.

INT. RUINED TEMPLE - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

Liu leads Kitana inside a decaying temple with the others following. Kitana stops, gasps at the sight of:

SINDEL'S PRONE BODY

Laid out on a decaying altar from Edenia's glory days. Jade stands beside the queen's corpse, makes eye contact with Kitana.

KITANA
What are <u>you</u> doing here?

LIU
She helped us rescue you.

Overwhelmed, Kitana is at a loss for words. Rayden steps up next to her.

RAYDEN
You can end this, Kitana. Only your love can reunite her body and soul and break the hold Kahn has over your mother.

Liu guides Kitana over to her mother's side. Jade and Kitana come face to face. Biting back her emotion, Jade finally throws her arms around Kitana. In a sisterly embrace, Jade whispers:

JADE
I want it to be like it was. For you, for us. For Edenia.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Liu gently moves Jade away from Kitana, then steps back with the others, all hanging back respectfully in the periphery.

Kitana just stares at her mother's lifeless corpse. Her emotions are conflicting: joy and sorrow mixed.

She reaches down a trembling hand to push the tussled hair from Sindel's face. Running fingers across her mother's face, she traces the familiar terrain. Then, finding Sindel's hand, Kitana kneels beside the altar. With genuine reverence, Kitana tenderly kisses her mother's cold, pale hand.

The others watch on in breathless anticipation. Liu looks anxiously to Rayden, who restrains a smile while gesturing back to mother and daughter ...

Sindel's eyes flicker open. First wide with fear, they quickly focus on Kitana. The fear instantly subsides, giving way to recognition and a heartfelt smile.

QUEEN SINDEL
Kitana? Is that you?

Kitana breathes again, nearly sobbing with joy.

KITANA
Oh, mother. I have prayed for the day when our love would bring us together again.

Liu is truly moved. Rayden lays a supportive hand on Liu's shoulder and smiles proudly.

RAYDEN
The Elder Gods served us well. Let this be a testament to Faith, Courage and Love.

SONYA
Wait ...

Sindel's maternal smile gives way to an EVIL, CACKLING LAUGH.

QUEEN SINDEL
Love?! I never loved you.

Kitana backs away in disbelief, her face aghast.

KITANA
No ...

QUEEN SINDEL
With such a pathetic child as you, what reason was there to live?

CONTINUED: 2

Rayden, watching from a distance, is equally stunned.

RAYDEN
It ... cannot be.

Now Jade too exposes her true, evil nature when she turns to Liu Kang.

JADE
You've wasted your precious time.
You've lost!

LIU
(enraged)
How could you do this to us?!

JADE
(evil smile)
It was sooooo easy.

Sindel begins to levitate off the altar ... up through the collapsed temple ceiling ... where she emits an ear-piercing DEATH YELL that echoes across Outworld.

LIU
You will die for this, Jade!

Jade runs from the temple, escaping out the back as Liu starts after her:

RAYDEN
Let her go, Liu! Now is not the time!

But Liu is filled with hatred and cannot be stopped. In hot pursuit, Liu chases after Jade to the edge of the ruined temple, where he pulls to an abrupt stop.

LIU'S POV - HUNDREDS OF OUTWORLD WARRIORS

Swarming down the Royal Road! Closing in all around the temple. Armed to the hilt.

RETURN TO RUINED TEMPLE

Liu spins back to his friends, speaks gravely:

LIU
It's an ambush.

As our heroes clear out of the temple and make a mad dash for the hills, we;

CUT TO:

EXT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - OUTWORLD - MOONRISE

Kahn stands atop his fortress in full battle gear, flanked by Queen Sindel and Jade. Kahn proclaims their destiny to his legions.

KAHN
You are the witness to the dawning of Mankind's final day! By nightfall, the two realms will be one!
(emphatically)
Destiny will be ours!

A full legion of Outworld Warriors are gathered all around the perimeter of the fortress. In the middle of this gathering is the crumbled Giza Pyramid seen earlier. At each pause in Kahn's sovereign address, his warriors cheer their leader with a fanatical frenzy.

KAHN
Rayden and his mortals have failed to stop us! I want them hunted like the weak, pathetic fools they are! Bring them to bow at my feet, so that with their dying breaths they will see the birth of the <u>greatest army in existence</u>!

More cheers. Jade and Sindel smile deviantly. Soaking up the degenerate adulation, Kahn steps to the edge of the rooftop and extends his arms majestically.

In the distance we hear a RUMBLE. Even the warriors are startled:

WARRIORS POV - THE EIFFEL TOWER

A nightmarish version, rusted and bent, pushes up into Outworld, literally in the middle of Kahn's unholy congregation. It takes its wrongful place next to the Giza Pyramid.

EXT. BLACK FOREST - OUTWORLD - DAWN

Feet pounding the ashen dirt. Legs churning in desperate motion. Face sucking in musty, palpable air. Faces we recognize as Rayden, Liu, Kitana, Sonya and Jax.

We are in the nether regions of a charred forest streak-lit by the first dull light of day. We are trying to keep up with our fleeing heroes as they dodge ENERGY BLASTS and CRUDE PROJECTILES launched and hurled by the pursuing army of Outworld Warriors. Rayden, running at the head of the group, is suddenly struck in the shoulder by a sharp projectile --

CONTINUED:

RAYDEN
Ahhhhhhhh!

Liu and the others quickly gather around their fallen mentor. Rayden has a spear-like weapon lodged beneath his shoulder blade.

LIU
Jax, grab his legs!

KITANA
There's cover over there!

Kitana points out the partially obscured image of a familiar-looking structure nearby: a turret on the TAJ MAHAL pushed up through the dirt.

EXT. TAJ MAHAL - OUTWORLD - DAY

Our heroes run inside, panting and scared. Liu and Jax set Rayden down on the floor inside this tilted turret, now defaced with water stains, cracked plaster and broken tiles.

Kitana turns away from a window.

KITANA
They're not far behind. What should we do?

SONYA
(bitter)
What does it matter? We lost. It's over. Rayden's plan didn't work --

JAX
-- We trusted you, man! And what happens? You took us on a goddamned wild goose chase!

LIU
(to Rayden)
I don't understand. You were advised by the Elder Gods.

Rayden extracts the projectile, grimacing no doubt as much from the physical pain as the anguish in his heart.

RAYDEN
(hard to admit)
The Gods lied to me.

Kitana kneels down beside Rayden to help him dress his wound by tearing off strips of his shirt stave the flow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KITANA
(incredulous)
How could that be, Rayden?

RAYDEN
(humbled)
My faith was blind. I have failed you all.

JAX
Hey, to hell with your Gods! And Immortals and all that crap! I say the only ones we can trust from here on out are humans. Nobody else.
(beat)
Not even Rayden.

KITANA
(angry)
Look at him! He's mortal now just like you.

SONYA
That's even worse -- how do we stop Kahn now?

All eyes fall upon Rayden.

RAYDEN
There is more to this than Kahn. If Sindel was not the key to the Portal, Kahn had to have help.

Sonya spots the STRANGE TATTOO now revealed on Rayden's stomach. The same marking we saw on Cyrax and Mileena.

SONYA
(points it out)
That tattoo. I've seen it before. On a robot. And a woman. Both tried to kill me ...

JAX
(finishes her thought)
... and both of them worked for Kahn.

The others gather around, confounded by this revelation. All staring down at Rayden.

LIU
(doesn't want to believe)
What does this mean, Rayden? Was it <u>you</u> who helped Kahn ... who led us into this trap?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

Rayden just stares at his tattoo for a moment, then looks up at the others with revelation in his eyes.

RAYDEN
Yes. It was me who led you into this trap ... but I did so unknowingly.

With a struggle, Rayden hauls himself to his feet. He's putting all the pieces of the puzzle together now.

RAYDEN
This tattoo is a family crest, endowed by my father to my brother and I. It alone allows safe passage between realms for the bearer and his passengers.

KITANA
If it belongs to your family, how does Kahn's side have them, too?

Rayden actually appears excited with his powers of deduction.

RAYDEN
Because my father is one of the Elders Gods and only they can bestow such a marking.

SONYA
Your dad's an Elder God!? You failed to mention that before.

RAYDEN
It should not have mattered. Inside the Eternal Palace, they all appear the same. Don't you see? It was my father who lied to me!
(bottom line)
He knew I would trust the Gods.

LIU
Why would your father betray you and choose Kahn?

RAYDEN
Because Liu, power is the most important thing to my father. But he always wanted to keep it in the family. And he knew I wouldn't join him.

JAX
Are you telling me Shao Kahn ... is your brother!?

CONTINUED: 3

RAYDEN
It is the only explanation.

A shocking, horrific conclusion. Its impact is seen on the faces of all the others. This is completely devastating!

FLASHBACK - CASTLE YUNG

Teenage Rayden and his handsome older brother, GAYLEN, fight in the middle of an empty hall. They are both wearing the family colors and crests (seen earlier as tattoos).

RAYDEN (V.O.)
Our father decreed that his heir to the family throne must be strong enough to kill even his own brother if necessary.

Gaylen taunts Rayden as they spar. Even at this young age, Rayden appears calm, cool and collected. His brother is the opposite, fiery and impatient. This fight is seen as a straightforward, traditional martial arts match.

RAYDEN (V.O.)
His given name was Gaylen, and he believed the family crown to be his. So did my father.

Shinnok -- seen now as their tyrannical father -- watches the fight from his throne. Seen as a mere mortal now, Shinnok appears cold and aloof. A formidable presence who smiles every time Gaylen lands a serious blow to Rayden.

RAYDEN (V.O.)
I had no intention of killing my own brother. Still, I would not concede defeat.

A flying kick by Rayden sends Gaylen crashing into a wall of weapons. This brings a scowl from Shinnok. Furious, Gaylen arms himself with a spiked mallet and comes after his brother.

Rayden cleverly uses Gaylen's momentum against him and sends him sprawling. Standing over his wounded brother, Rayden picks up the mallet. He cannot deliver the death blow.

With a heavy heart, Rayden drops the mallet and walks away. Gaylen howls in shamed defeat. Shinnok hurls a blazing ENERGY BLAST at his face which causes us to:

BACK TO TAJ MAHAL

Rayden concludes his story staring beyond the others, visibly saddened by the vivid memory.

RAYDEN
Gaylen was left permanently scarred for his shame. For my 'weakness', I was banished to the Earth Realm.

LIU
For not killing your brother?

RAYDEN
To my father, Earth was a pitiful world for the weak. Whatever became of my brother, I did not know. Until now.

JAX
(shakes head)
Man, you got one dysfunctional family.

THE ENTIRE TURRET LIFTS ANOTHER FEW FEET INTO OUTWORLD!

Creaking and groaning as the two worlds merge closer to union. All our heroes brace themselves for the worst.

KITANA
Our time is almost up.

RAYDEN
Kitana's right. And only one thing is certain: Kahn must die.

LIU
This time you're going to kill him?

RAYDEN
I could not then, I cannot now.
(bottom line)
I can do no more for you.

The group is stunned. Rayden continues over to the window, looks out into the forest, checking for Outworld Warriors.

LIU
(demanding)
So what do we do?

RAYDEN
(to the group)
You will do your best. That is all that can be expected.

With that, Rayden climbs out the window before anyone even has a chance to protest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

After a few moments of despairing silence are broken when Sonya hears sounds outside the window. Peeking out, she sees a splinter group of Outworld Warriors approaching.

SONYA
They're coming!

JAX
We're screwed! Totally screwed!

The group degenerates into AD LIBBED confusion and fear. Nobody knows what to do, who to turn to. Except Liu.

LIU
Listen to me!
(has their attention)
I don't know if I'm ready ... but with your help, we can take our best shot at Kahn.

As the sound of approaching Outworld Warriors echoes in the woods, all eyes focus on Liu. Kitana steps forward, right up to Liu.

KITANA
If you believe in yourself Liu, then I believe in you, too.

Liu hesitates a moment, looks to all of them. The others nod their agreement to Kitana's vote of confidence.

LIU
Together we can do this.

EXT. BLACK FOREST - TAJ MAHAL - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

From a perch outside, a hidden Rayden watches Liu leading our heroes out the back window and deeper into the woods. Rather than appearing worried, Rayden smiles.

Several of the Outworld Warriors spot the motion of our escaping heroes. One of them blows a BATTLE HORN which brings the other splinter groups of warriors over to the Taj Mahal. But before they can pursue Liu and the others ...

Rayden flips off the turret and lands directly in front of the mob.

With three quick kicks, Rayden takes out several warriors.

RAYDEN
That was fun.

Enraged, the Warriors take off after Rayden, forgetting all about Liu and the others.

INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - WAR ROOM - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

A vicious backhand sends Jade sprawling across the table, scattering maps and attack plans.

Rolling to her knees, Jade feels the blood oozing from her lip as she glares hatefully up at Shao Kahn.

JADE
(cold steel)
It was not my fault. I did everything you ordered.

Kahn walks around the massive table where Queen Sindel, Motaro, Ermac and other henchmen are seated. **ERMAC** ... appears like a traditional masked ninja, only in red ...

KAHN
Your job was to lure them to an ambush. If they escaped, then you failed me.

Kahn looms over her now, a terrifying presence.

JADE
(desperate)
They saw your men coming too soon. We could never have stopped them alone.

QUEEN SINDEL
Listen to her. She speaks the truth. We would have died trying.

KAHN
(enraged; to Sindel)
You! You are already dead!
(to Jade)
And you. Could be soon.

With a powerful hand, Shao Kahn grabs Jade by the neck and lifts her off the ground. Her shrill scream is reduced to a choked gurgle as Kahn strangles her to within a breath of death ... before throwing her to the floor where she gasps for air.

Kahn now whirls around to face his other lieutenants, specifically Sindel.

KAHN
You will mount a defense around my newest temple! Prepare for Rayden to make one last attack!

QUEEN SINDEL
You said Rayden was no longer to be feared.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

His anger erupting, Kahn grabs and flips the massive table over. Motaro and Ermac jump away in time, but Sindel is thrown over backwards and pinned by the table.

KAHN
I am to be feared! For if you fail me now, I will feed your rotting corpse to the worms.

Kahn storms out of the war room, leaving his lieutenants alone. Ermac snickers, low and raspy.

ERMAC
'Long Live the Queen' no longer.

MOTARO
Ermac's right. Your hallowed position atop the wormpile appears most tenuous.

Motaro trots over to Sindel's side. She starts to extricate herself from the unbearably heavy table, but Motaro steps down on her hair with one of his hooves.

MOTARO
Now <u>your</u> failure will be <u>our</u> opportunity.

More insidious snickering from Ermac.

INT. KAHN'S FORTRESS - GRAND HALL - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

Kahn strides into the grand hall, his magnificent paen to himself, and slumps into his throne. Hand on chin, he contemplates his own demise.

SHINNOK (O.S.)
You have underestimated Rayden and his humans again.

Startled, Kahn rises to see his father emerging from the shadows, never stepping clearly into the light.

KAHN
Everything is under control. I have ordered Sindel --

SHINNOK
-- If you think yourself to be the ruler of all realms, <u>you</u> must be the one who stops them!

KAHN
You are an Elder God! Sway the balance in our favor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shinnok gets right in Kahn's face, almost causing his son to cower under the force of his father's words.

SHINNOK
You fool! I have concealed everything from them so far. We cannot risk their involvement.

KAHN
(hesitant)
What ... does this mean?

SHINNOK
It means our destiny now lies in your hands alone.

Kahn considers this. Clearly worried, yet hardly incapable. Finally, he says with stern resolve:

KAHN
Then they will die. I will not disappoint you, father.

SHINNOK
If you do, it will be the last time.

EXT. EIFFEL TOWER - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

The familiar architecture juts like a piece of broken glass through the awful doom of Outworld.

Liu, Sonya, Jax and Kitana pass the defiled tower. They stop a moment, staring at it, silent and stone-faced. Their eyes tell us they are ready to meet their fate, whatever it may hold. Finally:

SONYA
There's so little time left.

KITANA
Whatever time we have, we must use well.

JAX
Are we really ready to die here?

LIU
If we die, we will die in battle. Together.

The group acknowledges their collective destiny as ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Liu takes the first steps, leading the others ahead to the scene of their inevitable confrontation with Shao Kahn. Incredibly, another familiar Earth structure has breached the realms. It is the Greek Parthenon!

INT. PARTHENON - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

Even more so than on Earth, the impressive structure has been degraded by its appearance here. Its once glorious marble columns are now cracked and crumbling. It has been blackened by the soot from a hundred fires, and eons of spider webs hang from the ceiling.

In the middle of this decay sits Kahn, surrounded by Sindel, Motaro, Ermac and the others. In the shadows, WE SEE Shinnok who cocks his head to the side, sensing something. He nods to Kahn who stands, and announces:

KAHN
I hear my army coming ... herding the mortals to their doom.
(to Sindel)
Prepare for the final battle!

EXT. PARTHENON - OUTWORLD - DAY

Liu leads the others surreptitiously around to an approach. From here, they can see Kahn and his group at the top, inside. As they ascend the Parthenon steps towards their destiny, each fighter's eyes burn with the fire of confidence and the adrenaline of know this might be the end. They speak looking straight ahead, unblinking.

LIU
Shao Kahn is mine.

KITANA
I will take my mother.

JAX
(re: Motaro)
Dibs on Mister Ed.

SONYA
(re: Ermac)
Leftovers again.

Now, both groups -- Liu's and Kahn's -- hear a ROAR. It's a familiar sound, belonging to one of Kahn's ruthless Extermination Squads.

As everyone looks in the direction of the sound, WE SEE the prey of the Outworld army. On the other side of the Parthenon, it's:

RAYDEN!

Pursued by hundreds of Shokans, Centaurs, and Nomads. A terrifying Army of Darkness. They chase Rayden to the Parthenon stairs.

BACK TO LIU & THE OTHERS

Liu is clearly relieved to come to this realization:

LIU
Rayden didn't abandon us. We were outnumbered.
(beat)
He saved us.

Liu rushes to help Rayden. His friends follow. But Liu halts when he sees:

SHINNOK

Appearing on the steps in front of Rayden, halting his ascent. With a single, commanding hand gesture, Shinnok signals the Extermination Squad to stop its chase. Rayden climbs a few steps higher, meets his father face-to-face.

SHINNOK
So good of you to join us, <u>son</u>. In less than one hour, the 'Merger of Realms' will be complete.

RAYDEN
Father, this does not have to happen. You alone have the power now to end this --

SHINNOK
-- Stop! I do not want to remember you this weak.

RAYDEN
It is not weak to care and to value life.

SHINNOK
I offer you one final chance to return to my side, Rayden. To rule all realms with your family.

It is with sadness that Rayden sees that his father is unredeemable.

RAYDEN
(indicates mortals)
This is my family.

CONTINUED:

SHINNOK
(snarls)
Then you shall die with the rest of your pathetic human race!

With that, Shinnok waves on the Extermination Squad. When he turns on his heels and starts back up the stairs, Rayden runs and fearlessly flips himself into a towering column which already stands precariously at the edge of the stairs!

The mortals watch in awe as the decaying, black marble cracks and topples, busting into boulder-sized pieces that avalanche down the stairs, crushing all the warriors in their path!

But Rayden himself is carried along in the debris, and struck by one of the pieces. He goes down hard, crushed.

LIU
Rayden!

Liu alone rushes to his dying mentor. Rayden's chest heaves, struggling for air. Still, he manages a smile.

RAYDEN
You have passed your final test, Liu. You are ready now.

LIU
But I failed the second test.

RAYDEN
No. The second test was love. Passed when you remained loyal to Kitana. The third test, faith. Which you found in yourself when you stepped forward to face Kahn.

LIU
(emotional)
You cannot die.

RAYDEN
I am proud to die ... a mortal ... like you.

Rayden's life-force visibly expires in front of Liu. A beat. Then Liu, his eyes focused with anger, whirls back to face the others. He marches up the stairs with invincible certainty, past his friends and directly towards:

LIU
Kahn!

Kahn steps out from behind a column.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

KAHN
Today is the beginning of the end.
(to his leaders)
Show them the way to oblivion.

Sindel leads Motaro and Ermac to intercept Jax, Kitana and Sonya. As planned, they square off:

Jax takes on Motaro. Strength against brute strength.

Kitana fights Sindel. Mother and daughter to the death.

Sonya battles Ermac. Feminine wiles versus paranormal ninja powers.

Liu faces Jade, icy intensity narrowing his eyes, ready for battle.

OVERHEAD VIEW

The final battle has begun. And within the Parthenon's arena-like setting, each warrior circles his opponent, feeling out the other's strength and weakness.

JAX/MOTARO

All of Motaro's awesomely brutal special moves (kicks, sweeps and projectiles) are incorporated here. Jax uses missiles, bionic rushes and ground smashes. When he gets too close, though, Jax is leg whipped by Motaro's lethal tail.

Angered, Jax pounds the ground, rocking the entire Parthenon with a single fist. Temporarily stunned, Motaro gets pummeled by Jax with kicks and punches --

-- Jax gets too close, though, and is snatched up by the centaur and flung into a column. Upon impact one of his arm enhancers BUSTS into a dozen pieces. Jax panics. Motaro senses his weakness.

MOTARO
You are afraid. For you only have you now ...

Reeling in sudden self-doubt, Jax finds himself backed up against a wall as Motaro advances.

MOTARO
Without your weapons you are no match for Motaro!

There is a moment of indecision, then Jax rips off the other one, too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He revels in the feel of his own muscles and a newfound sense of inner confidence.

JAX
Hey, I got everything I need to take you down right here.

Freed of the metal devices, Jax seems to surge with adrenalin and newfound confidence.

JAX
Time to put your ass out to pasture.

As Jax flips at Motaro and launches into a barrage of powerful martial arts moves ...

KITANA/SINDEL

On the uneven marble steps, Kitana and Sindel flip over one another, trading blows. Kitana, because she remains so focused, gains the upperhand with a gut-wrenching five hit combo. Sindel only cackles sarcastically:

QUEEN SINDEL
Is this any way to treat your mother!?

KITANA
My mother is dead.

QUEEN SINDEL
And soon will be her daughter!

Kitana avoids Sindel's high-heeled swing kick, but misses with a counter strike when Sindel levitates --

-- Kitana takes a kick in the face from an airborn Sindel!

SONYA/ERMAC

Sonya jumps back, attempting to get away from one of Ermac's flip punches! They engage in a blindingly fast martial arts fight on the steps that sees both fighters repeated blows --

-- Sonya takes notice of which step she's on, then ducks a kick and rolls down a step to set up Ermac for her spectacular "Upward Bicycle Kick" move!

This only angers Ermac, who miraculously splits into two separate fighters: Ermac and **NOOB SAIBOT** ... an identical ninja, only dressed in black. Now it is two against one. They come at Sonya with a warp speed barrage of punches --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- Sonya cannot move fast enough to avoid the assault! Suddenly, she finds herself backed up against a column. On the ropes and clinging to consciousness.

SONYA
JAX ...!
(takes all her strength)
Help!

Seeing that Sonya is in dire straits, Jax finds within him the resolve to finally close with Motaro, who tries to headbutt --

-- Jax dodges the move and grabs one of his horn, swinging himself up onto Motaro's back.

JAX
Gotcha!

Once he has Motaro in his clutches it's all over for the general. Strangling Motaro with his powerful legs, Jax simultaneously pummels him with his own arms. Each punch is harder than the last, finally bringing the beast to the ground in a defeated heap.

Jax rushes down the steps to help Sonya. He confronts Noob Saibot with a triple kick, quickly finishing him with a crushing shoulder slam.

JAX
Finish him!

Sonya gathers up her strength, and finishes Ermac off with a super brutal, from-her-ankles uppercut!

JAX
You okay, girl?

SONYA
(somewhat sarcastic)
I didn't really need your help --

JAX
-- But you asked. And that means we're partners. For real now.

SONYA
(accepts this)
So you ready to help Kitana ... partner?

JAX
(smiles)
Now you're talkin'.

LIU KANG/JADE

Liu whipkicks Jade repeatedly. In between each kick:

LIU
That is for betraying me ...
That is for betraying Kitana ...
And this is for being the biggest bitch in world!

On the last kick, Jade tumbles down the steps, defeated.

Having finished Jade, Liu moves to take on Kahn. At this point, we are moving into the films most spectacular fight (special fx and fight moves).

LIU
That just leaves you and me, Kahn.

KAHN
Know this. Your death will be slow. For I want you to see the ruination of all you cherish.

Kahn spin kicks at Liu, knocking him down --

-- Liu returns the move, evening the score. Kahn's temper flares -- he tries to blast Liu with ENERGY PHOTONS, but Liu employs Rayden's acrobatic flip-kick and not only eludes the shots, he also lands another punishing blow on Kahn with two feet to his face!

After Liu scores a particularly jarring hit, Kahn uses both hands to blast Liu with everything he's got. Liu staggers, hurt badly.

KAHN
Pathetic and weak. Rayden has clearly molded you in his image.

Mercilessly Kahn keeps attacking Liu, weakening his body and spirit. Driven to his knees, Liu is nearly defeated.

CU - LIU'S EYES

Redden with fury. The pupils dilate in anger.

As Kahn lords over his wounded opponent, about to deliver the finishing blow, Liu's BODY MORPHS into a muscular, **BLACK DRAGON**. His animality. Fifteen feet high. Sharp, armored scales. Teeth the size of steak knives.

KAHN
Impressive! You come prepared. But not good enough ...

Kahn then MORPHS himself into a towering **SIX-HEADED HYDRA**. Nearly twice the size of the Dragon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Each oversized head -- held on six foot long necks -- boasts three green eyes and a ravenous mouth that opens impossibly wide.

The other fighters react to the sight of the two massive creatures center stage.

JAX
Now I've seen everything.

Meanwhile, the Dragon and the Hyrdra do battle. Spitting fire, whipping tails. It's a savage fight that climaxes when the Dragon boldly lunges, biting hard and severing one of the Hydra's necks --

-- In turn, the other five Hydra heads bite into the Dragon's torso!

Both screaming in agony, Kahn and Liu TRANSFORM BACK into their human forms. Each fighter, badly wounded both, staggers in pain away from the other.

Liu, with deep bite wounds all over his body, steps up and stands over Kahn, who is on his knees, trying to stop the bleeding from his neck wound.

LIU
Your blood flows, Kahn. Just like the blood of a ... <u>mortal</u>.

Shao Kahn rises, staggers toward Shinnok, who watches with defiantly crossed arms from the shadows.

KAHN
Father! How can this be!?

SHINNOK
I warned you there would be consequences for breaking the Sacred Rules!

KAHN
But how can I win this?

SHINNOK
(disgusted)
Are you so pathetic you can't even beat a worthless human?

LIU
(in charge)
Not this one.

Liu spins Kahn around and assaults him with a rapid-fire knee and elbow combination. Liu seems energized with the confidence he can truly win --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

-- But Kahn suckers Liu into a careless uppercut and surprises the fighter with a leg whip --

-- While Liu is down, he's ruthlessly kicked into submission.

KAHN
Nothing can alter your destiny -- or mine!

As Liu struggles to stay alive ...

KITANA/SINDEL

As Kitana is about to be killed by Sindel, Jax and Sonya intervene with a double-barreled attack!

When Kitana regains her senses she stops Jax and Sonya from finishing off her mother, who lies dazed and beaten on the ground.

KITANA
No. Let her see the end. Maybe it will give her soul peace.

Now, all three heroes, finished with their own battles, turn to watch the main event:

LIU KANG/SHAO KAHN

Barely escaping Kahn's clutches, Liu unleashes a torrid assault of his own. Quick punches and kicks in a fierce display of martial arts prowess.

Kitana, Sonya and Jax have moved closer to cheer him on:

JAX
Yeah! Kick his ass!

SONYA
No mercy!

KITANA
Finish him, Liu!

Every blow has just been a set up for a devastating spin kick that sends Kahn sprawling across the arena and landing at Shinnok's feet!

SHINNOK
Must I do everything for you!?

Disgusted, Shinnok is about to step in and help his faltering son --

CONTINUED:

-- but the two other ELDER GODS materialize behind him in their human forms. Together they create a cubical, blue ENERGY BARRIER around Shinnok, encaging him instantly.

ELDER GOD #1
For abusing your power, Shinnok, and breaking your Sacred Oath, you are banished to the Nether Realm.

ELDER GOD #2
Where you shall spend eternity imprisoned with the soulless dregs of existence.

Shinnok's cry is muffled by the energy barrier, which rapidly folds in on itself ... until it has disappeared!

ELDER GOD #1
The fate of the universe will now be decided as it should be.

ELDER GOD #2
In Mortal Kombat.

Kahn gets to his feet and once more tries to vanquish Liu. It is to no avail. Liu hauls a wobbly Kahn to his feet and unloads a series of punishingly accurate blows which Kahn tries in vain to block!

WITH EACH BLOW OUTWORLD "GLITCHES" WITH RIPPLES OF DISTORTION!

When Liu finishes Kahn with a devastating uppercut that sends Kahn high into the air --

-- the villain's body lands defeated on a Parthenon floor that ripples like liquid instead of stone. And in that instant, Outworld begins to UN-MERGE ... forming a horrific, grinding vortex all around and Kahn ...

KAHN
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!

... and literally tearing him apart as he's sucked into oblivion. As this happens, the icons of Earth magically sink back into the dirt. Even the Parthenon vanishes all around them.

Liu, bloody and battle weary, stands alone breathing hard. He feels a soft hand on his shoulder. Startled, he spins around. It's Kitana. Her smile says it all. There is no hesitancy in her actions: she rewards Liu for his uncommon valor with a lasting kiss. Interrupting this tender moment is a woman's voice:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

QUEEN SINDEL (O.S.)
Kitana? Darling ...?

Nearby, Sindel sits up from a prone position. She looks disoriented and groggy. Her skin has a normal pallor, the evil rasp now gone from her voice. Her royal beauty has been restored, along with her life.

KITANA
Mother?

Kitana rushes to her mother, pulls her up and into a loving embrace. It's a tearful reunion, one observed by a proud Liu.

KITANA
Mother!

QUEEN SINDEL
Finally ... I am freed of Kahn's hold on me.
(re: Liu)
Thanks to your brave friend.

Kitana invites a bashful Liu to join their reunion. Both mother and daughter drape their arms around their hero.

QUEEN SINDEL
For your heroism, I pledge my kingdom.

Liu basks in the glory of his newfound family.

KITANA
I will never forget this moment, Liu Kang.

Jax and Sonya join the trio.

JAX
Look like you're gonna get some tonight.

SONYA
(points)
Hey, what's up with that?

Nearby, the two Elder Gods kneel over Rayden's body muttering in an unfamiliar tongue. It's a bizarre ceremony. Rayden looks dead as a doornail.

Miraculously, however, his body begins to glow and, momentarily, his eyes flutter open. As he groggily sits up, the Elder Gods step back. Rayden now has the appearance of a hologram.

CONTINUED: 3

RAYDEN
Was I ... dead?

ELDER GOD #1
Yes.

RAYDEN
I was a mortal. Mortals cannot be reborn.

Liu and the others come over to observe.

ELDER GOD #2
No. But Elder Gods can be re-born.

RAYDEN
Elder Gods?

ELDER GOD #1
It is only right that Shinnok's son be allowed to replace him in the Eternal Palace.

ELDER GOD #2
Now you become one of us.

Rayden stands. His now shimmering spirit looks smilingly upon Liu, Kitana, Sonya, Jax and Sindel.

RAYDEN
I feel like a proud father ...

Everyone reacts, but clearly Liu is the one who takes this comment to heart.

RAYDEN
If only I could remember who your mothers were.
(wry smile)
Just kidding.

Rayden's wit dissipates the emotional tension of the moment for the mortals who clearly hate to see him go.

RAYDEN
I will be watching you all. So stay out of trouble. And stick together. You're a family now.

The three Elder Gods now DE-MATERIALIZE into wispy light streaks that shoot off into the sky. Jax turns to Sonya:

JAX
I gotta tell you, that was the longest week of my life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 4

SONYA
You know, I think we've finally earned some time off.

KITANA
Where should we go?

LIU
Since we've already seen every tourist spot on Earth in the last six days, how about we just stay here for a while?

Everyone laughs and smiles. For now, life is good again.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE NETHER REALM - PRISON - NIGHT

As WE PAN across the desolate landscape past the decaying remains of assorted species, we hear an eerie, chilling wind blowing across the vast emptiness.

We arrive at a towering, black prison fortress which rises to infinity, surrounded by seemingly endless black, onyx walls of immeasurable height --

-- KA-BAAAAAASH! A concussive explosion opens a gaping hole in the onyx wall, sending several Nether-dweller guards hurtling <u>right at the camera</u>! From inside the prison we hear the violent sounds of destruction ...

WE PUSH IN closer, through the gaping hole, past total devastation and Nether-dweller guards' bodies scattered everywhere. Out from the smoke strides:

SHINNOK

Ready for revenge. He turns back to see:

QUAN CHI ... a dangerous sorcerer ... bald and blue-skinned ... piercing red eyes masked by blue leather battle gear ...

This fearsome villain hurls another prison guard out the front entrance, then steps up to Shinnok's side.

SHINNOK
Together, Quan Chi, we are unstoppable.

The two villains share a mad, infernal laugh and, we:

FADE OUT.

<u>THE END</u>