

GHOSTED

01/23/17

G H O S T E D_

The cursor blinks repeatedly. Waiting. Ominous.

It BLIPS off.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

The conditions that make up our
lives on Earth are a complex
alchemy of circumstance and choice.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

BREATH heavy. FEET pounding the cement floor. EYES focused.
Shafts of light illuminate a man running for his life.

INT. WAREHOUSE - STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He slams the large metal door. Dead end. This is AGENT MIKE
CHECKER. Intense, intelligent eyes, cool under pressure - but
right now, he has nowhere left to run. Up through the grated,
metal floor we see him back up against the far wall.
Something SLAMS into the door.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

You choose your friends. You choose
your lovers.

A weird high pitched yell. The door is knocked clean off its
hinges. Panic gives way to acceptance. Checker's breathing
calms. His face illuminated by a bright blinding light as
something gets closer and closer...

AGENT CHECKER

You found me...

The light BRIGHTENS to overwhelming intensity. He closes his
eyes. And SCREAMS...

OUTSIDE the scream echoes out over the night sky. Unheard.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Unfortunately, you don't always get
to choose your heroes...

INT. CAMPUS BOOKSTORE / ON THE FLOOR

MAX ALLISON (Adam Scott) is simultaneously shelving some
books and helping a WOMAN, mid 30's, who holds her young
child's hand.

MAX

If you're really into the biomechanics of unmanned space flight, go with the one on the right.

She smiles, takes his recommendation, and grabs the book.

WOMAN

It's a gift for my husband. Always have a tough time picking...

MAX

I know how that goes.

WOMAN

You're married?

MAX

Yes. Well...no. Sort of--

WOMAN

Ahh. Going through a divorce? That can be tough.

MAX

Oh no no. Not us. We had the kind of marriage you dream about. I'll never love anyone like I loved her.

WOMAN

Oh, I'm sorry. She...passed away?

MAX

No! Nonono. Nothing like that. She was abducted by aliens.

WOMAN

Ohhhh. Is that right?

And the Woman puts the book back on the shelf.

MAX

Oh. You don't want the book now. I'm not crazy, okay? I was a professor at Stanford. I know it sounds crazy. But that's what happened.

WOMAN

I am SO sorry to hear that. Come on, honey.

She grabs her child by the arm and quickly moves her out of the store. Max calls after her...

MAX

That's what happened!

Max turns and sees his MANAGER, a nerdy college student, 18 or 19, glaring at him.

MANAGER

How many times I gotta tell you about the alien thing? Get your stuff and go. You're fired.

MAX

Randall, come on, it's me--

MANAGER

NOW.

EXT. OUTDOOR MALL - FOOD COURT

LEROY WRIGHT (Craig Robinson), wearing a security guard outfit, sits at a food court across from ROSE and her son JERMAINE, 15, eating Panda Express.

LEROY

Your dad and I spent fifteen years together as detectives on the LAPD - and we always said that if anything ever happened to one of us - we'd take care of the other's family. And even though I had to take a security job at this hellhole, I intend to keep that promise. So this is for you.

Leroy hands Jermaine a gift. Rose smiles as Jermaine tears open the package. Then his excited smile fades.

JERMAINE

SAT Prep course? Are you serious? This isn't a gift, it's homework!

ROSE

Jermaine! Say thank you.

LEROY

Your dad told me his dream was you going to college. And I'll be goddamned if I can't make that happen.

Rose, a little choked up, looking for an exit...

ROSE
I'll get some napkins.

She leaves the table and Leroy's smile turns serious.

LEROY
Turn to page five, you little
bitch.

Jermaine reluctantly turns the page. The GEARS OF WAR IV VIDEO GAME, is taped to the page. Jermaine's eyes light up.

JERMAINE
Yo!

LEROY
SHHH! Your mother finds out, I'm a
dead man. So, not playing around -
you better do that course.

Leroy puts out his hand. Jermaine gives him a pound as Rose comes back with coffee. Leroy goes back into hard ass mode.

LEROY (CONT'D)
Now if I hear you aren't studying,
I'm gonna find you and raise hell,
son. You understand me?

JERMAINE
(playing along)
Yes, sir. I understand sir.

Rose is visibly moved. Leroy's attention is grabbed by a Vagrant gleefully peeing in the faux Italian fountain - but half the time missing and peeing onto the sidewalk. He sighs.

LEROY
Jesus Christ, Eddie. You gonna do
that, at least aim the damn thing!
(to Rose and Jermaine)
Duty calls.

Leroy gets up and crosses off.

EXT. CAMPUS BOOKS / PARKING LOT

Max, exasperated, is trying to unlock his Subaru, but drops the keys. He exhales deeply, goes to pick them up, and kicks them under the car. Max closes his eyes and looks like he's about to break down.

EXT. THE GROVE / OUTDOOR SHOPPING CENTER - NIGHT

Leroy is sadly locking up a guard station at the mall.

IN SPLIT SCREEN: We're on Max and Leroy's faces. Sadness. Exasperation. Just as two large SYRINGES plunge into their respective necks. They both fall from frame. **BLACK.**

INT. BUREAU UNDERGROUND / INTERROGATION ROOM

Leroy groggily wakes up. He sees Max next to him. Both tied by the wrists to matching armchairs in the middle of the room. A white desk sits before them. A giant knife on the desk...

MAX

Oh good. You're awake. Sorry. Hi.
I'm Max. God, I thought you would
NEVER wake up.

Leroy is slowly gaining consciousness.

MAX (CONT'D)

Looks like we've both been
kidnapped. But no one's come in.

Leroy just stares at him.

MAX (CONT'D)

Strong silent type. I get it. This
is stressful. I agree. Hey, I don't
mean to pry, but you don't have any
snacks or anything? It's just I
skipped breakfast and--

LEROY

You like blueberry pancakes?

MAX

What? Um, yeah.

LEROY

Because I have a stack of blueberry
pancakes in my pocket. You good
with the silver dollar ones? Oh,
but you know what? No syrup.

MAX

Oh. You're teasing me. I get it.

LEROY

I do have some maple butter,
though. Creamy as hell--

Suddenly a stylish woman, in workout clothes, drinking a large latte and talking on a bluetooth enters. This is...
CAPTAIN DEMI LAFREY.

She's flanked by BARRY SHAH, a jacked up, overeager tech bro in a wheelchair drinking an big energy drink and DELILAH KEMPER, a seemingly sweet, but extremely driven and overly blunt, young doctor.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

(ON PHONE)

...tell her you want more time. No
I'm not going to do it for you.
You're 9 years old. Find her
weakness and exploit it.

LEROY

Who are you? What is going on?

CAPTAIN LAFREY

What does it look like? We
kidnapped you.

(INTO PHONE)

Okay, love you and tell Dad not to
overcook the chicken parm again--

LEROY

What do you want?!

BARRY

HEY DUMBASS! She's talking to her
daughter. That's her angel, her
everything. Respect that or I will
MESS you up, homey.

DELILAH

(aside, re: energy drink)

I thought you quit drinking those.
They're bad for your blood
pressure, plus they can't help with
your insomnia-

BARRY

Whatever, it's fine, I'm allowed.

LaFrey takes the energy drink from him.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

No, you're not. Listen to her,
she's smarter than you.

(then)

Gentlemen, I'll make this quick.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN LAFREY (CONT'D)

We're a NASA based special-ops intelligence outfit called The Bureau Underground. I'm Captain LaFrey and this is my forensic pathologist, Delilah Kemper and tech specialist, Barry Shah. We investigate the paranormal - anything outside the scientific realm.

MAX

Oh that is awesome.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Two days ago, one of our own, Agent Mike Checker, disappeared. Checker had recently come to believe he'd found a way to travel between universes, or the "multiverse"-

MAX

Wait, you know I wrote a paper proving the existence of the multiverse--

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Yes, Checker was going through your research when he disappeared.

MAX

Well that's always nice to hear. But we're hundreds of years away from developing the technology to travel through the multiverse.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Hundreds of years on this planet.

LEROY

Is this a joke?

BARRY

You're a joke! Go back to the mall, Black Paul Blart cause you have no idea what kind of insane shit we deal with everyday here.

MAX

God, I can only imagine.

BARRY

No one was talking to you. You work in a bookstore, that's like working at Blockbuster 10 years ago.

CAPTAIN LAFREY
Barry, that's enough.

BARRY
I know and I'm sorry but... are we
sure these are the guys we're gonna
trust to find Checker? This is
Checker we're talking about.
(still can't believe it)
Checker. Like...Checker. The man.
My ride or die soul brother.

DELILAH
God, I miss him so much--

BARRY
I miss him more, I guarantee you.

CAPTAIN LAFREY
(to Barry and Delilah)
Guys, you know what I know. On the
day Checker disappeared he sent me
a letter with two names. Leroy
Wright and...

MAX
Please say Max Alison.

CAPTAIN LAFREY
Max Allison.

MAX
Yes.

CAPTAIN LAFREY
So he clearly thought they could be
of some use.

DELILAH
And I think they're both great,
it's just I ran some tests while
they were passed out and I'm not
sure they're up for the job.
Physically. The little one is
incredibly unhealthy. High
cholesterol, thin bones --

CAPTAIN LAFREY
Max was a brilliant astrophysicist
at Stanford. His work on the
multiverse was revolutionary.

DELILAH

But he got fired from Stanford for going crazy--

MAX

My wife was abducted. I'm not crazy.

DELILAH

That's usually what most crazy people say.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Delilah. And Leroy was the best missing persons detective on the LAPD for 15 years--

BARRY

Until he got his partner killed.

LEROY

It wasn't my fault.

BARRY

Liar.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Guys, stop. Checker thought they could help and I trust Checker. So let's give 'em the benefit of the doubt and hope they prove us wrong. Okay?

Barry and Delilah back off.

CAPTAIN LAFREY (CONT'D)

Now gentlemen, if Checker was right, and travel through the multiverse if possible, that means we're open to attack from anything anywhere, so I'm not exaggerating when I say the fate of the entire--

(PHONE RINGS)

Hi, sweetheart. Mrs. J is having an affair with your bus driver!? Yeah, that's definitely a weakness you can exploit. Nice work.

(then)

Where was I?

MAX

The very fate of the...

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Right. The fate of the entire planet may rest in your hands. So will you help--

MAX

Yes. In.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

...us find Mike Checker?

LEROY

That's all you needed?

MAX

I don't know. I like her. I'm getting a good vibe.

LEROY

SHE KIDNAPPED US! That's not a good vibe. That's a felony. Also, you're all nuts. I'm out.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

No, you're not. You're gonna help me because if you do I can help you back on the LAPD where you belong, Detective Wright.

Off Leroy, considering...

INT. BUREAU UNDERGROUND / PARKING GARAGE

Leroy and Max are walking toward a Bureau issued sedan.

LEROY

I work alone.

Leroy gets in the driver's seat. Max tries the passenger side, but Leroy locks the door and starts the car.

MAX

Oh I get it. You're a lone wolf. I'm a bit of a lone wolf too. Always have been. You'd probably just slow me down.

Leroy pulls out as Max runs alongside...

MAX (CONT'D)

Hey, can you slow down? No? Okay, look.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

Two years ago I was running the Space Tech lab at Stanford when my wife was abducted.

LEROY

Nice meeting you, bud. I hope at some point you regain your sanity.

MAX

Since then, I've been studying the paranormal. Looking for answers.

Max jumps in front of the car. Leroy SLAMS on the brakes.

MAX (CONT'D)

I've lost everything and everyone close to me. They think I'm crazy.

LEROY

Agree to agree.

Leroy starts to move the car. Max grabs onto the window, not letting Leroy get away. He makes his final plea...

MAX

And I don't know if you were listening to that scary lady in there. But this doesn't just sound like a missing persons case. There's something strange going on. And you're gonna need me.

Leroy sighs. Relenting...

LEROY

We're wasting time. Someone disappears, the first forty eight hours are critical - then the trail goes cold. Just get in. Buckle up. And stay out of my way.

Max tries to get in the front.

LEROY (CONT'D)

Nope. Front seat's for my partner. And you're definitely not my partner.

MAX

Cool. I'll just sit in the back then. You're basically my Uber driver.

INT. BUREAU ISSUED CAR

Max is driving. Leroy's in the back, looking at his phone.

LEROY

Agent Checker was last seen on South Hope and 1st. So we check the security feeds in the area. And hope to get lucky.

MAX

Where do you find the security feeds?

LEROY

You start with the people who absolutely NEED to see what's going on out there. People who can't live without seeing everything. You get what I'm saying?

Leroy drapes his arms over the front seat, perhaps for emphasis. Max smiles. He knows what's up...

MAX

Perverts.

LEROY

What? No.

MAX

Yeah, no. Not perverts.

LEROY

Drug dealers.

MAX

Drug dealers. Yeah. Totally. That was my number two. But I get why you put it first.

Leroy just stares at Max. Incredulous.

LEROY

And there's one dude - real dangerous dealer named Quentin Simmons. Anything happens anywhere downtown - Quentin knows about it. Got security feeds all over the block.

They pull up to a dilapidated apartment building.

MAX

Whoa. This looks a little...

LEROY

Max. You know what the difference is between heroes and cowards?

MAX

Muscles?

LEROY

Nothing. We're all scared of the same things. Getting hurt. Dying. The only difference is what you do.

MAX

I don't know. Still kinda feel like it might be muscles--

Leroy slams the door.

INT. QUENTIN'S APARTMENT

CLOSE ON: A MAN DOING A HUGE LINE OF COKE. This is QUENTIN SIMMONS, a completely unhinged drug dealer wearing a bathrobe and holding a handgun. A couple GUYS with guns mill around behind him. Music is blaring. Max looks worried. Leroy doesn't give a shit.

QUENTIN

Leroy Wright! MY MAN! It's great to see you. Been a long time. But I always said you need anything--

MAX

I would actually LOVE a Clif bar--

LEROY

I apologize for him. He's a rookie and very stupid. But listen closely to this: I'm on a DEA / LAPD joint op. We've been tracking a dude for six months...

QUENTIN

Uh huh. Who is he?

LEROY

A Colombian runner with ties to the Kings. Last seen out front of your place two days ago. You let us look at your security feeds, we find the guy, and we take him down.

QUENTIN
And there goes my competition...

LEROY
Courtesy of the LAPD.

As Quentin does a massive line of coke. Leroy glances at Max.
See?

QUENTIN
Whew! LAPD. Taking out my
competition. You always been good
to me, Leroy. And I like you. But
there's just one thing I gotta ask -
How you gonna hook me up...

Quentin stands up. Points his giant gun it at the guys.

QUENTIN (CONT'D)
When you were kicked off the force
three months ago? You don't think I
got Google, bitch?

All the guns in the room point DIRECTLY at the guys.

END ACT I

INT. DRUG DEALER'S APARTMENT

Guns still drawn. Quentin jumps up from his chair, his
bathrobe is kinda fluttering open. He's a mess.

QUENTIN
You got three seconds to tell me
why you want to see those security
feeds or I end you.

Max is subtly looking at his phone. A bar graph reads 65%
COMPLETE. Quentin shoots a hole in the wall, startling Max.
Aims at Leroy.

QUENTIN (CONT'D)
One. Two. Thr--

MAX
We're perverts.

QUENTIN
Yo...you say some shit like that in
my house, and there's one thing you
should know about me...

Then leans right up in their faces, menacing.

QUENTIN (CONT'D)
I'm about as freaky as it gets.

MAX
I knew it! Freak recognize freak.

Quentin turns up the radio. Tension running high. Quentin points the gun at Leroy. Max glances at his phone. 75% COMPLETE.

MAX (CONT'D)
Oh yeah. I'm into some pretty nasty stuff. Really exploring the dark side.

QUENTIN
You? Like what?

MAX
I mean, I'm uncomfortable even telling you. But I sometimes... watch porn. Online. Alone.

QUENTIN
What the--

MAX
Yeah. I have difficulty with impulse control. This one time I masturbated like...god it's SO embarrassing. But like three times in one week.

85% COMPLETE. Leroy is just glaring at Max.

QUENTIN
Is this a joke?

Max sees that he's losing Quentin...he's reaching.

MAX
But Leroy here? I'm telling you, he's into even crazier business. He's a real connoisseur. A pervert's pervert.

LEROY
I am?

MAX
Go ahead. Tell him what you're into, Leroy.

LEROY

No, Max. I'm not gonna do that.

95% COMPLETE. Quentin SHOOTS another hole in the wall.

MAX

JUST TELL HIM WHAT YOU'RE INTO!!

LEROY

I like older women. Real old. Like geriatric. See this one time I was visiting my Grandma at her nursing home and one of her friends, real cute Puerto Rican chick - probably eighty five, looked eighty, gave me the eye then pulled out one of them Scream masks and a two pound, farm raised Alaskan king salmon...

The music wails as we cut to a WIDE SHOT of Leroy, gesticulating wildly and making weird hip motions. BACK ON LEROY as he finishes his story.

LEROY (CONT'D)

...and I'm not kidding when I say it was the most exhausting, most insane, most sensual 3 days of my entire life.

QUENTIN

Get the fuck out of my apartment.

INT. BUREAU ISSUED CAR

Leroy is livid.

LEROY

What the HELL was that?! You went with the pervert angle right as I was about to see the security feeds. And now we got nothing!

MAX

Yeah, looking back on it, I may have oversold the whole pervert thing, but I was just trying to buy us some time.

Max holds up his phone. Little graphic says 100% COMPLETE.

MAX (CONT'D)

When you were saying that stuff about the old lady that was legitimately disgusting, I was running a wireless keyhack on his server from my phone. It created a remote backdoor to his entire network.

LEROY

Say that again, but pretend I'm not a nerd.

MAX

We can see all his footage back at the Bureau.

Leroy, though trying to hide it, is actually impressed.

MAX (CONT'D)

And great work with the pervert story. Have you ever considered writing erotic fiction?

LEROY

Stop.

INT. BUREAU UNDERGROUND / MAIN BULLPEN

Captain LaFrey is showing Max and Leroy what they found on the feeds. Barry, in his wheelchair, is at the computer. And Delilah, in her labcoat sits nearby.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

So Barry was able to use your hack to access the feeds.

BARRY

Barely. This TX-9-438beta hack you used is ancient.

MAX

An oldie but a goodie, right?

BARRY

No.

(then)

But I did build an actually good facial recognition app atop your hack. Checker would have loved it. It just sucks that you guys haven't found him yet.

DELILAH

(sweetly)

It sucks so much. And you know what the irony of it is? Checker would've found himself by now.

BARRY

No doubt. We'd probably be at the bar right now, playing darts. We're in a dart league together--

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Okay, what else we got?

BARRY

So Checker shows up three times. Each time he catches a cab. And then we lose him...

CAPTAIN LAFREY

That's all we got from the feeds?? He took a few cab rides?

BARRY

Yeah, they really blew the lid off this puppy, huh?

LEROY

Please. Guy like this disappears, someone's been watching him. Check five minutes before and after he arrives. You find someone who shows up multiple times, you got someone tailing him. We find that someone. We find Checker.

Barry is hitting keys.

BARRY

Huh. I got one. When Checker hails a cab...

We ZOOM in on the GUY. He's solidly built with a short, cropped military style haircut.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Guy doesn't show up in any databases.

We see the Guy get in an innocuous car...

LEROY

Our man gets in his car. Boom. Run the plates through...

BARRY
Registration database?

LEROY
Nope. Dead end. Check impound and
towing facilities. My guess is this
guy ditched it...

Barry zooms in on the plates. Types away. We see a database
come up, begin to scroll.

BARRY
That's weird. He's right. It was
found two days ago at the Long
Beach power plant.

LEROY
The trail ain't dead. Just gotta
know where to look.
(pointedly to Barry and
Delilah)
Feel me, homeys?

Captain LaFrey ALMOST smiles. Maybe Checker was right.

MAX
Oh damn. Detective Wright is on the
case.

Max holds out his hand for a pound.

MAX (CONT'D)
Dude, that was awesome. Blow it up.

Leroy does not.

LEROY
Chill.

EXT. POWER PLANT - NIGHT

Smoke chugs skyward from the wiry, steel POWER PLANT. The
guys car looks small and alone as it pulls in.

INT. POWER PLANT - NIGHT

An aging plant SUPERVISOR sits at his desk, watching a
baseball game on a small TV as he eats chicken wings. His ID
badge lays on the desk. Max and Leroy sit across from him.

LEROY
You ever seen this guy before?

Leroy shows the clerk a picture of Checker on his phone.

SUPERVISOR

Yeah, he got sent over to help us figure out who's stealing our power. We're losing 4000 megawatts a day.

He shoves a wing into his mouth as he stares at the TV.

SUPERVISOR (CONT'D)

(mouth full)
It's killing me.

LEROY

Yeah, I can tell. How long did he work here?

SUPERVISOR

Who do you guys work for again?

MAX

The Bureau-
(catches himself)
The government.
(then, badass)
Of the United States of America.

LEROY

Sooner you help us, sooner we're out of here and you can get back to the game. How long did he work here? Who'd he talk to?

SUPERVISOR

He was here like a day, then he never showed up again. Spent his whole time alone, down in the control room in the basement.

MAX

Did he figure out who's stealing the power?

SUPERVISOR

Huh. I don't know. Guess I should've asked him.

LEROY

Any chance we could go take a look at the control room?

SUPERVISOR
Not unless you got level 3
clearance.

MAX
Please. This is important. More
important than you could ever know.

The Supervisor looks up at Max.

SUPERVISOR
Oh my God. Why didn't you say so?
Is there anything else you need?
Would you like my last chicken wing
too? Some dipping sauce?

Max gets up and heads out. Leroy follows.

SUPERVISOR (CONT'D)
(calls after them)
You want to have sex with my wife?

INT. POWER PLANT - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The guys head out. Leroy has a small grin.

MAX
You know what? Don't.

LEROY
I didn't say anything.

MAX
Yes you did. With your eyes. You
have very expressive eyes.

LEROY
Thank you, man. I like 'em.

MAX
Very small, very beady, very
judging eyes. But right now we need
solutions, Leroy.

LEROY
Who's Leroy?

Leroy holds up the SUPERVISOR'S ID BADGE. It says "Darby
Wickner." Leroy smiles.

LEROY (CONT'D)
My name is Darby Wickner.

MAX

Nice. How did you get that?

LEROY

It was pretty complicated.

MAX

Yeah?

LEROY

Yeah, I grabbed it off his desk when he wasn't looking.

INT. POWER PLANT - BASEMENT/CONTROL ROOM

The guys creep through the bowels of the old power plant.

MAX

Are we sure about this? Because this is now a federal offense-

Suddenly they hear a NOISE. Maybe footsteps.

MAX (CONT'D)

What the hell was that? Leroy, did you hear that? It's probably Darby Wickner coming for us, let's go--

LEROY

Just relax. Old ass Darby is deep in a chicken wing coma. We got this.

MAX

Okay. You're right.

(then)

I just, I can't go to prison. How would I survive? I'd have to join the Aryan brotherhood, but I couldn't live with myself if I-

LEROY

Yo, what is that?

Leroy indicates a glow coming from underneath some metal casing next to the control room. The guys go over.

It's a JACKET covered with a GLOWING OOZE. Leroy takes a wallet out from the jacket, opens it. There's a picture of Mike Checker with Delilah on the beach.

LEROY (CONT'D)
 Checker's jacket. Must've been in quite a hurry if he left his wallet.

Leroy turns the jacket over -- it's RIPPED.

LEROY (CONT'D)
 Looks like there might've been some kind of struggle, fight.

Max studies the glowing ooze.

MAX
 What the hell is this stuff?

DELILAH (O.S.)
 I don't know. It's similar to the kind of bioluminescence...

INT. BUREAU UNDERGROUND - DAY

Delilah examines the glowing ooze covered jacket. Max, Leroy, Barry and Captain LaFrey stand to the side.

DELILAH (CONT'D)
 ...you might see in some deep sea marine life, but there's enzymes in here I've never seen before.

MAX
 You think it's terrestrial?

DELILAH
 If it is, we just discovered a brand new species.

BARRY
 And so, just to be clear, Checker carries around a picture of her but no other pictures? None? Not of family or good male friends? Have we examined the entire wallet?

CAPTAIN LAFREY
 So what's our next move?

LEROY
 Well he was trying to figure out where the power was being siphoned to, right? Wherever that is, we need to go there.

MAX

The only thing powerful enough to siphon that kind of energy would be a giant electromagnet.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Barry, check the satellites for any large scale deviations of the magnetic field.

BARRY

Got one. Downtown LA, warehouse district.

INT. BUREAU UNDERGROUND / PARKING GARAGE

As they're leaving, Delilah stops Max and Leroy.

DELILAH

I want to thank you guys for trying to find Mike. I know you're doing your best, even if it's not quite good enough yet.

LEROY

Thanks for the pep talk.

They go to get past. She blocks them.

DELILAH

You're probably wondering why he carries around a picture of us in his wallet. See, we're pretty good friends.

MAX

Yup, sure...

DELILAH

Agent Checker and I were in a totally off the books sexual relationship.

LEROY

Okay. Cool.

They try to move. She blocks again.

DELILAH

But that's all it was. Just physical. My choice.

MAX

Uh huh, we should really get--

DELILAH

He was an incredible lover.
Generous, tender, with just an
unending appetite. Mmmm.
(so intense)
Please, please God find him.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT - NIGHT

Our guys pull up to an abandoned warehouse.

INT. BUREAU ISSUED CAR

Max and Leroy look up at their surroundings.

MAX

...I'm just saying if Checker had
discovered a way to travel through
the multiverse, that would put him
in the crosshairs of a lot of
people or... beings.

LEROY

Have you ever talked to a shrink?

MAX

Yes. Many. And you know what they
think is truly crazy? To not even
be open to the possibility that
there are things out there.

LEROY

You know what's even crazier? That
you think you're coming with me.

Leroy handcuffs Max to handrail in the car.

MAX

What're you doing?

LEROY

Protecting you. From yourself.

MAX

Don't leave me here. Leroy. Please!
I'm not crazy. I mean, I do have a
touch of seasonal affective
disorder.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)
 But I did order that special lamp
 from Hammacher Schlemmer--

But Leroy's door SLAMS.

EXT. BLEAK WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Leroy checks the outside of the warehouse, looking for signs of life. He hears something moving quickly behind a dumpster. A dim glow emanates. Then it's gone. Leroy draws his weapon, moving toward the dumpster. He's wary...but in control.

Suddenly, ALL OF THE LIGHTS SHUT DOWN in the warehouse. And in every other building. DARKNESS.

ON MAX IN THE CAR All of the streetlights shut down. The final light helps register panic on Max's face before it disappears. Max screws with the handrail, trying to yank it out. A WEIRD GLOW, moving quickly, slams into the car.

MAX
 What the-
 (then)
 LEROY! LEROY!

The glow intensifies. Runs up and over the top of the car. Max's trying to track it. But he's hamstrung by the handcuffs. He's yanking harder at the handrail.

Bright, OTHERWORLDLY light fills the car. Max shields his eyes, frantically trying to see what is back there, behind him. The back of the car lifts off the ground. Off Max, terrified...

END OF ACT 2

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

ON LEROY Approaching the dumpster on the side of the warehouse - gun out, he spins around the other side. NOTHING behind it. He hears the CAR SLAMMING. Realizes...

LEROY
 Max...MAX!

He takes off running.

ON MAX as the car suddenly stops moving. The OTHERWORDLY LIGHT runs off just as...

LEROY comes running from around the side of the warehouse.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Standing beside the car, Max rubs his wrist from the cuffs.

MAX

...And I was attacked. There was a bright light and a thing. And the yell--

LEROY

What attacked you?

MAX

I don't know! But I think it was the same thing that attacked Checker. It had the same glow. So we gotta go in there now.

Max makes a move to go up there. Leroy blocks him.

LEROY

No, no, no. You're not going anywhere.

MAX

You've been fighting me the whole time. You work alone. You don't need me. I get it. You don't want a partner. Well guess what?! You almost made sure of that tonight!

LEROY

Don't push me, man.

MAX

I almost died back there. Because you left me!

LEROY

DON'T PUSH ME.

MAX

WHY'D YOU DO IT THEN? WHY'D YOU LOCK ME UP?!

LEROY

I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MY PARTNER'S DEATH!

(then)

That what you want to hear? That I made the call to move in without backup. That I could have warned him when he was about to get shot?

(MORE)

LEROY (CONT'D)
 But in that moment I FROZE UP. That
 what you want to hear?

Max is shocked - a moment of vulnerability for Leroy.

LEROY (CONT'D)
 And I locked your ass to the car
 because I didn't want it to happen
 again.

In that moment, Max understands. He sees Leroy's pain.

MAX
 Still. You could have at least
 turned on the radio.

Their standoff is interrupted by a LOUD NOISE from high up in
 the warehouse. They look up and see A SWIFTLY MOVING LIGHT
 zigzagging up the warehouse stairwell.

MAX (CONT'D)
 That's the thing! The thing that
 attacked me and that attacked
 Checker, I know it. We gotta go up
 there. Checker might be in there.
 He might be in danger--

LEROY
 No. I'm not doing this again. We
 call for backup. We coordinate and
 then we move in.

MAX
 The key to both our lives could be
 in that warehouse. And I'm going
 in. With or without you.

Leroy CHECKS the clip on his gun. Looks dead at Max.

LEROY
 Get your skinny ass in line behind
 me. Let's do this.

He SLAMS the clip it back into his gun, we CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE / HALLWAY

A long hallway with large rooms off to either side. It's
 clearly an unoccupied space, fallen into complete disrepair.

From the end of the hallway, a slight glow emanates from the
 TRANSOM WINDOW above one of the doors.

AT THE DOOR

LEROY

Lift me up.

MAX

Yeah. Just logistically, maybe we try it the other way around.

LEROY

Why?

MAX

Ummmm--

LEROY

Got you, dude. Here.

Leroy gives Max a boost up to the window. As Max's eyes crest the ledge of the window - he sees a glimpse of Mike Checker, eyes closed, strapped onto a medical gurney. Standing over him, obstructing Max's full view of Checker, is the GUY WHO WAS FOLLOWING CHECKER on the security feeds. He cleans a SURGICAL KNIFE.

MAX

Wait, is that...

LEROY

What?

MAX

Checker. He has Checker.

The Guy suddenly puts the surgical knife down and TAKES OFF HIS OWN HEAD. Max recoils, BANGS into the window. The Guy quickly turns toward the door. Max DUCKS.

MAX (CONT'D)

Lemme down. Lemme down.

Leroy does.

LEROY

Checker's in there? Who has him?

MAX

The guy from the feeds. He just took his own head off. He just took it right off and set it down--

LEROY

Hey, when I left you in the car
back there, did you get super high?
Are you holding out on me?

MAX

Look.

Max QUIETLY quietly creeps over and opens the door to the room a little bit. He and Leroy bend down. Through the door they see a glimpse of the SEVERED HEAD.

They look over: Checker is between them and the Headless Guy (though they can only see below his torso from this angle). There's no way, Leroy could get a clean shot at the Guy.

LEROY

I don't know what you think you
saw, but we're dealing with a
murderer. He cut that guy's head
off and kept it as a trophy.

MAX

No, he took his own head off. I saw
it.

LEROY

Okay, sure. Now here's what we're
gonna do. You go in, grab the head
and lure him away from Checker so I
can get a clean shot at him.

Beat.

MAX

Or, better idea, you go in and get
the head.

LEROY

You're scared to touch a head?
It's a piece of meat, man. Like
picking up a porterhouse.

MAX

Look, I don't want to leverage the
whole car incident right now, but
you owe me-

LEROY

So what? You're gonna shoot him
then?

MAX
 Why not? I love guns. Big gun guy.
 Love all types of guns. Glocks,
 um... what else?

LEROY
 Go for it, gun man.

Leroy offers Max the gun. Max considers, then:

MAX
 Okay, I'm gonna go in and get the
 head. You just be ready?

Leroy nods as Max heads into the room.

INT. ABANDONE WAREHOUSE/ROOM

Max creeps in, undetected by the Headless Guy. Max approaches the head, sturdies himself and then grabs it by the hair. As he turns to leave, the head's EYES FLY OPEN and it screams in a HIGH PITCHED YELL. Max SCREAMS too.

The Headless Guy turns around and starts to emit a BRIGHT WHITE GLOW. He chases after Max who heads into the hallway.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE/HALLWAY

Max, carrying the head (no longer screaming), emerges, followed by the BRIGHT WHITE GLOW of the Headless Guy.

MAX
 RUN! RUN!

Leroy starts running with Max. He gets a few shots off but the bright white light from the Headless Guy blinds him.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE / HALLWAYS

Leroy and Max run for their lives, as the Headless Guy chases them. They take a series of turns, lose the Headless Guy and finally make their way into:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE / SMALLER ROOM

There's a small window in the metal door. Max slams the door shut. They put their weight against the door.

MAX
 It screamed. The head screamed.

LEROY

Dude, you're losing it--

The HEAD starts SCREAMING AGAIN.

LEROY (CONT'D)

What the hell is that thing?!

MAX

I don't think it's human!

LEROY

Shut it up! He's gonna find us!

MAX

(screaming at head)

Shut up! Shut up!

LEROY

What are you...? Here, just...

Leroy covers the Head's mouth to muffle it.

LEROY (CONT'D)

Awww, it bit me!

The Head keeps screaming. Suddenly a white glowing arm BASHES through the small window in the metal door, and grabs the SCREAMING HEAD back from Max. The arm disappears.

MAX

Is it gone? It's gone, right--

Suddenly the arm reaches back in and grabs Max around the neck, choking him.

MAX (CONT'D)

Leroy! Leroy, help me!

But Leroy can't respond. He's just FROZEN.

LEROY

It's happening again.

MAX

Do something!

LEROY

I'm sorry, I can't move.

MAX

(struggling to talk)

You know... what the.... difference is....between a hero and a coward?

LEROY

Muscles?

MAX

Nothing...It's only...what you do.

Max is about to pass out, when suddenly something CLICKS in Leroy. Leroy takes out his gun and shoots the Headless Glowing Guy in his arm -- SPLAT SPLAT SPLAT!

The Headless Glowing Guy emits a high pitch SCREAM and lets go of Max's neck. A glowing ooze drips from his arm. He runs off.

LEROY

You okay?

MAX

Yeah, thanks.

(then)

Give me your gun. I'm gonna kill that thing before it kills Checker.

LEROY

I'm not giving you my gun.

MAX

Yeah, good call.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE / HALLWAY

Max runs through the hallway, following the trail of ooze. Leroy behind him. Max goes past the room Checker was in before, but he's gone now.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE / STAIRWELL

Max runs up the stairs, following the ooze. Door is locked. BAM! He kicks it open and runs out to...

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE / ROOF

Where he's stopped dead in his tracks by a BLINDING LIGHT. He shields his eyes, then tries to focus but it's tough. As his vision starts to come back, he squints, not believing what he's seeing.

Floating mid-air is a small, glowing SPHERICAL METALLIC SPACE PLANE attached to a big inductor coil that sits on top of the warehouse. It's clearly CHARGING UP.

MAX

The power...it's charging...

Suddenly --- BANG! A huge explosion shakes the earth, throwing Max to the ground as the SPACE PLANE sucks in on itself and suddenly disappears.

MAX (CONT'D)

It's real. It's all real...

Just then, Leroy comes up onto the roof. Leroy sees the Glowing Guy walking towards them. Only now he's not glowing and has his head back on. A faint scar around his neck.

LEROY

Hey! Don't move!

Max turns to see Leroy pointing his gun at the Guy.

GUY

Please, don't hurt me. Please.

LEROY

Who are you?

GUY

I don't know. I can't remember anything. Please, help me.

INT. BUREAU UNDERGROUND / LAFREY'S OFFICE

Captain LaFrey sits behind her desk. Max, Delilah and Barry sit across from her. Leroy is pacing, uncomfortable...

CAPTAIN LAFREY

While the search for Agent Checker continues, the man you found has given us plenty to work with. Good work.

LEROY

Why was the head talking? The head shouldn't have been talking. And how is that guy even still alive?

DELILAH

I'm analyzing his tissue sample now. But aside from the scarring on his neck, physically he's fine.

MAX

Maybe he was, like, a host. Maybe whatever took off in that ship, used his body as like a shell. And they take off the head so they can be in two places at once.

BARRY

Tight theory, Max. Checker would be proud of you guys. If he were here. If you'd found him. Still, tight.

Barry nods a tiny nod of respect.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

We'll continue with Checker later. Right now we have a report of a disappearance of a religious cult in southern Arizona that I need you guys to check out.

MAX

So, wait. Is that like a job offer?

CAPTAIN LAFREY

With our increasingly heavy case-load and no Agent Checker, it looks like we're going to need your help.
(to Barry and Delilah)
Right?

DELILAH

It's actually a pretty fun place to work when there's not an end of the world scenario happening, which unfortunately is most of the time. But we do have a ping pong table.

MAX

Yes. In.

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Leroy?

INT. BUREAU UNDERGROUND / HALLWAY

Max and Leroy walk and talk.

MAX

I didn't think you'd say yes.

LEROY

I've been doing this for fifteen years. Seen a lot. But I don't know what to believe anymore. All I know is we got ourselves a case. And I whup ass at ping pong.

They join Delilah, Barry and LaFrey, who watch the Guy through a window. He's in a small observatory room, sitting on the floor, blanket wrapped around him, eating soup. A WOMAN enters the room, with her back turned to our gang.

MAX

Who's that?

CAPTAIN LAFREY

Checker found her about a year ago in an institution. Same neck scarring and lack of memory as our new guy. The only thing she remembers is being taken.

MAX

Like...an abduction?

LaFrey nods. The Woman turns around and looks at them.

MAX (CONT'D)

Oh my god.

LEROY

What?

MAX

That's my wife...

As we push in on our gang all watching through the window...

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

And thus began Leroy Wright and Max Allison's tenure in the Bureau Underground. This is Agent Mike Checker from future universe 24b, signing off.

SLAM TO:

G H O S T E D _

The cursor's blinking. It blips off.

THE END