Alien Home Front

In Earth’s Atmosphere There Is Lots of Screaming

Script by Stephen Alliston

# Act I

*Open on an exterior shot of the Sulaco. Jump to a shot of the darkened interior of the ship, lights flicker on and the ship starts to wake up. The hypersleep chambers come to life and Newt, Ripley and Hicks wake up.*

### Scene 1

Ripley: (leaning over Newt as she awakes) Wake up sleepy-head. We’re home.

Newt: We’re on the space ship…at home?

Ripley: Look (they walk to a window or monitor displaying a space station over Earth). We’re at Gateway Station. Orbiting Earth.

Newt: (looks from screen/window to Ripley)

Ripley: Do you remember being home? How old were you when you left?

Newt: I don’t remember.

Ripley: (pause) Home was the colony with your family. I’m so sorry. (hugs Newt).

Hicks: (wincing as he awakes, touching his wound dressing). Feels like I could use another month in [hypersleep].

Ripley: Let me see. (Lifts the dressing). I’m no doctor, but I think you’ll live.

*Ripley and Hicks look at each other*

Hicks: We better see if there’s a welcoming committee

*The three move to the communications center*

Hicks: Sulaco to Gateway control, this is Corporal Hicks requesting permission to dock.

*Several beats*

Gateway Control: Negative Sulaco. Permission to dock denied. Please await further instructions.

Ripley: (over radio) What the hell? We have an injured Marine, a child survivor from Hadley’s Hope and a damaged…artificial person on board. We need to dock right now.

Gateway Control: Who is this? Shipboard computer is registering massive amounts of xenomorphic genetic material. You can’t dock until we clear the ship for threats. The ship, and all passengers.

Ripley: This is Warrant Officer Ellen Ripley and we need medical attention right now. Get us off this damn ship.

*Several beats*

Gateway Control: Medical personnel will be arriving within the hour with supplies. Sulaco, until further notice…you are quarantined.

(2:00)

### Scene 2

*Newt is looking at a screen describing flora and fauna on Earth in images and text*

*Ripley and Hicks stand by the door of an airlock as it opens to reveal Caleb, dressed in medical garb.*

Caleb: I’m Caleb. I’m medical-rated.

*Scooter scoots by*

Caleb: That’s Scooter

Hicks: Of course…

Ripley: (reaching out her hand…hesitantly) Nice to meet you, Caleb.

Hicks: …they wouldn’t send a human

Ripley: (shaking Caleb’s hand) oh, you’re an artificial person

Caleb: A synthetic, yes.

Ripley: A synthetic…who can’t get infected with anything alien…makes sense. Welcome aboard. Who’s your friend?

Caleb: That’s Scooter. Scanning robot. He’ll clear the ship of anything genetically foreign and give us a rundown of what he finds.

Hicks: How long will that take?

Caleb: For a ship this size? Maybe a week. Based on what we got off ship’s computer…we can’t take any chances.

Scooter: (beeps comic-reliefly, scans then fries a blob of material left by the Alien Queen and scoots away)

Hicks: (to Ripley) Say, about how long would it take to make sure we didn’t have any of those things inside us?

Ripley: About five days

Hicks: Huh, probably a coincidence.

*Caleb examines Newt, Ripley and Hicks in the medical bay*

Caleb: (examining Newt’s eyes) You are fine.

Newt: (to Ripley) I’m fine.

Ripley: That’s good.

Caleb: (examining Hicks’ shoulder) What caused this injury?

Hicks: One of those bugs…

Caleb: Bugs? Do you mean a xenomorphic lifeform?

Hicks: Yeah...its blood anyway. Acid.

Caleb: The wound is healing. I find no sign of infection. There will be…significant scarring.

Hicks: So much for my modelling career.

Caleb: Oh…I’m...sorry

Ripley: It’s ok, he’s kidding.

Caleb: You’re all checked out. I will return to Gateway station.

Ripley: Doc, can you do one more thing?

Caleb: Oh? What’s that?

*Ripley is inside a scanning machine. A screen displays her internal anatomy. Newt and Hicks stand nearby*

Caleb: (reading the screen) You’re all clear. All of you. No signs of any unusual masses in any of your internal scans.

Ripley: (getting out of machine, pulling on a shirt over her undershirt) Good. Maybe that will help me sleep. Thanks, Caleb.

Caleb: If that’s all for now, I need to return to Gateway. I have duties to attend to.

Hicks: What about your scanner pal?

Caleb: He works independently. You can follow his progress via your connection to the station.

Newt: (to Ripley) Can you show me how?

Ripley: Sure, as long as you don’t forget your homework.

Newt: Ok (runs off)

Ripley: Hey, I almost forgot. Can you do one more examination?

*Hypersleep room. Ripley unzips Bishop’s motionless body from its bag.*

Ripley: He deserves to be put back together. I doubted him at first…but he saved us. A real hero.

Caleb: (looking surprised) Wow…yes sure. (touches Bishop’s head, examines his torso) Processing and memory seem intact…I’ll bring spare parts when I return.

Ripley: It would mean a lot to me.

Caleb: (looks a little confused by this)

*Caleb’s ship leaves Sulaco for Gateway.*

(2:30)(4:30)

### Scene III

### {This scene introduces our villain…the corporate tool who learned of Burke’s plan to send the colonists to find the eggs. We learn that they sent a fast ship with a double detachment of marines to retrieve the eggs and anything else they could find at the original alien shipwreck site. It has to be clear it was outside the blast zone of the explosion. They also plot how to deal with those on the Sulaco when the ship returns, which is scheduled to be prior to Sulaco getting out of quarantine…the real purpose of that decision.}

*INT Gateway Station. Several people in business suits sit around a conference table. Caleb is among them dressed as before. Ripley appears on a screen at one end of the room.*

Van Leuwen: So you’re confident there is no sign of any living xenomorphs on the Sulaco? After hearing Ripley’s report, along with the video captured by Gorman’s squad…we cannot afford to let even a single one of those things onto Gateway Station.

Caleb: That is correct. If what Ripley has said about their aggressive behavior is true, we would have seen an adult xenomorph by now. There is some chance, I suppose, that the queen left one or more eggs which were not mature enough to hatch. Our scan will reveal them if so.

Van Leuwen: And if they hatch before the scan locates them?

Caleb: The crew will be in serious danger of infection.

Ripley: We did a thorough scan and visual inspection before leaving LV-426. There’s nothing on board.

Van Leuwen: We can’t take any chances. The ship’s scanners aren’t as sensitive as the one on the scanning robot.

Ripley: Fine, ok, sure.

Van Leuwen: Ripley, we have reviewed your report on the circumstances leading to the destruction of Hadley’s Hope and all of its inhabitants and assets. We have also reviewed data received from the ship’s log of transmissions by the Marines and other team members…including their initial contact with the xenomorphs.

Ripley: So…what?

Van Leuwen: We are very sorry that we doubted your report about what happened on Nostromo. Clearly these…things…are exactly as you described. On behalf of the company I would just like to thank you for going back there, and for your heroic actions to save Corporal Hicks and the colonist girl. Also…thanks for bringing our ship back this time, Ripley. Or should I say Flight Officer Ripley?

Ripley: My pleasure.

Van Leuwen: Thank you Ripley, Caleb. You are dismissed.

Caleb: (exits)

Ripley: Thank you.

(1:45)(6:15)

*The screen goes dark*

Van Leuwen: Anne, is there any way to…adjust the behavior of the scanner bot?

Anne: Definitely. We can accelerate it…ignore smaller readings in order to locate larger threats sooner.

Van Leuwen: Good. I’d like to discuss that more offline. (nods)

Anne: (exits)

### {This part of the scene could end here, to keep the audience in the dark about Van Leuwen’s plans.}

Van Leuwen: Gerald, what is the timeline for the Kurtz’ return?

Gerald: Approximately thirty-six hours, based on their reported time of departure from LV-426.

Van Leuwen: And your team is ready to manage their cargo? We can’t afford a single mistake…I’m not going to underestimate them the way Burke did.

Gerald: We have containment chambers for them. Strong enough to hold a herd of elephants. Acid-proof.

Van Leuwen: And you won’t hesitate to destroy them if they break containment, correct?

Gerald: We have a Marine battalion on standby. They won’t hesitate to take down any threat.

Van Leuwen: Ted, how confident you of our opsec? We can’t have anyone outside this room finding out about this. Not now, and not ever.

Ted: We’ve had no electronic or hard-copy communication with anyone…even within this room.

Van Leuwen: What about the LV-426 team? That’s…how many Marines and officers?

Ted: Four squads, so about forty-four total, Mr. Van Leuwen.

Van Leuwen: And…?

Ted: Well, they’re Marines…very unlikely to leak.

Van Leuwen: We need to make sure they don’t. Make sure they are sent back out as soon as the cargo is unloaded and the Kurtz is readied. Somewhere…far…and dangerous.

Ted: Of course.

Van Leuwen: Any questions? Thank you, everyone.

*INT Gateway Station. Van Leuwen’s office. Van Leuwen at his desk, Anne stands.*

Van Leuwen: I’m concerned that we might not find a threat to the Sulaco crew in time, you understand?

Anne: Yes, Mr. Van Leuwen but if we disable the cleansing function the scanning unit won’t destroy a threat if it encouters one…it just keeps scanning.

Van Leuwen: But it will complete the scan faster that way, no?

Anne: Yes…but

Van Leuwen: And it will log the location where it found the xenomorphic form, correct?

Anne: Of course.

Van Leuwen: Have the logs forwarded directly to me in real-time, if you don’t mind, Anne.

Anne: Certainly, Mr. Van Leuwen. (exits)

(2:00)(8:15)

### Scene IV

*INT Sulaco briefing room. Newt and Ripley sit in front of a screen displaying a picture of a giraffe.*

Newt: Giraffe?

Ripley: Good!

Newt: Ripley? Can I meet one someday?

Ripley: No, sweetie. They went extinct when I was a little girl.

Newt: Ektinct (sic)?

Ripley: Extinct. It means all gone. Forever.

Newt: Oh.

Ripley: You know I’ve been away so long…I don’t even know what Earth is like now. Why don’t we both learn about what kinds of animals we can meet when we get there? (starts reading screen, changing pages)

Caleb: (appears on screen suddenly) Ripley. You should see this.

*The screen switches again to display a large military ship approaching Gateway*

Caleb: (voiceover) This is the Kurtz. It’s returning…from LV-426.

Ripley: What? How?

Caleb: It was sent when you stopped communicating. It’s one of our new clippers, thirty percent faster than Sulaco.

Ripley: Were they coming to rescue us?

Caleb: That was the plan yes, but you escaped before they arrived. So they switched to their classified secondary mission. Recon the alien landing site and retrieve any eggs they could find, and anything else of interest.

Ripley: NO! They promised they weren’t going to bring anything back. Who…was Burke operating on orders from above?

Caleb: I did some digging around in the comm logs…it looks like he was sending back status updates to someone here. They were probably the ones that sent the Kurtz. (writers note: there was no opportunity for Buke to communicate after they land…need to change)

Ripley: Well you need to tell someone! They can’t let that ship dock!

Caleb: Ripley…that’s the problem…we can’t communicate with the ship at all. They’ve been ordered to stand off and wait for a medical team…just like Sulaco. But they aren’t responding. And they are approaching fast.

Ripley: Damn it! You sons of bitches won’t let this go, will you? You have to have your God damn bioweapon, no matter the cost.

Caleb: I…

Ripley: No…Caleb. Thanks for finding those logs. And for warning us.

Caleb: What are you going to do?

Ripley: I don’t know. Caleb, can you tell me as soon as any we hear anything from the Kurtz? I’ve got to tell Hicks.

Caleb: Will do. And I will also try to learn who Burke was talking to.

Ripley: Thanks. (turns off screen)

Newt: Ripley, what’s wrong.

Ripley: I’m not sure, Newt. Do me a favor and find out what Scooter is up to, ok? I’ll be right back.

Ripley: (exits)

Newt: (switches screen to a display showing the scanner bot’s progress at about 50%)

(2:00)(10:15)

(writers note: Need a bonding scene where Ripley helps locate Newt’s family. We learn about Ripley’s ongoing conflict for leaving her daughter.)

### Writers note

### {We will learn that an Alien Queen hatched aboard the Kurtz. It modified an egg to attach to or infect the ship’s Synthetic. This became the Imperial Queen – Alien-Synthetic hybrid. It is capable of accessing anything in the memory of the Synthetic and melding with compatible computer systems such as those on the ship, or Gateway Station, or comm satellites, etc.}

### Scene V

*INT Sulaco. Hanger bay. Hicks is working on the dropship when Ripley finds him.*

Ripley: Dwayne, how is it coming?

Hicks: Good. Looks like her majesty didn’t do too much damage.

Ripley: That’s good news…we might need a ride sooner than we thought.

Hicks: What?

Ripley: They sent another ship, Dwayne…the Kurtz. To rescue us. Caleb dug up some messages from Burke. Someone back here ordered a rescue mission. When we were already gone they were ordered to the original beacon location…the alien wreck.

Hicks: Oh god

Ripley: They were ordered to bring back eggs. Now they’re back in-system but they aren’t talking to Gateway.

Hicks: They can’t let that ship dock.

Ripley: No, they can’t

Hicks: They gotta take it out.

Ripley: Do they know that? Can they?

Hicks: I’ll see what I can find out about it. You should get Newt ready to travel. We don’t have much time.

Caleb: (voiceover – via ship’s intercom) Ripley, are you there? Come in, it is urgent.

*Ripley and Hicks exit quickly*

*INT Sulaco briefing room. Ripley and Hicks enter. Ripley touches the screen and Caleb appears.*

Caleb: Ripley! The Kurtz is nearly within range of Gateway and still no response.

Ripley: Damn it.

Caleb: I recovered communications from Burke to an unknown address at Gateway. I’m tracking down network logs to determine who they went to. But I can send them to you. (Holds up a data drive, inserts it off-screen)

Ripley: Thanks, Caleb. (pause, Ripley removes a data drive)

*A siren sounds on Caleb’s end of the connection*

Caleb: That’s…the all hands warning…enemy contact…

Ripley: Kurtz…

Caleb: I need to go.

Ripley: So do we.

*INT Sulaco hallway. Newt is trailing Scooter as it moves at walking speed scanning floor, walls and ceiling. Not finding anything.*

Ripley: Found you!

Newt: He’s busy. He won’t talk to me.

Ripley: He can’t talk, honey.

Newt: He talks to me.

Ripley: Newt, good news. We’re getting off the ship.

Newt: Quardentine (sic) is over?

Ripley: Yep. We’re all clear.

Newt: Yay!

Ripley: Let’s go get ready.

*Both exit. Scooter halts, looks around, exits following them*

(1:30)(11:45)

### Scene VI

*INT Sulaco hangar. Ripley and Newt hurry in. Hicks is loading gear onto a dropship.*

Newt: Why are you running?

Hicks: We need to get moving.

Ripley: Gateway is on alert. Kurtz isn’t responding.

Hicks: They’re not going to be able to handle that ship. And we can’t do much to help either. I put Sulaco on self-defense mode, but I can’t override the friendly fire lockdown. It won’t respond if Kurtz hits it.

Scooter: (looking from Hicks to Ripley to Newt…scoots off)

Ripley: We don’t have time.

Hicks: I know.

*Ripley and Hicks hurry Newt into the dropship.*

Newt: What’s wrong?

*INT Dropship passenger bay. Ripley straps Newt into a seat.*

Ripley: This is going to be a bumpy ride, ok? I need to be up front. Will you be ok?

Newt: (salutes)

Ripley: I know you will. This is the safest place.

Newt: Ok

*Sirens sound a split second before a series of metallic impacts strike Sulaco and reverberate through the dropship*

Scooter: (scoots up the loading ramp just as it starts to close)

Hicks (from cockpit): We’re leaving NOW

Ripley: (kisses Newt on the forehead, exits)

*INT Dropship cockpit*

Hicks: I know how to launch. There’s an automated landing routine…

Ripley: I can land it

Hicks: You sure?

Ripley: I went over the flight manual while we were in quarantine.

*More metallic impact sounds followed by an explosion*

Ripley: Still...I never thought I’d say this, but I wish our android wasn’t out of commission

Hicks: You and me both (activates launch)

*Cut to Bishop strapped into a seat. Scooter rolls up…turns to look at him, then to Newt*

*Same routine as the launch from Sulaco in Aliens*

*EXT Sulaco Dropship leaves Sulaco towards Earth, just as violent and terrifying for the passengers.*

Newt: (screaming)

Ripley: Hang on!

*EXT Sulaco as the camera pulls back to show dropship descending from Sulaco, Sulaco visibly takes fire. Follow direction of fire to Kurtz approaching Gateway, unleashing fire in all directions…at Gateway, other ships as well. Close on Kurtz we see several dropships exiting and heading towards Gateway and Sulaco*

*{Writer’s note: this should be expanded to two engagements…the first taking place before Kurtz is in range of Gateway, involving several older ships engaging the Kurtz. Kurtz emerges damaged, but victorious and has landed xenos on two of the defending ships. Those ship remain out of the fight, disabled, will show up later. One, the Carvin, aids in the Kurtz’ assault on Gateway. The other, the Shogatta enters slipspace to destinations unknown.}*

(3:00)(14:45)

Ripley: (looking at radar / sensor screen) Kurtz is launching dropships…heading to Gateway and Sulaco

Hicks: They can’t dock so they’re sending assault squads.

Ripley: Who is “they?” I thought Kurtz was on autopilot.

Hicks: Yeah. I thought so too. But this…

Ripley: This shows…planning…intelligence. Who’s on that ship?

Newt: Ripley!

*EXT Sulaco: The Sulaco’s weapons turn to aim at Kurtz and open fire, doing some damage. They take out one of the drop ships*

Hicks: Sulaco’s opening up on the Kurtz!

(Ripley and Hicks run back to the viewport in the passenger area to get a view of the action)

Ripley: I thought it couldn’t…?

Hicks: It shouldn’t…I couldn’t shut off the friendly-fire lockdown.

Scooter: (Beeps at Newt)

Newt: Scooter did it! He says there’s bad guys on those ships.

Hicks: Holy shit the robot hacked the Sulaco.

Newt: He said the computer on our ship detected bad guys.

Ripley: Xenomorphs…so he used the only weapon he had to…zap ‘em.

Dropship Autopilot: Warning! Entering atmosphere. Autopilot disengaging in thirty seconds…

(Ship starts to rattle and bump. Ripley and Hicks rush back to cockpit)

Newt: Ripley!

Ripley: It’s ok sweety! (to Hicks) Twenty seconds. (yelling) Hold on, it’s gonna get bumpy!

(2:30)(17:15)

### Scene VII

*INT Gateway Station, Bridge*

Commander Teller is looking over the shoulder of a lieutenant who is reading a display which shows several contacts approaching the station

Lt. Daniels: The Carvin has just entered long range scanner distance, sir. The Kurtz is not slowing down.

Teller: Try to raise the Carvin. Jefferson, what’s the status of the railgun battery?

Sgt. Jefferson: Ready. Awaiting your order.

Teller: (Pauses, takes a deep breath) Target Kurtz and fire immediately.

*EXT Gateway. Very large weapons target the Kurtz as it rapidly approaches Gateway. They charge with an electric or humming sound and fire with a kind of zap sound, what looks like a short beam of white light – but what is really a very fast-moving projectile. Kurtz is struck several times, and clearly severely damaged. Its momentum, however, has hardly been slowed and it continues on a collision course for the station.*

Lt. Daniels: She’s still coming, sir.

Van Leuwen: (enters the Bridge during Daniels’ line) I told you to fire at maximum range, damn it. We’ve had hours and no contact. That’s a hostile ship and now it’s going to run right into the station!

Teller: Jefferson, battery status.

Sgt. Jefferson: Charging! Fifteen seconds.

Teller: Weapons loose. Fire until that ship is a debris field.

*EXT Carvin: Two missile batteries unleash a wave of six missiles each which go streaking towards Gateway.*

Lt. Daniels: Commander, new contacts. Missile launch from the Carvin!

Teller: If we don’t take those out we could lose half the station. Jefferson split the battery. Take out those missiles.

Sgt. Jefferson: Aye aye. Half the battery will intercept missiles.

*This engagement results in the collision of the Kurtz into the station unleashing a wave of xenos. The station avoids all but minor damage from the missiles. The Imperial Queen emerges from the wreckage following her minions, locates the bridge, and destroys everyone inside. Van Leuwen has already left by the time she arrives. She searches the room for a connection to the station’s computer, and inserts her finger into it which causes the lights to flicker a few times. The Imperial Queen looks as thrilled and victorious as a xeno queen can look.*

*INT Gateway. Van Leuwen and Caleb meet in a hallway as people rush in all directions.*

Van Leuwen: Did you prep the escape pod?

Caleb: Yes, sir.

Van Leuwen: Let’s go

Caleb: (looks around uncomfortably) Should I…stay? There aren’t enough pods…

Van Leuwen: I need the data you’ve received, dammit. Come on! (Rushes down the hallway)

Caleb: (still looking uncertain…follows)

## End Act I

# Act II

## Scene I

*INT Sulaco Dropship cockpit. The heatshield is ablaze as Ripley guides the ship through re-entry. Hicks is stock-still, both hold their breath. The flames dissipate and for the first time in years, Ripley sees an Earth sky.*

Ripley: my god…

Hicks: Been a while.

Ripley: I’d forgotten…

Hicks: I know. Where we headed?

Ripley: We need to make sure they know what’s going on up there.

Hicks: Then we’re close. Clarke base is at the North Pole. Makes launches to Gateway cheaper. (Punches in coordinates) It’s in the nav computer.

Ripley: We need to get them on the radio. (Steers to the new heading)

Hicks: (Picks up a microphone. Punches some buttons on the console.) This is Corporal Hicks of the Sulaco. Do you copy?

*A few moments of static followed by panicked conversation*

Hicks: Sounds like they know somethings up at least. (Into the microphone) This is Corporal Hicks of the Sulaco to Clarke command. Do you copy? Request immediate landing.

*More static*

Clarke command: Sulaco beacon confirmed, Corporal. Land on pad Golf. Stay off comms unless it’s an emergency!

*EXT Dropship. The ship touches down on a pad with a big G on it. It’s snowing and windy but not too extreme.*

Ripley: (Looking out at the snow-covered base) First time back on Earth in eighty years and I have to land here.

*INT Dropship passenger cabin*

Ripley: (Enters) Everything ok? Were you scared?

Newt: A little. Where are we? (Strains to look out the window through which some snowfall is visible)

Ripley: At the North Pole. There is a military station here. (unbuckles Newt)

Newt: North Pole? SANTA! (Bolts for the door)

Scooter: (follows, beeping)

Ripley: Hang on! You need a coat or you’ll get pneumonia! (Digs an adult size woman’s olive drab military coat from a locker) Here let me help. (She helps a practically vibrating Newt on with the coat.) Ok, let’s go.

### 

## Appendix

Plot Summary:

Act I.

We follow the Sulaco as it returns to Earth

Ship is quarantined near the base that orbits Earth. During this quarantine Ripley learns from Gateway computer that Burke lied and that her daughter had a child or children now living on Earth.

While quarantined another ship returns to base, the Kurtz. This ship was sent to the original alien crash site to collect eggs after the colony blew up. Burke had sent coordinates to find the egg cache in case his plan to infect Newt and Ripley failed.

The Kurtz is now full of Xenomorphs including multiple queens and thousands of eggs. (Maybe suggest that it's a faster ship than Sulaco to explain the timelines).

This ship docks and unleashes its horde upon the base.

Act II.

Ripley, Hicks and Newt must now rally forces on Earth to destroy the base before any Xenomorphs (especially a queen or eggs) can reach the surface.

They are unsuccessful at convincing authorities to blow up the base and several ships reach the planet filled with Xenomorphs.

Thousands of Marines and other forces on Earth are sent to the landing areas to contain the outbreak. Xenomorphs behave with surprising strategic cleverness and are poised to break out and overrun the planet. Ripley knows the real threat is on the orbital base where the Imperial Queen is the hive-mind behind it all. She convinces Hicks and a battalion of Marines to return to the orbital base to destroy the Imperial Queen.

Act III.

Newt is left "safe" on Earth with Ripley's grandchildren and family.

The IQ is an intelligent Xenomorph, perhaps a genetic hybrid...psychic? It learns from the data on Gateway Station that Ripley wiped out the queen on Hadley’s Hope and learns where her family is.

While trying to defeat the Imperial Queen Ripley learns her family and Newt are in danger from Xenomorphs sent by the IQ specifically to target them. Ripley must return with surviving Marines to save them. They warn her family of the danger.

Ripley and the Marines arrive just after the Xenomorphs and must locate where the family is hiding and kill the Xenomorphs in their jungle home location.

She dies to save her family.

Now without intelligent leadership, the remaining Xenomorph threat is contained by Earth's forces.

Thus ends the Ripley trilogy.

Long live the Newt trilogy.