

Sentient
Episode 1
Brand new world

by

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Based on Sentient

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EXT. BIG FLAT - HALL - 10:15 A.M.

Anna (20 years, brunete, green eyes, very pretty, piercing on the left side of the nose) opens her eyes. She has a terrible headache. Looks around. She's on the sofa, sleeping in cloth. There are several empty bottles on the floor, whiskey and vodka mostly. Some plates with remnants of sandwiches.

ANNA
(whispers)
Damn this party...

Makes a few steps, nearly gets into the plate with salad and goes to the exit of the room.

ANNA
(loudly)
Ira? Max? Where are you?

Nobody's answering. At the nearby table she notices an opened bottle of water and a glass. She comes up to it, pours some water. Drinks, then repeats. Puts the glass to her forehead, cooling it down.

ANNA
Never again...

She notices the mirror on wardrobe. Her reflection looks pale, exhausted, total mess up with her hair.

ANNA
Never again, Ann. Every fucking weekend "never again".

Finishes the water and stands up.

ANNA
Guys, where the hell are you?

EXT. BIG FLAT - CORRIDOR - 10:30 A.M

Anna goes out of the bathroom, her hair is wet now, she's trying to dry it with a towel.

ANNA
Morons... where did they go?

EXT. BIG FLAT - KITCHEN - 10:35

Anna is sitting at the table, eating sandwiches. She turns on the TV. There's nothing on the 1st channel. Just grey screen. Indifferently, Anna switches the channels, but none is working. Annoyed, she turns it off.

ANNA

Damn, he didn't pay the TV bill...

Takes out her smartphone. Calls her friend Ira. Long beeps. She types another number of her friend Max, the owner of this flat. His phone is off. Ann wants to check them in the social networks - but notices new "likes" on Instagram. Opens photos, they show the events of the night. Ira, Max, his friend Kolya make selfies. They all have weird faces. Anna hems. Looks at the next photos - Anna, Ira and Max on the balcony together. The sky beyond them is colored with red of different shades. Nothing similar anyone of them ever seen before. They are smiling. There's a photo where Ann is standing alone in front of the burning sky. She smiles.

ANNA

(silently)

How did i miss that...

EXT. FLAT - BALCONY - 13TH FLOOR - 11 HOURS AGO

Ira, Max, Kolya and Anna are on the balcony, watching at the flaming sky and making photos.

ANNA

Come on, make another one!

She tries different positions for better look. Anna turns her head to the sky and looks up.

ANNA

What's that, what do you think?

Ira shrugs.

MAX

Don't know. Maybe, some sun burst or something. Kolya?

KOLYA

For me, just a kind of a meteor shower. I'm not an astrologer.

(CONTINUED)

IRA

It's astronomer, you dumb ass!

Everybody laughs.

EXT. BIG FLAT - KITCHEN - 10:40

Anna smiles, remembering tjat. She looks around, searching for a pack of smokes. Finds one on the refrigerator, takes a cigarette. Lights it up, looks for an ashtray, but finds none. She goes to the balcony.

EXT. BIG FLAT - BALCONY - 10:45

Anna enters the balcony and freezes. The sky has unnatural color of very light red color, the sun is not seen due to strange red clouds. She opens the window. It is very silent outside. She sees the road, but no cars on it now. Anna hems, takes her phone and makes several photos of herself with the red and pink clouds as the background. Then she smokes and throws the cigarette down afterwards.

EXT. BIG FLAT - KITCHEN AND HALL - 10:55

She tries to call Ira, Max, some other friens of her. Then she calls her parents, who live in another city. All phones are silent. The social networks are still on, but no one online. Anna looks for a pen. Finds none. Her gaze falls on the bright shining surface of the refrigerator. She grins. Takes her vanity-bag, takes a lipstick. Smiling, she writes on the refrigerator: "I'm going back home, doodles!". Gets her things together - phone, bubble-gum, cosmetics she left on the table. Takes the half-empty bottle of water. Puts on her light jacket. Stands in front of the mirror there, checking how she looks like. She leaves the flat.

EXT. 13TH FLOOR STAIRCASE - 11:05

Anna closes the door and hears the lock works - the door is closed now. She calls the elevator. The numbers on the panel above the entrance to it starts growing - the elevator rises up. In a few moments, it arrives. The door opens.

ANNA

(looking inside, shocked)

Max?

Fade out.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - 11 P.M. - MAY 2015

Car is quickly driving to Moscow direction. A beautiful melody is playing inside (something of early Sting). ALEX (25, dark hair, grey eyes, about feet tall, athletic) is driving home from the weekend spent with friends in another town. The road is good, the speed is good - Alex is enjoying the ride. He's whistling to the music. The road leads through the forest on both sides, being crossed by large open spaces. Suddenly, Alex's phone is calling. He takes it with one hand, keeping on driving. It's a call from his best friend Vladimir (NOTE: not Putin).

ALEX

Here.

VLAD

Where are you, bro?

ALEX

On my way.

VLAD

Do you see it?

ALEX

What?

VLAD

Do you see the sky?

Pause. Alex is trying to realise what is it he being asked.

ALEX

Eh...

VLAD

God damn it man, do you see the fucking sky? I believe you do not. Cause if you did, you wouldn't have "eh" me like that...

ALEX

(interrupting)

What the hell are you talking about? Is it another one of you stupid little jokes that...

Car enters the pen space and a huge piece of horizon is seen now. There is Moscow in 10-15 km from there, but there is a strange deep red colours above it. Like aurora polaris, but different. Moving from the side of horizon to Alex's direction.

(CONTINUED)

VLAD

(satisfied)

What, you're watching it, right?
I'm on the roof. It's nothing like
i've seen before in my life. Any
ideas what can it be?

ALEX

(not blinking)

I'd say no. Call you back, man.

VLAD

What?!

Alex ends up the call, drives off the road, stops.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - WAYSIDE

Alex is watching the red storm covers the city. He realizes, that the main processes are in the atmosphere, it looks like a giant red starfall, moving and changing color. It spreads with enormous speed high in the sky, flashing the night into the deep red. Alex can't handle himself - takes out the phone and starts shooting video of this. There is a silly smile on his face, like a child who's seeing something beautiful for the first time. In a few minutes, the storm covers the sky above him, making place around even brighter. A lone car drives away Moscow directly on the highway, but Alex barely mentions it. He holds the phone right above himself and stares at the red sky.

ALEX

(whispers)

Beautiful...

He realises, that this event can last for hours, so he gets back into the car.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - INSIDE THE CAR

He starts it and drives. The music returns, still slow and romantic. Alex wrinkles. Changes the music to AC/DC - Highway to hell. Makes it louder. Smiles. Increases the speed. Car accelerates towards Moscow with weird red storm above it.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - NEAR THE RING ROAD

Alex is still driving and getting ready to turn left to his way home. He slows down, when suddenly a big truck appears on the road in front of him, and it's rushing towards Alex's car. Alex tries to react, he manages to turn right, but the speed is still too high and he crushes the fencing and hits the post nearby. Alex is knocked out. Truck keeps on going on the wrong side of the road. Camera takes big picture of highway. Some noise comes from the city. More cars appear on the highway, driving away from Moscow. Alex's phone is ringing.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - INSIDE THE CAR - 11 A.M.

Alex opens his eyes. His face is on the wheel, something sticky is on his nose. It's dried blood. He groans and sits. Car's bumper is divided in half by the post.

ALEX

Fuck...

He releases the seatbelt, opens the door, gets out of the car.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - OUTSIDE THE CAR - 10 A.M

He critically looks at the car, understands it is fucked up. Touches his nose - it's painful, but it's not bleeding. He looks at his hand watch.

ALEX

Shit... almost 11 hours!

He looks around - no cars are driving, no signs of activity around, very silent. He takes the phone from the car. Checks it - several missed calls from Vlad. He calls back. Long beeps. Tries again - same result.

ALEX

Damn, what's wrong with all this...

He looks back to lower the pressure in his broken nose and freezes. The sky still holds the remnants of the last night. It's slightly red. Alex quickly looks around and realizes that no standard sounds of the city can be heard.

ALEX

What's going on...

(CONTINUED)

He tries to call more people. No one answers. He comes to the car, takes little bag with needful things: documents, ID's, charges for phone, player. Puts the keys from the car into the pocket. Looks at the car.

ALEX

(to the car)

Well, i'll be back for you soon.

Goes away, to Moscow, to his home.

EXT. NEARBY ALLEY - 15 MINUTES LATER

Alex goes for 10 minutes without surprises, alone down the lone road. It's a little parking zone near the house he lives. He notices the man's figure in the distance, sitting on the bench. He goes quickly to it. He approaches, it seems that the man is sleeping, head on his chest. Alex comes closer and very gently touches man's shoulder to wake him up.

ALEX

Hey, mr. Could you help me with...

Man shows no reaction to Alex's attempts to wake him up. Alex pushes a little harder and the man falls on his side, as a bag. His eyes are opened and reflects nothing - they're dead. Small spots of dry blood near his nose, ears and eyes. In horror, Alex steps back. Looks around. Calls the medics again by the phone, with the same result - no one is on the other side. He looks around - everything looks completely empty. He turns and runs to his house through the forest part of the park.

EXT. SUBURB OF MOSCOW - CAR SERVICE - 10:30 P.M.

Sergey (29, big strong guy, works as a mechanic in car service) is busy repairing the car. He's beneath it, doing something with the wrench. The place is poorly lighted, so there's only a car being repaired, lots of instruments, oil, anti-freeze, and other liquids for cars. An old radio is on the stand-alone table in the corner, playing some cheap Russian pop. An opened bottle of water on the table. Tired, Sergey gets from beneath the car, stands up. Takes the bottle, makes a few gulps. Signs. Decreases the volume of the radio, takes the phone from his jacket hanging on the wall. Calls to his bribe Nastya. Beeps.

SERGEY

Hello, honey, i'm almost done with this damn work.

(CONTINUED)

NASTYA

At long last. Come on, the supper
is waiting! And so am i.

He can hear her smiling on that side of the phone. That
makes him smile as well.

SERGEY

I'll be in half an our. Should i
drop in for something?

NASTYA

No, i had everything prepared. Just
come home.

Sergey starts walking around, finds the pack of smokes in
the pocket - empty. He wrinkles.

NASTYA

This May holiday will be great...

SERGEY

Yeah... good old Petersburg... and
you lovely parents.

NASTYA

Come on, they love you and you know
that.

Sergey throws the empty pack to the trash bucket.

SERGEY

I know, i know. Just... can't wait
to see them.

Nastya laughs.

NASTYA

Just go home. They say on TV that
some kind of weater phenomenon is
expected this night. And...

Sound of footstpes there. The sound of the door opened. Sign
of exitement.

SERGEY

Eh... Nastya?

NASTYA

I've never seen anything like this
before. Get yourself in the car and
drive home. I want to see this with
you.

(CONTINUED)

She ends the call.

 SERGEY
 Nastya? What...

Puts the phone on the table, signs.

 SERGEY
 Girls...

Turns on the radio, goes to the door, ready to open it.

 DICTOR (MALE)
 (on the radio)
 And we have absolutely amazing
 sight from our 30th floor office.
 In my whole 28 years i've never
 seen anything - you hear me -
 anything like this before. I believe
 that city and - and it's lovely
 citizens will remember this nihgt -
 remember it forever.

Sergey opens the door.

 SERGEY
 (to himself and to the radio)
 Did they all get high there?

He makes a step outside.

EXT. SUBURB OF MOSCOW - OUTSIDE CAR SERVICE - 10:35 P.M.

He freezes. The car service is quite in a distance from the living blocks, in the former industrial zone. Sergey can't remove his eyes from the sky. Like a giant storm of deep red cover it, like moving giant waves from east to west. Like a giant Polar shining, although Sergey never seen one. The clouds of red, changing color and shape any second you watch it, bright flashes, like the ones from the falling stars cuts the sky. Hundreds and hundreds of them.

 SERGEY
 Damn... we will remember...

Stands for some time. With effort he removes his gaze from the sky and starts quickly moving to the car parked nearby. But while he moves, he looks up with every few steps. Having approaches the car, opens it, gets in.

EXT. SUBURB OF MOSCOW - INSIDE THE CAR - 10:45 P.M.

Sergey starts the engine and turns on the music. Looks into the sky through the front window. It's looks like the clouds of this deep red color became lower. Like a giant mass of red fog is slowly consuming the city. He can barely see the multi-storey buildings in half a mile away. The fog is not very thick, but it hides the objects well enough. Sergey's face changes to a little worry. He starts driving the car. He drives to the road that leads to a highway, but he realizes after several hundreds of yards that the red mass is really moving towards him. He slows down, then stops. Gets out of the car.

EXT. SUBURB OF MOSCOW - INSIDE THE CAR - 10:55 P.M.

He's like standing in front of a giant cloud of red fog or mist. It's covering everything. There's something in the air, like tiny red particles of unknown nature. The fog swallows the place where Sergey is standing with his car. He stands inside, he feels normal, despite the feeling that he's inside in some kind of a sick dream. The storm in the sky passed over, moving further to west, leaving that strange remnants in the city. Sergey even can see the stars in the sky above once again, but through the mist they have some bloody shade on them. Sergey feels his heart starts beating faster, his minds rushing in different directions, he's in state close to panic. He breathes full chest and terrible headache breaks his head apart. He falls unconscious.

EXT. YARD - 11:10 A.M.

ALEX slows down, running to the familiar yard of the building where he rents a flat. He slightly catches his breath after the running. The yard looks very silent. The strange clouds in the sky of light red (closer to pink) give a surrealistic sight of the familiar things. Alex stops and makes a few deep breathes.

EXT. INSIDE THE BUILDING - 11:11

He enters the building, rising up to the 5th floor, where he rents the flat. On the 2nd floor, he hears some silent scream and someone starts running down the stairs from the upper floor. Alex looks up and starts running up. Somewhere on staircase, he nearly collides with Anna. She looks at him with surprise, and she's definitely in shock. Alex seems surprised as well.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Eh... Are you alright?

ANNA

(shocked)

My friend... in the lift... he
is... he is...

Alex realizes that something wrong is happening all around.
He has to be rational and calm.

ALEX

Listen, you have to calm down.

ANNA

(still very nervous)

I... i couldn't find anyone. All
phones are silent and... and...

She's ready to cry.

ALEX

Calm down. Everything is ok. Who
are you? What has happened here?
Where is you friend?

She points up. She's nearly shudders with fear and slow
realization of complete incomprehension of the current
situation.

ALEX

Listen, I'm Sasha, i live here, on
5th floor. I was about to go home
and check the news, then heard you
screaming and got here.

Anna looks at him, some understanding of that comes to her.

ANNA

I'm Ann. I was with friends here
this night, when woke up everybody
gone, i called the lift and... and
found Max there.

She remembers that with fear in her eyes. She sits back to
the wall, right on the floor.

ALEX

I got that. Anna, i'll check the
lift and come back here. Then go to
my place and figure out the
situation. Right?

(CONTINUED)

She looks at her. She doesn't look back, just nods quickly several times. Alex starts going up the stairs.

ALEX
Anna, what floor?

ANNA
(silently)
13th.

ALEX keeps going up.

EXT. 13TH FLOOR STAIRCASE - 11:15

Alex approaches the lift and pushes the button. He's sweating, cause his nerves are also on the edge. The door of the lift opens. He sees a body of the young man (Max) in the corner. He sees some dried blood near the nose, eyes and ears. Alex remember the guy in the park with the same symphomes. He swallows. Then he pushes the 1st floor as the destination of the lift and gets out of the cabin.

EXT. 8TH FLOOR STAIRCASE - 11:16

Alex finds Ann in the same pose sitting on the floor. She's in her phone, trying to get some data from the net. She's smoking. When he approaches, she doesn't look at him.

ALEX
I'm sorry to tell this, but our
friend is dead.

She doesn't react on this phrase at all. Alex gives her a hand.

ALEX
Come on, it's several floors down
the stairs.

She doesn't take the hand and stands up herself. Shs goes down, Alex follows.

EXT. 5TH FLOOR STAIRCASE - 11:20

Alex opens the door. It's dark inside. Alex enters. Ann follows. Alex turn on the light.

ALEX
(some sad irony in his voice)
Welcome.

Fade out.

EXT. ALEX'S FLAT - CORRIDOR - 11:20

Alex enters, puts his handbag on the shelf in the corridor, goes into the main room. Anna stops at the corridor, looking at the furnishing around.

ALEX
 (from the hall)
 I'm check the news and we go to the center, there must be someone who knows what's going on.

ANNA
 And waht do you think is going on?

Somewhere in hall Alex turns on the computer.

ALEX
 No idea. Some emergency situation, i'm afraid.

Anna makes a step out of the corridor.

ANNA
 Where is water here? Very thirsty.

ALEX
 The kitchen is on the right from you. In the cooler.

EXT. ALEX'S FLAT - KITCHEN - 11:25

Anna pours herself a glass of water and realizes, that her hands are shaking holding it. She drinks and goes to the room.

EXT. ALEX'S FLAT - MAIN ROOM - 11:26

Alex is at the computer, checks the websites with latest news.

ALEX
 Damn it... yandex, mail, vk, youtube - all blocked. Latest date - this night, this damn red storm in the sky. That's it. I - i don't know why, but we're cut off the net at the moment. Phones still work, but no one answers.

(CONTINUED)

Anna doesn't like this info.

ANNA

How could it be... Impossible.

Alex stands up, starts looking for the things in the room.

ALEX

(searching for something)

Anna, do you have many stuff of your own? We should go. There's a clinic not far from here, it must be working. Such places are used as rescue centers in the situation like... well, complicated ones.

Alex takes documents and IDs, some cash he finds, a photcamera in the bag, accumulators for the phone and notebook.

ANNA

Is this the only option we... i have?

Alex looks at her with slight surprise.

ALEX

Do you want to stay here? This district is quite poorly populated as you may have noticed.

Anna signs.

ANNA

I go with you. But... i just leave Max's body in the lift? I...

ALEX

(interrupting)

We'll take care of it once we take care of ourselves. Ready to go?

Anna nods nervously.

ALEX

Check the kitchen for some food. Could you take some of these?

Points to his belongings. Anna takes the bag with camera, hangs it on the shoulder. Alex goes to the kitchen. Anna goes to the window and looks outside. The sky is still covered with clouds, but the strange red shade is still upthere. The windows show the territory outside the

(CONTINUED)

building, an alley leading to the park. Something moves there. Anna squints and sees several human's figures going away. It frightens her, though she doesn't understand why.

EXT. 5TH FLOOR STAIRCASE - 11:35

Alex and Anna are on the staircase. Alex closes the door. It's very silent around, only the keys are being turned in the lock. They are ready to go down, when Alex stops suddenly.

ALEX

Can you hear that?

ANNA

Hear what?

The entrance door 5 floors below is opened and someone runs into the porch. They hear footsteps on the stairs. Both freeze. Several seconds of silence, interrupted by the footsteps of the stranger below. The footsteps stop somewhere on the 2nd floor.

SERGEY

(on the second floor)

Nastya!

The sound of the door opened.

ALEX

(whispers)

Hey, I know the guy. Wait here.

He puts his bags on the floor and starts running down silently. Anna didn't have time to react. She finds herself in the silence again, hearing Sasha quickly going down. A strange sound touches her ears. Very silent. It reminds of a child's cry. Anna looks around. It seems to her that the sound goes from the door next to Alex's flat. She slowly approaches the door. There is a clear cry of a child. She takes handle of the door and pushes it. The door opens and Anna makes a step forward.

EXT. SERGEY'S CAR - 11:25

Sergey is driving through the empty streets to his home. He's still has a headache and he barely remembers how he got into the car, but he knows he's on the right way. He recognizes the familiar yard and stops, get out of the car.

EXT. BUILDING - YARD - 11:27

Sergey goes to the porch, trying to figure out if there's anyone in the street. He holds the phone and calls Nastya, but hears only long beeps. He comes to the porch door and opens it with key doorphone. Goes in.

EXT. 2ND FLOOR STAIRCASE - 11:30

Sergey is in front of his door. He rings the door bell, but no response. He knocks at the door.

SERGEY

Nastya!

He opens the door with his keys and enters.

EXT. INSIDE SERGEY'S FLAT - 11:31

Sergey looks around - everything seems to be fine. He makes a step into the room.

SERGEY

Nastya? Where are you?

He checks the rooms - all but empty, no signs of his girlfriend. Goes back to the corridor - notices a small note pasted on the wardrobe: "Darling, I and Vika are going to watch this starfall from the park. Join us when you return :-). Love you". He takes the note. Looks at the time of the last call, then on the clock on the wall.

SERGEY

Shit, 12 hours have passed!

He hears some footsteps and sees a young man enter his flat (it's ALEX).

ALEX

Eh, good afternoon. I'm your neighbour, name's Sasha...

SERGEY

(interrupting)

Yeah, I've seen you a couple of times. What are you doing here? I mean, what has happened?

ALEX

I don't know, everyone like gone somewhere. I wanted to ask you about that.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

Sorry, missed that. Didn't you see Nastya, my girlfriend?

ALEX

No, you're the second man i see this morning.

Sergey puts the note in his pocket and looks nervously around.

SERGEY

Shit. Are you alone here? Have some ideas what to do now?

ALEX

We're goind to the clinic a few blocks from here, the one near the lake. They know there what's going on. And you?

SERGEY

I must find Nastya. But... clinic, you say. In case of emergency it becomes first aid center. I can pick you up there and check Nastya in there.

ALEX

I'd appreciate that very much.

They look at each other for some seconds. Both do not trust each other.

ALEX

I'll get my fellow traveler then, she's waiting on the 5th.

He turns and goes away.

SERGEY

Hey, what happened this night? Where did everyone go?

ALEX

I don't know. I've seen the red storm in the sky. Then was a little crash, and i woke up in the morning.

Sergey hems.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

What? Sound familiar?

Sergey doesn't answer.

ALEX

We'll be waiting outside.

Alex leaves the flat. Sergey goes to the main room.

EXT. INSIDE SERGEY'S FLAT - 11:40

Sergey opens the small safe in the corner of the hall. Takes out a traumatic gun and a couple of clips (40 bullets in total). Puts it in the holster, takes the document for the weapon, puts the holster on the belt and hides it with the jacket. Looks around, figuring out what else he should take with him. Goes to the exit.

EXT. FLAT ON THE 5TH FLOOR - CORRIDOR - 11:30

Anna is in the dark corridor. Child's cry can be clearly heard. Anna moves forward, enters the big room, then goes to the playroom.

EXT. FLAT ON THE 5TH FLOOR - PLAYROOM - 11:30

There's a small child of 4 years old, in the cot. He's making strange sounds that reminds crying. Seeing Anna, he stops and looks at her. Anna looks around - no signs of parents. She makes a step closer to the child. Child now stares at her. She puts the bag with the camera on the floor.

ANNA

Hey, little one.

The child makes some strange meaningless sounds stretching hands to her. That confuses Anna a little, but after a second of consideration, she goes to the cot and takes the child in her hands. The child grabs her, not like embraces, but in a more aggressive, even violent way. Anna doesn't actually realise that, she writes that off to the fear of the child.

ANNA

Sh... don't be afraid now. I'll get you to your parents. They must be very worried about you.

(CONTINUED)

She keeps the child at arm's length and looks at him. Brunette, pretty plump face and the eyes of a light brown color, closer to yellow or golden. The expression on the face of the child is alienated, like he's barely recognises everything around and what's going on, but Anna doesn't notices that.

ANNA

How did they live such a pretty boy... Your parents are...

She stops. She remembers that she's no idea what has happened to her own parents, cause she didn't hear a word from them since everything begun.

ANNA

Yeah, i wish i knew where my parents are now.

It's like she's going to drop a tear or two, but she holds herself. She hears Alex is calling her from the outside that flat.

ALEX

(from outside)

Anna! Where are you?

She puts the child back in the cot, although he's clinging on her.

ANNA

Wait a second, little one.

She looks aroung for a pen and paper and sees the white sheets, on which the child tried to draw and several felt-tip pens. She takes a red one and writes on on of the sheets: Name's Ann. Sorry, but I took care of your child finding him here alone and crying. I'll be waiting for you at the local clinic with the kid. My phone is *****. She critically looks at the note, evaluating handwriting. Leaves it on the table, where it is very easy to see. Takes the child back and goes to the exit.

ANNA

Come on, we are being waited for.

EXT. 5TH FLOOR - STAIRCASE - 11:45

Anna goes out of the flat and sees Alex on the staircase, who seems a little worried.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Where have you... A child?

ANNA

I heard him crying. He's alone. If we go to the clinic, we can take him there.

Sergey goes up the stairs and sees Alex, then Anna and child.

SERGEY

You didn't mention she's with child.

ALEX

She's not. Got him here, i know the family, good neighbours.

Sergey seems a little nervous.

SERGEY

Listen, i'm in a hurry. If we go, we go now and...

ANNA

I don't know you guys, but do you really want to leave the child here alone? Really?

Alex looks carefully at the child. The child looks back with his strange eyes. He's very silent in Ann's hands.

SERGEY

I'm not telling you to leave him, i'm saying we do not have much time.

ANNA

Then let's go.

She starts going down the stairs. Sergey follows.

ALEX

Anna, what about my photcamera?

Anna stops.

ANNA

Damn, left it near the cot. Will you...?

ALEX

I'll be in a minute.

He goes into the flat.

EXT. FLAT ON THE 5TH FLOOR - PLAYROOM - 11:40

Alex takes the bag and looks around. Sees Anna's note and adds his phone unnumber. Puts it back. He's ready to go, but sees a photo on the wall: the child and the parents. He smiles a little and takes it to have a closer look. In a few moments of watching the photo his smile fades. It's clearly seen that the child on the photo has grey eyes.

EXT. YARD - 11:50 A.M

Anna is with the kid on her hands is standing near Sergey's car. She's completely busy with the kid. Sergey checks the engine. Alex goes out of the house with a strange expression on his face. He's with his bag and camera. He approaches to Ann and Sergey.

ALEX

Do you think we should take the kid with us?

ANNA

What are you saying, we can't leave him here. Without knowing what's happened...

ALEX

(interrupting)

Exactly, without knowing what has happened taking the child will be... strange. If his parents or grandmother return and don't find him...

SERGEY

Listen, i don't like this idea either. But leaving the kid here is worse than taking him now. We move to the clinic, find people, doctors and that's it.

Sergey finishes with the engine, opens the car, gets inside.

ALEX

I don't like the idea.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

I don't like anything what's going
on this morning. Get in.

With an expression of superiority on her face, Ann gets into the car with a kid on her hands. Alex has nothing to do, but to follow.

EXT. INSIDE THE CAR - SEVERAL MINUTES LATER

Sergey drives to the clinic. The road is empty. The rare red clouds are still in the sky. The kid sits in Anna's knees, in the other hand she's hoilding the phone which is not working.

ALEX

(looking at the kid)
You're familiar with the kids,
Anna?

ANNA

My best friend already has a child.
Of his age. I'm his mother-in-law,
so...

She stops.

ALEX

What?

ANNA

I just thought, how's he now? He's
in anothers city, so must be ok,
doesn't he?

Some despair in her eyes when she says it.

SERGEY

(keeps on driving)
Of course they are. I'm sure we'll
find many people in the clinic.

Anna looks at Sergey's back of the head, as if trying to understand if he really believes in that. At this moment the kid touches her hand with the phone. They do not notice that, but the ouch is not simultaneous. The kids wants to grab the phone and he almost successeds. Anna takes it away.

ANNA

It's not working, dear. See?

(CONTINUED)

She shows it, trying to turn it on, but it's useless. Still, the kid keeps his attempts to take the phone. Anna hems and gives it to the kid to hold. He takes and looks up right into Anna's eyes. Now it is clear to her that his eyes has really strange color.

SERGEY

People!

He drives the car to the side of the road.

ALEX

What? Where? I didn't see.

SERGEY

There' in the park, behind the trees. Must be near the lake there, know it?

ANNA

We can talk to them, probably, they know something of what's happened.

SERGEY

(taking off the seat belt)
That's exactly what i'm going to do. I think you should go with me, rather than seat in the car.

Sergey goes out of the car.

ALEX

You wanna take him or leave it in the car?

ANNA

What a stupid question.

They both go out of the car, Anna holds the kid, forgetting to take the phone from the back seat.

EXT. SIDE ROAD NEAR THE PARK - 12:20 P.M.

Sergey is several yards ahead of the them, goes to the forest, where he's seen people several moments ago.

SERGEY

Come on.

Anna and Alex follow him in to the park.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

I'm now sure we go after them.

ANNA

(suspiciously)

Scared?

ALEX

Don't like the uncertainty of the situation.

ANNA

(with irony)

Uncertainty of the situation? You know how to name things.

Alex doesn't answer, just follows Sergey. Anna does the same. The kid in her hands watching them, there's a clear consciousness in his eyes.

EXT. PARK WITH THE LAKE - 12:30 P.M.

Sergey leads the group through the park. Anna and Alex are going a little behind. Anna's holding the kid.

ANNA

What do the people do here? It's weird, walking in the parks when something strange is going on.

ALEX

I think they do the same as we do. Looking for someone.

SERGEY

It's all very strange, isn't it? Like a bad dream.

They all go in silence. Only the breath can be heard, all of them are a little nervous, but the child, who remains completely still, but they do not notice that.

SERGEY

There!

He points forward and Alex manages to notice someone's back far in front among the trees.

ALEX

See. Follow?

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY
 (after a very short
 hesitation)
 Of course.

They keep going.

EXT. NEAR THE LAKE - SEVERAL MINUTES LATER

They approach the lake, but it's not seen yet. But there's clearly an unknown man comes to the direction of the lake. Sergey moves faster.

 SERGEY
 Hey! Excuse me!

The man keeps moving. Sergey rushes forward, touches man's shoulder to attract his attention, but the man doesn't react. Sergey sees something in forward of him that makes him stop. The man keeps moving forward. Anna and Alex reah Sergey and stop as well. They see the lake in front of them. There are several bodies on the surface of it, faces in the water. several more people are moving to the lake.

 SERGEY
 (in shock)
 What are they all doing? Hey!

Neither of them show any reaction to Sergey's call.

 ALEX
 I think we'd better leave.

Sergey slowly moves forward, passing before the 1st man. Sergey looks at him. The expression of the man's face is nothing like he ever seen before. The gaze is absent, not concentrated on anything, but very catchy at the same time. And the color of the man's eyes is exactly the same, that the kid, which is still in Anna's hands. But Sergey doesn't realize that fact.

 SERGEY
 (to the man)
 What is going on here?

The man looks at Sergey indifferently and goes towards the lake. Anna starts worrying. Alex comes to Sergey.

 ALEX
 I don't like this, let's go back.

Sergey wants to tell something, when the kid on Anna's hands starts moving. He wants to be put down on the ground.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

Hey, you scare him!

The strange man notices the kid in Anna's hands and his face changes - some interest appears in his face and he makes a step to her. Sergey stops in his way, but the man easily pushes him aside and makes another step to Anna. Anna moves backward, still holding the kid, frightened. Alex looks around for a weapon. The kid behaves more aggressively, but she holds him tightly. Finally, the kid touches her face. Anna screams shortly and falls, letting the kid go. The kid quickly moves to the strange man and the man takes the kid. Sergey, who's going to take out his traumatic gun and shoot freezes. The man with the kid moves to the lake. Alex rushes to Anna and tries to take her up. Anna is very pale and looks extremely frightened.

ALEX

Anna? Anna!

He helps her to stand up, then turns back. Sees the man and the kid almost reached the lake, they are going to enter it, no doubt. Sergey, still on the ground, watches them, shocked as well. Don't knowing why, Alex takes his camera and tries to make several photos. The camera doesn't work. He's the only guy who stays relatively calm.

ALEX

(shuttered voice)

I think we'd better leave.

He looks at Anna, whose gaze is still on the kid on the hands of the strange man, slowly entering the lake.

ANNA

The boy... he...

She turns and runs back, to the car, out of the park. Sergey quickly approaches Alex.

SERGEY

(silently)

Do you realize what's that?

ALEX

No. But...

SERGEY

(interrupting)

To the car. Let's go the damn clinic.

He follows Anna. Alex takes a final look at the lake. The man and the kid are now just 2 other bodies on the surface. He leaves.

EXT. SERGEY'S CAR - 1:20 P.M.

They drive to the clinic in silence. Anna is on the back seat, eyes are glowing cause she's ready to cry, but she holds on. Sergey watches the road, and Alex looks at his camera, which is dead as the other electronic equipment they have.

ALEX

I bought it 2 months ago. It's doesn't work now. Hm.

ANNA

You.. you think of your fucking camera after what we've just seen? You went mad?

Anna geegles hysterically.

ALEX

I'm trying to what's happened. All the electronic is off and the people behave strangely.

SERGEY

(interrupting)
Strangely, you say?

Hems.

SERGEY

Strangely, you say? Nice choice of words.

ALEX

I think it's all due to the storm we saw last night. What if... it was a kind of an attack? New weapon?

SERGEY

Listen, pal. I spent in our army the whole year in rocket defence. Trust me, there were no such things, capable of doing that.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA
(very silently)
Of course not.

Alex looks back at her. She's staring in front of her, gaze unfocused. She's remembering something.

ALEX
What do you mean?

Pause.

ANNA
Nothing.

SERGEY
I've no idea what you're talking about, but we made it to the clinic.

He stops, gets out of the car. Anna gets out next, this time taking the phone with her. Alex signs, puts the camera in the bag, puts it on the floor.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CLINIC - SAME TIME

They look at the clinic. It's very silent, no signs of activity, lights are off.

ALEX
It's empty as well.

Sergey changes in face. Anna remains indifferent.

SERGEY
We'll take a look. There can be someone. Also we check phones, cameras, internet - we need some communication.

Sergey makes a step to the clinic.

ALEX
We both know, we won't find that in here. It's a waste of time - and - it puts us in danger. We should return home.

Sergey turns to him, he's in anger.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

For what? We should find people, we should fucking know what's going on! I'm going inside. Stop me, if you...

He doesn't finish the phrase, cause Anna goes forward, enters the clinic.

ALEX

Anna, wait!

ANNA

(not turning back)

I want to check something. Don't follow me. If anything, I'll scream.

She enters. Alex doesn't like that.

ALEX

Let's check it. The building.

SERGEY

You changed your mind because of a girl? Considering the circumstances we're in, that's not very clever.

ALEX

Not very clever... there are only 3 of us in here. Losing her here will be not clever at all. Agree?

Sergey pauses.

SERGEY

Fine. We check what we want, then get her back and go back to our house. And wait, until we find out what's happening around. Is that right?

Alex goes to the clinic.

ALEX

Right. By the way, the gun you were going to use at the lake... Not real? Traumatic?

SERGEY

(dissapointedly)

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

I stand for the society without
weapons, actually. But it's a pity
yours is not a real one.

They enter the clinic as well. Camera moves up to the 5th floor of the clinic. The curtain is swaying in one of the windows. Someone had seen them.

EXT. THE CORRIDOR OF THE CLINIC - 2ND FLOOR - 1:40 P.M.

Anna goes through the empty corridor of the clinic (note: she's familiar with the place cause one of her friends stayed here for some time last winter). The electricity is off, so there's not a lot of light inside. She's concentrated on the things she'd seen when the kid touched her (not shown yet). Complete silence around her. She barely notices the things around, but it's observable that people left the place in hurry. Anna sits on the sofa in the corridor of the third floor. She sits and closes her eyes. The images she sees frightens her. She tries to calm down, but fails to. She opens her eyes. Takes out a pack of smokes out of her bag and lights up one of them. Breathes the full breast of smoke and slowly breathes it out, sitting alone on the sofa. Time seems very-very slow to her. She puts the smokes back into her handbag, and notices the phone. With no hope, she takes it out. Suddenly, the phone awakes when she turns it up. She can't believe her eyes. The network is on. Hope appears in her eyes. She types the number of her mother immediately and sends a call. The opponent's phone is off. She types the number of her father, then friends, uncles, then just any number in her contact list.

ANNA

(almost crying)
Please... anyone...

All the numbers she calls are dead.

ANNA

(weeping)
I beg you...

Nothing happens. She nearly throws it to the wall, but holds herself. She leans back and cries. Only now she starts realising that there are almost no chances of hearing the dead phone of the people who's dear to her. After a few moments, she stands up and starts going back to the 1st floor, where Alex and Sergey awaits for her. But after a few steps down the corridor, she hears some very silent sound, like a scratch. She turns back - see a long empty corridor. Nothing and no one is there. Only the opened doors to the

(CONTINUED)

different cabinets, including the operational room. It is opened. Anna throws the remnant of the cigarette on the floor, steps on it.

ANNA

(with grim irony)

Am i supposed t be frightened here?

She goes to the operational room in the end of the corridor. The sound of her footsteps is the only thing echoing in the place. But with each step to that room, Anna wants to turn back and run. Her face reflects the inner struggle between her fear and her will to prove herself that she can make it, her brain says there's no one in the whole clinic but Alex, Sergey and herself. She keeps on going to room.

EXT. CLINIC - RECEPTION - APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME

Alex checks the lights once again. Sergey watches him doing that.

ALEX

I'm not a pro in that thing, but no electricity in the whole builing. Similar with other things.

SERGEY

Shit. Do you think it is also happened due to the storm last night?

ALEX

I've no idea man. I don't know what that shit was, so, theoretically, i can expl...

SERGEY

(interrupting angrily)

SURE. SHUT UP THEN, IF YOU DON'T KNOW FOR

Alex approaches to him and goes further, to the table of the receptionist.

ALEX

Listen, i understand what you feel about not finding your girl here, but...

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

(interrupting again)

You don't know a shit! Do not say that again to me!

Alex turns to him, very angry as well.

ALEX

My parents went to Prague this weekend, and my little sister stayed with her friends in Moscow. I have no idea if i ever see them again. Do you think i do not care of them?

Sergey stops. He didn't expect that. Alex turns and goes to the table.

ALEX

This clinic is supposed to be the very modern, but still, they have paper notebooks for the clients.

He takes a look at the chair near the table and sees it is covered with strange dust (not much of it).

SERGEY

(pointing at it)

What's that?

Alex puts the chair aside and looks at the notebook.

ALEX

No idea.

Alex starts checking the last written lines in the notebook.

ALEX

Hm... 23:10... a man with heavy nose and ears bleeding, a woman with the same symphoms, 23:15, another...

Alex closes the book.

ALEX

It seems that it does related to the storm.

He turns to Sergey and sees him looking very closely at the dut on the chair. He also notices the dust on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

It doesn't look like dust. More
like ash.

Alex swallows, Sergey puts a little dust on his finger and sniffs gently.

ALEX

Madness! No signs of fire or...

Sergey goes back to the corridor. Looks carefully around.

SERGEY

Take a look at that, Sasha.

Alex comes to him without a sound, looks at the corridor. First, he sees nothing. Later, he notices very thin silhouettes on the floor, several of them. All repeats the shape of a human body and all are covered with very thin layer of strange dust. Alex finds his hands are shaking.

SERGEY

That people with bleeding... Where
did they put them?

Alex can't remove his eyes from the silhouettes. Sergey approaches and gently puts the hand on his shoulder.

SERGEY

Sasha...

He turns to Sergey, eyes wide open.

ALEX

Operational room... or
reanimation...

SERGEY

Both on the second floor, right?

Alex finds strenght to nod. Sergey signs heavily.

ALEX

(realising)

Anna?

They hear Anna's scream from the upper levels of the clinic.

EXT. CLINIC - 2ND FLOOR - 1:50 P.M.

Alex and Sergey rush to the corridor, right from the stares, and see Anna's running away from something very fast. She stops near them, trying to catch her breath. She's very frightened. When she sees the guys, she nearly hangs on their necks, but holds herself.

ANNA

There... a man, what's left of him... something weird, i...

ALEX

Calm down, we're here. We are here...

She still can't catch her breath.

ANNA

There, on the... operational table.

Sergey takes out his pneumatic gun, Alex steps forward Anna, so they're in front of her now. They start moving towards the cabinet Anna's just told them. While they go, ALEX notices the table below the ceiling "water procedures" and the arrow showing the direction. They approach the operational room and stand at the entrance, hesitating, who's to enter first. Segey makes a step forward.

EXT. INSIDE THE OPERATIONAL ROOM - 5 MINUTES LATER

Sergey enters the room and sees a body on the table. It seems like an emergency surgical interference, the patient is on the table with his belly and chest opened up. The patient is dead, and even more - his flesh and bones are being annihilated - disappear in some kind of a chemical reaction. His face reminds of a dead skull, some limbs are already missing, only some dust left of them on the floor. Almost no sounds of the process can be heard.

SERGEY

Sasha, for a second, come here.
Tell Anna to wait outside.

In a few moments, Alex enters the room. Sees the picture, gets pale.

SERGEY

(pointing at the corpse)
I was right. Look.

He points at the shades on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

The doctors died earlier than the guy. Probably, the decay goes slowly if the person is dead. What ca it be? New sort of biological weapon?

Alex stares at the corpse.

ALEX

No. Something different.

They stand in silence for some moments, thinking of the happening.

ANNA

(from outside, low tired voice)

Guys! Let's go from this place.

Alex turns and starts going away.

SERGEY

Hey... do you think all the... people...

ALEX

(interrupting)

Sergey... we'll talk about that later.

Alex goes out of the operational room.

EXT. CLINIC 2ND FLOOR - SAME TIME

They go to the stairs down. Alex stops. He remembers the table with "water procedures" written on it.

ALEX

Guys, i forgot something. Wait me near the entrance, i'll be in five minutes.

Anna looks at him with misunderstanding.

SERGEY

Sure? We can wait here or go with you.

ALEX

No-no, wait here. I'll bring some for you.

Alex runs back to the corridor. Anna looks at Sergey, Sergey hems and goes down to the exit.

EXT. WATER PROCEDURES ROOM

The points lead Alex to the room with a small pool, where people have recovery water procedures. He sees the pool and sees a body in it, it seems dead. It is seems to be one of the doctors, his face is in the water, only back is above the surface. Alex's fears are confirmed.

ALEX

Shit... here too.

He looks around, considering the options. Checks the temperature of the water, putting hand into the pool - it's quite cold.

ALEX

(mumbles)

Why.. why do they do that?

Alex leaves the room.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CLINIC - 2:05 P.M.

Anna and Sergey are standing outside, watching at the entrance, waiting for Alex goes out.

ANNA

It' 10 minutes already. We should go after him.

SERGEY

Don't be...

He sees Alex goes out, he has a bag with something on his shoulder. His face is covered with medical mask.

ALEX

(approaching)

Took some medicines and medical stuff. The situation is unclear, so we may need them. And put on this.

Alex gives them medical masks.

ANNA

Why? Do you thing we can cathc an illness?

(CONTINUED)

Alex looks at Sergey. Sergey nods slightly, understanding why they should put the masks on.

ALEX

Hardly. But i remember the meteo station promised big wind this day. We'd better be home.

Alex goes to the car, Sergey (he put on the mask) follows. Anna does the same.

ANNA

Why? What's wrond with the wind?

They doesn't reply, she runs after them. The wind blows from the center of the city. It is already playing with the strange dust or ash on the ground. They don't notice that.

EXT. INSIDE SERGEY'S CAR - 2:30 P.M

Sergey is drinving in silence. After what they saw in the clinic, none of them is willing to talk a lot. In a few seconds, something happens with the engine and the car stops. Sergey looks at the levl of fuel. Then histerically giggles after a few seconds.

SERGEY

After all... we're running out of gazoline. Nearest station is 7 km ahead.

Few seconds of silence.

ALEX

We go by foot, then.

EXT. CITY OF MOSCOW - STREETS - 2:50 P.M.

Alex and others are going down an empty street, all wear medical masks. There's no one they see. It's going to rain from the strange pink clouds. Alex looks at the sky for some time, then looks to the right. There's a small cafe. A sound of distant thunder.

ALEX

I suggest we should eat something and wait until the rain is gone.

He goes into the cafe, not waiting for the others. The others follow.

EXT. CAFE - 3:05 P.M.

Sergey is busy searching for food there, but there's not much of it.

ANNA

Can't get where's this terrible
smell comes from.

Sergey finds some chocolate bars, coke, chips.

SERGEY

Some meat and pasta in
refrigerator, there, in the
kitchen. Once electricity is off...

Sergey notices Alex is standing at the window, looking at the street, watching the rain outside. The pink drops mixes with the dirt and ash on the ground, so the rivers of the deep red run down the street. Alex watches, not blinking, trying to think that it is not the remnants of the citizens are in this flow.

ANNA

(coming closer to him)
What happened in the clinic?

Alex looks at her, as if seeing in the first time.

ALEX

What?

ANNA

What happened? You barely said a
word after we left.

ALEX

We'll talk about that when we
return home.

Alex goes deeper into the cafe, where Sergey prepared some food on the table (bars, chips, water/coke, juice).

ANNA

Sasha, i have...

SERGEY

(a little angrily)
Hey, lets eat already.

All come to the table.

EXT. CAFE - 3:35 P.M.

Empty bottles of water on the table. Anna and Sergey are sitting at it, while Alex is watching the rain near the window again.

ANNA
(watching him)
I expected him to go through that better...

SERGEY
(interrupting)
Go through what? We don't know a shit about what happened.

ANNA
(thinking)
What happened to all the people... that man in the clinic, little kid at the lake, all these people... Max...

Sergey thinks of his own, doesn't reply. Silence in the cafe.

ANNA
What... what do think of your girl's fate? Is she someone out there?

She nods to the side of the window. Sergey doesn't reply. He stands up, goes to the window, sits at the nearest chair and starts staring to the rain with Alex.

ANNA
Hey! I'm talking to you!

No responses.

ALEX
Anna... please, give us some quiet. It may happen that we all have plenty of time to discuss everything.

Anna doesn't know what to say.

SERGEY
Take a seat. Just... just sit, watch and think.

Anna sits at the chair near them.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

I used to love these storm in May.
Used to. Like it is just one rainy
day...

Anna looks at him, then at Sergey. Their faces show some deep, very deep sorrow, the reasons of which she can't understand. She very wants to cry, but holds herself. She tries not to fall in tears, watching the pink flows of water from the sky turns grey and run away.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - 9:15 P.M.

Colonel Oleg Titov (47 years old, tough man, grey hair) stands in the gas mask near his infantry fighting vehicle. He sees some movement on the highway in front of him. He looks behind his shoulder. There are 2 more cars - big vehicle and the car like his. 2 of his men - Ivan (18) and Kirill (21), both in the gas masks, took positions behind the cars. Both has automatic rifles (AK-74), Kirill also has a rocket launcher, but it is on the ground. Colonel sees that there is a column of technic on the highway, still quite far aside.

colonel titov

Hold your fire, but get ready. It's
military convoy.

IVAN

Military? Are these... Are they on
our side?

COLONEL TITOV

Wish i knew.

They keep on waiting for the approaching convoy.

EXT. POLYGON - 7 A.M, 12 HOURS AGO.

Colonel Titov finds himself on the ground. His left hand and left side of the face aches. She tries to rise, but can't - strange weakness. The pain goes worse. Colonel with effort stands on his knees and hands. The ground is very hot. He stands up, looking around. The barracks around him are burning (some of them). The hot steam rises from the space in front of him, so it heatens the ground he was on. He looks at his left car - it's burned to the pink flash, he touches the face - removes the hand immediately, there's also a burn. He makes a step forward - and freezes. There's something, reminding the burned man is ahead of him. Looks like a body in the last stage of termical decay. With

(CONTINUED)

growing horror, Colonel looks around - all the square in front of him full of such corpses. Grey ash is everywhere. The overall heat energy made the ground hot. Colonel catches his breath.

COLONEL TITOV

What... how... No... meteors... we
all run to see that meteor
falling...

He makes a few steps forward, not knowing how to behave. Suddenly he hears someone screaming behind him.

IVAN

Hey! Hey over there!

He turns and sees 2 figures running to him, both with rifles. When they approach (it's Ivan and Kirill, unmasked), he sees them - soldiers from his military unit, he didn't recall the names, but knows they're privates.

IVAN

Man, lucky we find another... Fuck,
it's colonel...

When he says that, Kirill gaze concentrates (noticeable that the guy cried) on him and stands straight.

COLONEL TITOV

What happened? Who attacked us?
Where's the nearest officer who's
capable of explaining what's going on
here?

Kirill looks at Ivan and vice versa.

KIRILL

There's only 2 of us.

IVAN

Colonel, I woke up 40 minutes ago.
Found no one of my squad, then
heard this guy is weeping in the
barrack. He said the fire came from
the sky at night. All are dead.

Colonel freezes.

COLONEL TITOV

That's not possible... ballistic
missile defense, we couldn't have
missed such attack, we...

(CONTINUED)

KIRILL
(interrupting)
Forgive for interrupting, Colonel,
but it was not missile attack.

Some explosion is heard not far from them.

IVAN
Shit... the fire must have reached
the armories. Colonel, i suppose
you should take the command.

Titov looks confused for a moment. But only for a moment.

COLONEL TITOV
Listen up. First, find other
survivors. Second, get the
communication with closest to us
military unit. Third, get cars and
weapons and move to the
headquarters, it's about 30 km to
Moscow. And...

The pain in his face reminds of itself.

COLONEL TITOV
We'll need medicine.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - 9:20 P.M.

Colonel sees the convoy stops. It's about 3 infantry cars, 1
big vehicle and a tank. A man in a gas mask gets out of the
head car.

COLONEL TITOV
Stop and name yourself!

MAYOR SIKORSKIY
You first. And do it quickly - we
do not welcome strangers at the
moment.

COLONEL TITOV
I'm colonel Oleg Titov, military
unit 45986, Alabino. We're heading
to the headquarters of the 4th
army.

Pause. Long one. Man in the mask comes to him. They stare at
each other.

(CONTINUED)

MAYOR SIKORSKIY

Then i have bad news for you,
Colonel. I'm Mayor Andrey
Sikorskiy, military unit 47501. 4th
army is no more. We're all that's
left. And, i suppose, my people and
i are under your command now.

A moment of silence.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - 9:20 P.M.

Colonel Titov stares at the Mayor.

COLONEL TITOV

How many people do you have?

MAYOR SIKORSKIY

Eight. Part of my group reacted
quickly enough, before we breath
it.

COLONEL TITOV

Breath it?

MAYOR SIKORSKIY

Yes, didn't you know that? That red
shit from the sky, infects when you
breath it. Or at least we all think
so. Never seen such kind of weapon
before.

COLONEL TITOV

Do you have any kind of
communication with the
headquarters?

MAYOR SIKORSKIY

No. Seems electronic has died when
it started. You were heading to our
former location, right? What now,
Colonel?

Pause.

COLONEL TITOV

We need to reach any part of the
regular army and regroup. We must
find the survivors. How much data
do you have about what happened?

(CONTINUED)

MAYOR SIKORSKIY

We have... What happened, soldier?

Colonel sees one of the Sikorskiy's soldiers comes to him, waiting to say something.

SOLDIER

Mayor, we have 2 civilians up there. Nicolay is taking them here.

COLONEL TITOV

Bring them on here.

He sees another soldier of Sikorskiy leads 2 persons to him, his face changes.

EXT. INSIDE THE BIG ARMY VEHICLE - 10 MINUTES LATER

Old woman (Natalia, 68) sits on the bench inside the vehicle. Her granddaughter (Victoria, 8 years old) sits nearby, eating some chocolate from the military ration. The child has wept recently. Colonel and Mayor are listening to Natalia carefully.

NATALIA

... The whole village went mad... I told Vika to hide in her room. Then, on the street people were watching those colored... things in sky. And then they screamed. Terribly screamed. I couldn't say how, but they died. Later, in the morning, when i saw the bodies, they...

She puts the hand to her mouth, remembering something terrifying. Vika takes her hand and looks at her eyes.

VIKA

Granny...

Colonel Titov puts his hand on theirs.

COLONEL TITOV

We know what happened to the bodies. Please, go on.

Natalia looks at him and nods quickly.

NATALIA

We spent the day in the house, trying to call for help, but no one

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NATALIA (cont'd)
listened. TV, radio was silent.
About 5 p.m. we went to the
highway, wanted to find someone to
help us.

MAYOR SIKORSKIY
You went for several hours. You
should rest.

VIKA
I'm very tired. I want to see
daddy.

Colonel looks at the child.

COLONEL TITOV
We'll try to find him. Try to get
some sleep here.

Titov goes to the exit.

MAYOR SIKORSKIY
Natalia, tell me please, didn't you
see other people? Or anyone who
seemed... strange in this
circumstances?

She stares in him with misunderstanding.

COLONEL TITOV
Piotr, they need rest.

NATALIA
I... when we left, we saw someone
moving away from the village. I
wanted to called him, but... He
further in the forest, to the lake.
I was to frightened to do that. His
gait was... like he was drank or
something.

A slight flash of interest in Sikorskiy's eyes.

EXT. HIGHWAY TO MOSCOW - 10:10 P.M.

They're out of the vehicle, Titov looks at Sikorskiy
suspiciously.

COLONEL TITOV
Intuition tells me you know
something you didn't share yet.

(CONTINUED)

Piotr shows the direction to one the cars.

MAYOR SIKORSKIY
Telling it right now.

They approach one of the cars. A soldier stands on his watch there.

MAYOR SIKORSKIY
Anything new?

Soldier shakes his head, meaning "no".

MAYOR SIKORSKIY
Leave us for a minute.

Soldier leaves to the side. Mayor opens the car.

MAYOR SIKORSKIY
Actually, there are eight people in my group. But, before we left the base, in the fire pond we found this... one. No idea what happened to him after that night, but something definitely did.

With growing fear, Colonel looks at the young man, tied with several tough ropes on the back seat of the car. He's staring at Titov, his eyes are almost yellow and face has very strange expression, something inhuman can be seen in this man.

MAYOR SIKORSKIY
He was in the pond for about 1,5 hours before we find him. He was on the surface, with his face in the water. Yet, he...

The man in ropes studies them both now.

MAYOR SIKORSKIY
Actually, i don't how... but i'm afraid there's more that 1 guy like him out there.

EXT. YARD OF THE BUILDING - 7:10 P.M

Alex, Anna and Sergey approach the entrance. They're still wear the mask. All around them is wet after the big rain. The puddles around have strange color, so as the foliage on the trees. All look exhausted and tired.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

Let's stay at my place. I...

Alex moves forward, not waiting for them. Enters the porch.

ANNA

Wait, Sasha!

They run after him.

EXT. NEAR THE ELEVATOR - FEW MINUTES LATER

Anna and Sergey see Alex goes out of the elevator's door, where they left Max's body in the morning. Alex's face reflects indifference to the surrounding stuff. Alex shows them the key.

ALEX

We'd better stay at his place.
Better sight from the windows.

Anna comes to him, wants to go further to the elevator cabin, Alex stops her.

ALEX

You don't want to see that.

Anna looks at him, then escapes his grasp. Goes further, sees the picture in the elevator, her hand goes to her mouth, she sobs.

ALEX

Told you.

Sergey comes to Anna, replacing Alex from his way. Looks inside the cabin. Sees that Max's body is almost desintergrated. The process is still on.

ALEX

(indifferently)

I suggest me and Sergey drop in our
places, take some necessaties and
meet at Anna's place.

He turns to Anna, touches her shoulder. She turns, he offers her the keys. After a second pause, she takes them.

SERGEY

Who told you to give orders?

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Nobody. But if you have any adequate propositions, I'm willingly consider them.

SERGEY

(getting angrier)

Stop talking like that, you...

Alex turns and starts going up the stair.

ALEX

Anna, go to the flat and wait for us there.

He leaves. Sergey looks at Anna and vice versa. Finally, they go up.

EXT. MAX'S FLAT - HALL - 7:55 P.M.

Anna sits in the armchair, Alex is on the sofa, Sergey is in another armchair. Long pause. The bags with their personal belongings are on the floor. Anna looks from one guy to another. She hesitates.

ANNA

So... what do you think have we seen? What was that?

Sergey desperately shakes his head, Alex signs.

ALEX

Does it really matter? Or you want to ask whether the people you care about survived all this like we or...

SERGEY

(interrupting)

Change your tone, boy. It's not the time for your brain-fucking.

Alex looks at Sergey for a while.

ALEX

Sorry, both of you. I just... started to realize that... that all this is irreversible. I... there're almost no chances we see them again.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA
How could you know?

Pause.

ALEX
Just a feeling.

Long pause. Sergey looks at the cupboard near the other wall. Comes to it, opens and takes a bottle of whiskey. Then takes 3 small glasses.

SERGEY
I know the situation is almost
unbelievable, but... we should hope
for the best.

He puts the glasses on the table.

SERGEY
We're all in shock after this day.
We should calm down and rest.
Tomorrow, we start searching for...

Sergey pours some drink in to the glasses.

SERGEY
For those we miss now. We will find
them, one way or another.

Sergey makes an unexpected pause, like he hardly believes himself in what's he said.

ALEX
See? You don't trust your words
yourself.

He takes the glass.

ALEX
You think... alcohol will remove
everything? Clear your mind,
softens the pain? You're pa...

ANNA
(interrupting, angrily)
Stop it! Just stop and let us all
calm down and think! I...

She wants to say something else, but starts crying, unexpectedly for herself. Alex looks at her. Sergey comes to Anna, wanting to calm her down, but she pushes him away.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

I... Sorry, Anna. I'm not thinking right at the moment. I... go get some sleep.

He stands up, takes the small glass with whiskey, drinks it.

ALEX

I'll take the sofa in the next room, if you don't mind. Wake me up, if anything.

Alex leaves, leaving Anna crying in the armchair and Sergey watching him sullenly.

EXT. MAX'S FLAT - SMALL ROOM - AROUND MIDNIGHT

Alex opens his eyes on the sofa. Silence in the room. He slowly stands up, it's dark around. Goes to the door, slowly. Opens it and goes out.

EXT. MAX'S FLAT - HALL - SAME TIME

He looks at Sergey, sleeping in the armchair and Anna on the sofa, he hears their breathing. Watches for a few seconds, then goes to the corridor. The sound of the door opens, then closed.

EXT. EXIT TO THE ROOF - ABOUT MIDNIGHT

Alex stands at the door to the roof, trying to unlock it. It's not closed, but needs sufficient effort to open. He stops, cause hears some movement behind him. Quickly turns around and sees Anna watching him.

ANNA

Do you need a hand in that?

ALEX

No.

After a few more trials, the door to the roof opens.

ALEX

It's never truly locked here. I asked the concierge not to close it a couple of months ago. So he did.

Alex goes to the roof, Anna follows after a pause.

EXT. ROOF - 1 MINUTE LATER

They go along the roof.

ALEX

Was it me who awoke you?

ANNA

No, i just couldn't sleep. Just...

ALEX

No need to explain.

Alex stops at some point where the sight of the city is the best. Moscow looks dark and abandoned. A few very distand columns of smokea are hardly distinguishable. Anna takes up a cigarette and light it up.

ALEX

The whole electrical system of the city is down.

Anna turns to the opposite side of the city. There's also some smoke in a distance.

ANNA

Sasha, can you see that?

ALEX

(checking the direction)

The airport is that way. There were definetely some crashes near last night. The rain must have extinguished the fires.

Anna's hands shaking a little.

ALEX

We could have checked that tomorrow, but there's no chances of the survivors there. But the city...

He turns to the city.

ANNA

(shuddering voice)

How could you know that there are other survivors? Maybe we are the last in miles and miles from here?

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

There are 3 of us in this relatively small piece of land. Taking the probability and the density of the population in Moscow...

ANNA

(interrupting)

You calculated the amount of people who made through this?

Alex looks with surprise at her, then nods.

ANNA

And if they... if they are like that guys at the lake? That...

ALEX

(interrupting)

Kid? I think they all went mad or something. But why the other just...

Pause. No one want to remember what happened to Max and others in the clinic.

ALEX

By the way, that kid... You looked really weird when released him what happened.

Anna smokes. Long pause.

ANNA

I don't know. I just saw something. Something... unreal. Something strange. Stars? Or... whatever. Nevermind.

ALEX

Stars? A figure of speech?

Anna looks up. The sky is full of stars, but due to some particles in the atmosphere they all have strange color.

ANNA

No. Stars like these.

Alex looks up as well.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

They look different now. Everything looks different now. It's so weird.

Anna looks at him.

ANNA

Whom are you going to search for tomorrow? Sergey told me...

ALEX

I'd rather not speak of that now, Anna.

Anna hems.

ANNA

Ususally, i don't like being called Anna. Ann's much better.

Pause. Anna takes out the mobile phone from her pocket. It's working.

ANNA

Here. It's on again, don't know why. We wanted to tell you, but you slept. None of my numbers or Sergey's is on. Maybe you've more luck.

Alex takes the phone, he can't remove his gaze from the bright display.

ALEX

Thank...

Anna throws away the cigarette and goes to the door back to the building.

ANNA

You return now, whatever the result of the call will be, right?

ALEX

(typing number)

Yes, yes i will return.

Anna leaves. Alex types number of his mother ad father, both are off. He types the number of his sister, the hands are shaking, he's exited and frightened at once. Send a call. Long beep. Then another one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

54.

Alice?! ALEX

Fade out.