



BLACK SCREEN

Six Months Ago

FADE IN:

EXT. LONDON SKYLINE -- EVENING

As the sun sets behind the skyscrapers of central London.
Just to establish.

ALEC (V.O.)
When a Knight is born, the rest
of us feel it.

EXT. LONDON STREETS -- EVENING

As a familiar silver Bentley cruises through the streets.

ALEC (V.O.)
The source of energy we carry
inside ourselves, the energy that
gives us our powers ... it reacts
when it detects another source.

INT. EDWARD'S BENTLEY -- EVENING

EDWARD MAITLAND sits in the back, being driven through
the city. Dressed sharp and looking excited.

ALEC (V.O.)
Like two kindred spirits making
contact across the void.

EXT. UNDERGROUND GARAGE -- EVENING

As a pair of ARMED GUARDS wave the car through into the
garage beneath a large tower block.

ALEC (V.O.)
For this reason, most Knights are
identified at birth.

PULL BACK to reveal the building, an opulent yet slightly
old-fashioned building. Old world in the middle of modern
London. Over this, CAPTION:

House of Cain Facility, Central London

INT. HOUSE OF CAIN HQ - CORRIDOR -- EVENING

As Edward makes his way down the corridor, briefcase under
his arm, face set and determined.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC (V.O.)

And whichever of us is closest at
the time will move in to find our
newest brother.

Edward reaches the end of the corridor, and stops dead in
surprise. A group of OLDER MEN in slick suits are leaving
a meeting room, laughing and talking together.

They all see Edward; most of them ignore him as they pass,
a few shake their heads in mingled disbelief and disgust.

EDWARD

What's going on?
(no answer)
Martin, Rex, what's--

MARTIN (60s) gives Edward a pitying shake of the head.

MARTIN

You're a bit late, old son.

He turns and moves out with the rest of them. Edward
watches them go, troubled and confused.

ALEC (V.O.)

It's always hard in the beginning -
no parent wants to admit there
might be something wrong with
their child.

A moment. Then Edward squares his shoulders, turns and
enters the meeting room.

ALEC (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Or something different about him,
which is almost as bad.

INT. HOUSE OF CAIN HQ - MEETING ROOM -- EVENING

Edward enters to find DR MORTIMER (60s, white receding
hair, an air of shrewdness and toughness about him)
finishing up.

ALEC (V.O.)

But we have to take a few necessary
steps for the safety of everyone
involved.

Mortimer doesn't look up as Edward enters.

MORTIMER

Ah. Maitland.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EDWARD

Dr Mortimer, I'm confused - the meeting was supposed to start at six--

MORTIMER

No. The meeting was supposed to start at five. I just told you we'd be starting at six so the rest of us could discuss what we needed to without you.

Edward is floored by this. A moment while he regains his composure.

EDWARD

Then this whole thing was a calculated insult--

MORTIMER

Oh don't come the wounded pride routine with me, Edward, and don't act the innocent. We both know it's a front.

EDWARD

So what is this all about?

Mortimer crosses around the table to stand face to face with Edward. He's shorter than Edward, but his authority is unmistakable.

MORTIMER

What this is all about is that we've found out about your little game. And we're not prepared to stand for it any more. So you can consider this to be your notice that you're on your way out. And before the door kicks you in the arse, you are required to turn in all the information you've accumulated--

EDWARD

What information?

Mortimer gives him a hard look.

MORTIMER

Project Spartacus.
(off Edward's look)
Thought I didn't know about it?

From Edward's expression, it's clear that's exactly what he thought. Mortimer takes another step forward, lowers his voice.

(CONTINUED)

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MORTIMER (CONT'D)

Let's get something very straight. You've got friends in some very dark places, we both know that. But the House of Cain is my house. And I make the rules. What you've been doing is dangerous for all of us, and it cannot be allowed to stand. And it won't be.

He gathers up his briefcase, turns back to Edward.

MORTIMER (CONT'D)

It's over. And you're finished.

And with that he turns and walks out, leaving a stunned-looking Edward behind.

ALEC (V.O.)

The child must be moved into the custody of the Black Chapter, where he can be trained to use his powers in a way that won't make him a danger to those around.

EXT. UNDERGROUND GARAGE -- NIGHT

As the Bentley speeds off into the night.

ALEC (V.O.)

It can be a traumatic experience for all involved, but there really isn't another way.

INT. EDWARD'S BENTLEY -- NIGHT

Edward drives, angry as all hell. His phone rings through the hands-free kit. After a moment:

GIDEON (O.S.)

Yes?

EDWARD

They know.

GIDEON (O.S.)

And they're freezing you out.

EDWARD

How did--?

GIDEON (O.S.)

We know more than you think, mon ami.

Edward looks like his whole world is coming crashing down around him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIDEON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 We always knew this day would
 come. Do you want to proceed?

Pause while Edward thinks:

GIDEON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 This is what we've been working
 for this last year, the moment is--

EDWARD
 Do it.

A long beat.

GIDEON (O.S.)
 Understand something, Edward
 Maitland. If we do this, there's
 no going back. We are both
 committed to playing our parts,
 until the bitter end. Are you
 really ready for that?

EDWARD
 I've been ready for this all year,
 Gideon.
 (beat)
 Do it.

GIDEON (O.S.)
 Very well.

CLUNK. He's rung off. Edward keeps his eyes on the road.

HOLD on Edward's face for a few long moments, as he tries
 to deal with the enormity of what he's just done.

EXT. MANOR HOUSE -- NIGHT

An impressive mansion on a huge estate.

A moment to establish. Then we PULL BACK to reveal we're
 looking at the scene from over someone's shoulder. A man
 with long dark hair, dressed in a floor-length black coat.

ALEC (V.O.)
 But sometimes ... just sometimes
 ... it doesn't work out like that.

INT. MORTIMER'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Dr Mortimer lies asleep in bed. CLOSE on his face.

ALEC (V.O.)
 Sometimes the rest of us don't
 feel it when a Knight is born.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Give it a moment. Then -- CREAK -- a footstep. And Mortimer's eyes flash open.

ALEC (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Sometimes it takes an event in
 puberty to awaken a Knight's
 powers.

Mortimer rolls over. A BLACK SILHOUETTE stands over his bed. There's someone in the room with him!

MORTIMER
 Who are you?

A moment. Then WHITE LIGHT GLOWS from the figure's eyes, the light illuminating his face.

MICHEL GIDEON.

And Mortimer is utterly terrified.

ALEC (V.O.)
 And sometimes, as a result, some
 of us fall through the cracks...

We PUSH IN on Gideon's face for a moment, holding on the white glow in his eyes for just a moment, before we PULL BACK, revealing the same face but in a different location, outdoors, silhouetted by the night sky.

And we are:

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - QUARTERDECK -- NIGHT

Right where we left it: Gideon facing off against ALEC WALKER. Gideon smiles.

GIDEON
 I've wanted to meet you for some
 time, mon ami.

Alec's eyes flash white. He brings his hands up.

ALEC
 (using the Voice)
Who are you?

Pause.

And then Gideon's eyes FLASH WHITE RIGHT BACK AT ALEC!

GIDEON
 (using the Voice)
**A brother warrior. Just like
 you.**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The white glow VANISHES from Alec's eyes as he stares at Gideon in utter disbelief, unable to take this in: Gideon is a Knight!

FLASH! WHITE LIGHT EXPLODES and Alec is HURLED BACK, crashing into a bulkhead. He shakes his head, dazed. Then looks up to see Gideon approaching, white light blazing from his fists.

And Alec gets back to his feet. Gideon raises his hands for another blow -- but he's BLOWN BACK by a blast from Alec. Gideon scrambles up, finds himself facing Alec, in a combat crouch.

ALEC
(using the Voice)
Bring it.

A moment. The two of them regard each other. Then they both CHARGE.

BLACK OUT:

JONATHAN RHYS MEYERS

MIRANDA RAISON

LEONARD ROBERTS

AND PHILIP GLENISTER

WALKER

“THE FALLEN ANGEL”
BY ADAM SCOTT

with
RUPERT PENRY-JONES
ALLISON DOODY
ROSE BYRNE
AND JAMES MCAVOY

GUEST STARRING
MARC WARREN
KATIE MCGRATH
KEVIN R MCNALLY
OMAR EPPS
AND SAM NEILL

SPECIAL GUEST STAR
OLIVIER MARTINEZ
AS MICHEL GIDEON

BLACK SCREEN

Newcastle, England

Fade In:

EXT. NEWCASTLE STREETS -- NIGHT

Friday night in Newcastle: CLUBBERS and REVELLERS in all directions, moving to bars and clubs. Music blasts and people shout. The city is beginning to come to life.

A car full of DRUNKEN STUDENTS careers past camera, their voices echoing in all directions as they yell out of the windows. From this image we drop off on a MAN, making his way through the streets:

DOMINIC REESE.

Weaving an unsteady path, as though unable to move in a straight line, his face unfocused. He's operating on pure instinct, making his way through the crowds, but not watching where he's going.

CLOSE ON HIS EYES -- and we see they're shot through with a red glow, bloodlust still high in his system.

He blunders into the path of a group of LADS, smashing into one--

LAD 1

OY! Watch where you're--

Dominic ignores him, just keeps moving. The lad scrambles back to his feet, angry.

LAD 1 (CONT'D)

OY! You mate, I'm talking to you!

Dominic doesn't answer. The lad's now even more angry -- he charges up to Dominic, grabs his shoulder--

LAD 1 (CONT'D)

Look, wanker, you--

He wheels Dominic around and stops in terror at the sight of the red glow in his eyes.

LAD 1 (CONT'D)

What the--?

And Dominic's on him in seconds. He grabs the lad, whirls him around and BITES DOWN HARD on his neck, VAMPIRE TEETH piercing the skin. BLOOD FOUNTAINS in all directions.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As the lad SCREAMS IN PAIN his mates all turn and leg it. After a few horrible moments Dominic lets go, DUMPING the man to the ground. He moans in pain in a heap on the ground, but Dominic doesn't hear.

He turns and walks on, blood now stained around his mouth, moving back off. Only this time he's moving with purpose, walking in a straight line.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT -- NIGHT

A quick shot of the boat, it's lights off and plunged into darkness. The sounds of battle coming from the decks.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - QUARTERDECK -- NIGHT

WHITE LIGHT FLASHES as Alec and Gideon duel.

This is Knight-on-Knight combat. The two of them move impossibly fast, neither holding anything back, both of them going at it tooth and nail.

And the first thing we notice is that the two of them are incredibly evenly matched.

Alec SHOVES Gideon back with a telekinetic push--

--but Gideon uses it to his advantage, bouncing off a wall and launching himself upwards--

--coming down in a drop-kick that sends Alec flying! He crashes down hard to the deck.

Alec sees Gideon approaching. He spots something OS and makes a hand gesture--

--a SHIPPING CRATE hurtles out of the darkness and SMASHES into Gideon, sending him off balance--

--and distracting him for the few seconds Alec needs.

He leaps back to his feet and charges, BATTERING Gideon back with a series of punches like iron bars.

Gideon retaliates and the battle continues.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEWCASTLE STREETS -- NIGHT

As a slick PORSCHE BOXSTER screams through the streets.

INT. FLAME'S CAR -- NIGHT

FLAME drives, with BETH MCGINNIS in the passenger seat. Beth's face is cut, but the bleeding's stopped.

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There's a look of devastation in her eyes. Flame glances sideways and sees it.

FLAME
We'll get him back.

BETH
He attacked me...

FLAME
He's a vampire, it's what he does--

BETH
No. He was fighting against it, he was getting better.

FLAME
Yeah, well it looks like he fell off the wagon, doesn't it?

BETH
You don't understand, Flame.

Flame looks at her again. Sees the conviction in her eyes.

BETH (CONT'D)
You weren't there when he lost it. He was normal, completely in control. But then, suddenly ... it was like a switch had been thrown. He just lost it.

FLAME
Like a switch had been thrown...

A look of comprehension dawns on his face. He yanks the wheel over--

EXT. NEWCASTLE STREETS -- NIGHT

CAR HORNS BLARE as Flame turns the Boxster off up a side street, cutting across a lane of traffic.

INT. FLAME'S CAR -- NIGHT

Beth hangs on for dear life.

BETH
Where are we going?

FLAME
The quayside. If I'm right, that's where Dominic is.

Beth hears the certainty in his voice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH
What's going on?

FLAME
I've got a pretty fair idea of
what's going on now.
(beat)
I hope we're not too late.

Beth looks even more worried than before.

EXT. NEWCASTLE STREETS -- NIGHT

As the car SPEEDS away from camera, heading for the
quayside.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - POOP DECK -- NIGHT

As the battle against the ASCENDANTS continues.

JOHN HENRY BOONE, JACKSON BYERS and CHLOE PARKER are right
in the thick of it, alongside the MI-16 COMMANDOS, battling
away against the Ascendants.

Jackson BLASTS with his shotgun, sending an Ascendant
flying, but the man just hits the deck and picks himself
up as if nothing had happened!

JACKSON
What is with these guys?!

CUT TO CHLOE as she struggles hand to hand with one
Ascendant. VAMPIRE TEETH are inches from her face,
SNAPPING AWAY. Chloe's utterly terrified but struggling
to keep it under control--

And then the Ascendant is WRENCHED off Chloe. Boone stands
there, his face feral, vampire teeth extended. Chloe
watches in horror as he BITES DOWN on the Ascendant's
neck.

Blood fountains in all directions, and a second later
Boone drops the dead man to the ground.

Chloe recoils in horror for just a second as Boone turns
to face her and she sees the bloodlust in his eyes. Then
she spots something OS --

CHLOE
Boone, get down!

Boone drops just as Chloe brings up her gun and fires!
The bullet catches the approaching Ascendant full in the
face, sending him sprawling dead to the ground.

Chloe exchange a look with Boone, both of them realising
what this means. Boone helps her to her feet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIDEON

I'm like you. But unlike you, I understand.

ALEC

Understand what?

A moment. Then, as if imparting some great, hideous truth:

GIDEON

Everything you believe in is a lie.

He looks Alec in the eye for a long moment. Then he turns, removes his boot from Alec's chest and stalks off into the darkness.

ALEC

turns his head. Through a fog of pain and exhaustion he sees Gideon leap over the edge of the ship, black coat BILLOWING out behind him.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT -- NIGHT

Where flashes of light illuminate the battle.

RACK FOCUS to reveal a single light burning in the top floor of a nearby apartment block.

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

Where Edward, PAIGE and DIETRICH are watching the battle, Dietrich sat at his computer rig, Edward and Paige stood behind him at either shoulder.

Paige looks up at Edward. Sees the rapt look on his face.

PAIGE

Edward?

Edward doesn't hear her. His eyes are fixed on the battle, his expression utterly engrossed. Pure amazement in his eyes.

EDWARD

...beautiful.

And Paige looks creeped out by that remark. She glances down at Dietrich, who's watching the battle with a similarly rapt expression.

PAIGE

Right.

She looks back toward the battle. The same amazement isn't present in her face.

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CONTINUED:

She looks as though she knows something very wrong is going on here.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - POOP DECK -- NIGHT

Jackson WRESTLES himself out of the grip of an Ascendant, then glances around to take stock.

All around, the MI-16 troops are being massacred. Several bodies lie dead on the ground, but only a handful of Ascendants have fallen.

Jackson looks around; Chloe's on one knee behind a barrel, firing away at the Ascendants. Off to one side, Boone fights hand to hand with another, trying to wrestle his weapon out of the grip of the Ascendant.

JACKSON

Fall back!

He fires his gun into the air, the blast getting everyone's attention.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Fall back!

The MI-16 troops don't need telling twice. They all fall back, winding up in a defensive huddle around the locked hatch that leads further down into the ship.

All weapons are aimed at the Ascendants, who pause, looking at them, almost curious. SNARLING, vampire teeth extend.

CHLOE

Don't suppose anyone's got any brilliant ideas?

BOONE

Anything that moves, shoot it in the head.

CHLOE

Apart from that?
(no answer)
Oh well...

She cocks her gun. Around her, all the other troops do the same.

CUT TO one of the Ascendants -- showing he's wearing a small CAMERA mounted on his shoulder.

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

As Edward watches on the monitor. He recognises Chloe, Jackson and Boone within the group.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

An evil grin.

EDWARD
Kill them all.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - POOP DECK -- NIGHT

And the Ascendants charge. Everyone brings up their guns--

WHOOSH! A BLACK STICKY SUBSTANCE falls all around them, forming a defensive barrier between the MI-16 troops and the Ascendants. Chloe looks up--

HERO SHOT: Alec, stood on the roof of the building, coat billowing in the wind behind him. Arms raised. An OIL DRUM hanging in the air beside him, suspended via telekinesis.

ALEC
(using the Voice)
Let's see how you like this!

His eyes FLASH WHITE.

And the black substance -- OIL -- suddenly CATCHES FIRE! HUGE FLAMES ERUPT from the deck, forming a defensive wall between the MI-16 troops and the Ascendants--

ALEC (CONT'D)
Go! Everyone into the ship, now!

Boone YANKS the hatch open and Jackson leads the charge inside. Chloe looks up at Alec. A huge smile from her, which he returns. Then he jumps down and charges into the hatch behind her, SLAMMING the bulkhead door behind him.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - STAIRWAY -- NIGHT

Alec has to use the Voice to get everyone attention over the noise:

ALEC
Move! Everyone into the ward room!

They all charge down the stairs behind him.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - CORRIDORS -- NIGHT

Three Ascendants prowl the corridors, edging closer to the door of the ward room.

They're suddenly YANKED OFF THEIR FEET and SMASHED HEAD FIRST into the ceiling, sending them sprawling. They drop to the ground: REVEAL ALEC stood there, eyes glowing and hands outstretched.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC

This way!

They all charge towards the door of the ward room.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - WARD ROOM -- NIGHT

The door opens. The vampire bodyguards raise their guns but lower them immediately at the sight of Alec and the MI-16 team bursting in. Welles gets to his feet--

WELLES

What the hell--?

ALEC

Do yourself a favour and shut it!
(to Boone)
Get the door locked.

Boone does so.

JACKSON

That won't hold them, these things
can--

ALEC

They can walk through walls, I
know. But they'll have to
bottleneck to get in here, we've
got a better chance of fighting
them in an enclosed space.

BOONE

The 300 Spartans principle? Alec,
I don't have to remind you--

ALEC

No, you don't, and we've all seen
the movie so it's not helpful.

In spite of the situation Chloe laughs. Welles rolls his
eyes.

WELLES

Glad to see you find this situation
funny, girl.

ALEC

Shut it.
(beat)
They're here.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - CORRIDORS -- NIGHT

As a huge crowd of Ascendants enter frame, approaching
the door. Teeth are extended, jaws are snarling. Ready
for the kill.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - WARD ROOM -- NIGHT

The vampire bodyguards move to stand with the MI-16 troops. Alec and his team are at the centre. He shares a brief glance with all of them before turning to face the door. His eyes FLASH WHITE.

ALEC

Get ready.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - CORRIDORS -- NIGHT

As the Ascendants close in.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - WARD ROOM -- NIGHT

The defenders all tense, getting ready. They all stare at the door.

Pause.

Then ... nothing. No attackers come through.

The silence is ominous. Everyone looks at each other - what the hell is happening here?

CHLOE

Alec?

Alec says nothing. He steps forward. Places his hand onto the bulkhead door.

Camera MOVES FORWARD, PASSING STRAIGHT THROUGH the door and emerging out into--

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - CORRIDORS -- NIGHT

Where we see the Ascendants. But they've all STOPPED DEAD. They're rooted to the spot, vibrating slightly, as though unable to move!

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

Edward rounds on Dietrich, who's working the computers furiously.

EDWARD

What's happening?

DIETRICH

Something's blocking the signal to the Ascendants, some sort of interference--

PAIGE

How is that possible?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EDWARD
What kind of interference?

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - WARD ROOM -- NIGHT

Alec steps back from the door, removes his hand. Doesn't turn to face the others.

JACKSON
Al, what is it?

Alec doesn't answer. And then, the sound almost obscene in the silence, a PHONE RINGS.

Alec grabs his phone, sees the caller ID and answers.

ALEC
Eve, what's going on?

EVE (O.S.)
Oh, thank God--

INTERCUT:

EXT. QUAYSIDE -- NIGHT

Close on EVE CARNAHAN, as a huge look of relief crosses her face.

EVE
(into phone)
We thought we were too late.

REVEAL Eve, Beth and Flame stood by the Porsche, which is parked in a side-street looking out over the quayside with a perfect view of the ship.

ALEC
Nick of time, I'd say. How'd you do it?

EVE
Flame.

She looks down at Flame. He's staring right at the ship, eyes open and fixed, not blinking. Staring with a look of utter concentration.

EVE (CONT'D)
He says there's some kind of carrier wave, giving signals to those things, telling them what to do. He's managed to block the signal--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC

Remind me to never call him a
useless twat ever again.

WELLES

What's going--?

Boone gives him a threatening look and he shuts up.

EVE

Flame says he won't be able to
hold it for long. You need to
get everyone off the ship
immediately. I've got backup
coming in, if you can get those
things down onto the quayside we
can make a fight of it.

ALEC

You've got it.

EVE

Hurry.

She glances back at Flame. Sees his knuckles going white
as they grip the Porsche's steering wheel.

EVE (CONT'D)

I don't think he's going to be
able to hold it for much longer.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - WARD ROOM -- NIGHT

As everyone tools up for battle.

Chloe moves to Alec's side. He spots the cuts on her
face and hands.

ALEC

Are you--

CHLOE

Don't worry about me, it's just a
scratch, I'll be fine.

ALEC

I know.

That surprises Chloe. There's a moment. Then Chloe
reaches up and KISSES Alec hard on the lips. It lasts
for just a moment before Chloe pulls back, grinning into
Alec's startled expression.

CHLOE

(mischievous grin)
Might not get another chance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A moment. Then Alec grins broadly.

ALEC
When we get out of this, we need
to talk.

He glances up - spots Boone across the room. And as he catches Boone's eye, Alec's expression goes really dark.

ALEC (CONT'D)
And so do we.

The dark edge in his voice isn't lost on Boone. He gets back to prepping his weapon. Alec turns to see Welles approaching.

WELLES
This is Edward Maitland's doing,
isn't it?

ALEC
Give the man a small cigar.

A dark look crosses Welles' face.

WELLES
Right...

A shotgun is cocked OS. Alec looks up to see Jackson approaching.

JACKSON
Now or never, my man.

ALEC
You're talking my language.

EXT. QUAYSIDE -- NIGHT

Eve looks down at Flame in the driver's seat. His knuckles have turned completely white and he's VIBRATING slightly.

She exchanges a worried look with Beth.

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

As Dietrich works multiple computers at speed.

EDWARD
Dietrich...

DIETRICH
I'm working on it.

EDWARD
This can't be happening, not right
now--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DIETRICH

I'm doing my best--

EDWARD

Then do better! Or I'll hold you personally responsible for all of this in front of Gideon, and you won't like that.

From Dietrich's worried expression we can tell the threat worked. He gets back on with it.

EXT. QUAYSIDE -- NIGHT

As a van full of MI-16 commandos pull up, Eve's phone goes to her ear.

EVE

Alec, you're running out of time.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT -- NIGHT

BANG! The wardroom door opens and Alec charges out with Chloe, Boone, Jackson and all the others in his wake. Alec raises his hands and the Ascendants are SHOVED to one side--

ALEC

Go go go!

The vampire leaders CHARGE OUT, covered by the MI-16 commandos. Chloe leads them in a charge towards the hatch back onto the poop deck.

CHLOE

Come on, come on, move move move!

They all charge forward, Welles in the lead. They reach the bulkhead hatch.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - POOP DECK -- NIGHT

As the hatch opens and Chloe emerges. The vampire leaders dash out onto the poop deck, where more MI-16 commandos are waiting by the gangway.

CHLOE

Come on, everyone onto the quayside, move it!

They head down in the direction of the commandos.

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

As Edward watches the escape from his vantage point. His expression showing utter horror -- everything's going

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CONTINUED:

wrong and his dream is turning to ashes in front of his eyes.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - POOP DECK -- NIGHT

The vampire leaders charge down the gangplank to where the MI-16 team waits on the ground.

EXT. QUAYSIDE -- NIGHT

Eve and Beth watch the whole thing from their vantage point.

Beth looks down at Flame. Concern in her eyes.

BETH

Flame?

No answer. Flame can't take his eyes off the ship.

JUMP CLOSER into his eyes -- where we see, just for a second, RIVULETS OF BLOOD beginning to form at the corners.

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

As Dietrich continues to work the computers:

DIETRICH

Whatever's blocking the signal
seems to be weakening, maybe I
can...

INT. FLAME'S CAR -- NIGHT

Flame keeps his eyes on the ship. But the strain is now obvious on his face and in his eyes. TEARS OF BLOOD are trickling down his face.

Give it several long moments ... and then Flame suddenly KEELS SIDEWAYS, eyes closing, utterly knackered.

From outside, Beth sees it.

BETH

Flame!

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

Everyone looks up at the sound of a BEEPING coming from one of the screens.

DIETRICH

Got it!

He slaps a button.

INT. HMS RESPLENDENT - CORRIDORS -- NIGHT

As the Ascendants suddenly come back to life! Moving as one, they turn and leg it back down the passage, heading for the poop deck.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - POOP DECK -- NIGHT

Guarding the bulkhead door, Boone hears the noise coming from within:

BOONE
(yelling)
Alec! They're coming!

ALEC

hears the shout. He turns back to the MI-16 troops.

ALEC
Get ready!

BOONE

slams the bulkhead door back into place before racing back to the edge of the poop deck to join the others, bolstered by the new MI-16 arrivals. They all raise their weapons.

ALEC (CONT'D)
Head shots only. Let's end this.

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

Paige watches the whole thing. Concern all over her face. She glances at Edward. Then back at the ship.

And in this moment we see her make a decision.

EXT. QUAYSIDE -- NIGHT

The vampire leaders look up, watching the action on the poop deck above them.

Welles, in the midst of the group, watches with a particular interest. He nudges his bodyguard.

WELLES
Get someone looking for Edward Maitland, would you?

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - POOP DECK -- NIGHT

BANG! Something CRASHES against the bulkhead door. Everyone raises their weapons--

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

Paige shoulders past Edward and Dietrich, hits a button on the computers.

DIETRICH
What are you doing?!

PAIGE
We've been discovered. At least
this way they won't learn what
the technology was.

She clicks on 'Destruct'. Edward sees it, reacts in horror--

EDWARD
NO!!!

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - POOP DECK -- NIGHT

BANG! The bulkhead door BURSTS OPEN -- the Ascendants charge out--!

JACKSON
Take aim!

Everyone raises their weapons. The Ascendants approach -- everyone tenses to fire--

--until the Ascendants BURST INTO FLAMES right in front of them!

Alec and the others exchange glances: wha--?

HOLD on the Ascendants as they burn, screaming in pain, before they COLLAPSE into piles of ashes on the ground in front of them.

And suddenly it's all over.

INT. PENTHOUSE -- NIGHT

Dietrich rounds on Paige, angry as all hell.

DIETRICH
What in the name of Christ--!

PAIGE
Oh shut up, and don't pretend for
a minute it wasn't the right thing
to do.

She pointedly turns her back on Dietrich, addresses Edward.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
Edward? Edward, we have to go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Edward doesn't answer. He's staring at the burning Ascendants on the deck of the ship, a shell-shocked expression on his face.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Edward!

The shout gets his attention. She takes his hand.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

We have to go.

EDWARD

...right.

In a daze, he lets Paige lead him out of the penthouse at a brisk clip. Dietrich watches Paige go in disgust before beginning to pack up the gear.

EXT. HMS RESPLENDENT - POOP DECK -- NIGHT

The MI-16 team sifts through the dust that is all that remains of the Ascendants, looking for clues that aren't there, under Eve's watchful eye.

She looks up at movement OS: men are carrying the fallen bodies of the MI-16 team down off the ship.

She shakes her head sadly.

EXT. QUAYSIDE -- NIGHT

The immediate aftermath. Everyone's milling around, talking, laughing ... mostly just looking utterly relieved to have got off the ship alive.

CHLOE

is sat on the ground by the ship, breathing slowly. Getting her adrenaline down.

Movement beside her. She looks up to see Alec approaching. He extends a hand.

ALEC

You did good.

Chloe grins as she takes his hand, letting him haul her to her feet. A slightly awkward moment until Alec folds her into a hug for a long moment.

Over her shoulder, Alec catches eyes with someone else. Boone. Another dark look passes between the two of them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOONE

sees Alec looking. Sees the dark look. Boone's eyes sag - momentarily he looks older than he's ever seemed before, and utterly weary.

His reverie is broken by:

JACKSON (O.S.)
Hell of a night.

Boone looks up as Jackson approaching.

BOONE
Yeah. You said it.

JACKSON
What do you think those things were?

Boone's face contorts in anger.

BOONE
They were an abomination.

The sheer vitriol in his voice takes Jackson by surprise.

JACKSON
Okay--

WELLES (O.S.)
He's right.

They look up to see Welles approaching.

WELLES (CONT'D)
Abomination is as good a word as any to describe those ... things.

Chloe and Alec approach at this point.

CHLOE
What do you mean?

WELLES
What you saw there was a part of ourselves we thought we'd bred out of our race centuries ago.
(looks Alec in the eye)
And I know your kind have views on such matters, but let me tell you now, sir: we will not let this stand.

ALEC
Neither will we.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Welles inclines his head in an abbreviated bow.

WELLES

Your actions tonight may have prevented an atrocity. So allow me to thank you all on behalf of the House of Tylen. And as our way of repaying the favour, let me tell you that Edward Maitland is going to have some serious explaining to do. All I ask is that you leave him to us.

Alec inclines his head the same way.

WELLES (CONT'D)

Then consider it done. I imagine you'll hear when we're finished.

And with that he walks off, accompanied by his bodyguard. Jackson lets out a low whistle.

JACKSON

Man, Edward knows how to make himself enemies.

CHLOE

(dark)

You're not kidding--

FLAME (O.S.)

For the record, I am never doing that again!

They look up to see Flame approaching, looking shaky on his feet but otherwise okay. Chloe grins.

CHLOE

Here comes trouble.

FLAME

Funny.

(to Alec)

And yellow card for useless twat. I mean use your imagination.

Alec laughs at this, and a moment later everyone else joins in. Sheer relief and giddiness coming to the surface.

CUT TO BETH

stood back from the scene, watching everything.

From OS, a sound gets her attention. A whimpering. And she knows what it is. She moves off quickly.

EXT. BACK ALLEY -- NIGHT

Dominic is crouched on the floor, hunched over and shaking. We CLOSE IN on him for a moment, until we realise what the sound is.

He's crying.

BETH (O.S.)

Dominic?

He looks up to see Beth at the top of the alley.

A moment. They hold each other's gazes. Dominic's face is a mess, covered in blood and streaked with tears.

Then Beth steps forward. Dominic flinches back, as though slapped.

BETH (CONT'D)

(gentle)

It's okay.

Her tone seems to get through. She crouches down beside him, draws him in for a long hug. He buries his face in her shoulder and cries, the tears and the pain pouring out of him.

DOMINIC

I'm sorry ... I'm so sorry...

PULL BACK from the image of the two of them, sat on the floor of the filthy alley.

EXT. EDWARD'S MANSION -- NIGHT

A beat to establish.

Closer in, we can see that a single light burns in a downstairs window.

INT. EDWARD'S STUDY -- NIGHT

The light is coming from a desk lamp. Someone is sat in Edward's chair, working his computer.

ON THE SCREEN: we see a file marked Project Spartacus. The mouse clicks, opening it. Inside we see endless files and data. All of Edward's files and secrets to do with the project.

A hand reaches up to the computer, places a blank DVD into the draw. Another click and the disc begins burning. The man leans back in the chair. Waiting patiently.

EXT. EDWARD'S BENTLEY -- NIGHT

The Bentley pulls to a halt and Edward and Paige get out.

PAIGE

We need to--

Edward shushes her with a raised hand. She looks where he's looking, sees the light in the study window. A worried look is exchanged.

INT. EDWARD'S STUDY -- NIGHT

Edward enters, angrily slamming in ... and stops dead at the sight of:

GIDEON

Ah. Edward.

Gideon looks up from the computer with a slight smile.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

It seems you are to be congratulated.

Abject confusion from Edward.

EDWARD

Congratulated?

GIDEON

On your demonstration. Bravo, my friend, bravo. Evidently there are still some kinks to be worked out, but on the whole--

EDWARD

Demonstration?! The whole plan just went up in flames, and they know I was behind it, we can't--

GIDEON

Ah, yes, of course. Well, I'm afraid that's your problem, not mine.

Which stops Edward dead in his tracks. He opens his mouth to speak, then closes it again, understanding dawning. Gideon raises his eyebrows.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

You appear to have misunderstood the terms of our deal, Edward.

EDWARD

(aghast)

But -- but you told me--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIDEON

I told you nothing. You may have inferred something, but if you are under the impression that I told you the end result of this would be that we would assist you in becoming the undisputed ruler of all the vampire houses, you are sadly mistaken.

He gets back to work. Edward is completely horrified, unable to deal with this.

EDWARD

But ... our deal--

GIDEON

You had something we wanted. Project Spartacus. So we put you in a position where you had the resources to develop it, and you got it working for us. There is much to be commended in your work.
(smiles)
Congratulations.

BEEP. The DVD is spat back out by the computer. Gideon takes it, puts it into his pocket and stands.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

Our business is now concluded. For your own safety, I wouldn't attempt to contact us again if I were you. The people I work for wouldn't take kindly to it.

He moves past Edward, heading for the door.

GIDEON (CONT'D)

The other vampire leaders will surely be coming for you, Edward. I should think about your next move very carefully. Au revoir.

And with that he's gone, leaving Edward staring at the empty chair.

He's unable to deal with this. After a moment he sags to the ground, sitting on the floor in the semi-darkness, staring into space. The look of a man who's just had everything in his whole life shattered right before him.

BOONE (prelap)

Yes, it's as bad as we thought.

CUT TO:

INT. THE CORE -- NIGHT

There's a jubilant air among the usual chaos. DROP OFF on Boone, sat at a desk and talking discreetly on the phone.

BOONE
 (into phone)
 In fact it might even be worse,
 these things were--

He looks up at the sight of someone approaching. Alec. A seriously dark look in his face. Boone knows where this is going.

BOONE (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 I'll call you back.

He hangs up, stands just as Alec gets within range.

BOONE (CONT'D)
 Alec--

ALEC
You knew.

Nasty silence.

ALEC (CONT'D)
 You knew about that man. About what he was.

BOONE
 What do you--?

ALEC
 The other Knight. Don't piss me about, John Henry, I'm not in the mood. You knew.

A tense moment. Then Boone looks Alec in the eye and nods.

ALEC (CONT'D)
 God's holy trousers--

BOONE
 I wasn't certain.

ALEC
 But you suspected.
 (beat)
 Did West and Cassidy know about this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOONE

That was what they were looking into.

(off his look)

Oh come on, Alec, you know what my job is. I bring the stories to the Black Chapter, they investigate what's relevant, that's how our arrangement works.

ALEC

So what happened?

A moment as Boone considers his answer. Eventually:

BOONE

When Edward had the ruling sect of the Cain wiped out, we knew there was no way he could have organised something like that without help. I was asked to look into it. We heard rumours about a new enemy.

ALEC

The Circle?

BOONE

(nods)

Although we didn't know what they were called at the time. And there was a story ... a story that they had a secret weapon. That would be him.

(beat)

His name's Gideon. Michel Gideon.

ALEC

There's no Knight named Michel Gideon.

BOONE

Oh no? Looks to me like one slipped through the cracks.

(beat)

That's how Maitland was able to get to power so fast. The vampire leaders never had a chance against a Knight let off the leash.

Alec opens his mouth to retort ... and then closes it again. He's trying to process all of this. Boone spreads his hands slightly.

BOONE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Alec. I didn't know for certain--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC

Bollocks.

BOONE

I didn't.

(beat)

But I should have been honest with you from the very beginning, and I wasn't. That shouldn't have happened. I didn't like having to keep secrets from you, but it wasn't my decision to make.

ALEC

It was Haizum, wasn't it?

Boone says nothing for a long moment ... then nods once. Alec's face goes dark.

ALEC (CONT'D)

I'm going to be having words with him later.

(looks Boone in the eye)

What else?

BOONE

What else am I hiding from you?

(long beat)

You're right to be suspicious, Alec, I would be in your position--

ALEC

Spare me.

BOONE

Nothing.

The steel in his voice takes Alec by surprise.

BOONE (CONT'D)

I hold nothing else back. Everything I know, you know. And I have helped your mission as best I can across these months, and I will continue to do so until we are finished.

(beat)

That is, unless you no longer require my help.

A tense moment.

INT. THE CORE - INFIRMARY -- NIGHT

Flame's sat on a bed, being looked over by an MI-16 DOCTOR. He's squirming slightly, trying to get out of reach.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FLAME

I'm fine, honestly--

MI-16 DOCTOR

You're not fine, you're badly dehydrated and you've lost a lot of minerals--

CHLOE (O.S.)

Just give him a packet of peanuts, he'll be fine.

Flame looks up to where Chloe is stood watching, a cup of tea in one hand and a wicked smile in her face. It doesn't help matters.

FLAME

What happened to doctor/patient confidentiality?

CHLOE

I'm a spy, it doesn't work like that.

FLAME

You're like Nazis, you lot.

The doctor rolls his eyes and moves off. Flame turns back to Chloe.

FLAME (CONT'D)

Going to take the piss some more?

CHLOE

That was a very brave thing you did, down at the ship.

Flame grins, suddenly suave instantly.

FLAME

It was nothing.

CHLOE

(rolls her eyes)

Right. Point one, I saw the rivulets of blood, that wasn't nothing. Point two, do any girls ever fall for the wounded hero routine?

FLAME

(shrugs)

It's a backup for the rich boy routine, and neither of them have been known to fail me yet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHLOE

First time for everything.

FLAME

Good. I like a challenge.

Chloe sighs and grins at the first time.

CHLOE

Why do I even try?

FLAME

Because I'm handsome and charming?

CHLOE

Alec's handsome and charming, you might want to take lessons, and he's right about the annoying twat thing.

FLAME

He said useless twat.

CHLOE

Useless, annoying, it's a hop skip and jump away.

Flame actually laughs at this.

FLAME

Then it that case, permit me to simply say: you're welcome.

CHLOE

You could have just said that in the beginning.

FLAME

Where's the fun in that?

Flame grins, looking insufferably smug. A moment later Chloe joins in the laughing.

CUT TO Beth, sat on the other side of the room with Dominic, who's strapped down to one of the beds. She's holding his hand. He looks like he's asleep. But a moment later his eyes flicker open, focusing on her with some difficulty.

BETH

How are you feeling?

Dominic can't look her in the eye. He looks the other way.

DOMINIC

I hurt you--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH
You didn't mean to--

DOMINIC
I couldn't stop myself.

BETH
Look at me.
(no movement)
Look at me.

Dominic finally does, with what looks like extreme reluctance. The kind look in her eyes is almost more than she can take.

BETH (CONT'D)
Where were you going?

A long pause. Then:

DOMINIC
Still thinking like an agent of
Ezekiel?

BETH
I'm thinking like someone who's
concerned for you. Someone who
also happens to be an agent of
Ezekiel.
(beat)
Do you remember where you were
going?

Another long pause. Dominic struggles to find the words.

DOMINIC
All I know is that for one moment,
I had this feeling, this ... I
knew, absolutely knew, what I
should be doing. And I ... it
was like this conviction came
over me. I couldn't fight it.
(beat)
I didn't want to fight it...

He trails off, looking her in the eye.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
It was Spartacus. The programming
in my brain. I know it.

It takes a moment for Beth to completely register what he's just said.

BETH
Are you ... are you saying you
can remember?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dominic gives her an enigmatic look that chills Beth to the bone.

JACKSON (prelap)
So he's known about it all this
time?!

CUT TO:

INT. THE CORE -- NIGHT

Finding Alec and Jackson stood in a quiet corner, out of the way of the usual chaos. Jackson looks outraged.

JACKSON
All this time--?!

ALEC
Nice to see you've got the picture.

JACKSON
Man, I knew he was hidin' something
but I never--

ALEC
Alright, that'll do.

Jackson gives him an incredulous look.

JACKSON
You're not saying you trust him?

ALEC
Not this again.

JACKSON
Why the hell not this again, he--

ALEC
Can we skip the outrage and move
on, there's a bigger problem to
deal with.

(off his look)
And no, I'm not booting him off
the team, we need him right now.

Jackson can see the serious look on his face.

JACKSON
Alright, what is it?

ALEC
The fact that Boone knew about
Gideon is largely irrelevant.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC (CONT'D)

(beat)

I'm more bothered about the fact that Haizum and the Chapter seem to be quite willing to allow us to blunder around in the dark with this thing. Being charitable we could assume they weren't certain--

Jackson snorts like a gas explosion.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Yeah, my sentiments exactly. Which leaves the bigger picture.

(beat)

What else is going on here that they haven't seen fit to tell us about?

Alec gives Jackson a serious look, one which Jackson returns completely.

JACKSON

Does this mean we're going to cause some trouble?

ALEC

We're always going to cause trouble. It's us.

JACKSON

Damn right.

INT. THE CORE - MEETING ROOM -- NIGHT

The gang are all clustered around the table: Alec, Eve, Chloe, Jackson, Boone, Flame.

ALEC

They were vampires, but not like anything I'd seen before. They were feral, deadly - there didn't seem to be any intelligence there, they were operating on pure instinct--

BOONE

And you'd be right.

(off their looks)

Those were what vampires used to be like, back at the beginning of things. Over time, some of those traits were bred out of the gene pool, until we evolved into what you see now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON

Because what we now have is so much of an improvement.

Boone tries his best not to look annoyed.

BOONE

There have been a few attempts to bring that feral strength back. Kovas Memnon tried a few years ago with his First Breed program, but it never quite worked.

(beat)

I think it's safe to say that this is what Edward's been doing at Spartacus all this time. Reverse engineering certain genetic components back into the vampire genome, creating...

(raises his hand)

Well, you've all seen them.

ALEC

It's more than that. He's building an army.

They all look at him.

EVE

Alec, you can't be sure--

ALEC

Can't I? Dominic was grabbed off the street, they turned him into that. Homeless kids have been going missing all over the country. Mr Jones was right. This is what it's been all about.

CHLOE

Combined with the Ascendant technology we fought in New York.

(beat)

Why am I suddenly filled with a sudden burning desire to wipe out Project Spartacus once and for all?

ALEC

Probably that's because we're all thinking the same.

FLAME

Yeah, but how?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FLAME (CONT'D)

(beat)

I mean, no disrespect to the intelligence or intentions of anyone in this room, but as I understand it you've spent the last three months investigating Spartacus and you've got no idea where this thing actually is in the first place, how are you going to--

DOMINIC (O.S.)

I know where it is.

Everyone stops dead in their tracks, whirls to see Dominic entering the room, accompanied by Beth.

Dominic's a bit shaky on his feet, looking more than a little worried. But there's a steel in his eyes, a determination that wasn't there before.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

You want to destroy Spartacus. I can help you.

ALEC

How?

DOMINIC

When they ... when they activated me, it jarred a few things loose.

(beat)

Now I remember.

(significant)

I remember everything.

Everyone exchanges glances. Alec looks as though it's more than he dared to hope for.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

I'm going to take you back to where it all started.

A moment. Then a slow grin forms on Alec's face.

ALEC

Right...

EXT. EDWARD'S MANSION -- NIGHT

Just a quick beat to establish, before:

PAIGE (prelap)

Edward?

INT. EDWARD'S STUDY -- NIGHT

Paige bursts in, worried as all hell.

PAIGE
Edward, where--?

EDWARD (O.S.)
Gone...

The quiet voice startles her. She looks down to where Edward is still sat on the floor, right where we last saw him. His expression is ashen, his face sallow. The look of a man who's utterly broken.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
All gone...

He looks up at Paige. She sees the raw shock in his eyes.

EDWARD (CONT'D)
They used me, Paige.

Paige's expression suggests this is something she really can't deal with right now.

PAIGE
What?

EDWARD
Gideon. The Circle. I was never a player in this game ... I was only a pawn. I was too self-involved to see it--

PAIGE
Edward, please, you have to listen to me--

EDWARD
Why? What else is there?

Paige drops to one knee beside him, grabs his face and forces him to look her in the eye.

PAIGE
You need to listen to me very carefully, Edward. Welles is on his way here right now with some guys, and they're coming to kill you. They know what we tried to do to them, and they're coming to take their revenge.

That seems to get Edward's attention. An urgency comes through the despondency on his face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PAIGE (CONT'D)

We can deal with the rest of it later, but right now we have to get out of here. Come on, Edward, we have to--

EDWARD

You're right.

Edward allows her to help him to his feet.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

You're right, of course. Let's go.

Paige looks hugely relieved as the two of them leg it from the room.

EXT. EDWARD'S MANSION -- NIGHT

A convoy of BLACK VANS hurtle up the drive, skidding to a halt in front of the mansion. The doors open and an armed HOUSE OF TYLEN HIT SQUAD bursts out, dressed in commando gear and armed to the teeth.

Welles gets out of the front seat of the lead van. Looks up at the mansion and sees the light still burning within.

WELLES

Alright. Quick and quiet, you know the drill. But I want Maitland and his tart taken alive, got it?

Nods of ascent from all around.

WELLES (CONT'D)

Okay. Go.

The commando squad charges up to the door, SMASHING it open with a metal ramrod before vanishing inside. Welles stands on the drive, watching with a grim expression.

EXT. GROUNDS OF EDWARD'S MANSION -- NIGHT

A copse of trees some distance away, the mansion in the distance. PULL BACK to reveal Edward and Paige, stood in the shadows of the trees.

REVERSE ANGLE

to show their faces. Now it's Paige's turn to look ashen.

PAIGE

If they find us--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EDWARD

We'll just make sure they don't.

Paige looks up in surprise.

PAIGE

You expected--?

EDWARD

Did I expect Gideon to betray me?
No. But I never go into any
endeavour without an exit strategy,
and I knew just how dangerous
this could be when I first began.

(beat)

I'm prepared to flee the country.
I've got friends in France who'll
hide me.

PAIGE

Then let's go!

EDWARD

Not yet.

He smiles at her, some of the old confidence back, before
turning and looking back up at the house.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

There's something I have to do
first.

(beat)

Come on.

He takes her by the hand and leads her deeper into the
woods, out of sight of the mansion.

EXT. EDWARD'S MANSION -- NIGHT

Where Welles is being briefed by the leader of the commando
team.

WELLES

He's done a bunk?

The commando leader nods. Welles looks up at the massive
form of the mansion.

WELLE

Set a fire. Burn it to the ground.

JUMP CUT: Petrol is thrown around inside the house. The
commando leader lights a rag and throws it inside.

The mansion catches fire almost immediately. A BRIGHT
ORANGE BLAZE fills the air.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ON WELLES

his face illuminated by the light of the fire. He watches grimly as the house burns to the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. THE CORE -- NIGHT

In the background, everyone's tooling up for battle again. We RACK FOCUS to find Chloe sat at one of the desks, on the phone.

CHLOE

(into phone)

We'll be going in a few minutes.
If we do this right, this will
all be over.

(beat, grins)

I appreciate that, Rufus. Just
tell Kennedy to have backup on
standby in case we need it.

(beat)

Then will I be coming back?

The question surprises Chloe. She looks across to where, at the centre of the whole thing, Alec is giving orders.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(into phone)

I don't know.

CUT TO Alec, who's stood talking with Dominic and Beth. Beth is tooled up in combat gear, and looks at Alec with a frown.

BETH

I'm not sure this is a good idea--

ALEC

It's the only one we've got.
(looks at Dominic)
You can get us inside the place,
yes?

DOMINIC

I think so.
(beat)
Yes. Yes I can.

ALEC

Then that's all I need.

DOMINIC

Anything other than that--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC

Don't worry. I won't put you through anything else, Dominic old son. Just get us inside, we'll do the rest.

Dominic looks hugely relieved.

DOMINIC

Thank you.

Alec grins and inclines his head.

FLAME (O.S.)

Room for a small one?

They all look up to see Flame approaching. Alec looks surprised.

ALEC

Are you sure, it'll be--

FLAME

Forget it. If there's more of those ... things there, you're going to need me to knacker them up again.

(beat)

Besides, I've come this far.

(grins at Alec)

I want to see this through to the end.

A moment. Then Alec smiles and nods.

ALEC

Alright.

(looks at Beth)

Keep an eye on him.

FLAME

I can take care of myself.

ALEC

I know.

BETH

Come on, let's go.

She leads Flame and Dominic away. Alec's about to follow when:

CHLOE (O.S.)

Alec.

He looks up to see Chloe approaching.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC
Hey. Ready to live dangerously
again?

CHLOE
Ready to finish this.

Pause.

ALEC
So ... I suppose that means you'll
be going back to MI-16, if we
finish this off tonight?

Clearly the question Chloe was dreading. She takes a
moment:

ALEC (CONT'D)
Thought so.

CHLOE
I didn't say that, Alec. I've
made a decision.

She looks him in the eye, her expression honest and candid.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
If we get out of this in one piece
... I won't push you.

ALEC
Chloe--

CHLOE
I'm serious. I've seen the real
you now, Alec. I've seen the
guilt you're carrying around, the
damage.
(beat)
If you need me, I'll be here.
But from now on, it's your
decision. And I won't push you.

A moment. Then:

ALEC
Thank you.

The relief in his voice takes Chloe by surprise. She
covers quickly, grins.

CHLOE
Now. Are we going to sort out
Edward Maitland or what?

Alec looks up to see Jackson and Boone approaching, tooled
up for battle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON

(to Alec)

She took the words right out of
my mouth, Al.

ALEC

(grins)

Then let's go.

HERO SHOT: as the four of them turn and head out, looking like the Magnificent Seven on their way to kick the shit out of someone.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAITLAND WING -- NIGHT

Revealing the hospital, lit up and bright against the night sky.

EXT. SIDE STREET -- NIGHT

The MI-16 team all pile out of their vehicles. They're following Dominic, who makes his way to a storm drain in the ground.

DOMINIC

This is it.

Alec steps forward, raises a hand. His eyes FLASH WHITE and he yanks the heavy lid off, revealing the gaping tunnel beneath.

BOONE

You're sure about this?

DOMINIC

(nods)

I remember. This is where I got
out from.

Alec glances at Flame, who nods: he's telling the truth.

ALEC

Then let's go.

Jackson goes first, dropping down into the sewer tunnel with his shotgun. After a moment.

JACKSON (O.S.)

Clear!

Without a word they all begin to pile in.

INT. SEWER TUNNELS -- NIGHT

The MI-16 team, with Alec in the lead, make their way down the tunnels.

INT. PROJECT SPARTACUS - OFFICE -- NIGHT

Finding Dietrich sat at the bank of computers, working away.

After a moment a light begins to flash. Dietrich looks up: the screen shows a night-vision image of the sewer tunnels, superimposed with the words 'INTRUDERS DETECTED'.

DIETRICH

Well now...

An evil grin crosses his face as he turns back to his keyboard and begins to type like a madman.

INT. SEWER TUNNELS -- NIGHT

The team rounds a corner and Alec holds a hand up for stop. They're facing a vault-like door.

ALEC

Jack? You're on.

INT. PROJECT SPARTACUS - OFFICE -- NIGHT

Dietrich watches the night-vision images on the screen with a grin.

Movement behind him. He looks up to see a man rumaging through the filing cabinets behind him. Gideon. And Dietrich is amazed.

DIETRICH

How did you get in here without me hearing you?

No answer from Gideon. Dietrich looks suddenly afraid.

DIETRICH (CONT'D)

Are you ... are you Gideon?

Gideon opens a drawer, finds what he's looking for - a second DVD. He pulls it out, stuffs it into his pocket. Then turns, smiles at Dietrich.

GIDEON

Forget I was ever here.

And with that he turns and leaves. Dietrich looks amazed before turning back to his screen.

INT. SEWER TUNNELS -- NIGHT

Jackson lines the door with high explosives. Then runs back around the corner, where the rest of the team are huddled out of the way.

Alec nods. Jackson hits the detonator--

BOOM! A HUGE EXPLOSION from OS. Alec rounds the corner to see the door's been blown apart, revealing a GAPING HOLE where it once was.

ALEC

Alright.

His eyes FLASH WHITE as he charges up for battle.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Let's go.

He leads the team inside the gaping hole.

INT. PROJECT SPARTACUS -- NIGHT

Alec leads the team out into the room beyond. And as soon as they're all inside, everyone stops to look around in amazement.

JACKSON

Damn...

REVERSE ANGLE

to reveal what they're looking at. The huge, cathedral-like space filled with incubation cylinders.

ON ALEC'S FACE

as he takes it all in. Beside him, Chloe looks completely amazed.

CHLOE

I guess this is the real Site A then.

FLAME

Holy shit...

Boone crosses himself and mutters a prayer under his breath.

CHLOE

Alec?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC

(grim)

I want it destroyed. Every last one of these creatures, I want them put out of their misery.

UNDER THIS Beth has noticed Dominic, standing with his eyes closed. His hands are shaking.

BETH

Dominic?

Everyone turns to look. Dominic opens his eyes just a slit -- enough for us to see the red glow of bloodlust is there again.

BETH (CONT'D)

Dominic...

It looks like Dominic's keeping himself under control with a serious effort.

DOMINIC

Get out ... get out, now...

And just as that's begun to sink in--

CLUNK! The nearest incubation cylinder opens! A CLAWED HAND emerges around the corner.

JACKSON

Oh man...

Others begin to open all around. Alec understands.

ALEC

Go go go go!!!

Everyone charges forward just as the cylinders SLAM OPEN and ASCENDANTS charge out from within the tubes, all snarling and feral.

Stood at the back, Boone raises his gun and BLASTS one right in the forehead, sending him flying back. A cold, murderous look in Boone's eyes.

DOMINIC

looks around in horror at what's going on--

BETH

Dominic?

Dominic looks at her -- and with what looks like an incredible effort on his part he turns and CHARGES, vanishing off into the darkness of the place.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH (CONT'D)

Dominic!

FROM A HIGH ANGLE

we look down on the chase happening below. On the edge of frame we get the impression of a man in a long coat, watching everything.

ALEC

skids to a stop - they've reached a four way intersection, a crossroads in the middle of all the incubation cylinders. Ascendants are charging up behind them--

ALEC

Everyone get behind me!

Without waiting for them to move his eyes FLASH WHITE. Everyone scrambles to get out of the way as he raises his hands. EXPLOSIONS RESOUND all around them as the incubation cylinders FALL CRASHING DOWN, SQUASHING several Ascendants and blocking the way for the others.

A ROAR OS -- everyone turns to look as a second group of Ascendants come charging down the corridor towards them. Alec doesn't have time to do the same thing again--

ALEC (CONT'D)

Here they come!

The Ascendants are on top of them in seconds, snarling and charging. The MI-16 team attack back, Alec using his telekinesis to yank two off them ground and SMASH them into the ceiling. As his eyes go upwards Alec spots

THE FIGURE

standing on one of the gantries above.

JUMP CLOSER

to reveal the figure's face. Gideon. He turns and walks away.

ALEC

sees him go.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Oh no you don't...

An Ascendant is charging him. Alec rushes forward, leaps -- STAMPS on the Ascendant's head, sending him CRASHING dead to the ground--

--and launching Alec bodily into the air!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He reaches the catwalk, grabbing it with his fingertips and hauling himself upwards, between Gideon and the exit door he was walking towards.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Gideon!

Gideon raises his eyes to Alec. Alec's eyes flash white.

GIDEON

So that's how it's going to be?

His eyes flash white too. They charge. In seconds the two Knights are back at it again, fighting tooth and nail, trading gigantic blows that would go through sheet metal--

ON THE OPPOSITE GANTRY

Edward and Paige enter -- and they stop dead at the sight of the pitched battle going on all around them.

EDWARD

God...

ON PAIGE as her eyes take everything in: Gideon and Alec duelling on the catwalks, the pitched battle going on below ... and that same look in Edward's face, the look of a man who's entire world has come crashing down all around him.

And in this moment, we see resolve come into her face. She's made a decision.

ON THE GROUND LEVEL

the battle continues. Chloe and Flame are fighting back to back, Chloe squeezing off shots. Two miss but a third catches an Ascendant full in the face, sending him flying back, dead.

CHLOE

Flame, you okay?!

Flame sees two Ascendants charging in. He SNAPS HIS FINGERS--

ASCENDANT POV

as HUGE FLAMES suddenly erupt in front of them. They skid to a halt, raising their hands to protect themselves--

--just as Flame fires off two precision shots, taking both of them down with neat hits to the head.

FLAME

Doing fine, thanks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH

is in the middle of the battle, scrapping away with an Ascendant. She's knocked to the ground -- looks up to see the Ascendant right on top of her. She brings up her gun and FIRES, blowing it away.

As the Ascendant drops, she spots something. Dominic, charging up the stairs onto the upper level of the complex, heading for the office.

She pulls herself to her feet and charges out of frame.

INT. PROJECT SPARTACUS - OFFICE -- NIGHT

On Dietrich as he looks down on the battle taking place below. The Ascendants seem to be more than holding their own.

A small smile of pride from Dietrich.

Then there's a noise at the door. Dietrich looks up to see Dominic stood in the doorway, face feral, eyes red.

A moment. They just stare at each other.

Then Dietrich's hand goes inside his coat for his gun. Dominic sees it, snarls and charges--!

EXT. PROJECT SPARTACUS -- NIGHT

Alec and Gideon continue to fight up on the gantry. Gideon ducks a blow, then grabs Alec's hand and yanks him forward, off balance.

GIDEON

This isn't necessary. All I want is to leave.

ALEC

Not without an explanation.

GIDEON

So be it.

And he BACKHANDS Alec across the face, sending him flying backwards. Gideon charges and the fight breaks out again.

ON THE GROUND LEVEL

the fight continues. Boone fights hand to hand with one of the Ascendants--

BOONE

Flame, some help right now would be appreciated!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Flame and Chloe are still fighting back to back:

FLAME
Little busy right now!

Boone drops down and Rugby-tackles the Ascendant, sending him to the ground long enough for Boone to shove his gun in the creature's mouth and pull the trigger. He gets to his feet, turns to face:

BOONE
Jackson, get down!

Jackson doesn't hesitate -- he drops to the ground, just in time to miss an Ascendant leaping down on him. Boone brings up his weapon and blows the creature's head off.

Jackson scrambles back to his feet. Looks across at Boone.

JACKSON
Thanks.

A brief look of respect between the two of them before they turn and get back into the fight.

EDWARD

continues to watch in horror from up on the gantry. From up here he can see what's happening -- the tide of battle is beginning to turn in favour of the MI-16 team.

Movement behind him. He whirls to see Paige, heading for an exit door.

EDWARD
Paige!

She whirls, looking him in the eye. A devastated yet determined look on her face.

Long pause. Then:

PAIGE
I'm sorry, Edward. But I can't live like this anymore.

And with that she turns and runs for it, slamming the door behind her.

EDWARD
Paige!

He turns and runs for the door -- but it won't budge!

INT. ESCAPE TUNNEL -- NIGHT

Paige locks the door behind her with a massive deadbolt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A moment. She tries to deal with what she's just done. Then, with a deep breath to steady herself, she turns and runs away up the tunnel.

INT. MAITLAND WING RECEPTION -- NIGHT

Paige emerges from the secret entrance we saw Edward enter in the previous episode. She jabs the fire alarm with her elbow. The ALARM BLARES across the building as Paige turns to reception staff.

PAIGE

There's a fire in the basement,
we need everyone out now!

INT. PROJECT SPARTACUS - OFFICE -- NIGHT

Beth dashes in ... and stops dead at the sight of the bloody tableau before her. Her mouth opens in horror.

REVERSE ANGLE

to reveal Dietrich's broken body lying in a pool of blood on the ground. Dominic is stood in the corner, mouth and shirt drenched, looking horrified.

He looks up. Sees Beth. She sees the anguish in his eyes.

DOMINIC

I ... I couldn't...

He points at the body, trying desperately to make this make sense. Finally he gives up, looks imploringly at Beth.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)

I tried to control it. Tried to
be a good man. But I can't.
This thing ... it's in me, and it
can come out just like...

(beat)

I can't stand it. I can't live
like this any more.

His eyes flicker to the computer. Beth looks. Sees the 'destruct' sequence lined up, just like in the penthouse.

BETH

Dominic...

DOMINIC

Let me do this.

(beat)

Let me go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A horrible moment. Beth knows what's going to happen. Dominic smiles.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
It's okay. I want this.

He approaches the computer. Reaches down and hits the button. Then turns back to face her.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
I love you too.

And Beth bursts into tears just as FLAMES ENGULF DOMINIC'S BODY--

EXT. PROJECT SPARTACUS -- NIGHT

The MI-16 team pull back from the Ascendants as they all burst into flames. Chloe looks around in horror as the whole complex begins to catch fire--

CHLOE
We have to get out of here, it's going to blow!

JACKSON
Alright, everyone with me!

Jackson takes the lead, and Boone, Chloe, Flame and the others all charge out, carrying their wounded with them.

Chloe happens to glance up, sees a figure running across one of the gantries. Edward.

A dark look from Chloe. Then she turns and runs off. Jackson sees--

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Chloe!

EXT. MAITLAND WING -- NIGHT

Abject chaos as the hospital is evacuated. Patients on stretchers are wheeled out, the walking wounded are wrapped in silver heat blankets. FIRE ENGINES and POLICE CARS roll up.

Paige is stood off to one side, watching it happen. A horrible "what have I done?" look on her face.

She never gets time to reflect: a hand grabs her arm--

WELLES (O.S.)
Ah, there you are.

Welles is stood behind her, flanked by two bodyguards.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WELLES (CONT'D)

We've got such a lot to talk about.

And Paige looks terrified.

INT. PROJECT SPARTACUS -- NIGHT

The place is rapidly becoming an inferno, flames in all directions.

EDWARD

paces towards another exit tunnel -- diving out of the way as a piece of FLAMING WRECKAGE nearly takes his head off. He rounds a corner--

--and stops dead.

Facing CHLOE.

Her gun extended, shoved right into his chest, above his heart.

A moment. The two of them lock eyes. Emotions running high in Chloe's eyes as she faces the man who hurt her so badly.

Another long moment. Then:

BANG!

Edward recoils. Looks down at his chest. Sees the blood seeping out.

He looks Chloe in the eye. And just for a moment we see a look approaching pride on his face. Then he keels over, body hitting the ground.

Edward Maitland is dead.

A moment while Chloe looks down at his body, battling emotions on her face. Then, from OS, she hears the sound of fighting. She looks across at

ALEC AND GIDEON

who are still fighting each other, Alec still blocking Gideon's way out.

GIDEON

If we stay here, we'll both die.

ALEC

(using the Voice)

Tell me who you are!

Gideon's eyes FLASH WHITE:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIDEON
(using the Voice)

No.

And he brings up both hands -- Alec is BLOWN BACKWARDS, flying right over the edge of the gantry--

Gideon rights himself. The glow goes from his eyes. He moves to the edge. Sees Alec holding on for dear life, with his fingertips. He smiles down at Alec.

GIDEON (CONT'D)
You are a worthy opponent, mon ami. But this is not the time. This is not our fight.
(beat)
One day, you will understand.

CHLOE (O.S.)
Alec!

Alec looks up to see Chloe come running up to him. When he looks back, Gideon has gone.

Chloe drops down beside him, grabs his hands.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
I've got you!

Alec lets her haul him up to the gantry. For a moment they both just lie there, getting their breath back.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
You're off your head, you! What the hell was all that about?

From OS -- an explosion. The inferno is getting worse.

ALEC
I'll tell you later. Come on.

They scramble to their feet and sprint off down the gantry, heading for the exit. Alec grabs Chloe's hand as they run.

HOLD on the sight of the bunker behind them as Spartacus burns, the machinery and the Ascendants being destroyed by the fire.

And off this sight we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. EDWARD'S MANSION -- NIGHT

The place is a disaster area. The fire's gone out, but the house is in ruins, a burnt out, rubble-strewn wreck of it's former self.

The FIRE BRIGADE are still on scene, dousing the few last remaining flames.

Paige stands off to one side, looking up at the house. Mixed emotions on her face.

WELLES (O.S.)
When all's said and done, all
that's left is the bones.

She doesn't look up as Welles comes to stand beside her.

WELLES (CONT'D)
Rather like the House of Cain
itself, come to think of it.
You're certain Edward is dead?

PAIGE
Certain.

WELLES
Good.

Pause. Then:

PAIGE
Are you going to kill me?

Welles laughs, a laugh utterly devoid of humour.

WELLES
No, no I'm not going to kill you.
In lieu of Edward's unfortunate
demise, the House of Cain is going
to need a new leader.

It takes Paige a second to realise what he's saying:

PAIGE
Me?!

WELLES
You were Edward's second in
command. It stands to reason
you'd be the one to take his
throne.
(beat)
However, allow me to make one
thing abundantly clear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He moves to stand in front of her, gets right into her face.

WELLES (CONT'D)

The rest of the Houses, we know what Edward tried to do to us. And we know you were involved.

PAIGE

I didn't--

WELLES

Not interested. You were involved. Now you have the leadership of the House of Cain, but you will no longer be in a position to dictate terms to the rest of us. Or to put it another way: you're on exceptionally thin ice, my dear.

He smiles, loving it.

WELLES (CONT'D)

Think about it.

He turns and walks off. Paige swallows slightly, knowing what a horrible position she's been put in.

FLAME (prelap)

You're going back?

INT. THE CORE -- NIGHT

Flame stands with Beth. Her eyes are red, but there's a dead look in her face. She nods slightly.

FLAME

Back to London?

BETH

First rule of this sort of thing, don't get emotionally involved. I did. Look where it got me.

(beat)

I can't stay here, Flame, not now.

FLAME

He died a hero. In the end, he was the key to ending this whole thing.

BETH

I know. It just doesn't help.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Flame nods, understanding. He extends a hand and she shakes it. Then turns and walks off. Flame watches her go with a sad expression.

RACK FOCUS to reveal the office. Alec and Eve inside.

INT. THE CORE - EVE'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Alec's perched sideways on the desk, facing Eve.

EVE

So in short, Edward's dead, Project Spartacus is shut down ... I believe that makes your mission accomplished.

ALEC

The mission with Edward's over, yes.

(beat)

Everything else...

Eve nods.

EVE

It's that other Knight, isn't it?

ALEC

Gideon.

(looks her in the eye)

There's a bigger picture here. Something that needs investigating.

(beat)

Think Kennedy would see his way clear?

A small smile from Eve.

EVE

No harm in asking.

INT. THE CORE -- NIGHT

Jackson, Boone, Chloe and Flame are sat around at a couple of desks, paper cups in front of them. They all look up as Alec approaches. Jackson hands a bottle of red over to Alec.

JACKSON

Saved you some.

ALEC

(reads the label)

Tesco's finest, lovely.

He pours himself a paper cup.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC (CONT'D)

You couldn't even find a decent bottle?

JACKSON

Not on this sort of short notice.

ALEC

Figures.

CHLOE

So, what now?

Alec gives Chloe a look.

ALEC

Does that mean you're staying?

A moment. Then Chloe smiles.

CHLOE

Who's going to save your life if I don't?

Alec returns the smile.

FLAME

I'm in, too.

They all look at him in surprise.

JACKSON

'scuse me, don't think I quite heard that right.

FLAME

Laugh it up, but after this ... I saw what I was involved in creating. That can't happen again. I'm not sure what help I could give, but if I can, I will.

(looks to Alec)

Anything you need, you'll always have it from me and my company.

ALEC

Appreciate that.

FLAME

But if you use the expression useless tw--

ALEC

Don't milk it.

They all laugh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOONE

So. What now?

They all look at Alec. Alec downs his wine, considering.

ALEC

Gideon and the Circle. They're still out there, and we don't know what this was all about. That's what we need to find. That's what we'll be doing.

CHLOE

Starting now?

ALEC

Well I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm starving.

Laughs from all around as they get to their feet. HOLD on their faces for several long moments. The new team, together properly for the first time.

And off this sight, we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BACK ALLEY -- NIGHT

Overflowing bins and newspaper in all directions. Gideon stands by himself. He absently looks down at the two DVDs in his hand.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

See you did your part.

Gideon looks up. A second figure has appeared in the shadows.

GIDEON

As well as I could. And you did yours perfectly, old friend.

The man steps into the light, and we see his face.

It's MR JONES.

MR JONES

All I did was to put you and Alec into the right place at the right time.

GIDEON

He still doesn't understand his part in this, does he?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR JONES

He will.

GIDEON

You speak with such conviction.

MR JONES

I've seen it happen before. Time is circular, we both know that. It happened before. It will happen again. All we need do is wait for the right moment. And Alec will play his part.

Gideon smiles slightly. And off this shot of the two of them we

BLACK OUT:

WALKER

CREATED BY
ADAM SCOTT

DEVELOPED BY
ADAM SCOTT & A.J. BLACK

CO-PRODUCER
CHRIS HAIGH

CO-PRODUCER
IAN AUSTIN

PRODUCED BY
LEE A. CHRIMES

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
A.J. BLACK

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ADAM SCOTT

BACK ROOM
PRODUCTIONS

