

On the Other side of the Fence:

Act 2: Descent into Darkness

By Mohammad Khan

## ACT 2: DESCENT INTO DARKNESS

### SCENE 1: The Escape

INT: The barn is quiet in the night. The guard aliens can be seen outside. The glow of their eyes is apparent.

Anna wakes up everyone quietly. Everyone wakes up quietly. Mariana couldn't sleep at all.

ANNA

"Stay quiet. Stay alert. Everyone remember the plan?"

They tap the floor of their stable in acknowledgement. It's too dark to see clearly.

Anna goes to the back of the stable and removes parts of the barn revealing a large enough hole to squeeze through.

Anna peeks her head through and sees tall grass between them and the fences.

ANNA

"When I go through, lie flat and crawl. Do not look up. If you hear any sound, freeze."

Anna goes through the hole and crawls through. Arya, Mariana, and Arnold follow.

They're crawling through the grass slowly. Anna is in front. Arya & Arnold are on her right and Mariana on her left.  
They're crawling slowly.

YI (Voice.Over)

"We'll army crawl through the tall grass."

They hear a sentry alien.

No one moves.

The calm breeze of the night masks their motion in the grass.

The sentry alien glides past them not knowing they lie in the tall grass.

Anna continues to crawl.

Soon they reach the fence.

YI (V.O)

"When you reach the fence, there's a gap created by others go through."

Anna finds the gap and pulls the chain link away. It makes quiet clinking noises. Anna waits to see if any Alien hears them.

ANNA (whisper)

"alright, go through."

Arnold, Mariana, Arya go through and Anna follows behind. The tall grass continues for a few feet beyond the fence. After that, it's open land.

Horses are strung up near the starship.

YI(V.O)

"Find a rock or something heavy. Throw it near the horses to scare them. The hunters won't be able to use them. I'll meet you by the Juniper tree."

The juniper tree is 100 meters to their left. The tall grass extends around the perimeter of the fence, but only for another 10 feet. The lights from the ranch extend the edge of the tall grass. Reaching the tree would mean they're safe for the moment.

Anna finds a rock and throws it near the horses. The horses scam. The sentry aliens and hunters chase the horses.

Arnold picks up a smaller rock and throws it as well, but it lands near a sentry alien. But another alien comes from afar. *Why did the other alien come? It was too far to hear it.* Then we see more aliens coming from a few feet. *Why are they coming? Did they hear?*

Anna pulls everyone down to the ground.

ANNA (whispering to everyone)

"When I let go of you, crawl to the Juniper tree in the distance. If you can't see it, you'll definitely feel it."

The sentry alien looks in the direction where the rock came from. Tall grass waves slowly in the wind. However, it spots movement. Someone's foot hits the fence.

It slowly glides over to their location. Anna gestures for them to crawl to the left slowly within the tall grass. They army crawl behind Anna while she stays focused on the approaching sentry.

Arnold crawls slowly.

The alien is getting very close now to Anna. She stays still. It searches in the tall grass for anything that could make movement. The glowing eyes peer over Anna and freeze. It stares at Anna.

She thinks it sees her. But it grabs Arnold's legs.

Anna jumped at the alien putting it in a headlock and brought it into the tall grass. The squirming will easily overpower Anna in a few seconds, so she stabs it with a stick.

ANNA

"Arnold, are you ok?"

Arnold nods and he's about to crawl away until Anna stops him.

She notices a sentry alien is wearing a visor and is searching through the tall grass.

ANNA

"Oh fuck!"

She army crawls her way towards the Juniper tree. The tracker is signaling the other aliens that their comrade's location.

**CUT TO:**

The juniper tree. A large tree in eastern Utah with a strange shape. The trunk, twisted and managed as if a creature tried to tear it but the tree wouldn't budge. It lies in the shadow of the ranch out of the bounds of the lights.

Arya and Mariana are crawling to the Juniper. They find Yi waiting behind the tree. Yi is with her son, Li. He's wearing a book bag. Li is older than the other children, he's 20.

YI (to Arya)  
"Where's your mother?"

ARYA  
"There was an Alien that heard us, it grabbed Arnold. She told us to go on. We need to go back."

YI  
"Shit."

LI  
"mom, look."

Lan points to the tall grass. 2 more sentry aliens show searching through the tall grass.

ARYA  
"We have to help her!"

Arya tries to run towards them, but Yi pulls her back.

YI  
"Keep running until you find more shelter."  
(to Li)  
"Remember, the hiding spot I told you about?"

LI  
"I do. But you're coming with us."

Yi looks at the aliens.  
They put on a visors and seem to be following a trail. But how? They didn't leave anything behind. *Unless..*

YI (to self)  
"thermal vision."  
(to Li)  
"YOU NEED TO RUN NOW."

LI  
"Mom?! No! I can't leave you."

YI  
"If they find us, we all die. There's a river down the hill. Downstream will lead you far away from here. "

(catching her breath)

"The others are jumping downstream as well. Meet up with them."

MARIANA (softly to Li)

"We need to go."

Slowly, the 4 of them descend into darkness.

YI (to self)

"We can't lose. Not again."

She crawls back to the tall grass. She finds Anna crawling in the tall grass.

YI (whisper)

"One last time?"

ANNA (chuckles)

"One last time."

They grab sticks and rocks and begin to fight the two sentry aliens.

CUT TO:

In near pitch black darkness the group is running towards a river.

LI

"we need to stick together. The green river is pretty rough."

ARYA

"How will we know if we reach the river? It's too da--"

Just then Arya falls into the river. The rest also fall into the river.

We can hardly see them, but their struggling in the water is audible. They are at the mercy of the river.

They flow downstream to, what they hope, is a safer place.

## **SCENE 2: The Farmer in the Dell**

EXT: Dusk.

The river is calm with beautiful sandstone structures in the background. We see legs float into view. They're facing up. Li's, Arya's, Mariana's bodies float into view. No one is moving. A bird lands on top of Li's stomach. Li wakes up. He begins to grab others and push them to shore.

After getting everyone to shore, he shakes everyone awake.

ARYA

"where are we?"

LI

"I don't know. Somewhere downstream. The water was rough after we escaped."

Li takes off his book bag and checks the contents inside.

MARISSA

"where did you get the bag?"

LI

"Made it myself. The aliens were going to use some of us as hunters. The other guys made similar bags and were planning on escaping, but the aliens took some of them to the slaughterhouse and planted collars on others that looked strong. I didn't eat food to stay skinny so they wouldn't collar me as a hunter."

Li searches through his bag for supplies and finds a map.....completely drenched in water. It easily broke apart.

LI

"Well.....shit. I'm lost."

Everyone looks to Li.

LI

"Downstream from the ranch. The map is torn. We still have some food and water, but not much."

ARYA

"You didn't plan for the map getting wet?"

LI (annoyed)

"I didn't plan on swimming either. We weren't supposed to get spotted."

(angry)

"How did that happen anyway?!"

No one speaks. They don't know.

MARISSA (to Li)

"Now what?"

LI

"Stick together. Walk downstream. Until, we run into them."

MARISSA

"What if we don't find them?"

LI

"I don't know."

They walk downstream with Li leading and Mariana behind him.

It's a partly cloudy day. The cloud cover provides some respite from the excruciating heat of the sun.

ARYA (to Li)

"Were you there when they first invaded?"

LI

"No. My mom told a story of when the first alien came."

(pause)

"The whole world was excited. *An Alien!* It was 1 alien. This alien was also peaceful. It came without any weapons, as much as we could tell.....Then one alien became a billion, in an instant. They systematically tracked us down and captured us. It's like they were watching us for decades before invading."

No one spoke. The clouds parted slightly revealing more sunlight.

MARIANA (to Li)  
"Do you have any siblings?"

LI  
"I used to. A younger sister."

MARIANA  
"Did the aliens take her?"

LI  
"Caught her playing by the fence. Thought she was escaping. Tagged her with a collar and she died from the pain."

MARIANA  
"how old was she?"

LI (to self)  
"You remind me of her."

Li hears an alien nearby.

LI (to Mariana)  
"Get Down."

He pushes Mariana behind a rock formation and jumps into a crevice and tells the others to do the same.

LI (to everyone)  
"hunter! Get down"

A hunter alien comes from around the corner of a rock formation. This one resembles a cuttlefish compared to the guard and sentry aliens. These aliens are larger, monstrous, and bulky, yet they seem the most like a cuttlefish. It floats above the ground like a cuttlefish. The eyes are on the side of the head. The alien floats with its tentacles pointing to the ground.

The hunter alien glides near Li's hiding spot. It stops.

Mariana and Arya grabs a rock.

The hunter alien moves towards Li slowly still unsure if it's seeing Li properly.

SMACK. Mariana hurled a rock at the alien knocking it over. Arya gathered rocks and began throwing it as well.

Li grabs rocks as well and continues to throw them at the alien.

The alien is down on the ground.

The gang continues to sprint away from the alien. They're in the shadow of rock formations and are about to head into a clearing. Li and Mariana are in the front with Arya in the back.

The alien gets back up. The 5 of them are about 100-200 meters away from the alien.

The alien quickly clears the distance and catches up with the group.

The alien shoots out tentacles much like how a real cuttlefish hunts. The tentacles grabs Arya and quickly pins them to the ground.

Li and Mariana stop.

Mariana throws the few rocks she has left.

Li searches through his back for a weapon and can't find any. Li finds rocks and joins Mariana.

LI (throwing rocks)  
"Hey! Over here!"

Li turned around to see 2 more Hunter aliens approach from behind.

One of them tackles Li and the other pins Mariana face down into the dirt.

LI (seeing Mariana in trouble)  
"get off of her!"

They're struggling to escape the grip of the hunter aliens. Their tentacles are pure muscle with no skeletal structure.

Li's arm & legs are pinned down by the tentacles. Then the hunter alien reveal a sharp beak, similar to a parrot's beak. It bites Li's leg.

The pain is excruciating, but soon his leg goes numb. *Paralytic poison*. The paralysis spreads to the rest of his body. Li looks around and sees the other hunter aliens do the same to Mariana, Arya.

Soon Li is stuck and cannot move. He can still breathe. He'll probably be taken back to the ranch.

Li is paralyzed staring at the alien above him.

SUDDENLY

An arrow goes through the alien's head. Right between the eyes. Someone shot the alien from behind.

We hear the other aliens fall down, struck by arrows. A black man, Ronnie, brandishing a bow walks near the 5 of them.

RONNIE  
"Diana bring up the wagon! We got a few. Looks like they need help."  
(to the kids)

"don't worry. The paralysis will wear off in a few minutes."

The wagon was an old stagecoach. The woman named Diana is driving the horse. Ronnie sits in the back with the kids.

The wagon is moving away from the stream, further inland to a den hidden in



the woods.

Li regains control of speaking.

LI (struggling)  
"who are you people?"

RONNIE  
"I'm Ronnie. We're taking you to a safe place."

The wagon arrives at a small valley hidden between formation. A lodge seemingly attached to the side of the valley.

Two people exit the lodge to welcome the wagon. A man and woman. The man is person from the beginning of the story, Gordon.

Ronnie and Diana jump off the wagon.

Diana (to the kids)  
"Take it easy. We'll help you out."

Ronnie, Diana, Gordon and the Woman help the kids out of the wagon and take them inside.

### **SCENE 3: The Plan**

INT: The Lodge is neatly decorated. Homey. As if the couple as been here a while housing guests occasionally.

The kids were lain on beds.

Ronnie, Diana, the man and woman gather round a table to discuss plans.

The man, named Gordon speaks first

GORDON (pointing to kids)  
"Ronnie, Diana. Who the hell are they?"

RONNIE  
"They were being attacked by hunter aliens."

GORDON  
"Well, they're a burden now. We can't take them with us."

The woman speaks up.

NAOMI  
"We should at least take care of them until they are better."

RONNIE  
"The paralysis should wear off by tonight."

DIANA  
"We could use the extra help."

GORDON  
"I'm not risking their lives to save my sister."

Li is slowly gaining back mobility. The rest are as well.

Ronnie notices Li is getting up.

RONNIE (to Li)

"Hey, hey, hey. Take it easy."

LI (weak)

"What's going on? Who are you people?"

GORDON

"I'm Gordon. welcome to the dell. Are you from the ranch upstream?"

LI

"Yeah.... I thought the dell was gone."

GORDON

"Not yet."

The rest of the group wakes up. Naomi helps Arya and Mariana up.

ARYA

"Thank you. I'm Arya."

(points to Mariana)

"This is Mariana."

NAOMI

"You're welcome. I'm Naomi"

Everyone gathers around the table.

GORDON

"So now that you're all awake. I'm Gordon."

(points to Naomi, Ronnie, Diana)

"That's Diana and her younger brother Ronnie. That's Naomi."

DIANA

(takes out a map)

"Now, We're planning to attack the ranch at nightfall."

MARIANA

"Whoa, whoa. Why? We barely escaped."

GORDON

"I'm going back for my sister, Anna and to release the captives."

ARYA

"I know her. Anna was our mom."

GORDON

"Was? What happened to her!?"

LI (sighs)

"We were all escaping together. Something tipped off the sentry aliens. She was left behind. Along with my mother."

GORDON

"They could both still be alive."

DIANA

"Is it worth the risk to go back? If they know they have 2 escapees, security will be tighter."

RONNIE

"We also need to make more arrows to take out the aliens."

NAOMI

"Don't worry, we can use the armory."

Gordon is considering the options. He sees shadows of hunter aliens on the valley floor in front of them. *The aliens are looking for something.*

GORDON (to Ronnie)

"You said you saved the kids from aliens? Did you kill them?"

RONNIE

"Yeah."

(realizing)

"OH SHIT!"

GORDON

"We need to hide NOW. They're searching for the person who killed the hunter aliens."

ARYA

"What do we do?"

Gordon opens a hatch on the floor that leads to the armory.

GORDON

"Get in. We'll hide down here."

Everyone goes into the armory. The armory's walls are lined with bows and arrows. There's food, a bed, a bathroom. It looks like an underground bunker meant to survive the apocalypse.

GORDON

"we can watch where the aliens are."

Through the floorboards, they'll be able to see the aliens. Gordon walks over to one side of the bunker and holds onto a string. he gestures to Naomi and Diana to move to the other side and hold onto the rope there.

3 hunter aliens are nearby.

The aliens break into the home. They search house, then they put on their visors. *Thermal Vision.*

Through the alien's POV, they see footprints of everyone who were here. They approach to the hatch that leads to the armory.

An alien's tentacle reaches for the hatch.

Gordon gestures Now and the 3 of them pulls rope.

BANG. Crossbows were triggered around the room that shot all 3 aliens.

All 3 aliens are dead.

Gordon, Diana, Ronnie, and Naomi emerge from the armory.

GORDON

"We need to go before more show up."

Diana walks over to the aliens. She looks at the lifeless bodies and finds a platform.

RONNIE

"How are we getting there? It's at least 10 miles if we follow the river."

DIANA

"Ronnie, look at this."

Diana takes the platform from the alien's body.

DIANA

"What is this? Is this how the get around?"

Diana stands on the platform....and begins to levitate.

GORDON

"We can attach these to the wagon to move quickly and silently."

MARIANA

"What do you want us to do?"

NAOMI

"You're all too young. You need to stay"

ARYA

"But we can help."

GORDON

"No. We'll have to split up. You're cut of for this."

Gordon walks over to a drawer and pulls out a walkie-talkie and hands it Arya.

GORDON

"Stay in contact through this and get out before more aliens show up."

LI

"We know the ranch better. And how do you plan on taking the rest of the aliens?"

NAOMI (to Li)

"we've been working on an idea."

MARIANA

"How do the aliens know where the dead aliens are?"

Everyone never thought that. They look at the alien bodies are search for

anything. The turn the bodies over and find blinking devices. *Trackers*. Naomi picks up the tracking collars.

NAOMI

"we can toss them in the river, they won't find us."

DIANA

"No. We should take them. They're tracking collars. So when we invade, we might have the element of surprise. And the dell will be safe."

GORDON

"We need to move now."

DIANA

"We can't leave them here. Let's take them with us. It's been years since we've been at the ranch. They might able to help"

GORDON

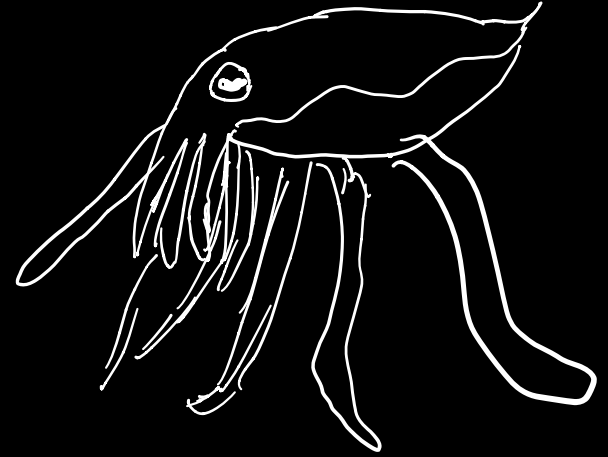
"Fine. Load up the wagon and let's move out."

# Concept Art for Act II

Li



Hunter Alien



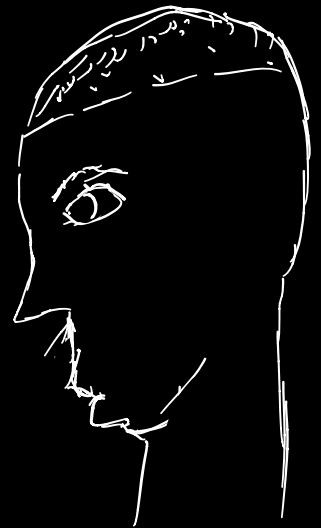
Naomi



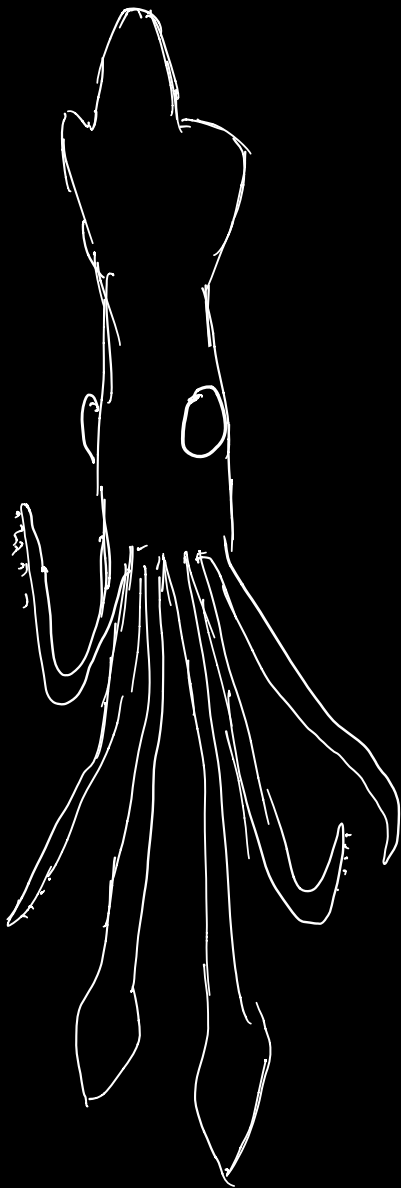
Diana



Ronnie



Guard Alien



Anna



Arya

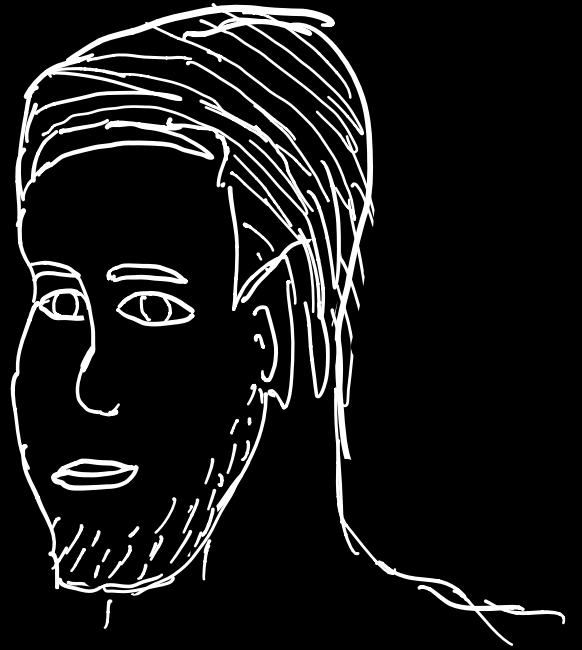


Arnold

Mariana



Gordon



Yi



Sentry Aliens

