Battle of the Planets

by

Jonathan Garland

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INT. MECHA

We're in a room - fluorescent lighting; lots of shadow; metal walls; and not too big. Think space station. There are several uniformed and masked men here but the one that has our attention is on his knees. The kneeling figure has a more personalised uniform, and is clearly a person of importance. Equally clearly, he's done something very wrong. As our POV circles the room, we hear a voice.

ZOLTAR

(Chinese, subtitled)
You have an opportunity to correct your error. Do not disappoint me.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)
Forgive me, lord, but is it wise to reveal ourselves in this manner?

ZOLTAR

(Chinese subtitled)
If those documents are not recovered, we face certain defeat. This action is necessary because of your failure.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)
I will intercept the package before our enemies, lord, I promise you.

The mysterious voice is revealed to come from a masked figure on a viewscreen. This is ZOLTAR, the Spectra commander.

ZOLTAR

(Chinese subtitled)
Go now. Strike the first blow in the war to come. Then we will rain destruction upon our enemies. Go!

The assembled soldiers cheer and move to exit. Camera slides up as the music starts. As we rise through the ceiling we find we're underwater. CREDITS begin. We break the surface, with a spectacular lens flare, to the fanfare of the BATTLE OF THE PLANETS THEME and begin traveling over the sea surface while credits run. As CREDITS END, we arrive at a shoreline, where a circus big top is the center of a carnival.

EXT. CARNIVAL -- DAY

We're in the sideshow area, with hundreds of people playing games, buying candy and generally enjoying themselves. A young man enters the frame. Meet MARK. He's about 20 years old, lithe, fit and handsome. The guy every girl wants to date and every mother wants to adopt. He's blending in, but he's looking for something as he strolls. He walks up to a man eating fairy floss on a stick. Meet TINY.
About the same age as Mark, this guy has muscles on his muscles. He's not bulky, though. He's supple, like a dancer or martial artist.

MARK
That stuff rots your teeth, you know.

TINY
It's a carnival. You're supposed to eat candy.

MARK
You're taking this undercover thing a bit far, aren't you?

TINY
I never get to do any field work. Don't spoil my fun.

MARK
See anything?

TINY
Nada. Looks like the place is clean.

MARK
I'll go make the exchange. You keep an eye out here.

TINY
Sure. I think I'll go check out that military display.

MARK
No playing with tanks today, okay?

TINY
It's an APC, and I just want to look. Killjoy.

TINY heads off, munching his fairy floss. We follow MARK, as he enters the big top.

INT. BIG TOP -- DAY

A group of teenage girls push past him, and there are some glances and giggles. MARK smiles. The girls smile back. In the group is AGGIE. She's 19, pretty and very self-possessed. We'll meet her later.

A news crew is shooting footage of the circus.

REPORTER
This is only the second time the circus has been in this country, and it's the first visit for the world-renowned aerialist troupe, the Chinese Falcons.
The act in the ring is the trapeze. Among the troupe is a young Chinese boy, maybe 11 years old. This is KEYOP. We marvel at his acrobatics. He concludes a particularly spectacular move and the crowd cheers. KEYOP acknowledges them, and then waves, boy-like, to an old Chinese man hawking foodstuffs ringside. The old man waves back, proudly. MARK sees the old man and begins to move his way.

EXT. CARNIVAL -- DAY

TINY is looking over an APC. A young army lieutenant comes up to him. This is JASON. Like MARK, he's about 20 and a good looking chap. The difference is, JASON has a swagger that tells you he knows it.

    JASON
    Nice piece of hardware, isn't she?

    TINY
    I'll say.

    JASON
    Want to check out the driver's seat?

    TINY
    You bet.

TINY gets in, lovingly handling the controls.

    JASON
    Feels good, doesn't she? How would you like to drive one of these?

    TINY
    That would be sweet.

    JASON
    This is the life for you, big fella, trust me. Solid pay, career job, and you get to operate this baby all year round.

    TINY
    Not bad. But I've got my eye on something a little larger.

    JASON
    What did you have in mind?

There is a thunderous crash, and then the screaming starts. Out of the ocean lumbers an enormous MECHA, squat and four-legged, crushing everything in its path as it heads for the big top. The soldiers mill about uncertainly.

    SERGEANT
    Skipper?

    JASON
    Crowd control. Evacuate civilians.
Given direction, the SERGEANT hustles his men into action. TINY talks into his wrist communicator.

    TINY
    Mark? We've got a problem.

INT. BIG TOP -- DAY

    MARK
    What is it?

    TINY (O.S.)
    I don't know, but it's big and headed your way.

The crowd, already nervous from the noise outside, panics as the head of the MECHA pushes into the tent. A ramp opens and Spectra soldiers pour out.

    REPORTER
    Holy shit! Gordon, get this on tape. Get it!

The cameraman shoots the action. The soldiers are shooting to intimidate.

    SUBCOMMANDER
    (Chinese, subtitled)
    There! Get him!

He's pointing at the old Chinese man. Soldiers grab him and haul him to SUBCOMMANDER.

    MARK
    Uh-oh.

MARK tries unsuccessfully to get through the stampeding crowd. Looking around, he takes to the stands and starts acrobatically leaping towards the captive. KEYOP looks down from the trapeze.

    KEYOP
    (Chinese, subtitled)
    Grandfather?

The SUBCOMMANDER searches through the old man's food tray. With a triumphant look, he hold up a canister – the stolen documents.

    SUBCOMMANDER
    (Chinese, subtitled)
    Your son has betrayed Spectra. He will be punished. And it begins with the death of his father. Shoot him.

A soldier (known from this point forward as CIRCUS SOLDIER) shoots the old man.

    KEYOP
    (Chinese, subtitled)
    GRANDFATHER!
Reaction from MARK. Reaction from AGGIE in the crowd.

REPORTER

Oh, shit!

KEYOP, in a series of acrobatic moves, leaps down from his vantage point to his grandfather's body. The old man is dead. CIRCUS SOLDIER tries to grab KEYOP. Not a good idea. KEYOP is enraged, and kicks him in the head. We will recognise this soldier for the rest of the film by the dent in his mask. KEYOP begins to lay into the soldiers. He's outnumbered and out of his weight class, but the kid is nimble and has some serious martial arts training.

MARK is mowing through soldiers, trying to reach the SUBCOMMANDER. He's also got some kung-fu magic going on. KEYOP is seized and about to be shot. MARK looks at the SUBCOMMANDER, looks at KEYOP, and hesitates.

MARK

Nuts!

MARK makes his choice. He moves to help the boy. But he's too far away. He'll never make it in time. KEYOP looks into the muzzle of a weapon.

CIRCUS SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Say hello to your grandfather.

That's all he gets out before he's flattened by a slim whirlwind - AGGIE has joined the fight. She's a whirling dervish. It's like a ballet, but broken soldiers fly in every direction. The distraction allows KEYOP to free himself, and MARK reaches them at the same moment. Now there are three against the mob.

AGGIE

Friends of yours?

MARK

Who are you?

AGGIE

Just a girl looking for a good time.

MARK

You must be hell in the mosh pit.

There's a lull as the soldiers draw back, weapons in hand.

SUBCOMMANDER

Spectra does not tolerate interference. This is only the first blow. Soon you will feel our fist.

AGGIE

I've got your fist right here, jerk!
SUBCOMMANDER
Such arrogance. You are a flea biting at an elephant.

MARK
Fleas have a way of irritating you.

SUBCOMMANDER
Prepare to be scratched.
(Chinese, subtitled)
Eliminate them!

There is a crash as the APC bursts into the tent, TINY at the controls, JASON on top.

JASON
I'm afraid I'll have to impound your vehicle for illegal parking.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Withdraw!

JASON leaps into the enemy ranks and starts laying about. His style is part kickboxing, part brawling, and all effective. Soldiers gather their wounded and swarm up the ramp and the MECHA starts to withdraw. TINY tries to ram the APC up the ramp, but it doesn't slow the MECHA, which escapes into the sea.

AGGIE is holding KEYOP, who is crying over his grandfather.

AGGIE
Why?

MARK
Because they can. And I don't think it's going to get better any time soon.

He's talking about KEYOP. TINY alights from the APC, which is now sporting several dents.

JASON
You know, the army will expect you to take better care of your vehicle than that.

TINY
Is that going to come out of my insurance policy?

JASON
Who are you people? What the hell is going on here?

MARK
We're the good guys. They were the bad guys.
JASON
Show me some ID, or I'm taking charge of the scene.

MARK
It's all yours. The camera is over there.

MARK steps back as the REPORTER comes looking for an interview. JASON suddenly looks worried.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

We're watching a monitor, on which a news report is showing footage from the attack. JASON is trying to answer questions.

JASON
Er... no, the attack was... uh... they were obviously well organised, and...

REPORTER
Who were the attackers?

JASON
Well, they... uh... I... I'm afraid I'm not at liberty to reveal that information at this time.

REPORTER
What did they want?

JASON
What they wanted... was... uh... I'm sorry, I can't answer any more questions. Thank you.

JASON pushes away from camera. The news report cuts to footage from the fight.

REPORTER (V.O.)
As you can see, the massive metal leviathan disgorged dozens of men in unknown uniforms, who shot and killed one man and may have injured scores of others, if not for the heroic actions of these young people.

Click. The footage freezes. The remote is being operated by CHIEF ANDERSON, a middle-aged man with a neat moustache and deep, intelligent eyes.

ANDERSON
Not exactly the low profile we were hoping for.

MARK
I'm sorry.
ANDERSON
(waving it away)
We didn't know they were coming in force like that. And we certainly didn't expect that attack vehicle.

MARK
What next?

ANDERSON
Those documents would have been useful... no, don't apologise again. But we can make some assumptions even without them. Whoever Spectra are, and whatever they want, clearly they have access to high technology and their plans are large-scale.

MARK
They must be nearly ready to move, or they wouldn't have come out in the open like this.

ANDERSON
Which means we have to be ready for them.

MARK
G-Force? The technology isn't ready and we don't even have a team. What exactly do you suggest we do?

ANDERSON
(looking at monitor)
Recruit.

EXT. HELICOPTER -- DAY

AGGIE looks out the window as we fly over the ocean. JASON sits beside her, in army uniform. She looks at him, he smiles. He'd love to turn on the charm, but there's too much noise. We approach an island.

The helicopter lands. JASON and AGGIE get out and make their way to the building, where MARK waits.

AGGIE
I thought you'd be here.

MARK
Happy to see me?

JASON
(not)
Thrilled.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE -- DAY

The three walk through the building, past a big sign that reads INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE ORGANISATION.
MARK
Welcome to Centre Neptune. This is the US base of the International Science Organisation.

JASON
Doesn't look like much.

MARK
Most of the good stuff is underground. But before we do the tour, there's someone who wants to say hello.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY
KEYOP looks up as they come into the room, and his face lights up when he sees AGGIE. He rushes into her arms. She is just as happy.

AGGIE
Hey, little guy! I didn't know you were here.

MARK
He has no family in this country, so we're looking after him for the time being.

AGGIE
Are you all right?

KEYOP
Pretty lady.

She's embarrassed but pleased.

MARK
His English is poor and he hasn't said much, but half of what he does say is asking to see the "pretty lady" again.

AGGIE
I'm Agatha. Aggie. What's your name?

ANDERSON
His name is Kee Apngyu. And he's part of the reason you're here.

JASON
Why exactly are we here? It has something to do with that giant robot, doesn't it?

ANDERSON
Yes it does. I'm Michael Anderson, Security Chief for the International Science Organisation.

(MORE)
ANDERSON (CONT'D)
What I'm about to tell you is classified and is not to be repeated. Those soldiers were from an organisation called Spectra. We know almost nothing about them. They've shown up in several locations in the past year, recruiting or abducting soldiers and scientists, and making off with weapons and technology. Dr Kee Jianyu, an ISO scientist kidnapped by Spectra, tried to smuggle information to us. His father, the man who was killed three days ago, was the courier. Kee Apngyu is his son.

AGGIE
(hugging him)
Poor guy.

ANDERSON
We don't know what Spectra wants or where they'll strike next. We need to be ready for them when they do appear.

JASON
The military will take care of these goofballs when they stick their heads out again. That doesn't tell me what I'm doing here.

ANDERSON
The military has power, but they're slow to deploy. We need a small team that can react quickly. That's why you're here.

AGGIE is astonished.

AGGIE
Us? But you don't know anything about us!

MARK
Agatha June. Nineteen years old, science major, scored in the top one per cent of school leavers in the country. Gymnast, representing USA in international competition. Aikido black belt and competitive motorcross rider. And recently the face of a well-known cosmetics company.

JASON
Been surfing the web for a girlfriend, have you?
MARK
Superb marksman with a variety of weapons. Kickboxer and troublemaker. Disciplined four times for brawling. Former NASCAR driver, forced out of the sport for code violations. Described by his superiors as tactically decisive but with an inclination to ignore authority.

JASON
And who are you, boy scout?

ANDERSON
This is Mark Harris. Former FBI, now working for ISO security. He's a Tai Kwon Do black belt and a competitive aerobatics pilot. Won quite a few air races, too.

MARK smiles. AGGIE is impressed. JASON is nettled.

JASON
So you and Ace here think you can take on an army? Fat chance. You haven't got the manpower or the equipment.

ANDERSON
Let's go for a walk.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE HANGER -- DAY

ANDERSON, MARK, JASON, AGGIE and KEYOP exit an elevator into a large space that holds several large pieces of equipment and vehicles.

ANDERSON
This is some of the equipment we've been developing in conjunction with the military. Let me introduce you to one of our project leaders, Oliver Harper.

A group of scientists are gathered around a wind-tunnel-like chamber containing a model airframe. This is an experimental version of the PHOENIX. They're trying to get the transmutation to FIERY PHOENIX right, but they've got a few bugs to sort out yet. A figure turns around. It's TINY.

TINY
Call me Tiny.

JASON
Oh, no. You too?

TINY
One big happy family.
ANDERSON
Tiny helped develop and build several of the vehicles you see here.

AGGIE has been drawn to a vehicle which looks like a cross between a motorcycle and a snowmobile. In place of wheels, it has a single rubber track.

AGGIE
Wow.

TINY
She's a beauty, isn't she? Strengthened rubber track and battery powered electric engine will push her along at up to 90 miles an hour in almost any terrain. Road, dirt, snow, sand... wherever you want to go. Given enough speed, she can even cross water for short distances.

AGGIE
(trying it out)
I think I'm in love.

TINY
I think I'm heartbroken.

MARK coughs, pointedly.

TINY (CONT'D)
Oh, right. Okay, over here we've adapted the same technology into a double-treaded enclosed frame. We sacrificed speed for power, so this one's slower, but it can handle pretty much any kind of terrain, including underwater. Keyop's been helping us test her out, haven't you, short stuff?

KEYOP grins.

ANDERSON
Keyop?

TINY
Sorry, chief. I've given up trying to pronounce his name. He doesn't seem to mind.

KEYOP
Keyop help.

JASON
And you say the military actually helped fund this junk?
ANDERSON
We've reached an agreement with the military. But perhaps we can find something else more your style.

We round the corner and find the car. Low slung and lines that scream "speed".

TINY
This ought to make your heart flutter. Same electric motor, with reinforced suspension and chassis, and puncture-proof tyres. Lab tests have seen her top 300 miles an hour. How would you like to drive this at work every day?

JASON's practically salivating, but he won't give them the satisfaction.

JASON
Look, these toys are very interesting but they aren't going to do squat against an armed opponent.

TINY (grinning)
Watch this.

He leans into the car and presses something. The hood splits, exposing the chain gun.

TINY (CONT'D)
30mm chain gun. This will pump rounds through a tank. The other vehicles have their own weapon systems.

TINY moves to a nearby bench.

TINY (CONT'D)
And we've been working on a range of personal weapons as well. Modular handgun, high-tech bola and this...

He picks up a bird-like device and throws it. There is a high-pitched whine and the group cover their ears, staggering, except MARK, who catches the device as it returns to them.

TINY (CONT'D)
Sonic boomerang. Disrupts balance through the auditory canal. Sorry about that.

ANDERSON
We've been planning for this for some time, lieutenant.
JASON
Then you obviously have no idea how a unit works in the field. How do you expect a team to coordinate a rapid-response strike in these things?

TINY
With this thing.

He presses a button and a hangar door rises. There is the PHOENIX, in all her glory. The big, blue VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) jet shines majestically under the lights.

TINY (CONT'D)
I told you I had my eye on something bigger.

KEYOP
Pretty.

AGGIE
She certainly is.

MARK
The Phoenix will transport the team and all vehicles and equipment wherever they need to deploy. She can operate underwater, in atmosphere, or in vacuum for limited periods, though she's not a spaceship. On arrival, the team will assess the situation and react accordingly.

JASON
I suppose we get snazzy uniforms, too?

MARK
Funny you should ask...

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE LAB -- DAY
TINY is talking as they file in.

TINY
The Kevlar weave will practically stop a bullet and, with minor modification, it'll function as a wetsuit or spacesuit for limited periods. There's an inbuilt comm system and homing signal. But the best part is this polymer coating the lab cooked up. It actually increases airflow over the cape, creating an incredible lift coefficient.

AGGIE
You mean... Flight?
TINY
Well, glide, really, and only limited. There's a waist belt storage system for equipment, too. Batman never had it so good. Check this out.

TINY hauls something out of a cupboard. We can't see what the group is looking at.

JASON
You have got to be kidding.

REVERSE to reveal a very sorry-looking prototype uniform. It's a patchwork, miscoloured, wreck - bullet holes, scorch marks, tears and tatters.

TINY
Well, this is the prototype, obviously. We haven't had time to put the final versions together.

ANDERSON
Actually, Tiny, they were finished this morning.

This time, it's ANDERSON's turn to press the button. A wall panel slides back, and there are the uniforms. The eagle, the condor, the swan, the swallow and the owl. Brand new, sparkling... inspiringly heroic. AGGIE is moved by the beauty of her swan outfit. She touches it gently, feeling the fabric.

AGGIE
Why us? There must be dozens of people more qualified.

ANDERSON
There are other people who are qualified, but not more so. We want you on this team because you're an exceptional young woman, Miss June. You're a superb athlete, you have the skills to take care of yourself in a fight, and you have a brilliant scientific mind. But that's not the only reason.

He activates a monitor and we see the news footage again.

ANDERSON (CONT'D)
This news footage was seen all over the world, Miss June. Your face is known - your modelling work has seen to that. Spectra knows who you are and, because you were involved in the dispute last week, you're a potential target.
MARK
It isn't safe for you out there, Aggie. You need us as much as we need you.

On AGGIE - that's a sobering thought.

ANDERSON
There's one more reason, Miss June. I don't think our youngest member would be happy without you.

AGGIE looks at KEYOP, who grins.

KEYOP
Pretty lady.

JASON
What? You're putting this infant on a tactical team? Are you insane?

ANDERSON
Without information, we are operating in the dark. Keyop is the only one who has actually been close to Spectra, through his father. He's one of the best acrobats in the world and has been trained in the martial arts all his life. The group that attacked three days ago spoke Mandarin. Keyop understands that and several other eastern languages. We need him.

MARK
What about it, Aggie?

AGGIE
But... my science degree.

ANDERSON
You'll be part of the International Science Organisation. I think we can work something out.

AGGIE's out of excuses. And damn that battlesuit looks heroic.

AGGIE
It'll be dangerous, won't it?

MARK nods. AGGIE shares a look with KEYOP.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
Then I guess someone should be there to keep an eye on you.

They hug.
JASON
Are you out of your gourd? These
idiots are going to get you killed.
This isn't a fairy tale, Princess!

AGGIE
Don't call me Princess!

Stalemate.

JASON
Whatever. I'm out of here. You
might be able to convince Miss
Civic Duty, but you're not putting
me into one of those chicken suits.

MARK
Actually, you don't have a choice.

JASON
What?

ANDERSON hands JASON a letter.

ANDERSON
I told you that we'd reached an
agreement over funding this project.
The military agreed to help us
out, but only if they could put a
military member on the team. I
spoke to the Minister for Defense
and he signed the order two days
ago. Welcome to your new unit,
soldier.

JASON is stunned, then furious. He crumples the letter in
hand. Looking for an outlet for his frustration, he
swings a punch at the wall.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE GYM -- DAY

WHAM! JASON's punch lands on a heavy bag. We're in a
training area. It's got a high roof and several ropes and
platforms at various heights. This will get a workout
later. There's a weights area, where JASON is taking his
anger out with some exercise, and he's got a major sweat
up. After a few more blows with fists and feet, he leans
on the bag, exhausted.

TINY (O.S.)
You've got some serious aggro there,
soldier.

TINY is seated nearby, doing biceps curls.

JASON
You chose this. I didn't.

TINY shrugs. The silence lengthens.
JASON (CONT'D)
I mean, it's not like you're actually going to achieve anything with this little club of yours. A handful of kids? Come on.

TINY
So help us. You're the military expert.

JASON
In a regular unit, I could do some good. That's where I belong. Not nursemaiding the Partridge Family.

TINY
So why were you marking time at a recruiting display?

JASON doesn't have a good answer to that.

JASON
I don't answer to you.

TINY racks the bar.

TINY
No, you don't. It sounds like you don't answer to anyone. How's that working out in the army?

JASON
It's working out just fine.

TINY
Me, I couldn't last in the military. Early mornings, marching everywhere, saluting all over. Too regimented for my liking.

JASON
That's why it works. The discipline.

TINY
That's why the army works. But regimentation isn't the only path to discipline. I work in physics and engineering. If my calculations aren't precisely accurate, something I've developed could blow up in my face - or worse, in someone else's. I've had a hand in most of the equipment you saw in the lab yesterday. Most of it is lethal. For the guy at the pointy end if it works, or for the operator if it doesn't. What I do can mean life or death. I take that very seriously.
JASON
Is that why you're here?

TINY
That, and the food is great. Look, Jason, this might not be the kind of unit you wanted. But you could do a lot of good here. I've only ever fought in the dojo. You've got real combat experience. That might make the difference between living and dying for us.

JASON
You didn't answer the question. Why are you doing this?

TINY
Because I can make a difference. Not just working in a lab. I'm talking about going out and taking on the bad guys, face to face. There's something noble here that's bigger than you and me. And I want to be part of it.

TINY's conviction makes JASON thoughtful.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

The room has a window that overlooks the gym. ANDERSON and MARK are looking at JASON and TINY from their vantage point high above.

MARK
He's going to be trouble. You know that.

ANDERSON
Then it will your job to manage him, commander.

MARK
Commander. He's going to love that.

ANDERSON
He's a soldier. He'll rage against it, but he'll follow orders. Question is, can you give them?

MARK hesitates.

MARK
He's right, you know. We are a bunch of green kids playing dress-ups.

ANDERSON
Tiny and Aggie have I.Q.s that dwarf the rest of you combined.

(MORE)
ANDERSON (CONT'D)
Jason is a superb marksman. Keyop understands half a dozen languages. And you have a sharp analytical and deductive mind. You're all incredibly fit and skilled martial artists. In all respects, you are superior young men and women.

MARK
Young. That's the point. We're not experienced and we're not trained for this.

ANDERSON
You are.

MARK
For security work! For surveillance. I'm not qualified to lead a team into combat. They're going to be looking to me in situations that I can't even imagine. What if I don't have it? What if I make a wrong choice and someone gets hurt? What if...

MARK forces himself to stop and take a breath.

MARK (CONT'D)
Jason is the soldier. He should lead the team.

ANDERSON
If Jason was commander, people would get hurt. You've read his file - he doesn't trust anyone but himself. He doesn't understand group dynamics and he puts the mission ahead of the team. That's why you're the man for the job. I saw that news footage. You could have recovered the package. But you saw Keyop was in danger and you made the choice to save him. Seeing possibilities is one of your strengths, Mark. But you have to be decisive, or you'll freeze. If you don't lead, they won't have anything to follow.

MARK
If it was just me. Or even Jason and Tiny. But Aggie and Keyop...

ANDERSON
Don't worry too much about them, Mark. They're sensible youngsters and they understand what we're asking them to do. I'm confident they'll give us their most serious commitment.
EXT. CENTRE NEPTUNE ISLAND -- DAY

AGGIE is riding the bike, with KEYOP riding pillion. They are whooping and hollering and having a blast as AGGIE takes them through scrub, over hills and along creeks at breakneck speeds.

AGGIE
Isn't this great?

KEYOP
Fun!

AGGIE
I'll say!

There's a beep from the console, followed by a voice.

ANDERSON
Miss June, would you care to join us in the gymnasium?

KEYOP
Spoil fun.

AGGIE
Don't worry, Keyop. I'm sure there's more to come.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE GYM -- DAY

AGGIE and KEYOP hurry in to join JASON, TINY and ANDERSON. AGGIE gives TINY a hug.

AGGIE
Tiny, that bike is incredible! I've never ridden anything like it.

TINY
(flattered, flustered)
Glad you like it.

JASON
Let's see how it works in combat.

ANDERSON
We will, and possibly sooner than we would like. Spectra could attack again at any time. You need to familiarise yourself with your equipment and begin training as a team.

AGGIE
Where do we start?

There is a high-pitched whine as the sonic boomerang flies over their heads. They stagger, looking up to see it caught again by MARK on one of the high platforms. For the first time, we see somebody in G-Force uniform. MARK returns the boomerang to his belt.
MARK
With the battlesuit.

He leaps, extending his wings. Defying gravity, MARK descends in a steep glide, swings his legs forward and lands gracefully in a crouch.

AGGIE
Oh, wow!

KEYOP
Magic suit.

JASON
(re: belt buckle)
What's the G for? Gay?

TINY
Hey, G-Force is not gay!

MARK
You don't want to wear the suit?

JASON
You look ridiculous.

MARK
You've been pretty clear about telling us we're not up to the challenge, Jason. Here's your chance. Knock me down.

JASON is wary of a trap.

MARK (CONT'D)
Give him some space, everyone.

They draw back, leaving JASON and MARK in the centre of the gym.

MARK (CONT'D)
Go ahead. Take your shot. Show us we can't meet your standards.

JASON hesitates a moment more, then adopts a fighting stance. MARK waits, passively. JASON kicks out. MARK blocks, flips the cape over JASON's head, and sweeps his legs out from under him.

MARK (CONT'D)
Notice how the cape can be used to obscure an opponent's vision, impairing his ability to land a blow, or to block yours.

JASON is back on his feet, humiliated and angry. This time he punches. MARK wraps his cape around JASON's fist, then shoves him in the chest with an open palm, knocking him to the ground.
MARK (CONT'D)
Or you can use it to trap a limb, temporarily incapacitating his ability to strike.

JASON comes at him with another punch. MARK stands still and takes it in the chest, jumps back a step to create space, then leaps into the air, spreading his wings. At the apex of the jump, he kicks JASON in the head, and the soldier goes down again.

MARK (CONT'D)
Despite it's lightness, the battlesuit will partially absorb a blow, and the lift generated by the wing surface allows you to jump much further than usual. You can jump for height...

JASON, enraged, comes at him with a flying kick. MARK leaps away, wings carrying him several paces away.

MARK (CONT'D)
...or distance, withdrawing from combat if you choose.

JASON picks up a light hand weight from a nearby rack and throws it at MARK, who easily blocks it with the cape.

MARK (CONT'D)
The cape and suit material will slow projectiles, offering some protection even from bullets...

JASON closes and this time MARK allows it. There is a furious trade of blows that ends with JASON knocked down again.

MARK (CONT'D)
...but it's supple enough not to impede your movement.

He offers an arm to the prone JASON.

MARK (CONT'D)
You just have to work with it, not against it.

JASON gets himself up without help. MARK is disappointed, but pushes on.

MARK (CONT'D)
Start spending time in your suits and with your equipment. You need to know how they operate. When the time comes to use them, you can't stop to think. It has to be instinctive. Ask questions, practice, push the boundaries of what you can do. Work together.

(MORE)
MARK (CONT'D)
When Spectra shows up again, the five of us need to be a team. Are you with me?

TINY
You got it, Mark.

AGGIE
Yes, Mark.

KEYOP
Team!

MARK
Jason?

JASON looks at them, then stalks to the door, where he stops to speak over his shoulder to them.

JASON
We'll be lucky to survive the first mission.

He exits. MARK and ANDERSON share a look.

TRAINING MONTAGE
To a music soundtrack, we see a training sequence including (but not limited to):

AGGIE tests the battlesuit's ability to enhance her gymnastics, leaping from a tumbling run, or the uneven bars.

KEYOP practices acrobatics in his battlesuit, high up in the training space.

JASON assembles and disassembles his pistol, learning the mechanism.

TINY and MARK spar, practicing the battlesuit's fighting capabilities.

TINY explains the weaponry of the bike to AGGIE.

JASON, making sure he's alone, practices gliding and fighting moves in the battlesuit.

MARK becomes familiar with the controls of his jet.

JASON fires his pistol at an underground range. The torso-shaped target shows a good, tight grouping, and JASON smiles. Suddenly a bola wraps around the target's neck, then explodes, taking the head clean off. JASON looks around at KEYOP, who grins.

TINY shows the others around the flight deck of the Phoenix, explaining systems.

MARK and AGGIE practice in battlesuits. She flings him upward to a platform, then leaps after him.
He grabs her hands, using her momentum to propel her higher.

JASON drives the car on rollers in the lab, while TINY sits next to him explaining the weapon system.

MARK and ANDERSON study data on the MECHA.

AGGIE and KEYOP play aerial tag in battlesuits, laughing.

AGGIE practices combat with her yo-yo against MARK and KEYOP. It must be mechanical, because she can swing it like a weighted line before retracting it to her hand. And it can emit a concussive burst of sound and light, which is pretty debilitating when it happens next to your head.

KEYOP practices with his buggy.

EXT. CENTRE NEPTUNE BEACH -- MORNING

MARK is going through some kind of kata on the beach. The others are watching.

JASON
What is it with him?

TINY
What do you mean?

AGGIE
You have to admit, Tiny, he never slows down. Everything he does is focused on preparing for G-Force.

KEYOP
No fun.

TINY
I don't think he knows how to have fun. The way I hear it, his parents were killed in a robbery when he was a kid. He was raised in a State facility. Sheer hard work got him into the FBI, where he came to Chief Anderson's attention. I think he just wants to make the world a safer place.

JASON
Shit, we're working for Batman.

AGGIE
(indicating Keyop)
Jason!

JASON has the good grace to show remorse for his bad language.

TINY
He didn't have many friends growing up. I know how he feels.

(MORE)
TINY (CONT'D)  
Do you know how hard it is for a high-IQ science geek to be popular?

AGGIE  
Yes.

JASON  
Looking like that?  Come on, Princess.

AGGIE  
Don't call me Princess.  I could think rings around the other kids, I could kick the boys' asses, and the girls hated me because I was a model.  The only people who wanted to know me wanted something from me.  It was a lonely way to grow up.

Beat.

AGGIE (CONT'D)  
What about you?

JASON's first reaction is to throw out a flippant comment or acerbic remark.  But he sees they genuinely want to know, and he thinks better of it.

JASON  
I was an army brat.  Never stayed in one place long enough to make friends.  My mother left, and my father and I never had what you'd call a caring relationship.  I joined the army to get away from him.  And I hated it, because it felt like I was becoming him.

This is too much sharing for JASON to be comfortable.

JASON (CONT'D)  
(Keypop)  
What about him?

KEYOP  
No mother.  Father work.  Grandfather care.  Grandfather...

The death is too recent and KEYOP begins to cry.  AGGIE holds him and even JASON puts a comforting hand on his shoulder.  Good grief, are these people actually bonding?

MARK has approached during the conversation.  He sees that something has changed, but he doesn't know what it is.

MARK  
What's going on?

Before anyone can answer, five wrist communicators go off at once.  The group share a look.
MARK (CONT'D)

Come on.

They hare for the complex.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

The main monitor has become a multi-screen tactical information station. We see real-time satellite imagery of the MECHA flying low over a landmass, a map with grid lines and the MECHA's flight path, and a stack of statistics.

MARK

Chief?

ANDERSON

The Spectra assault vehicle has been spotted about 500 miles south, heading inland. We don't yet know the target. It's already passed several population centers. Suit up and lift off. We'll feed you data as we get it. It's time, G-Force. Good luck.

MARK

Let's go, team.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

JASON is the last one onto the flight deck. TINY is at the controls.

JASON

This suit still looks ridiculous.

AGGIE

Only on you.

JASON

Bite me.

MARK

People. Tiny, let's go.

TINY

Flooding the chamber.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE HANGER -- DAY

The exterior hangar door opens and water floods in. The submerged Phoenix fires her engines and moves out into the ocean, rising to the surface and bursting into the air.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK

How does she handle, Tiny?

TINY

She's perfect.
MARK
Then let's stretch her wings.

TINY
Love to.

He pushes the throttle forward and the Phoenix smoothly powers ahead, soaring like a bird of prey.

TINY (CONT'D)
Oh, yeah, baby. Purr for me.

JASON
I think I speak for everyone when I say – you desperately need a girlfriend.

MARK
Aggie, is Centre Neptune on line?

AGGIE
We're getting their data. It looks like Spectra has chosen a spot. They're on the ground now. It's an industrial centre. There's a petroleum refining facility, military logistic centre, a storage facility and several manufacturing plants. They could be going for any of them.

JASON
Or all of them. Do all their shopping in one spot.

MARK considers that.

TINY
We'll find out in a minute. Coming up on the area now.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY
The Phoenix crests a mountain range and we see the MECHA advancing on a field of large buildings.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK
There's the Stegosaur.

JASON
Stegosaur? That's what we're calling it?

TINY
Looks more like a Terrapin to me.

KEYOP
(pointing)
Split up.
AGGIE
Keyop's right. The Stegosaur is releasing some smaller vehicles.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

A small fleet of trucks and escort vehicles exit the Stegosaur.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK
Looks like Jason was right. They have more than one target.

JASON
If there's more than one target, let's start with the biggest one.

JASON arms the weapons system.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

Missile racks extend from the hull.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

JASON
Let's give that Steg a sore ass.

KEYOP
No!

He leaps to wrestle JASON's hand away from the firing controls.

JASON
What are you doing, peewee? Are you nuts?

MARK
JASON, no.

JASON
Why the hell not? If we take out the attack vehicle, we can mop up the smaller ones later.

MARK
We don't know if Spectra has a base, or if they just operate out of this thing.

JASON
So? All the more reason to blow it to hell.

AGGIE
Jason. Keyop's father could be in there.

JASON looks at KEYOP. He hadn't thought of that.
JASON
Great. So what do we do?

MARK hesitates. They're all looking to him for leadership.

TINY
Guys? No rush or anything, but the Stegosaur is nosing into one of those warehouses.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY
The Stegosaur is forcing its head into a warehouse, causing massive property damage in the process.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

AGGIE
Mark?

MARK
Split up. We'll take them one on one. Tiny, prepare for separation.

TINY
That's a big 10-4.

JASON
What are you? A truck driver?

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Sir, we have a visitor. Unknown configuration.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
If it threatens us, destroy it.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY
The Phoenix descends, hovering near ground level.

INT. PHOENIX -- VARIOUS -- DAY

TINY
Comm check. Aggie?

AGGIE starts the bike.

AGGIE
I can hear you, Tiny.

KEYOP is in his buggy, lights from the control panel shining off his visor.

TINY (O.S.)
Keyop?
KEYOP

Keyop ready.

JASON is stroking the car's steering wheel almost lovingly.

TINY

Jason?

JASON

Yeah, yeah, just put me on the ground and get out of the way.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The wingtip pods open. A platform drops from one, and AGGIE is away before it even hits the ground. The buggy is lowered from the other pod, and KEYOP roars off. The nose cone of the Phoenix retracts, exposing the car, which is lowered to the ground. Spewing dust and gravel, JASON speeds away. The Phoenix rises into the air again.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

TINY

It's your turn, commander.

MARK is completing preflight.

MARK

I hope I'm doing the right thing, Tiny.

TINY (O.S.)

Go get 'em, Mark.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The tail section opens and the jet emerges. It's a VTOL jet, like the Phoenix itself.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK

Okay, let's get organised. Jason, you and Aggie stop those trucks. I'm going to see if I can distract the Stegosaur. Tiny, you and Keyop hang back and be ready to jump in if things get out of hand.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

TINY

I can help you with the Stegosaur.

MARK (O.S.)

No, you're our eye in the sky, Tiny. Stay there.

TINY

(disappointed)

Big 10-4 from the truck driver.
EXT. WAREHOUSE -- DAY

There are two trucks parked at a loading bay next to a warehouse. Soldiers are loading crates. Three jeeps with machine guns mounted are there as escort. JASON pulls up about 100 meters away. He revs the engine.

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER  
(Chinese, subtitled)  
Get rid of him.

One of the jeeps speeds towards JASON.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON  
Don't play chicken with a man in a bird suit.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

With squealing tyres, he takes off for the oncoming jeep.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON presses the button...

EXT. CAR -- DAY

...and the hood splits to reveal the chain gun. The jeep keeps coming. Suddenly, AGGIE cuts across between them.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON  
What the hell!

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON swerves to avoid her and almost loses control. He skids to a halt, an easy target for the jeep, which sprays him with bullets. JASON takes off and the jeep pursues.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON  
What are you doing?

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE has pulled up.

AGGIE  
We don't have to kill them!

JASON (O.S.)  
In case you didn't notice, they're shooting at us!

AGGIE  
Duck!
INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

You're the duck. I'm a bird of prey. Now stay out of my way!

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE

Great.

She roars off.

EXT. WAREHOUSE -- DAY

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)
(to jeep soldiers)
Destroy those vehicles.
(to foot soldiers)
Finish loading. Quickly!

The other two jeeps race off after the first.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK presses controls.

MARK

Okay, ugly, stop what you're doing and look up.

EXT. JET -- DAY

MARK fires and bullets zing off the Stegosaur's hull.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

MECHA SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)
Sir, the smaller craft is firing.

SUBCOMMANDER

(Chinese, subtitled)
Then blow it out of the sky.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

Missile racks extrude from the hull and a missile is fired at MARK. The jet evades.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK

You'll have to do better than that.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

A mobile missile launcher emerges from the Stegosaur's hold and fires several missiles at the jet.
INT. JET -- DAY

MARK

Okay then.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON is swerving to evade machine gun fire from the jeep behind him.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

I've had enough of this. Time to turn things around.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON accelerates away, then skids into a bootlegger turn, reversing the car. As the car skids to a halt he triggers the chain gun and the jeep belches smoke. Soldiers leap clear as it bursts into flame.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

Next victim.

EXT. CAR -- DAY

One of the other jeeps rounds the corner, firing.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

Fast service.

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE pulls up near the trucks. Foot soldiers raise weapons to fire at her.

AGGIE

Suck gas, evildoers.

A rack of mini missiles extrudes from the bike. One shoots towards the loading dock and explodes. The explosion itself does no harm, but a cloud of gas envelopes and chokes the soldiers.

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)

Move out. Signal the jeeps to kill that rider!

Soldiers jump into the trucks. One raises a walkie-talkie. AGGIE looks around as the remaining jeep closes on her.

AGGIE

Tag. You're it.
EXT. MECHA -- DAY

The mobile missile launcher is making MARK's life difficult.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK

Tiny. A little help?

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

TINY

Keyop's on his way.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

KEYOP's buggy pulls up near the mobile missile launcher.

CIRCUS SOLDIER

(Chinese, subtitled)
What is that?

A pair of cylinders, something like mortar tubes, extrude from the buggy. There is a muffled thump, and two projectiles fly toward the missile launcher. As they get close, their flight path changes and they magnetically attach themselves to the launcher with a thud.

CIRCUS SOLDIER (CONT'D)

(Chinese, subtitled)
What the...

He leans over to look at one of the devices. It's a cylindrical object emitting flashes of light. The flashes are accelerating.

CIRCUS SOLDIER (CONT'D)

(Chinese, subtitled)
Run!

The soldiers jump from the launcher and run for the Stegosaur. The launcher explodes. The "jaw" of the buggy opens and KEYOP gets out. He looks at the open hold of the attack vessel.

KEYOP

Father...

EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON and the jeep are racing between buildings, each trying to gain an advantage. Shots are exchanged. JASON notices the trucks pulling away.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON

As much fun as this is, I think I'll go play with your big brothers.
EXT. CAR -- DAY

JASON hits a straight stretch of road and leaves the jeep in the dust. He's heading for the trucks that we can see in the middle distance, driving for the Stegosaur.

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE is being pursued by the jeep. Only her maneuverability keeps her from getting shot.

AGGIE
Okay, so your floorwork is good. Let's see how you handle the vault.

Rounding the corner at the back of the warehouse, she fires a missile. It explodes at the base of a lighting tower, which falls and blocks the available space. AGGIE takes the loading ramp and jumps, clearing the obstacle. The jeep tries to follow, mistimes, and crashes. AGGIE stops and looks back.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
Bad dismount.

The sound of gunfire turns her head and she sees JASON chasing the trucks.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
What are you doing now, Jason?

She roars off. The final jeep appears, collects the soldiers from the crash site, and follows.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

TINY
Ah, Mark, we could have a problem.

MARK (O.S.)
What kind of problem?

TINY
Keyop isn't in his buggy. I think he's gone into the Stegosaur.

INT. JET -- DAY

MARK
Shit.
(beat)
Okay, I'm going after him. See if you can draw their fire.

TINY (O.S.)
On it.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- DAY

Soldiers run around the cavernous hold, oblivious to KEYOP leaping from place to place above them.
KEYOP sneaks into a corridor, closing the access hatch behind him, making his way forward. He hears voices and crouches behind a door.

SUBCOMMANDER (O.S.)
(Chinese, subtitled)
Our cargo is almost complete, my lord. We will depart in moments.

ZOLTAR (O.S.)
(Chinese, subtitled)
Be swift. You must be gone before the enemy can engage you.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

SUBCOMMANDER is reporting to ZOLTAR, on screen.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Ah... Lord Zoltar, we have been attacked by a small force of unconventional vehicles. They are no match for us.

ZOLTAR
(Chinese, subtitled)
Record their attack for study by our scientists here at base. And ensure they are destroyed.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
It will be done, lord.

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Sir, the large vehicle is approaching.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The Phoenix hovers closer to the Stegosaur, while MARK lands.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK (O.S.)
I'm down, Tiny.

TINY
Big 10... whoa!

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

Before TINY can finish his sentence, a missile from the Stegosaur forces him to evade.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

KEYOP
Tiny!
Every head in the room turns to the door.

KEYOP (CONT'D)
Uh-oh.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Get him!

KEYOP leaves in a hurry.

ZOLTAR
(Chinese, subtitled)
Stop! Return to base immediately. I want that prisoner, Subcommander. And then we will discuss the laxity of your security.

The screen image fades.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Finish loading cargo and return to base. I will capture the prisoner.

SUBCOMMANDER hurries after KEYOP.

EXT. CAR -- DAY
JASON has caught up to the trucks.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON
Now, what would you guys want from a military base?

EXT. CAR -- DAY
A soldier in the back of the rearmost truck opens a box, and shoulders a rocket launcher.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON
I had to ask.

EXT. CAR -- DAY
The soldier fires and JASON swerves to avoid the explosion. The tires bite gravel at the side of the bitumen and the car spins. AGGIE, traveling flat out to catch up, can't quite brake in time.

AGGIE
Yikes!

She collides with the car. It's little more than a bump.

JASON
Watch where you're going!
AGGIE
Learn to park!

While they trade insults, the sole remaining jeep roars past and joins the trucks, which have made it into the Stegosaur's hold. The hold closes and the Stegosaur takes to the air.

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON
Tiny, that flying toaster is leaving. Come get us.

TINY (O.S.)
I can't. Mark and Keyop are inside - I have to follow it.

EXT. BIKE -- DAY

AGGIE
Oh, no!

INT. CAR -- DAY

JASON
Those idiots! Look, that metal mountain has got nowhere to hide and the Phoenix can easily outrun it.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

JASON (O.S.)
When you catch it, you can't do anything by yourself.

TINY
(hesitates)
Okay. I'm coming down.

JASON (O.S.)
(sarcastically)
Big 10.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- DAY

KEYOP is doing his best in close combat against SUBCOMMANDER, but the adult has weight and reach the boy doesn't. Soldiers watch the combat.

SUBCOMMANDER
I remember you, boy. But this time, you are alone.

The sonic boomerang flies overhead and SUBCOMMANDER and his soldiers stagger. MARK lands on the deck next to KEYOP, catching the returning boomerang.

MARK
Count again.
SUBCOMMANDER
Two prisoners. Excellent. I did not have leisure to test you myself at our last meeting. Let us remedy that.

MARK
Let's.

They go at it. MARK is clearly the better fighter, which infuriates SUBCOMMANDER, who is soon bruised and bleeding. But MARK is playing for time, not going for a decisive blow. The soldiers have not bothered to apprehend KEYOP, who looks around for an escape. He sees light in the missile bays at the top of the hold - they have not yet been closed. KEYOP surreptitiously draws a bola from his belt.

When next MARK meets his gaze, KEYOP indicates upward with his eyes. MARK gets his drift and looks for a diversion. He sees the trucks that raided the military warehouse. He indicates to KEYOP, and the youngster nods his understanding.

MARK (CONT'D)
How's that test coming along?

SUBCOMMANDER
You fight well. But you are few. You cannot stand against the might of Spectra.

MARK
I'm still standing.

He knocks SUBCOMMANDER down.

MARK (CONT'D)
Keyop, now!

KEYOP throws his bola, which disappears into the covered tray of the nearer truck. There is a huge explosion as the ordnance is detonated by the blast from the bola. The concussive blast staggers the Stegosaur. The floor shifts and everyone falls. Except MARK and KEYOP - they're already leaping for the missile bays and escape.

CIRCUS SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Shoot them!

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
No! Fools, you'll hit the missiles!

KEYOP and MARK reach the missile bay and look out.

EXT. MECHA -- DAY

It's a long way down. They look at each other.
MARK
Well, we can't stay here.

KEYOP
Plan?

MARK
Time we go?

KEYOP
Ready.

MARK
We don't have to go that far. Look!

MARK
Time flies. Luckily, so do we. Ready?

KEYOP
Yes.

MARK
Long way to ground!

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The Phoenix is close behind the Stegosaur.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

AGGIE
There they are!

TINY
Already there.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY

The Phoenix gets under MARK and KEYOP, who land near the top hatch and enter safely.

INT. PHOENIX -- DAY

MARK and KEYOP enter the bridge.

AGGIE
Are you all right?
JASON
What kind of idiot stunt was that?

TINY
Easy, Jason.

JASON
Like hell! Two against an army? Insane!

KEYOP
Want find father.

MARK
(a warning)
It doesn't matter. Let's drop it.

JASON
No, let's not. I'm not going into combat if my backup has a death wish.

AGGIE
Typical. It's all about you, isn't it?

MARK
Aggie, stop.

AGGIE
Listen to him! His backup. Arrogant pig.

JASON
I didn't charge alone into an enemy stronghold like White Eagle and Birdboy, here!

AGGIE
No, you played chicken with an armed jeep like a moronic rev head!

JASON
You cut across when I was about to fire! I could have shot you!

AGGIE
Not on your best day!

MARK
Settle down!

JASON
You're going to get yourself killed! This is not a cartoon, Princess!

AGGIE
I told you...

She flattens him with a kick, shoving him into a panel on the other side of the cockpit.
AGGIE (CONT'D)
...don't call me Princess!

JASON is furious. He pushes off the wall, ready to mix it up. MARK is there to stop him.

MARK
Stop it! Back off, both of you!

JASON and AGGIE glare at each other. Into the dramatic silence comes the sound of clapping. It's TINY.

TINY
No, go ahead, please. This is really entertaining. I've got nothing better to do. I mean, the bad guys are getting away, but what the hell. We don't need them. It's more fun to beat each other up. I can see the intelligence and serious commitment Aggie's bringing to the team. And Jason's example of military leadership and cohesion is very stirring. To think, I could be wasting my time in the lab, tinkering with high-tech stuff, improving our world. But no, I wanted to be part of G-Force, the best and brightest the planet has to offer. Going out and fighting the good fight. Leading by example and showing the world that terrorist organisations like Spectra don't go unopposed. Sleep safely, boys and girls! G-Force is looking out for you! Be proud!

Shamed, nobody knows what to say or do.

MARK
Turn us around, Tiny. Let's pick up the vehicles and go home.

JASON
We're not going after the Stegosaur?

MARK
Obviously, we're not in any fit state to face them.

JASON throws himself into a seat.

JASON
I knew this was a bad idea.

MARK
And you were right, Jason. I'm sorry you were forced into this. When we get back, I'll see that you're returned to your unit.
JASON is surprised.

JASON
I thought I didn't have a choice.

MARK
You had doubts and you were right. Nobody will force you to stay.

AGGIE
I can't believe we're letting them get away. We didn't even learn anything more about them.

KEYOP
Base.

JASON
What?

KEYOP
Base. Monster not... only place. Spectra man talk to other one. Other place. Base. Where scientists kept.

MARK
You heard this?

KEYOP nods.

AGGIE
Then we have to follow them!

JASON
We have to know where that base is.

TINY
Mark?

MARK
No. If they see we're following but not engaging, they'll know what we're after.

JASON
But if we don't follow them, we won't find it.

MARK
Not necessarily. Aggie, can you track my locator?

AGGIE
Of course. But why?

TINY
We can see you from here, Mark.

AGGIE works at her station.
AGGIE
It's moving away from us. How did you...?

JASON
You left it on the Stegosaur, didn't you?

MARK smiles. TINY laughs. JASON is almost impressed, but catches himself.

JASON (CONT'D)
Yeah, well. One lucky decision doesn't make a successful mission.

MARK
Let's go home.

EXT. PHOENIX -- DAY
The beautiful big bird wings its way back to Centre Neptune.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE HANGER -- NIGHT
AGGIE walks over to where TINY is working at the wind tunnel.

AGGIE
Hey.

TINY
Hey, Aggie.

AGGIE
What are you doing?

TINY
Tinkering. It calms me down.

AGGIE
I'm surprised you need calming. You're one of the most intelligent, centered people I know.

TINY

AGGIE
I'm sorry. He just made me so mad.

TINY
Was he wrong?

AGGIE
What do you mean?

TINY
Jason had a point. You could have been killed.
AGGIE
I've never been shot at. Or shot at anyone. I guess I was a little tense.

TINY
Only natural.

AGGIE
I should have controlled my temper.

TINY
Maybe he deserved it.

AGGIE
Maybe. But I feel bad about it. It's just... this is huge. Being part of G-Force is the biggest thing I've ever done, Tiny. I don't have training, like Mark and Jason, or experience, like you and even Keyop. I'm a sheltered, pretty-girl university student. I feel like I have to prove every minute that I deserve to be on the team.

TINY
You know Chief Anderson was with the FBI before he joined ISO? Fairly high up, too. He's recruited, trained and evaluated hundreds of agents, male and female. The man knows talent when he sees it. With his connections, he could get anyone he wanted for this team. He picked you. What does that tell you?

AGGIE thinks about it. She smiles.

AGGIE
How did you get so wise, Obi-wan?

TINY
Clean living.

AGGIE
So why aren't you relaxing?

TINY
For me, this is relaxing. Seems to be about all I'm good for, anyway.

AGGIE
Okay, my turn to listen. What's the problem?

TINY
You don't need to...
AGGIE
Spill it, Tiny.

TINY stops what he's doing.

TINY
When Chief Anderson asked me to be on the team, I thought I'd be mixing it up with the bad guys, you know? Instead, I'm just what Jason called me - a truck driver. I realised today that wherever G-Force goes, I'm going to sit in the Phoenix and watch. I'll never throw a punch.

AGGIE
You don't know that.

TINY
We both know it. I might as well learn to knit.

AGGIE doesn't know what to say.

AGGIE
Well then, I could do with a new sweater.

TINY looks at her, then laughs.

TINY
Okay, I'm sorry. No more self-pity. Thanks, Aggie.

AGGIE
No problem. So what are you working on?

TINY
How's your quantum mechanics?

AGGIE
Try me.

TINY
All right. Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle - layman's terms, please.

AGGIE
Simple. You can't be certain of a particle's position and momentum at the same time.

TINY
That'll do. Now, Quantum Electrodynamics.

AGGIE
QED is the mathematical description of the interaction of electrically charged particles.
TINY
Very good. Now, some interpretations of QED say that light travels every possible path and the observer only sees the average of all these possible paths.

AGGIE
Or that some paths are non-physical. Light can travel faster than the speed of light to get there.

TINY
I may have to marry you. Now, my theory is that if we could understand and control these principles, we could make a physical object partially intangible for a period. Look at this.

He points to the model in the tunnel, and presses buttons. The model flickers, light and flame playing over the surface as the wind sweeps past. The prototype Fiery Phoenix.

TINY (CONT'D)
See? Particles flicker between mass and light.

AGGIE
The wave-particle duality.

TINY
Exactly. Imagine if we could harness that submolecular uncertainty or probability or however you want to describe it. We could potentially move solid objects through each other, or move at near light speed.

AGGIE
Wow. Tiny, this is way beyond anything I've heard of.

TINY
If only I could make it work.

AGGIE
You will.

TINY
What makes you so sure?

AGGIE
Because you're the most intelligent, centered man I've ever met. And you've got me to help you. Now, show me your calculations.

TINY chuckles and they get to work.
INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE -- ACCOMMODATION -- NIGHT

JASON is packing his duffel bag. KEYOP comes to the door.

KEYOP
Leaving.

JASON
Yes, I'm leaving. First thing tomorrow. And if you're smart, you will too.

KEYOP says nothing.

JASON (CONT'D)
Stop staring at me. I don't owe this place anything. Maybe it works for the boy scout or the princess but I don't do teams. I learned early that the only person you can rely on is yourself. That's the only thing my father taught me.

He realises what he's said and stops packing.

JASON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, kid. I know you'd do anything to get your father back.

JASON sits on the bed.

JASON (CONT'D)
You want to know something weird? I envy you. The way you feel about your dad... I never had that. When I was your age, all I wanted to do was get away from my father. You've lost your family, and I never had one.

KEYOP moves to JASON, looks at him with big puppy dog eyes, and puts his arms around his neck. JASON doesn't know how to react, then hugs him back. It's a good feeling. But in short order, JASON puts his emotional walls back up.

JASON (CONT'D)
Sorry, kid. But this isn't for me. I'll be gone in the morning. I'm not part of this... this...

KEYOP has walked to the door but stops to looks back.

KEYOP
Family.

KEYOP exits. JASON thinks, then goes back to packing.

EXT. CENTRE NEPTUNE BEACH -- NIGHT

MARK is sitting watching the surf. AGGIE approaches and sits next to him.
AGGIE
It's past midnight. Why aren't you asleep?

MARK
Why aren't you?

AGGIE
I've spent the night with Tiny. (off Mark's reaction)
No, I mean... we were experimenting. (that's just as bad)
We were working on his Fiery Phoenix idea. Damn, I wish my skin wasn't so fair - it's so obvious when I blush.

MARK
It suits you. Did you make any progress?

AGGIE
I think so. Tiny's working on the Phoenix now. Have you made any progress?

MARK
On what?

AGGIE
On those questions zipping around in your mind. What did I do wrong? What if I hadn't split us up? What gives me the right to lead this team?

MARK
Is it that obvious?

AGGIE
Yes. And I spoke to Chief Anderson. Does he ever sleep?

MARK
I've never caught him. He's a robot.

AGGIE
Ha! Imagine that - a robot coordinating the team.

MARK
You're right. Dumb idea.

AGGIE
So. Tell me.

MARK
It just seems like I did everything wrong. (MORE)
MARK (CONT'D)
I let Keyop get into the Stegosaur, then we got trapped in there. The Phoenix nearly got shot down. Jason nearly shot you. I had two team members brawling on the flight deck. And Spectra got away untouched.

AGGIE
You'll do it differently next time.

MARK
I don't know if there's going to be a next time.
(standing)
After a debacle like that, I have to question whether I should be on the team at all. And certainly not as commander.

AGGIE
(standing)
Does that mean I get the job?
(off his reaction)
Jason's gone. Keyop's too young. Tiny is great when he has time to think things through, but can he react fast enough in combat? That leaves me. A teenage cosmetics model who's never been in a real fight. Who would you pick as leader?

MARK doesn't have an answer.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
You're the only one who can do this, Mark. You just need to prove it to yourself.

MARK
After today, who would follow me?

AGGIE
I would.

She kisses him on the cheek and walks away. MARK watches her leave. Then turns thoughtfully towards the waves again.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE LAB -- NIGHT

The room is shadowy. We see someone putting on their battlesuit. Boots on. Gloves. Belt. Helmet. Cape. Movements sure and determined. This is a man who has made up his mind. He turns and steps forward and is suddenly illuminated by a beam of light. It's MARK. Reverse on his POV, and we see AGGIE standing in the now-open doorway. She's already suited up.

AGGIE
Ready when you are.
MARK
You're not coming. I'm doing this alone.

He brushes past her.

AGGIE
Whatever you say, commander.

She follows.

INT. CENTRE NEPTUNE HANGER -- NIGHT

MARK, with AGGIE in tow, approaches the Phoenix.

MARK
Aggie, I won't be responsible for getting you killed.

AGGIE
No, you won't. It's my choice.

MARK
(stopping, turning to her)
Are you sure you want to do this?

AGGIE
Positive.

Accepting, he gives her a smile and nod. They leap to the wing and then to the top hatch. KEYOP, in battlesuit, is waiting for them.

MARK
Keyop, what are you...

He stops. Looks at AGGIE. Looks back at KEYOP.

KEYOP
Father.

MARK
Let's go find him.

They enter.

INT. PHOENIX -- NIGHT

MARK issues instructions as they enter the flight deck.

MARK
Aggie, bring up location data on the Stegosaur while I go through preflight.

TINY (O.S.)
Already done.

He's sitting in the pilot seat.
TINY (CONT'D)

What, you think I'm going to let you fly my ship?

MARK grins. He's beginning to feel wanted.

MARK

Good to see you, Tiny.

TINY

You too, Mark.

JASON (O.S.)

Well, I still think you look ridiculous.

JASON has entered behind them.

MARK

I thought you were gone.

JASON

I like the car.

(looking at Keyop)

Some things are worth sticking around for.

MARK

Flood the chamber, Tiny. Aggie, where's the Stegosaur?

ANDERSON (O.S.)

China.

The voice has come from their battlesuit comm systems. MARK looks out the view port to see ANDERSON at an observation window, headset on.

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

The Spectra assault vehicle has been stationary for some time now. It's likely they've reached their base. The coordinates and any other data we've been able to gather are in your system now.

MARK

Thank you, chief.

ANDERSON

Do us proud, G-Force.

EXT. PHOENIX -- NIGHT

The Phoenix exits the hangar.

INT. PHOENIX -- NIGHT

JASON is asleep. MARK taps him awake.

MARK

Time to wake up, Jason.
JASON
Are we there yet?

TINY
We'll be coming up on the coordinates in a few minutes.

JASON
Okay. So how are we going to play this?

MARK
The coordinates are on the coastline. The Phoenix will overfly the position and we'll glide in.

JASON
They'll spot us. We should make an underwater approach.

MARK
The Stegosaur will definitely see us if we approach from the ocean. If we make a high-altitude jump they may dismiss the Phoenix as an ordinary aircraft.

JASON isn't convinced.

MARK (CONT'D)
Our mission is observation and rescue. We aren't here to fight. Chief Anderson has notified the Chinese military. We gather information to feed to them when they arrive. We find Keyop's father and any other captives and ensure their safety.

TINY
Two minutes.

MARK
Aggie, last minute data?

AGGIE
It's an old industrial centre. Satellite imagery shows some recent construction. And we've got the inventory of what Spectra took from their raid. The military hardware was only a bonus. The warehouse was a storage centre for the country's supply of Vitalumis.

JASON
Of what?

TINY
Vitalumis. It's a compound that restores damaged ecosystem.

(MORE)
TINY (CONT'D)
But that doesn't make sense. ISO supplies it free of charge to any nation that asks. Who would want to steal it? One minute.

MARK
We'll figure it out later. Helmets on and prepare for jump. Tiny, find a spot to hide and relay messages. Be ready to come get us.

TINY
Big 10.

MARK
Remember team, this is a raid. Be invisible. With luck, they'll never know we were here.

INT. SPECTRA BASE -- CONTINUOUS
A Spectra soldier is working a console in a control room.

RADAR SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Lord, I read a craft passing high above. Configuration matches the vessel that attacked our assault vehicle.

ZOLTAR
(Chinese, subtitled)
Track it. And bring the Subcommander to me.

EXT. PHOENIX -- MORNING
It's the grey before dawn. MARK, JASON, AGGIE and KEYOP exit the top hatch. On a signal from MARK, they leap from the Phoenix and fall like stones, wings wrapped around them.

INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- CONTINUOUS

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Lord Zoltar.

ZOLTAR
(Chinese, subtitled)
The enemy craft that disrupted your raid is above us. Explain.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Impossible, lord. We were not followed, I swear!

ZOLTAR backhands SUBCOMMANDER, knocking him off his feet.
ZOLTAR
  (Chinese, subtitled)
Then they must have tracked you somehow. When this situation is resolved I will ask again. You had better have an answer. This is your second failure. There will not be a third.

SUBCOMMANDER gets to his feet, bows and leaves.

ZOLTAR (CONT'D)
  (Chinese, subtitled)
Troops to alert. We are about to have visitors.

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- MORNING

The base is mostly low structures over a wide area. The one exception is a central tower. The Stegosaur lies with it's forequarters out of the water.

MARK, JASON, AGGIE and KEYOP glide to a rooftop. They remove the "lower bill" helmet masks, leaving the familiar battlesuit silhouette.

MARK
  Keyop with me. Look around, don't be seen.

MARK and KEYOP enter through a skylight.

JASON
  Any ideas?

AGGIE
  I'd like to know what's in that tower.

JASON
  Just what I was thinking.

They leap, gliding towards the tower.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- MORNING

SUBCOMMANDER
  (Chinese, subtitled)
There is a tracking signal somewhere on this ship. Find it!

MECHA SOLDIER
  (Chinese, subtitled)
How, sir?

SUBCOMMANDER
  (Chinese, subtitled)
Idiot! Turn everything off, and find anything still transmitting. Do it now!
MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Yes, sir!

INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- MORNING

MARK and KEYOP sneak through corridors, avoiding soldiers. They find an open space, where a soldier is issuing orders.

MARK
Keyop?

KEYOP
(listening)
They see Phoenix. Know we are here. Looking for us.

MARK
Damn. We'd better leave before we're caught.

KEYOP
Scientists.

MARK
I'm sorry, Keyop. We don't have time to find them.

KEYOP
No, here. This building. Two level down.

MARK
Okay, then. Good work, Keyop.

KEYOP beams. The two of them start moving again.

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- MORNING

JASON and AGGIE are on the rooftop of a long building connected to the tower.

JASON
Now why would a tower have no windows?

AGGIE
It could be a communications broadcast point. But there are no dishes at the top.

JASON
Well, we won't get in that way. Let's have a look below.

AGGIE
Lead on.

They enter the building.
INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- MORNING

MARK and KEYOP exit a stairwell. Then they duck back in, as a soldier escorting a scientist goes by. MARK quickly attacks and incapacitates the soldier.

SCIENTIST
(Chinese, subtitled)
What...

KEYOP
(Chinese, subtitled)
Quiet. We are here to rescue you and the others. Where are they?

The SCIENTIST, startled, leads them to a door. MARK, dragging the unconscious soldier, searches him for a pass card, which he uses to open the door. They enter.

INT. SPECTRA LAB -- MORNING

MARK shuts the door behind them and drops the soldier. They are in a room filled with scientific equipment. Including the SCIENTIST who entered with them, there are four people in lab coats. They look at the newcomers with surprise.

KEYOP
(Chinese, subtitled)
Father!

KEYOP leaps joyfully to a middle-aged Chinese man, hugging him.

DR.KEE
(Chinese, subtitled)
Son? What are you doing here?

KEYOP is too happy to answer.

DR.KEE (CONT'D)
(Chinese, subtitled)
My son!

SCIENTIST
(Chinese, subtitled)
They are here to rescue us from Spectra!

DR.KEE
(Chinese, subtitled)
(to Mark)
Is this true?

MARK
English, doctor?

DR.KEE switches effortlessly to English. His speech is accented but fluent.

DR.KEE
Who are you?
MARK
We're G-Force. ISO have sent us to bring you home.

DR. KEE
Praise be! How is my son here?

MARK
That's a story for another day, doctor. Let's go.

DR. KEE
Of course.
(to others)
Gather your things and destroy your work. We are leaving this evil place.

DR. KEE rummages around the bench and takes a small package out of a hidden container.

MARK
Doctor, we don't have much time.

DR. KEE
I am ready.

They leave.

INT. SPECTRA TOWER COMPLEX -- MORNING

JASON and AGGIE observe from a gantry. It's a warehouse-type space. There are piles of crates against the walls. Soldiers and technicians are loading crates onto a conveyor belt that feeds to the base of the tower in the next room.

JASON
(indicating a pile of crates)
There are the stolen military supplies. But what are they loading?

AGGIE
It looks like the Vitalumis stocks.

JASON
I wish we knew what they were doing with it.

AGGIE
Let's find out.

JASON
Whoa! We're supposed to be invisible, remember? We'll never sneak through that many people.

AGGIE
I thought you were the daring one?
JASON
Daring is not the same as suicidal.
I'm not here to risk my neck.

AGGIE
Then sit tight. I'm going to create
a distraction.

And she's off.

JASON
Damn, headstrong... This must be
what it's like working with me.

AGGIE sneaks down to a lower level gantry. She is surprised
by a door opening. The only hiding place is behind the
door. Two soldiers enter. One takes up position where he
is, the other walks past AGGIE, patrolling the gantry.
She's trapped. As soon as the soldier reaches the other
end of the gantry and turns around, she'll be seen.

JASON (CONT'D)
Oh, hell.

INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- MORNING

MARK leads his group through the building. But their luck
has run out - halfway down a corridor, they're surprised
by a group of soldiers.

CIRCUS SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
There they are! Shoot them!

The soldiers open fire as the group retreats around the
corner. KEYOP gets out his bola, and flings it around an
exposed pipe. There is an explosion and steam from the
pipe fills the corridor.

MARK
(to DR. KEE)
We have to get to the roof.

DR. KEE
The only stairs are back there.

MARK
Then we have a problem.

Before they can move, soldiers appear in front of them.
Soldiers emerge from the steam behind them. They're
trapped. Then ZOLTAR appears. Smirking.

MARK (CONT'D)
Oh, rats.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- MORNING

A soldier hands SUBCOMMANDER the locator beacon that MARK
left aboard the Stegosaur.
SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Meddling brats. I will destroy
you for this. Bring systems back
on line!

He drops the locator beacon on the floor and stamps on it
with his heel.

INT. PHOENIX -- MORNING

TINY
Mark, the locator on the Stegosaur
just went out. I think they know
you're there. Mark? Can you hear
anyone hear me?

No reply.

TINY (CONT'D)
Damn. What are you going to do
now, Tiny?

INT. SPECTRA TOWER COMPLEX -- MORNING

AGGIE is crouched behind the door. The soldier is at the
end of the catwalk. He turns to patrol back towards her.
AGGIE prepares for the worst. But before he turns
completely around, his attention is drawn by JASON launching
himself into the middle of the open space.

JASON
YAAAAA!

Every eye in the room is on him as he lands, kicking a
soldier unconscious as he does so. AGGIE incapacitates
the soldier nearest her. Then she leaps silently to the
other end of the gantry and deals with the other soldier,
who doesn't see her coming until the last second.

JASON (CONT'D)
That's right, look at me! Look at
the big, bad birdman come to kick
your ass! Who wants me? Come on,
come and get some!

The soldiers, instead of engaging, draw weapons. JASON is
surrounded on all sides by armed soldiers. It's hopeless.
He steals a glance at AGGIE. She looks back in horror.

JASON (CONT'D)
Damn it.

JASON crouches, wings drawn around him, as every weapon in
the room opens fire on him. There is a few seconds of
gunfire, then silence. Everyone looks at the huddled
figure.

It moves. JASON pokes his head out from under his wings.
JASON (CONT'D)
Holy shit. This stuff actually works. My wings are like a shield of steel!

The soldiers shoulder their weapons again. The conveyor belt explodes, blocking the entrance to the tower.

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
What the hell?

A grenade lands at his feet. He looks up to see AGGIE on the pile of military crates, two more grenades in hand.

AGGIE
Easter egg hunt!

She hurls the grenades.

WAREHOUSE SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Run!

The grenades explode and there is a hand-to-hand battle between JASON, AGGIE and the remaining soldiers. When it's over, there are no soldiers standing. JASON and AGGIE look at each other.

JASON
Wow.

AGGIE
I know. Let's go.

She turns to go.

JASON
Aggie.

He called her by name? She looks at him.

JASON (CONT'D)
Thank you.

She grins at him.

AGGIE
(mock haughty)
Call me Princess.

INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- MORNING

ZOLTAR
Who are you?

MARK
G-Force.
G-Force. Pathetic youngsters, hurling yourselves at the might of Spectra. If you knew anything of our true nature, you would cower in terror. We will take everything from you and your people will be dust on the wind. You come to rescue these drones? And who will rescue you?

An explosion rocks the building.

ZOLTAR (CONT'D)
(Chinese, subtitled)
Find out what is going on. And destroy them!

There is a second explosion. In the confusion, KEYOP opens a door and he and MARK hustle the scientists inside. MARK holds the door as the soldiers in the corridor outside try to break it down.

MARK
Out the window. Go!

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
What are those explosions?

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Systems still coming back, sir.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Where is it coming from?

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
It's... oh, God.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
What?

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix circles the Spectra Base, firing missiles.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

TINY is grim-faced and determined at the controls. An avenging angel.
INT. SPECTRA COMMAND CENTRE -- CONTINUOUS

KEYOP

(Chinese, subtitled)
Hold on to me.

The two lighter scientists hold on to him and they leap from the window.

MARK
Your turn, doctor.

DR.KEE and SCIENTIST clamber out the window. MARK leaps the length of the room and launches himself through the window. Soldiers burst in as DR.KEE and SCIENTIST grab MARK.

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- CONTINUOUS

MARK and his two passengers glide to the ground. MARK, KEYOP and the scientists run for cover. They look up at the Phoenix, which continues to rain destruction from above.

DR.KEE
What is that thing?

MARK
The best sight I've seen today, doctor.

(into communicator)

Ears on, Tiny?

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

TINY
Mark! I thought something had happened.

MARK (O.S.)
It would have if you hadn't started blowing things up. Lock onto Keyop's locator and come get us.

TINY
Big 10, commander.

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- CONTINUOUS

MARK
Jason? Aggie?

JASON
Turn around.

AGGIE and JASON are, indeed, right behind them.

AGGIE
Are you all right?

MARK
We're fine.
JASON
You think they noticed we were here?

MARK
(grinning)
Come on. Time to go.

The Phoenix hovers and lands.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

A different view of the Phoenix, through the Stegosaur's weapon sights.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Now I will destroy you.

An explosion rocks the Stegosaur.

SUBCOMMANDER (CONT'D)
That wasn't their craft. Who is firing at us?

EXT. SPECTRA BASE -- CONTINUOUS

The Chinese military has arrived and is pouring into the compound. A couple of tanks have started firing at the Stegosaur.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Blast! Where is Lord Zoltar?

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
He has gone to the tower complex, sir.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
The tower? He dares... Very well. If the mighty Zoltar is running, we shall do the same. Withdraw!

EXT. MECHA -- CONTINUOUS

The Stegosaur pulls back into the ocean.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

An APC pulls up beside the group. A Chinese colonel addresses them in accented but acceptable English.

COLONEL
You are G-Force?

MARK
We are.
COLONEL
Nice ship. We will take over from here. Where is Spectra commander?

Before anyone can answer, there is a low rumbling. The ground shakes. The tower falls to pieces, revealing a rocket taking off.

MARK
I would guess he's in there. Come on, team, let's bring him down.

AGGIE
No, Mark. That's not a terrestrial rocket, it's a space ship. The Phoenix isn't designed for vacuum.

MARK
Then we'll track him and catch him when he lands.

COLONEL
The battle is not over. I must go. Are these civilians with you?

The scientists exchange hurried glances.

DR. KEE
These three will stay, Colonel, and explain what occurred in this place. I must go with my son.

COLONEL
Very well. Goodbye.

MARK, JASON, AGGIE, KEYOP and DR. KEE head for the Phoenix and the three remaining scientists board the APC.

INT. PHOENIX -- MORNING

TINY
I'm glad you guys are okay.

MARK
Let's stay that way. Move us out of the danger zone, Tiny.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix starts away from the Spectra base, following a low flight path over the sea.

MARK
Aggie, what's that rocket up to?

AGGIE
It's left the atmosphere.

JASON
It's not coming down?
AGGIE
No. And it's not angling for orbit, either. It's headed straight out.

MARK
But why? Where else is there to go?

AGGIE
Transmission coming in.

MARK
On screen.

ZOLTAR appears on the monitor.

ZOLTAR
I regret I have not time to destroy you, G-Force. When I return, we will settle that account. In the meantime, thank you for the Vitalumis. It will prove most useful.

ZOLTAR laughs and the transmission ends.

AGGIE
I'm getting some strange radiation emissions from the rocket.

MARK
What's it doing?

EXT. SPECTRA ROCKET -- CONTINUOUS
There is a hint of elongation as the rocket winks out of existence.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

AGGIE
It's gone.

TINY
What do you mean gone?

AGGIE
I'm mean it's not there. It vanished.

JASON
It can't just vanish.

DR. KEE
It didn't. They have made a hyperspatial jump.

Beat.

JASON
A what?
DR. KEE
A leap through space to a far
distant point through...

JASON
I know what it is! I also know
it's impossible!

TINY
Doctor, unless you're involved in
work I don't know about, there is
no such technology.

DR. KEE
Not on Earth.

Beat.

AGGIE
Oh, no.

MARK
Doctor, are you sure?

DR. KEE
That is why they wanted the
Vitalumis. Planet Spectra is a
dying world. They have technologies
we do not, but the reverse is also
ture. The Vitalumis will help
arrest the decline of their
ecosystem while they carry out the
remainder of their plan.

JASON
Which is?

MARK
Invasion.

TINY
They're coming here.

AGGIE
We have to stop them.

JASON
How? We still don't know anything
about them!

DR. KEE reaches into his pocket and produces the canister
he recovered from the lab, giving it to MARK.

MARK
What's this, doctor?

DR. KEE
What did not reach you last time.
Information about their biology,
their technology and their planetary
system. Co-ordinates,
characteristics... everything.
MARK
You may have saved us all, doctor.

DR. KEE
Without G-Force, I would likely be dead now.

JASON
Well, they got away but so did we. I guess we can call that one even.

MARK
We'll be ready for them next time.

A klaxon goes off.

TINY
Collision alert!

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix has been coasting along above the waves but now the Stegosaur rises out of the water into its path. The Phoenix plows straight into the Stegosaur's limbs and is caught.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

MARK
Tiny!

TINY
Too late. We're caught. They're pulling us in.

JASON
Oh, this just keeps getting better.

AGGIE
What do we do, Mark?

MARK
Doctor, try to transmit your information to Centre Neptune. G-Force, prepare for combat.

TINY
At last.

MARK
Not you, Tiny.

TINY
Are you kidding me? We're about to get killed or shipped to another planet and you still don't want me to fight? What are you protecting me for?

MARK
I have a special job for you.
INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
The enemy craft is in the hold, sir.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Good. Make for space. What are they doing?

On the monitor we can see MARK, JASON, AGGIE and KEYOP exiting the top hatch of the Phoenix.

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
They are engaging our forces in the hold, sir.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
And the pilot?

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
I read a transmission from their craft, sir. He must still be aboard.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

Underneath the Phoenix, TINY emerges from a hatch to lurk in shadow. TINY sneaks away towards the stern of the Stegosaur. We see the remainder of G-Force in combat, which we now know is a diversionary tactic.

JASON
You think he can do it?

MARK
No question. He's just got to find the reactor.

INT. MECHA -- ENGINE ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

TINY looks into the engine room. There are a handful of soldiers.

TINY
Let's dance.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

AGGIE is laying out soldiers with her yo-yo. A soldier behind her is about to get the drop on her.

JASON
Princess!

The warning gives AGGIE a chance to jump away. She lands near MARK.
MARK
Princess?

AGGIE
I'm starting to like it.

INT. MECHA -- ENGINE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

TINY, surrounded by unconscious soldiers, is tapping instructions into the computer.

TINY
Lock this, release that, and boom. Fireworks in about... two minutes, I'd say.
(to soldiers)
Don't get up. I can find the way out.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

KEYOP is leaping about in full combat mode when a hand grabs his ankle and throws him to the floor.

CIRCUS SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Remember me?

KEYOP
(Chinese, subtitled)
I remember.

They square off. They fight. KEYOP uses his acrobatic skills to bounce off the surroundings, raining blows from every direction. In short order, we see KEYOP standing over an unconscious opponent.

KEYOP (CONT'D)
For Grandfather.

INT. MECHA -- CONTROL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Sir, I'm getting a danger signal from the reactor. Explosion imminent!

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Visual!

The monitor shows unconscious soldiers in the engine room.

SUBCOMMANDER (CONT'D)
(Chinese, subtitled)
Who did this?

MECHA SOLDIER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Look!
Another monitor shows TINY leaping into combat in the hold.

SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
No!

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

TINY
Time to go!

MARK
I'll get the door!

MARK throws the sonic boomerang, which strikes the controls for the hold doors. As G-Force re-enter the Phoenix, the doors begin to open. Soldiers grab for handholds as wind tries to pull them outside.

INT. PHOENIX -- MOMENTS LATER

MARK
Okay, Tiny, get us out of here.

TINY
Gladly.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix fires her jets and begins to manoeuvre for the exit. Suddenly there is a huge explosion and the Stegosaur tilts. The Phoenix is thrown sideways into the far wall.

EXT. MECHA -- CONTINUOUS

The Stegosaur is at the edge of the atmosphere. Flame and smoke from the explosion pour out of the superstructure as gravity begins to pull it back to what will be a very bad end.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

JASON
You want me to drive?

TINY
That's their power gone. They're in free fall.

AGGIE
That means we are, too, Tiny.

TINY
I'm working on it!

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix moves shakily across the hold towards the exit. SUBCOMMANDER enters the hold and shouts over the noise.
SUBCOMMANDER
(Chinese, subtitled)
Seal that exit!

Soldiers look at each other. Is he nuts? SUBCOMMANDER draws a gun and shoots somebody. The body is whipped away by the wind.

SUBCOMMANDER (CONT'D)
(Chinese, subtitled)
Do it!

A group of three soldiers throw themselves at the control panel. Two fail and are sucked outside. The third hangs precariously from the panel and manages to hit the control before he, too, is sucked outside. The huge door begins to close.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

MARK
Ah, Tiny?

TINY
I see it! You want to let me work here?

MARK
Okay, no problem.
(looking at the closing door)
No problem.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

By twisting the Phoenix as nimbly as a parking car, TINY manages to squeeze the ship out the rapidly closing door.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

TINY
We're out!

CRUNCH!

TINY (CONT'D)
Almost.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

One wingtip pod is caught in the door.

INT. MECHA -- HOLD -- CONTINUOUS

SUBCOMMANDER
We die together.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

TINY
The wingtip pod is stuck.
MARK
Can you get us loose?

TINY
Not without tearing the wing off.

KEYOP
Falling.

AGGIE
The water is coming up fast, Mark.

JASON
We'll have to jump for it.

MARK
We can't.

JASON
Sure we can. We can fly, remember? I'll even carry the doc.

AGGIE
Jason, when the Stegosaur hits the water, it's going to explode catastrophically.

JASON
How bad exactly is catastrophic?

AGGIE
We'll be incinerated.

TINY
Even if the Phoenix was freed right now, we might not have time to get clear.

Beat.

JASON
That's it, then.

KEYOP
(to Mark)
We die?

MARK
I'm sorry, Keyop.

Take a moment to drink in everybody's reactions to certain death.

MARK (CONT'D)
Thank you. I couldn't imagine a better team.

AGGIE
Oh, Mark.

TINY
We beat the bad guys.
JASON
You did okay, commander. I never thought this group could work together. You changed us.

KEYOP
Transformed.

The magic word.

MARK
That's it! Buckle in!

They leap to obey, even as the questions fly.

JASON
What?

MARK
Tiny. Prepare to transmute to Fiery Phoenix.

TINY
It's never been tested!

MARK
Tiny, you're a genius. You're never wrong.

AGGIE
This will work, Tiny.

JASON
And it's better than the alternative!

On TINY. A moment of hesitation. A deep breath.

TINY
Hang on to your lunch, people. This could get rough.

He presses buttons. He pushes the throttle forward.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The jets vomit flame as their power output red-lines. The water is coming up very fast now.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The passengers are roughed up as the Phoenix threatens to shake itself apart.

TINY
Come on, baby, come on...

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The jets are turning white hot in the foreground as the water gets closer in the background.
There is flame flickering over the Phoenix, just as we saw happen to the model in the lab.

Go to a VERY LONG SHOT as the Stegosaur, way off in the distance, hits the water. There is the mother of all explosions. For the longest time, we see only the fireball. Then the FIERY PHOENIX shoots out into open air, with a scream that sounds part twisted metal, part jet turbine and part bird of prey.

INT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

It's like being inside a supersonic roller coaster that's also on fire. How can anyone live through this?

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Fiery Phoenix transforms slowly back to the familiar blue fuselage.

INT. PHOENIX -- MOMENTS LATER

The passengers slowly recover from the ordeal.

    JASON
    Let's not do that again.

    AGGIE
    I agree with Jason.

    TINY
    There's a first.

    MARK
    You saved us all, Tiny.

    TINY
    Yeah. Kinda cool, huh?

    AGGIE
    The coolest.

She gives him a kiss on the cheek.

    JASON
    You got some of that lip magic for me, Princess?

    AGGIE
    For an egotistical loner who can't wait to leave us in the lurch? Like hell.
    (then)
    But for a man who threw himself at a room full of gunmen to save my life...

She gives him a kiss on the cheek. He is nonplussed.

    AGGIE (CONT'D)
    Even if I did have to save your butt 10 seconds later.
They all laugh.

MARK
Keyop, is your father okay?

KEYOP
Asleep still. Okay.

MARK
Congratulations, G-Force. But let's not forget that Spectra is still out there. We'll be seeing them again. But for now, let's go home. Tiny?

TINY
Big 10.

EXT. PHOENIX -- CONTINUOUS

The Phoenix zooms for the horizon, taking our heroes back to Centre Neptune.

JASON (O.S.)
And maybe you should consider installing barf bags in this thing.

CREDITS

EXT. DEEP SPACE -- LATER

As CREDITS run, we dissolve through a series of shots in deep space, eventually arriving at a barren planet. ZOLTAR's rocket winks back into existence. A shuttle detaches from the rocket and arcs towards the planet.

INT. THRONE ROOM -- LATER

DISSOLVE to a large bare chamber. ZOLTAR enters and walks with echoing footsteps to the far end, where he kneels.

LUMINOUS ONE
Your mission was successful, Zoltar?

ZOLTAR
Yes, Oh Luminous One. We have the compound needed to restore our ecosystem.

LUMINOUS ONE
It will not suffice. Spectra must have the Earth to survive. Soon, very soon, you must return there.

ZOLTAR
It will be done, magnificence. They will fall before the might of Spectra.

LUMINOUS ONE
And this G-Force of whom I hear?
ZOLTAR
I will crush them without mercy.

THE END