

FADE IN:

Title Card: Year 2198 after the Great Planetary Exodus.
Number of inhabitants left on earth after move to Mars:
UNKNOWN.

EXT. THE BURNT FOREST - LATE AFTERNOON

Earth has been scarred with fire and famine. CAMERA MOVES across a ravaged forest of bare trees, charred and hewn. No greenery in sight --

On foot, **DR. AUGUSTUS WATERS, (32, African-American scientist, wears glasses)** and **GENERAL BRAWN(35, muscular soldier wearing all black uniform)** tread through the abandoned area --

Brawn patrols the vicinity holding an futuristic electronic gun called the AX 2000 while Augustus kneels on the ground, rummaging and sorting soil. He picks up a tiny sapling -- as soon as he raises it from the ground, it WITHERS across his fingertips.

BRAWN
(with slight hostility)
Let's go.

Augustus stands up, he and Brawn moving forward --

The two men move deeper into the DECAYED TERRAIN -- They mount a large dirt mound, soon viewing a horse graveyard - countless HORSE BONES stretched miles ahead.

BRAWN (CONT'D)
Do you still believe in God, Dr.
Waters?

AUGUSTUS
Now, more than ever.

BRAWN
(shaking his head)
That's a shame.

EXT. EARTH CAMP 4901 - LATE AFTERNOON

Brawn and Augustus walk toward a small, walled-in city. It is an eclectic mix of architecture - rustic buildings with a futuristic additions - mainly neoclassical, renaissance and Spanish colonial in style.

A few sleek but run-down skyscrapers. Rusty, silver, orb-shaped, dome buildings.

An old, bullet-shaped train, at a stand still, levitates over magnetized tracks --

The two reach within the city walls -- **RICARA DWABES (32, black, beautiful)** approaches Augustus while Brawn marches forward.

RICARA

What happened out there? Did you find anything?

Augustus shakes his head watching as Brawn joins a group of SOLDIERS who all heavily armed with black artillery.

AUGUSTUS

(solemnly)
No, we didn't.

RICARA

The seeds scattered months ago?

AUGUSTUS

Ricara, there's nothing there.

She starts to walk away but stops, returning. She moves closer.

RICARA

What are we going to write in the reports? We've been researching that fertilizer for months.

AUGUSTUS

It's inconclusive right now.

RICARA

It's *conclusive*, Augustus. Why don't you just admit it?

AUGUSTUS

Admit what?

RICARA

As a scientist, you're supposed to provide the facts!

AUGUSTUS

What do you want me to say? That the earth can't sustain life anymore?

(MORE)

AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

That's not my job as a scientist.
My job is to find solutions.

RICARA

Right, okay. Well, good luck with that. Maybe in fifty years, you'll solve that fucking problem --

AUGUSTUS

Ricara? Wait.

Augustus sighs as Ricara walks off.

INT. FOOD STORAGE UNIT - SAME

A tall room with thousands of small, plastic FOOD POUCHES. CLOSE ON a few pouches: Chicken Dinner, Lobster Bisque, Mixed Vegetables, and Spaghetti --

A SOLDIER, dressed in protocol attire, holds a huge iron shovel to the pile, scooping up food packs, placing them in a metal container attached to the wall. He shoves the container lid close.

FEMALE SOLDIER (V.O.)

(shouting)

Whose next?

EXT. FOOD STORAGE UNIT - SAME

CLOSE ON a rustic well and pump. The TAP is dry, extremely rusted. An ELDERLY MAN, 70, sits nearby, slumping over dehydrated --

A long line of Camp 4901 Residents wait near a nondescript building. Most FACES are dusty and tired. They are in line for their weekly food ration --

A ruddy-looking MOTHER and DAUGHTER step up next in line to receive a handful of food packets. The mother opens up a iron conical container, placing the packets inside.

MOTHER

What about our water ration?

The Female Soldier pulls out four tiny, circular PACKETS out of a RED BARREL.

FEMALE SOLDIER

Try not to go through these so quickly.

The Female Soldier watches as the mother places a packet in her child's mouth. The soldier seems affected but looks away.

INT. MILITARY BASE - SAME - OPERATIONS ROOM

LIEUTENANT MATTHIAS COLE, (60, gray-hair) stands among other OFFICERS looking at a DIGITAL MAP of the newly formed EARTH.

All of the earth's continents have been shifted together. Some continents, though missing large areas of land, are still distinguishable.

Brawn stands among the military officials - about six officers. Another officer, **GENERAL WALLACE, (40, well-built)** stands by.

GENERAL WALLACE

Lieutenant Cole, we've detected movement in the South West.

He points to a specific location on the map.

GENERAL WALLACE (CONT'D)

It could be another Earth camp.

LIEUTENANT COLE

Or it could be a pack of wild animals, for all we know.

BRAWN

All the animals are dead, Lieutenant, all due respect.

Brawn and Cole exchange a look.

LIEUTENANT COLE

If there is any *real* activity, let me be the first to know. Otherwise, I'm not putting my men on a deadly goose hunt for Earth Camps that haven't been detected for nearly over two decades.

The Lieutenant begins for the door.

LIEUTENANT COLE (CONT'D)

Sergeant Brawn, follow me.

EXT. MILITARY BASE - CONTINUOUS

Brawn and Cole stand side by side watching camp RESIDENTS walk through the streets and side corners.

LIEUTENANT COLE

Tell me, Sergeant, what are the scientists reporting?

BRAWN

The scientists have nothing to report.

LIEUTENANT COLE

Understood.

Brawn moves closer to the Lieutenant.

BRAWN

But my men and a few others have seen considerable movement South...Lieutenant, we can take another course of action. *If* there are other camps out there, I can organize long-term raids, get a few men --

Lieutenant Cole condescendingly pats Brawn on the chest.

LIEUTENANT COLE

Sergeant Brawn, quiet yourself. You, of all people, should know that our units are organized to protect life, not threaten it. Don't ever suggests an idea like that again.

Brawn watches as Cole walks off.

EXT. APARTMENT SKY RISE - NIGHT

A tall, sleek apartment building, fifty units high. LIGHTS on in a few of them.

INT. AUGUSTUS' APARTMENT - SAME

It's a small studio-style apartment with a spectacular view of city lights against the night sky.

A large, silver CROSS hangs on the wall. A blue couch faces the wide windows. Nearby, a sleeping cot --

Augustus stands over his kitchen sink, squeezing a dripper filled with liquid into a petri dish. He pulls a seed out of a container and places it in the dish. The seed begins to rapidly sprout, taking the form of a sapling. It sits there in the dish.

AUGUSTUS

There you are --

Augustus compares the very real sapling with one he sees in a large textbook. It's the picture of a corn plant --

Augustus places the written label "corn" on the petri dish -- He sets the petri dish next to a few other plants that sits on the window sill. All of them are wilted and dying. The new one is a ray of hope, even if it's for a short while. He SIGHS --

A LOUD RINGING in his ear, Augustus kneels to the ground, holding his head, taking off his glasses.

AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Ahhh.

BATHROOM

A white narrow space with bright lights. Augustus turns the dial down on the dimmer, the light darkens --

He quickly opens the mirror compartment, revealing shelves of prescriptions. He takes down one, closing the compartment --

He pops a pill in his mouth and dry swallows -- then washes his face though the water is orange and rusty.

Augustus' face is in distress, but this isn't his first migraine.

INT. CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL - MORNING

A group of RELIGIOUS PEOPLE assemble in the sanctuary. **FATHER KENT (80, priest)** stands before the SCANTY congregation, holding up a Bible.

FATHER ETHAN

We have faced the last days, the worse of our times... and yet there may be even greater trials to come. But shall the thought of this deter our faith? Shall we be torn down or destroyed in who we are or in what we believe? I say 'not a chance,' for the trying times can only make us more of *who* we are - and we are strong and resilient and we are *alive*.

Ethan scans the faces in the pews, his eyes falling upon Augustus who stands in the back near the door.

FATHER KENT
Thanks be to God.

EXT. EARTH CAMP 4901 - DAY

A group of BOYS kick a soccer ball around the rubble. There's no form of plant life, only dry, hard dirt.

Ethan and Augustus walk the dusty streets.

FATHER ETHAN
I haven't seen you in the sanctuary
for a while.

AUGUSTUS
I've been working a lot, Father.

FATHER ETHAN
I imagine the great white halls of
knowledge and discovery have you
quote occupied.

AUGUSTUS
(smiling)
You make my line of work sound
lofty.

Augustus shows Father Ethan his dirty hands and nails.

AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)
It is not at all.

FATHER KENT
Hmmm. Such blessed hands, brother
Augustus.

The two stop to watch the boys play.

AUGUSTUS
Father, I'm afraid I'm not much use
to this camp.

FATHER KENT
Is that why you're here? For
encouragement?

AUGUSTUS
No...

Augustus turns to face Father Kent.

AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)
I need to speak to you, Father
Kent.

FATHER KENT
What is it?

AUGUSTUS
I uhm...I had slight vision.

Father Kent narrows his eyes at Augustus.

FATHER KENT
What vision? What did you see?

AUGUSTUS
I saw...I saw only light.

FATHER KENT
This is the first vision you've
had...

AUGUSTUS
Yes, since my father's passing.

FATHER KENT
Then when the light comes again,
answer it.

A stray BALL soars and lands in front of Augustus. An ASIAN BOY (11) run over to the two men, though maintaining a distance.

AUGUSTUS
I don't want to see visions
anymore, Father Kent.

Father Kent kicks the ball back over the to Asian Boy.

FATHER KENT
You can try to suppress the voice
of God, Augustus, but you cannot
escape it. Even your father knew
that.

Augustus watch as the Asian Boy kicks over the ball to the other Children.

INT. HOSPITAL - SAME

DOCTOR EMILY COLE, (40, beautiful) walks through the emergency doors with her clipboard in hand --

MALE VOICE (O.C.)
 (groaning)
 Ahhhh. Ahhhh.

An HISPANIC MOTHER holds her TEENAGER's hand as he lays in the hospital bed with a BROKEN ARM. The boy continues to MOAN as he writhes in pain. Emily begins to check the boy's vitals.

EMILY
 What happened?

MOTHER
 My son was playing in the streets.

The boy bites down on his lip, trying to hold back the painful expressions. Emily pulls out a small black case and extracts a needle. She then proceeds to insert it into the boy's arm as he takes deep breaths.

She turns to an approaching MALE NURSE.

EMILY
 Take him to room 94 and put a stint
 around it. Then use a spray cast.
 (to the mother)
 Your son will be fine. I promise.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS - WARD

Emily examines a CHILD PATIENT (7, little girl) who lies in a hospital bed. She's suffering from severe malnutrition just like the OLDER PATIENTS next to her.

A NURSE touches Emily from behind.

NURSE
 You have company, Doctor.

Emily looks back. It's Lieutenant Cole who glances at the child ahead.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS - EMILY'S OFFICE

Emily sits at her work desk, which is filled with paperwork. Lieutenant Cole relaxes his tall military posture as he stands in front of her.

EMILY
 I haven't seen you for weeks.

LIEUTENANT COLE

I've been a little busy with the military units.

EMILY

Too busy to see your own daughter?

LIEUTENANT COLE

I'm here now.

EMILY

Yes, after eons and eons of time has passed. Which forces me to ask the question: Why are you here, Lieutenant?

Cole shifts and sits in the seat in front of her.

LIEUTENANT COLE

Emily...you know the situation is absolutely dire.

(a beat)

So, I'm leading an expedition to the North and need to assemble a team of doctors.

EMILY

The North is flood zone.

LIEUTENANT COLE

Not anymore. We've had reports of land... possibly fertile.

EMILY

It's going to be dangerous. The camp can't afford to lose our best.

LIEUTENANT COLE

Emily, listen. If we stay, we die. If we venture, we die.

(sighing)

In five months, your malnutrition cases will sky-rocket. Most of them with rare symptoms. The elderly and children will suffer the most. You know that. Something must be done.

Emily swallows hard, exhaling.