

SEED

"The Agarthia Mission"

by

Rob Skiba II

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PO BOX 118461

Carrollton, TX 75011

413.218.4754

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Registered: WGAw

SEED
"The Agartha Mission"

TEASER

WHITE TEXT OVER BLACK:

*"That which has been, is that which shall be.
That which is done is that which shall be done.
There is nothing new under the sun."*

- King Solomon

FADE IN:

EXT. UTOPIAN CITY - SUNSET

We are hovering over water looking toward a magnificent Atlatian city, situated on the shoreline in the distance. We slowly move toward then over the city until we eventually make our way beyond it to hover over a small mountain village.

EXT. UTOPIAN MOUNTAIN VILLAGE - SUNSET

People mill about wearing Atlatian apparel in a strangely futuristic-looking, utopian mountain village, hemmed in by lush vegetation and majestic waterways.

SUPER: **"Mt. Hermon, 3550 B.C."**

A man looks up and points toward the sky. One by one, all of the villagers look up.

The SKY looks quite different from our sky today. There are no clouds. The setting sun still shines brightly but so does the unique alignment of Saturn, Mars and Venus, which together form a large eight-spoked "wheel in the sky."

Stars within the constellation of Orion begin to move as do others around them. Within seconds, two hundred of these "stars" rapidly descend to the ground and land like powerful, explosives scattering the villagers in terror.

Large, glowing "visitors" begin to emerge out of the dust clouds. Is it an illusion or did massive wings disappear into their backs just as they became fully visible? The villagers strain to see as the 8 foot tall WATCHERS come forth dressed in thin, shimmering, white apparel.

Their fiercely handsome and muscular appearance draws the attention of the village women.

(CONTINUED)

AZAZEL, the blonde haired, blue-eyed, largest and most attractive of the Watcher visitors beckons to them.

AZAZEL
(Hebrew sub-titled to English)
Come to me fair ladies.

LAMECH, an old, but strong man with a very healthy countenance, dressed in regal apparel notices his wife, ZILLAH's lustful expression. Mesmerized, she leaves his side and walks toward Azazel as her husband calls out to her.

LAMECH
(Hebrew sub-titled to English)
No, Zillah don't. Come back!

As Lamech tries to stop his wife, Azazel looks at him with a stern expression, causing the man to back away. As if previously in a trance, his wife suddenly snaps out of it. She turns to head back, but Azazel snatches her by the arm.

ZILLAH
(Hebrew - subtitled to English)
Lamech! Lamech help! Help me!

LAMECH
(Hebrew sub-titled to English)
Zillah!

He runs to help her, but with one smack of his massive hand, Azazel sends Lamech flying into a crowd of on-lookers.

One by one, other women are snatched away by the angelic visitors. Lamech's SERVANT turns and rushes toward him. The young man bows in reverence, as he urgently speaks to his master.

SERVANT
(Hebrew sub-titled to English)
Who are they? What can we do my lord?

As the tall Watchers wrap their muscular arms around the women and begin walking away, Lamech looks up at the sky.

LAMECH
(Hebrew sub-titled to English)
I fear we can do nothing. For they are the sons of God!

EXT. MOUNTAIN VILLAGE - NIGHT

The muted SCREAMS of a woman echo through the silent village.

EXT. MOUNTAIN VILLAGE - NEARBY ALLEY - NIGHT

Lamech sits on a stone wall rocking back and forth with his head in his hands.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Lamech's wife screams in terrible agony one last time before finally dying in child birth.

A terrified nursemaid holds up the crying, newborn baby.

As Azazel leans forward and takes the baby into his massive arms, it becomes obvious that this is not a normal child. Not only is it unusually large for a new born, but it has small horn nubs on each side of its head, six fingers and goat-like legs! The proud father stands and carries the newborn satyr out of the house.

EXT. MOUNTAIN VILLAGE - NEARBY ALLEY - NIGHT

Lamech turns and sees Azazel leaving his house, which is now dead-silent. He runs to the open door.

Inside, the nurse maid checks Zillah. The expression on her face and the large puddle of blood surrounding his lifeless wife say all that needs to be said.

Grief stricken, Lamech falls to his knees and screams up to the heavens.

LAMECH

(Hebrew sub-titled to English)

Noooooooooo!

LOOKING DOWN on him, WE ZOOM UP into the sky as the echo of his scream takes us into the

SEED OPENING TITLE MONTAGE - ENDING WITH THE EPISODE TITLE:

"THE AGARTHA MISSION"

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. ZAK'S APARTMENT - DAY

Clothing spins in a drying machine. A muscular arm enters the scene, opens the door and grabs them.

Wearing a pair of trendy, dark, faded jeans, ZAK RANDALL (late 20's), a handsome, square-jawed, six pack-ripped, almost iconic-looking jock enters his bedroom. The decorations and trophies surrounding his well kept apartment reveal him to be a talented athlete and likely a natural leader.

He tosses the dried clothes on his bed, then pulls out a black v-neck t-shirt and puts it on followed by a button-up denim shirt to wear over it. Next he quickly puts on a pair of insulated socks followed by some stylish hiking boots.

JESSICA CAINE (mid-20's), Zak's fiancée, an attractive, fiery red-head, sits at his desk wearing an A.S.U. Devils long sleeve shirt. She puts down the book, *THE GATEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER BY DAVID RANDALL*, which she had been thumbing through and watches Zak with her sky blue eyes. She puts on some lipstick as he folds and stuffs the rest of his clothes into a backpack.

JESSICA

That's all you're taking?

ZAK

All I need. I'm only going to be gone a few days.

JESSICA

That's what you said last time.

ZAK

I know. But don't worry. This will be my last assignment for while.

JESSICA

Somehow I doubt that. But I'll love you anyway.

ZAK

For better or worse?

JESSICA

In good times and bad. But if you miss the rehearsal dinner, you might as well stay where ever it is you're going.

(CONTINUED)

ZAK

I'm *not* gonna to miss it!

JESSICA

Promise?

ZAK

I promise. I promise. I'll be back before New Years.

JESSICA

Well, I still hate that you're going to miss Christmas.

ZAK

Mom's got a big party planned as always. She'll take care of you. Jake and Melissa are going to be there too. You'll have a blast.

JESSICA

I got you a present, but you'll have to wait until you get back to unwrap it.

Beginning to blush like a school girl with a crush, she holds out a wallet-sized picture.

ZAK

What's that?

JESSICA

(flirtatious)

Something to motivate you to come back... quick.

Zak checks it out. Although we never see it, his excited expression is very telling.

ZAK

Whoa!

JESSICA

Like - I - said... hurry back.

ZAK

(raising a suspicious eyebrow)

So uhhh... who took this picture?

JESSICA

(rolling her eyes)

My dog.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She takes the pic from his hands, slides it into his shirt pocket and begins making out with him. As much as he'd like to continue, Zak has to go.

ZAK

Ughh. You're killing me!

She just smiles as he hurriedly grabs his backpack and jacket.

ZAK (CONT'D)

I gotta go! Love you.

JESSICA

Love you more.

He kisses her one more time, then heads out the door.

She starts to call out to him, then biting her lower lip with a devious smile, she reconsiders.

EXT. FORT HUACHUCA - 9TH ARMY SIGNAL COMMAND BASE - DAY

Zak parks his car in a space labeled, "CAPTAIN RANDALL".

REGGIE KNIGHT (late 20's), a tall, handsome, broad-shouldered black man with a thin, neatly trimmed goatee leans up against his car, which is parked in a space labeled, "LIEUTENANT KNIGHT". He begins to laugh as Zak gets out of his vehicle and approaches him.

LT KNIGHT

Uhm, I'm not quite sure that's regulation... sir.

ZAK

What?

LT KNIGHT

(motioning to his lips)
That particular shade.

Embarrassed, Zak smiles as he wipes his lips with his forearm. Then seeing it now smudged on his jacket sleeve, he tries to rub it out.

ZAK

Nice. She did that on purpose.

LT KNIGHT

Good thing I've got ya covered.

(CONTINUED)

ZAK

Thanks. I'm just glad it's you
this time. Are the team's ready?

LT KNIGHT

Loading the last of the gear as
we speak.

ZAK

Excellent. We're wheels up in 30
mikes. I'll be back shortly.

Zak hands his backpack to him.

ZAK (CONT'D)

Save me a seat.

LT KNIGHT

Roger that.

Still vigorously rubbing his sleeve, Zak heads into the
Flight Operations Center as Lieutenant Knight heads toward a
Humvee.

INT. 9TH A.S.C. - COMMAND CENTER - HALLWAYS/OFFICE - DAY

Now holding his jacket in his arms, Zak walks through the
hallways and knocks on an open door to an office near the
back of the center. A small IDENTIFICATION PLATE to the right
of the door reads "S.E.E.D. Division Commander".

Inside, MAJOR GENERAL VICTOR KARYDIS (late 50's), an imposing
man in personality and achievement if not in stature stands,
dressed in desert camo fatigues staring out the window.
Hearing the knock, he turns to see who it is.

GENERAL KARYDIS

Ah, Captain Randall. Have a seat.

ZAK

Yes sir.

A large AZIMUTHAL EQUIDISTANT PROJECTION MAP hangs on one of
the walls. A series of three concentric red circles emanate
from cross hairs zeroed on Giza outward toward to the inner
boarder of the Euphrates River. Within them are several
colored pins stuck in the map, strategically placed in the
lands of Egypt, Iraq and Israel. The general goes over to it
and traces an imaginary triangle over the colored pins with
his finger.

GENERAL KARYDIS

This is by far the most important
region in the world.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL KARYDIS (CONT'D)
We'll be spending a lot of time
there over the next few years.

ZAK
(a bit apprehensive)
Yes sir.

GENERAL KARYDIS
Charlie Team's already been
inserted into Eridu ahead of you.
You'll be leading Alpha and Bravo
into Afak.

ZAK
Afak? I thought...

GENERAL KARYDIS
Baghdad's been compromised.
Afak's quite a bit out of the
way, but our intel says it's our
safest bet and I've already got
boots on the ground waiting for
you there. Master Sargent Calhoun
has the details. Your contact
will have two vehicles ready and
give you the safest route to your
objective, which at the moment
looks like will take you through
Kut.

ZAK
Kut?

The general punches up a computer map of the area and turns
his monitor around to show Zak.

GENERAL KARYDIS
Right here on the other side of
the Tigris. Your objective's
about 66 miles due north from
there. Ouroboros will walk you in
the rest of the way. I know you
weren't briefed for this Captain,
but we may be able to hit two
birds with one stone on this one.

ZAK
Sir?

GENERAL KARYDIS
The official story is weapons of
mass destruction.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL KARYDIS (CONT'D)

The Marines are already set to be in Kut by April, pegging the Baghdad Nuclear Research Facility. By May, we'll be inserted at Tuwaitha along with Raytheon. So all you need to do is get close and take a few pictures. Placing Alpha and Bravo here will provide justification for all of that... and give us plausible deniability in the meantime.

ZAK

Plausible deniability. For what?

The general moves to a large safe, where he punches in a security code.

GENERAL KARYDIS

The *real reason* why I'm sending you boys out there.

ZAK

The... "real reason" sir?

GENERAL KARYDIS

W.M.D. is just a cover story son.

The general reaches into the safe and grabs a folder labeled, **"Supernatural and Extraterrestrial Exploration and Defense Division - File #5799-4-115"** with a red **"Above Top Secret"** stamp across the center of the cover and hands it to Zak as he walks past him to close the door.

GENERAL KARYDIS (CONT'D)

If my sources are correct, we're about to justify our acronym to the bureaucrats in D.C..

INT. C130 HERCULES - DAY

Eleven men are strapped in ready for take off as Zak makes his way to the empty seat beside Lieutenant Knight. He moves his backpack to the floor, takes a seat and buckles himself in.

LT. KNIGHT

Well?

ZAK

All I can say is, this one's going to be... interesting.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Zak turns to MASTER SERGEANT CALHOUN (early 30's) - call sign, "CHEF" - his large and in charge, muscular N.C.O.I.C. sitting on the other side of him.

ZAK (CONT'D)

I've been told you have some new information for me?

CHEF

Yes sir.

Chef hands his commanding officer a folder.

EXT. SIERRA VISTA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT - AIRFIELD - DAY

The C130 Hercules barrels down the runway and takes off into the bright blue sky.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. AFAK - TOWN - ALLEY - NIGHT

MILITARY STYLE SUPER: "AFAK, IRAQ
December 24, 2002"

From a short distance away, we see Zak hand some money to a man who nods in appreciation and points as if giving directions. Acknowledging, Zak and Chef enter one of two S.U.V.s.

THE BEDOUIN (late 60's), a weathered old man with a long gray beard smokes a hand-rolled cigarette - his eyes intensely fixed on the transaction taking place. As the two vehicles drive off, he turns his attention to the distant horizon. Letting out a puff of smoke, and looks at his rustic watch, which indicates nearly **8 PM**.

EXT. ZAK'S PARENT'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

JAKE, Zak's younger brother and his wife MELISSA are pulling bags of wrapped Christmas presents out of the trunk of their car as Jessica pulls into the driveway and parks hers behind them. Melissa excitedly puts a bag down and heads toward Jessica as she gets out of her car.

MELISSA

There she is! Hey *sis*!

JESSICA

Sis? Ooh, I like the sound of that.

MELISSA

(hugging her)

You better. Just a few more weeks to go! How're you holding up?

JESSICA

As far as the wedding? Great. But of course they've got him out again. So, you know how that is.

MELISSA

All too well.

Melissa looks toward Jake as he approaches and gives Jessica a one arm hug and kisses her on the cheek.

JESSICA

Why do they always have to get deployed on the holidays?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAKE

Because if the Army wanted us to
have 'em...

JESSICA

They'd have issued them to
you.

MELISSA

They'd have issued them to
you.

JAKE

Bingo.

MELISSA

Their patented excuse for
everything.

JAKE

(kissing his wife)
And just one of the many reasons
why I got out.

JESSICA

Well, when are you going to
convince your brother to do the
same?

MELISSA

That'll be *your* job soon enough.

She pulls open her jacket to expose a minor pregnancy bump.

JESSICA

What!?
(excitedly)
Oh, look at you!!

The girls get all giddy as Jake smiles and heads toward the
house, grabbing the bag Melissa had previously put on the
ground.

Suddenly, the front door swings open and CANDICE RANDALL,
Jake and Zak's mother stands looking out, dressed in a
colorful Christmas sweater.

CANDICE

What's all the racket out here?

JAKE

(kissing her)
Hey mom. *Nice* sweater.

INT. GENERAL KARYDIS' OFFICE - DAY

The general sits at his desk, scrolling through IMAGES of the Baghdad Nuclear Research Facility on his laptop computer screen. He closes it, tucks it into a briefcase and stands up.

INT. ZAK'S SUV - NIGHT

Zak sits inside his vehicle holding his tactical radio.

GENERAL KARYDIS (ON RADIO)
Data received. Delete all
evidence and proceed to the
objective.

ZAK
Roger. Out.
(to the driver)
Alright let's go. We've got a
long, bumpy ride ahead of us.

EXT. KUT - TOWN - ALLEY - NIGHT

Again, the Bedouin is there observing from a short distance away as the team's vehicles head off into the night. With a snarl, he then turns his gaze up to the stars above. WE FOLLOW his gaze up to the constellation of ORION.

EXT. SPACE - HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH

After a moment, WE TILT DOWN from Orion to reveal a high altitude balloon mounted SATELLITE coming into view headed toward us then away, continuing off into the distance.

EXT. MILITARY AUXILIARY RADIO SYSTEM (M.A.R.S.) HEADQUARTERS (HQ) - ESTABLISHING - DAY

INT. M.A.R.S. HQ - S.E.E.D. DIVISION - ELEVATOR

General Karydis looks up at the LEVEL DISPLAY as it DINGS indicating a stop on sub-level 5.

INT. S.E.E.D. DIVISION HQ - HALLWAY

General Karydis exits the elevator and walks down a dimly lit hallway. It all has a very industrial-like feel to it, with grated metal floors and cement walls. Eventually, he approaches a large metal door guarded by two beefy MILITARY POLICE security guards dressed in black combat gear. One of them steps forward and issues an authentication challenge.

M.P. #1
Nergal

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL KARYDIS

Kurnugi

The M.P. steps back and uses a magnetic pass key to open the door. It opens and the general enters a short hallway, illuminated in red light, leading to another large metal door. Beside it there is an identification pad, which controls the locking mechanism.

The general places his right hand on a panel and moves his left eye in front of a scanner, which confirms his retinal pattern as the lower panel confirms his handprint signature. The door opens.

INT. S.E.E.D. DIVISION HQ - HIGH TECH CONTROL ROOM

A DOZEN MILITARY PERSONNEL monitor satellite imagery and data displayed on numerous VIDEO SCREENS around the room.

Overlooking the control room is a balcony. The General Karydis enters and the two soldiers standing guard there quickly snap to attention.

GENERAL KARYDIS

As you were.

He heads for the railing and surveys the room. Looking down toward the communications station he demands an update.

GENERAL KARYDIS (CONT'D)

Sit-rep!

The COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (20's), a confident female first lieutenant turns.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

We're receiving satellite
telemetry now General Karydis.

GENERAL KARYDIS

Excellent. Is Agartha on site?

The Communications Officer turns to the YOUNG SERGEANT (20's) monitoring Agartha's progress at the mission tactical station. The young man turns to look up at the general.

YOUNG SERGEANT

Not yet sir. We're relaying the
final coordinates to them now.

EXT. DESERT ROAD - NIGHT

Two civilian S.U.V.s drive across the desert sand leaving a long dust trail behind, illuminated by the WANING GIBBOUS MOON just above the horizon.

INT. LEAD S.U.V. - TRAVELING - NIGHT

Alpha Team sits quietly observing the passing, bumpy terrain.

Sitting in the left-middle passenger seat, Zak - call sign, "Phoenix" - reaches into his shirt pocket and pulls out the picture Jessica had given him and angles it toward the moonlight shining through the window.

Sitting behind him, looking over his shoulder, SERGEANT MARTINEZ (early 20's) - call sign, "Prince" - catches a glimpse.

PRINCE

Wow! That your girl cap?

ZAK

(embarrassed)

Fiancée. We're getting married next month.

PRINCE

You're a lucky man, sir.

ZAK

Yes I am.

Zak puts the pic back into his pocket then checks his GENESYS WATCH as the time changes from "22:54" to "22:55" military time. He switches it to GPS MODE, which reads: "33°25'12.72"N x 45°58'18.37"E."

ZAK (CONT'D)

How're we doing Wishbone? We going to make the mark sometime tonight or what?

Sitting in the front passenger seat, STAFF SERGEANT REYNOLDS (late 20's) - call sign, "WISHBONE" - holds up his GEO-POSITIONING DEVICE.

WISHBONE

Yes sir. We're close. Just waiting on confirmation from Olympus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sitting to the right of Prince, an all New York tough/wise-guy type, SERGEANT FIRST CLASS PIERCE (late 20's) - call sign, "DINO" - leans forward to talk with Chef who is seated beside Zak.

DINO

Hey Chef. Speaking of wishbones, think you can cook us up another turkey dinner for Christmas this year?

Chef shrugs, then responds in his deep Cajun accent.

CHEF

Sure if you can get us one.

DINO

Maybe Princess Louise here can call home and place an order for us. What do ya say sweetheart? Think you can handle that?

PRINCE

Call sign's "Prince." And that's LEWIS sarge. Need me to spell it out for ya?

DINO

(laughs)
Ah you don't even want to go there kid.

Suddenly Wishbone perks up.

WISHBONE

(to the driver)
Whoa, whoa, whoa. Slow down.

ZAK

What've you got Wish?

Wishbone examines the incoming data on his hand-held device.

WISHBONE

I think this is it, sir.
Ouroboros telemetry is coming in now.

(beat)

Yep. Whole area just lit up like Vegas.

Zak looks out and sees nothing but a craggy hillside, a few herds of goats, shepherds and Bedouin tents in the distance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ZAK

Alright. Pull over, Red. Lights out.

STAFF SERGEANT JAKES (late 20's) - call sign, "RED" - acknowledges.

RED

Yes sir.

As the vehicle comes to a stop, Zak looks up at the constellation of ORION, which shines very brightly, almost directly overhead. He grabs a small radio.

ZAK

Bravo Team. This is it. Light's out. Stand by for further instructions over.

The radio crackles for a second, then comes the reply.

B-TEAM SOLDIER (ON RADIO)

Copy that Alpha.

Suddenly, the team's SAT-RADIO crackles in Prince's lap.

YOUNG SERGEANT (ON RADIO)

Agartha - Olympus. Over.

ZAK

And there it is.

PRINCE

(answering)

Olympus - Agartha. Go ahead. Over.

GENERAL KARYDIS (ON RADIO)

Our telemetry tells us you're on site. Confirm. Over.

Zak leans back with his hand out toward Prince.

ZAK

(to Prince)

I got it.

Prince hands him the radio.

ZAK (CONT'D)

Mars, this is Phoenix. We're where we are supposed to be, but there's nothing here. We're about to recon. Over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GENERAL KARYDIS (ON RADIO)
Proceed. Switch to visual. I want
to see what's going on over
there.

ZAK
Roger that.

Zak grabs his goggle mounted camera and motions for the
others to do the same.

ZAK (CONT'D)
Time to put on our game faces
boys.

He puts them on and activates the camera, as the others do
the same.

ZAK (CONT'D)
Olympus - Agartha. Eyes on.
Please confirm. Over.

GENERAL KARYDIS (ON RADIO)
20-20. Proceed as planned.

ZAK
Roger. Out. Alright, you heard
the man. Let's roll!

ALL
HU-AH

Gathering their gear, Alpha Team exits the vehicle.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - NIGHT

Parked behind them, Bravo Team does the same as Lieutenant
Knight - call sign, "Apollo" approaches.

ZAK
Apollo.

LT KNIGHT
We heard the last transmission.
My team's ready.

ZAK
Good. We'll scope out the cliff.
You take the perimeter. But keep
it tight. We may need to make a
quick get-away.

(CONTINUED)

LT KNIGHT

Copy that.

(heading back toward his men)

OK. Bravo Team. Tight perimeter.
NVGs. I don't want anything
getting past us. One, eyes North,
two South, three East, four West.
Five, you take the high ground.
I've got eyes on Alpha. Let's
move!

Bravo Team spreads out to form a protective perimeter as Zak
turns toward his men.

ZAK

Alright A-Team. Call signs only
and dispense with the
formalities. Wishbone take point.
Show us the way to the casino.

RED

Right this way gentlemen.

INT. S.E.E.D. DIVISION HQ - HIGH TECH CONTROL ROOM

General Karydis observes as Ouroboros imagery and individual
soldier camera feeds displayed on multiple computer screens
show the men milling about the hilled area.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - NIGHT

As if from the satellite feed, WE PUSH IN from high above, to
Zak's team slowing to a stop as Wishbone gives the hold sign.

ZAK

What've you got Wish?

WISHBONE

Well... it's saying we're here.
This is the objective.

ZAK

Are you sure? I don't see
anything.

WISHBONE

That's because it's on the
inside.

ZAK

On the inside?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WISHBONE

Yeah, according to this, it looks like there's a deep tunnel on the other side of this rock face.

ZAK

(turning to Dino)

Alright Dino. You're up. Make it count.

DINO

Always do.

ZAK

I'll cover you. Everyone else, fall back behind that ridge.

Dino quickly removes his backpack, pulls out some explosives and carefully places them into the rocks of the cliff as Zak scans the area around them.

INT. S.E.E.D. DIVISION HQ - HIGH TECH CONTROL ROOM

General Karydis paces back and forth as he watches them on the computer monitors.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - NIGHT

Dino makes some final adjustments, then taps Zak on the shoulder.

DINO

That's it.

The two rush to the other side of the nearby ridge to join the rest of the team. Once safe, Zak gives the go-ahead signal and Dino activates the charges, causing an explosion that ECHOES all across the shallow valley.

EXT. DESERT - BEYOND MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - NIGHT

About a mile away, shepherds do their best to calm down their spooked sheep and goats.

Elsewhere nearby, standing beside a tent, the mysterious Bedouin who has been stalking the teams scowls as the ECHO from the distant explosion dissipates into the night.

THE BEDOUIN

And so it begins.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - NIGHT

Lieutenant Knight and his men tighten their grip on their weapons.

LT KNIGHT
Stay sharp boys.

Zak and his men file out and head toward the now smoking hillside. When they arrive, they see what appears to be a tunnel entrance leading deep into the mountainous ridge.

WISHBONE
Wow. Eye in the sky sure pegged this one.

ZAK
Boy, you ain't kiddin'.
(keying the sat-com radio)
Olympus - Agartha. You getting this? Over.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (ON RADIO)
Roger Phoenix. Proceed with extreme caution. Ouroboros is picking up some strange energy readings. Over.

ZAK
(to Wishbone)
You getting it?

WISHBONE
Yeah. There are some serious energy spikes coming from deep inside.

ZAK
What do you mean, energy spikes?

WISHBONE
(showing him)
Check it out. See this right here? It's spanning all electromagnetic spectrums - hopping from frequency to frequency. I've never seen anything like it.

ZAK
Alright.
(keying the sat-com radio)
Uh, roger Olympus. We're going in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

At Zak's lead, they all switch on their rifle-mounted flashlights and cautiously enter the

INT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - TUNNEL - NIGHT

As they advance deeper into the tunnel, Prince and Red are the first to cough and squint in disgust at the horrendous smell.

RED
(pinching his nose)
Oh my God.

PRINCE
(waving off the smell)
Ah man, what the hell?

Looking for the source, Dino shines his weapon-mounted flashlight down.

DINO
Over here.

As they shine their flashlights in his direction, they see the decayed remains of hundreds of HAIRY CORPSES. Red bends down to investigate.

RED
Looks like they're all... goats.

PRINCE
My God. There are hundreds of them!

WISHBONE
What's with the crimson ribbons tied around their horns?

PRINCE
Probably some kind of ritual sacrifice.

Covering his face with a scarf, Zak kneels to investigate.

INT. S.E.E.D. DIVISION HQ - HIGH TECH CONTROL ROOM

General Karydis smiles as he nods his head with satisfaction.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Prince is quite visibly uncomfortable.

ZAK

Mars - Phoenix. You seeing this?
Over.

GENERAL KARYDIS (ON RADIO)

Affirmative and noted. Proceed to
the objective. Over.

ZAK

Roger. Out.

PRINCE

I don't know guys. I've got a
very bad feeling about this.

ZAK

Easy Prince. Check the
superstition at the door.
Everyone mask up. We're going in.

They all don their protective masks.

DINO

(nudging Prince)
Ohhh, what's the matter nube?
Want me to call your mommy?

PRINCE

Keep laughing it up funny boy.
See all those dead goats back
there? Yeah. You don't know what
I know.

DINO

I know you're a little...

CHEF

At ease ladies!

Wishbone gets a reading on his GROUND PENETRATING RADAR.

WISHBONE

I've got something Phoenix. If
I'm reading this right, the grand
casino's just ahead. About 33
meters.

(CONTINUED)

ZAK
Lead the way.

The men proceed through dense cobwebs until they eventually come before a large STONE WALL, which has strange WRITINGS etched all over it.

CHEF
Looks like some of the same writing we saw in Damascus.

ZAK
Yeah.

Zak curiously reaches out to touch the peculiar markings, but his touch is met with a severe electric SHOCK.

ZAK (CONT'D) WISHBONE
Ah! Son of a...! Phoenix!

RED
Are you OK?

ZAK
Yeah. About crapped my pants though.
(nursing his hand as he keys the sat-com radio)
Olympus - Agartha. Are you getting this? Over.

INT. S.E.E.D. DIVISION HQ - HIGH TECH CONTROL ROOM

General Karydis looks intently at the VIDEO SCREENS which begin to flicker in and out with interference.

GENERAL KARYDIS
What's happening?

The young sergeant tries to adjust settings on the receiver.

YOUNG SERGEANT
Sir. The signal's being jammed by some sort of electromagnetic interference.

GENERAL KARYDIS
Interference from where?

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
It appears to be emanating from below the surface general.

The young sergeant spins around toward the general.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG SERGEANT
Sir, I've lost the signal.

GENERAL KARYDIS
Get it back!

The communications officer tries to help, but to no avail.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
I'm sorry sir. It's gone.

That is not the answer the general wanted to hear.

INT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Zak has his ear to the radio. He looks at his men then keys the transmitter.

ZAK
Olympus - Agartha. Did you receive last transmission? Mars, this is Phoenix. Please advise. Over.
(frustrated beat)
Looks like we're on our own.

CHEF
Great. Now what?

ZAK
Nothing's changed. We do what we came here to do.

Zak hands the sat-com radio back to Prince, who puts it into his backpack.

ZAK (CONT'D)
Better snap a few pics.

SGT MARTINEZ
Right.

Prince pulls out a camera and begins snapping pictures of the wall.

ZAK
(to Dino)
And let's get some shape charges on this thing. I want to know what's on the other side.

DINO
(removing backpack)
On it.

(CONTINUED)

CHEF

And if the W.M.D.s are behind
this thing?

ZAK

Then we'll find out soon enough
won't we?

Zak shines his flashlight up and all around the edges of the
wall, assessing the situation.

ZAK (CONT'D)

Careful Dino. We don't want to
collapse the tunnel. And watch
yourself. This thing packs one
hell of a shock.

DINO

You read my mind.

Dino puts on some rubber gloves and cautiously tests to see
if he can safely touch the strange wall. Once satisfied that
he can, he carefully places shape charges in strategic
locations all along its edges.

ZAK

(to the rest of them)
Alright. Fall back to the
entrance.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - NEARBY - NIGHT

Lieutenant Knight watches as Red, Prince and Wishbone exit
the tunnel. He turns to confirm each of his men are still in
their assigned positions.

INT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Dino sets the last of the charges.

DINO

That should do it.

With that, he and Zak head back out of the tunnel to join the
others.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Zak and Dino exit the tunnel, taking cover near the others.
Zak nods to Dino, who nods back, then hits the detonation
button.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - ELSEWHERE NEARBY - NIGHT

Hearing the EXPLOSION, Lieutenant Knight looks back toward the hillside. When he turns back around, he is startled by the sight of the Bedouin standing right in front of him! The old man calmly flicks his index finger down and instantly the lieutenant falls to the ground, unconscious.

THE BEDOUIN

Sleep well my friend.

EXT. REMOTE DESERT HILLSIDE - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Red takes chemical and radiation readings before the team proceeds back into the tunnel.

RED

All clear.

ZAK

Alright. But stay masked. We don't...

Suddenly, a blast of cold air bursts out from deep within the hillside, followed by a long and ominous, FERAL GROWL. As the strange noise and wind subsides, a couple of GOAT SKULLS roll out of the cave and land in front of a wide-eyed Prince.

PRINCE

Oh nice. Yeah. That's just great.
What? You guys ain't seeing this?

Prince rolls his eyes as he quickly crosses himself.

Zak looks at them, then confidently cocks his assault rifle as he heads inside.

ZAK

Lock and load gentlemen. Let's do this.

Zak, Red, Wishbone and Chef enter. As Prince stands behind shaking his head, Dino gets in his face.

DINO

How did you ever make selection anyway?

PRINCE

I'm very good at taking out the living. Look, I joined S.E.E.D., not the freaking Ghost Busters.

(CONTINUED)

DINO
Yeah? What do you think the "S"
stands for moron?

PRINCE
Well, I didn't get any training
in dealing with the living dead!
Did you?

DINO
(shoving Prince into the
tunnel)
On the job training baby. Deal
with it as it comes.

INT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - TUNNEL - NIGHT

PRINCE
I'm telling you. There's
something very wrong with this
place.

DINO
Ah, you watch too many movies.

Chef looks back and smiles as Dino and Prince catch up.

CHEF
I ain't afraid of no ghost.

DINO
(laughs)
Hey! Good one Chef. Heh. Just
remember, don't cross the
streams, eh?

CHEF
Gitcho hands off me boy.

Making their way around a lot of fallen rocks, Zak and his
men arrive at the wall, which inexplicably appears undamaged.

DINO
I don't understand. There should
be a...

Dino moves in to investigate, but trips on a LEG.

DINO (CONT'D)
Oh! What the...?

Everyone turns toward Dino.

(CONTINUED)

ZAK

What is it?

Dino bends down and rummages through a pile of stones to uncover the decayed body of a HUMAN CORPSE dressed in robe covered armor. Various ancient weapons lie nearby.

PRINCE

Woah. Where'd he come from?

Dino inspects the newly exposed surrounding walls.

DINO

Explosion must have destroyed his hiding place.

ZAK

(to Prince)

Looks like he's been here for a while. Any thoughts on who he might've been?

PRINCE

(shrugs)

No idea. Perhaps some sort of guardian.

ZAK

Think he was responsible for all those dead goats back there?

PRINCE

Hard to say.

DINO

Man, he's almost as big as you Chef. Real tough guy too. Look at the size of this mace!

PRINCE

(picking up the mace)

Hmmmm... oh yeah. Could do some serious damage with this bad boy.

DINO

And check this out.

Seeing an ORNATE SCEPTER clutched in its right hand, Dino pries it loose. As he stands back up, Zak takes it from him.

DINO (CONT'D)

So uh, yeah. There ya go. Merry Christmas.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Dino moves to inspect the wall as Zak hands the scepter to Prince.

ZAK
(to Martinez)
What do you make of it?

PRINCE
Whoever he was, he was likely a man of significant influence. Like maybe a wizard or some sort of warrior monk. It's quite an impressive piece. This jeweled head alone is worth a fortune.

Prince spins the jeweled head. As he does, the other end produces a metal rod, which extends from within about three inches.

ZAK
Thoughts?

PRINCE
No idea. But see that?

Prince bends down to grab a tubular item off the floor.

PRINCE (CONT'D)
(handling it with care)
This is pure ivory. Probably where he stored the scepter. And check out these etchings.

ZAK
Looks the same as the writing on the wall. Can you make sense of any of it?

PRINCE
Eh... Looks like... a form of ancient Phoenician or Paleo-Hebrew maybe. But not exactly. There are subtle differences in the iconography.
(scanning)
I think it says something about... Eridu...

ZAK
Eridu?

PRINCE
Yeah... and a reference to the antediluvian writings of the Watchers.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PRINCE (CONT'D)

Also something about a massive...
building project of some sort.
I'm sorry, I'd really have to
study it a lot more to make any
sense of it.

ZAK

Alright. Pack it up and be sure
all of this is documented. We'll
deal with it later.

PRINCE

You got it.

ZAK

(to Pierce)
So what's the deal?

DINO

Man, I don't get it. This wall
should have been *pulverized*.

ZAK

Well it wasn't. Got anymore
firecrackers in that pack?

DINO

Yeah, but...

Something catches Zak's attention on the wall.

ZAK

Hello. What have we here?

Zak notices a previously concealed HOLE embedded in the right
side of the wall. It appears to be about the same shape and
diameter as the scepter's twisted wooden shaft.

ZAK (CONT'D)

Prince, let me see that thing
again.

Prince hands the scepter to Zak. He visually compares it with
the hole, then gives it a try. As he begins to insert the
scepter, something pulls it all the way in up to it's jeweled
head. He looks back at Prince, who shrugs his shoulders with
wide, expectant eyes. Zak cautiously twists the head to the
right. Nothing happens. Twisting it to the left however
causes the entire space to rumble!

ZAK (CONT'D)

There we go. Now we see if we've
hit the jack-pot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

They all step back as the thick stone wall slides to the left revealing a narrow stone stairway.

Taking a deep breath, Zak readies his weapon, looks at his troops, who all do the same, then cautiously enters.

INT. CAVE - STONE STAIRWAY

Upon taking the first step beyond the wall/door, a bright LIGHT emanates from somewhere down below. Zak quickly gives the "hold" sign with his fist. Everyone freezes as Zak motions for Chef to take point.

Chef boldly advances, leveling his M249 S.A.W., ready for whatever lies ahead. As he passes Dino, he smirks.

CHEF
(whispered)
Don't cross the streams.

Everyone tenses up, raising their weapons to firing positions as they follow. Upon reaching the bottom of the long stone stairway, they all peer into a massive cavern.

INT. CAVE - MASSIVE CAVERN

In the middle of the massive cavern, the team sees something extraordinary - a large, brightly glowing FRUIT TREE that has grown out of a stone encircled mound in the center of the cavern.

ZAK
(whispers)
My God... It's true.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. CAVE - MASSIVE CAVERN

Zak rushes toward the tree as the others follow, each pointing their weapon in different defensive positions.

PRINCE
(pointing to his mask)
Think it's safe?

Zak looks to Red who, after checking his instruments confirms with a nod.

ZAK
(to Prince)
Thanks for volunteering.

Prince rolls his eyes, upset with himself.

PRINCE
(to himself)
Eh. Sólo había que preguntar.
Idiota!

Taking in a deep breath, Prince holds it as he cautiously removes his protective mask. Everyone watches as he exhales and breathes in the cavern's air.

PRINCE (CONT'D)
It's OK. All clear.

ZAK
All clear.

They all remove their masks and stand gazing in amazement at the inexplicably bright, beautiful tree standing before them. Quite out of place in this underground cavern full of sharp, upward protruding rocks, it's fruit glows like mesmerizing ornaments. They step up to the mound to investigate.

DINO
What is this?

PRINCE
It's a tree you idiot. What do you think it is?

DINO
No! Really? But what's it doin' down here Einstein?

(CONTINUED)

ZAK
(utterly amazed)
It's the Tree of Life.

Everyone looks at him in shock.

CHEF
Come again?

ZAK
I think we just hit a triple-
seven boys.

Wishbone curiously reaches out to touch the GLOWING FRUIT hanging from one of its branches. As he does, Prince tries to stop him.

PRINCE
No, no, no, don't!

Too late. Wishbone has already pulled it from the branch.

WISHBONE
What's the matter Prince? Don't
you wanna live forever?

PRINCE
The last time someone took from a
tree like this, it ended badly.
Garden of Eden? Huh?

WISHBONE
As I recall, that was the other
tree. Phoenix just said...

Suddenly the mound begins to shake. Wishbone drops the fruit and everyone jumps back as the mound and tree begin to levitate. They all aim their weapons as it rises to about seven feet above its base and holds, suspended in mid-air.

Zak's men stare up in amazement at the levitating tree.

DINO
Well that was, uhhh... different.

They cautiously approach and look down into the hole, where they see something like a thick, black oily substance, which seems to almost have a life of its own.

ZAK
(holding his nose)
Oh! What is that?

(CONTINUED)

RED
Smells like sulfur.

CHEF
Looks like it's moving.

The sound of GROANING and roots BREAKING above them catches their attention.

PRINCE
(jumping back)
Whoa. There's a man under there!

It's a naked MAN entangled in the roots, which are wrapped around his large, muscular body like chains! This is AZAZEL! His bright, glowing blue eyes peer through straggly blonde hair. Slowly, the entangled roots begin to loosen their grip on him. He tightly grips the roots in front of him as his legs and body become free. He then swings out from under the tree, to slam face-first into the ground below.

Everyone assumes a defensive posture as Red approaches him.

RED
Are you OK?

AZAZEL
Mi ba elai im dvarim zarim?

RED
I'm sorry. I don't understand. Do you speak English?

AZAZEL
Ani yachol ledaber kol safa...
(disgusted)
What an *inferior* language you have. It must have come from a lesser member of the Council.

RED
The council?

Azazel's massive arms flex rippling muscles as he pushes himself up to stand. Towering above the soldiers, he stretches his back and neck, then fixes his eyes squarely on Zak.

AZAZEL
Nevertheless. I thank you. It has been so very long.

ZAK
Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AZAZEL

Oh I have gone by *many* names. I am curious though. Are those weapons you are pointing at me?

ZAK

Uh... yeah.

AZAZEL

How wonderful! Intriguing designs. I see my children have made efficient use of the Earth's metals. Well done. Now, did I hear you call my prison, the Tree of Life?

ZAK

Yeah, I...

AZAZEL

(laughs)

Humans are so easily deceived. I never understood what He sees in you.

ZAK

Who?

AZAZEL

Ahhhh. You don't even know Him. Perfect. Allow me to introduce you.

Suddenly, Azazel transforms into his true form - a hideous beast, with the lower body of a winged dragon, the upper torso of a man and the head of a goat with four horns!

PRINCE

Holy shi...AHHHH!

With one swing, a massive clawed paw hacks Prince in half!

ZAK

Prince!

They all open fire on the creature. With a deafening ROAR, it rises up on its hind quarters, its razor sharp claws ready to strike the next victim.

CHEF

Oh you want some of this? Eat this beast!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Calhoun unleashes hell with his formidable weapon, but it has little effect on the creature.

A massive paw swings toward Zak, knocking his assault rifle out of his hands. He manages to dodge another fatal blow and another, but losing his footing, he falls into a shallow ditch.

CHEF (CONT'D)
Phoenix is down!

DINO
I got him. Cover me!

Red and Wishbone continue firing at the creature, momentarily drawing its attention away from Zak - long enough for Dino to help him crawl back out.

DINO (CONT'D)
You OK?

ZAK
Yeah. Thanks. Red look out!

Drawing his 9mm pistol, Zak pops off several rounds into the back of the creature's head. With lightning speed it swings around, slashing off his extended, right forearm at the elbow. He goes down in agony as the creature turns back toward the others. Suddenly, its massive spiked tail impales Dino.

DINO
Ahhhhhhhh...

Dino!

RED

CHEF

Get out of here! I got this.
Hey! Hey! Over here freak.
Yeah, that's it. Come to
poppa you mother...

The beast grabs Chef by the head and flings the 250 pound man into a distant wall like a rag doll. It then begins attacking the remaining, now terrified intruders.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - NIGHT

Hearing the muted sound of distant GUNFIRE coming from the tunnel, Lieutenant Knight's men quickly move to help their friends.

INT. CAVE - MASSIVE CAVERN

As the last of Zak's men gets hacked up by the creature, it once again turns toward him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nearly in shock, he scrambles back to the stone stairway. As he does, Lieutenant Knight's men rush down and attempt to help him.

ZAK

No! Get out! Get out!

SOLDIER # 1 sees the creature coming toward them.

SOLDIER #1
What the f...

ZAK (CONT'D)
Get out of here!!

Seeing the creature approaching, Zak ducks low. With one sweep of its massive clawed paw all but Zak are knocked down the stairs. Azazel flings one of the soldiers across the cave, impaling him on a stalagmite. He then grabs two others and drags them away.

SOLDIER #1
Ahhhh, help!! Help meeee!

SOLDIER #3
Rocky!

SOLDIER #2
Ieeeyyy...

SOLDIER #4
Let go of them you freak!

They desperately unleash all they have on Azazel in an effort to save their friends. But like their brothers before them, they are no match for the creature.

As the carnage continues, Zak stumbles and crawls his way up the stone stairway.

INT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - TUNNEL - NIGHT

The Bedouin scowls as he sees the scepter inserted into the stone wall just as Zak emerges holding his bleeding stump, screaming in agony. The old man grabs him by the collar and throws him away from the stairwell entrance as WE HEAR the SCREAMS of the last victim suddenly come to an end.

The internal light below dims to darkness and a monstrous, GOAT-LIKE HEAD WITH GLOWING RED EYES slowly begins to emerge. The creature hesitates when it sees the Bedouin. It mutters a deep, unrecognizable word.

THE BEDOUIN (O.S)

Lo ha-yom Azazel!

The beast roars in defiance, as the Bedouin abruptly thrusts his hand forward and in a flash of supernatural energy, the creature is thrown back! With a distant THUD, the cavern trembles and the stone stairway collapses, the surrounding rocks falling downward. The Bedouin removes the scepter and the thick stone wall quickly slides back into place.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZAK
(astonished)
Who are you?

THE BEDOUIN
(tucking the scepter into his
cloth belt)
All will be revealed to you in
time... Zechariah.

Waving his hand slowly over Zak's body, he speaks in an UNKNOWN TONGUE.

Zak sees his SEVERED ARM GROWING BACK and begins hyperventilating until he passes out. A slight smile comes across the old man's weathered face as he effortlessly picks Zak up and throws him over his shoulder.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The Bedouin emerges from the tunnel. Once out, he turns toward the entrance and suddenly the stones that once covered it return to their previous positions, sealing the hillside up as if nothing had happened.

He looks up toward ORION, squinting as if privy to a dark secret. Then closing his eyes, he mutters a silent prayer. Opening his eyes once again, he grabs the scepter from his belt, kneels down on one knee and slams its jeweled head into the ground.

In a FLASH, both he and Zak disappear as a ripple of light and dust explodes outward in every direction.

EXT. DESERT - MOUNTAINOUS RIDGE - ELSEWHERE NEARBY - NIGHT

The hot energy wave washes over Lieutenant Knight, burning the right side of his face waking him up. Screaming, he shields it with his right hand, which also burns. Once the wave passes, he stands. Looking around, he discovers that nothing remains of his team except the two vehicles.

In the distance beyond, confused Bedouins and frightened herds of animals make their way toward him.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. HOLY HOPE CEMETERY - DAY

To the soulful notes of TAPS, WE CRANE DOWN through tree branches to reveal a military funeral service.

SUPER: "TUCSON, ARIZONA
JANUARY 10, 2003"

Seven Honor Guard soldiers dressed in U.S. Army Dress Blues ceremoniously raise their rifles. In precise unison, each fire off a punctuated THREE ROUND SALUTE.

WE PUSH IN to a flower dressed PORTRAIT of Captain Zak Randall.

At the front of a sizable audience of mourning friends and family, Jessica weeps. Her usual bright blue eyes are now bloodshot as they stare down at the ENGAGEMENT RING on her left hand. Her father, NORMAN VINCENT CAINE (late 50s), a tall man, with thinning salt and pepper colored, neatly trimmed hair is seated to the right beside her.

JESSICA

We were supposed to get married
next week. It's not fair. It's
not fair.

Zak's mother, seated to her left sobs as she takes Jessie's left hand and squeezes it.

Dressed in an Army Class A uniform that barely fits, topped with a maroon Airborn beret, Zak's brother Jake is unable to hold back tears as he watches the HONOR GUARD SOLDIERS ceremoniously complete the FOLDING OF THE AMERICAN FLAG that was draped over the casket.

One of the soldiers takes the now triangular folded flag, turns and presents it to Zak's father, COLONEL GRANT RANDALL (50's), a stoic, highly disciplined type who desperately tries to maintain his composure as he receives it.

HONOR GUARD SOLDIER

(hushed, reverent tone)

Sir. On behalf of the President
of the United States and the
people of a grateful nation, may
I present this flag as a token of
appreciation for the honorable
and faithful service your loved
one rendered this nation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Toward the back of the audience, Lieutenant Knight stands at attention. His bandaged hand shakes as he tries to maintain the salute he's holding over the right side of his equally bandaged face. He's lost his best friend and commanding officer - and is the only surviving member of the Agartha Mission. As the ceremony concludes, he lowers his salute and turns to leave, but General Karydis stands in his way.

LT KNIGHT
(saluting)
Sir!

The heavily decorated general looks over Lieutenant Knight's shoulder as he speaks.

GENERAL KARYDIS
What the hell happened over there?

LT KNIGHT
(still saluting)
As I said in my report sir, I have no idea.
(beat)
All I know is... that's not Zak Randall in that box.

Rather than returning the salute, the general leans in close to Lieutenant Knight's ear.

GENERAL KARYDIS
Yes it is soldier. And if you know what's good for you, you'll never say otherwise.

The general walks off as Lieutenant Knight lowers his salute, doing his best to mask the disdain he has for the man. Taking one last look at Zak's casket, he turns and leaves.

Six soldiers (all in their late 20's/early 30's), SERGEANTS FIRST CLASS BRAULT and PARROT, STAFF SERGEANTS MILLER and LEVESQUE, MASTER SERGEANT HARRINGTON and FIRST LIEUTENANT RILEY stand next to each other watching that interaction from a distance.

SFC BRAULT
I heard both Alpha and Bravo were totally wiped out.

SSGT MILLER
It's true. Apparently, Phoenix and Apollo were the only ones who made it back in one piece.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SSGT LEVESQUE

Yeah. One in a body bag, the other in a burn unit.

SFC PARROT

Which means, we're all that's left of the S.E.E.D. project.

MSGT HARRINGTON

For now maybe. But I have a feeling that's going to change real quick. Especially considering all we found in Eridu.

LT RILEY

Now is not the time nor place for this discussion. Let's move out.

The six soldiers depart, each headed for their cars as FUNERAL ATTENDANTS begin to lower Zak's casket.

INT. CASKET

Zak's body slowly rocks side to side as the casket is lowered until it finally comes to an abrupt landing at the bottom.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

As friends and family sadly disperse, hugging and kissing one another, Jessica stands and approaches the hole. She holds a single rose to her nose as she closes her eyes, squeezing out a flood of tears. She then drops the rose into the hole that is her fiance's final resting place as Zak's mother and brother join her. Equally heart broken and weeping, they all hug each other tightly.

Colonel Grant Randall remains seated. He holds the triangular folded flag, gripping it tightly to his metal decorated chest, gritting his teeth.

Jessica's father, Norman goes over and places his hand on Grant's shoulder.

NORMAN

I'm so sorry Colonel.

GRANT

My son did his duty. And died with honor.

NORMAN

(searching for the right words)
You're... all in our prayers.

(CONTINUED)

GRANT

Save it. There's no one
listening.

No longer able to contain his own grief, a tear begins to
flow from under Grant's dark sunglasses.

INT. S.E.E.D. HQ - BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

General Karydis sits at a desk, which has a variety of
cuneiform tablets and other Sumerian artifacts laid out
before him. Sitting opposite are Lt. Riley and SFC Brault.

GENERAL KARYDIS

Were you able to decipher them?

LT RILEY

Yes sir.

Lt. Riley turns to SFC Brault who pulls a transcript out of
his briefcase and hands it to the general.

The general reads through the document for a moment, then
turns to SFC Brault.

GENERAL KARYDIS

And you're *certain* about this?

SFC BRAULT

Absolutely sir.

GENERAL KARYDIS

Has anyone else seen it?

LT RILEY

No sir.

GENERAL KARYDIS

Good. Let's keep it that way.

(pause)

I'll assign a team of German
archaeologists we've worked with
before and arrange for the two of
you to meet with them next month.
They'll get the necessary permits
and should be able to begin
digging no later than April.

LT RILEY

There's still a lot missing, sir.
We ran an analysis of this new
data and compared it to what was
found in Hillah in '91.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LT RILEY (CONT'D)

But there's still a great deal we don't know.

GENERAL KARYDIS

(holds up the transcript)

If we find what we're looking for here, I'm confident I can convince the Pentagon to set up a much more permanent solution in Iraq. In the meantime, you'll be in charge of recovering the rest.

LT RILEY

Do we even know where begin?

GENERAL KARYDIS

I have a good idea.

He looks over at his bookshelf and WE FOLLOW his gaze, focusing specifically on a BOOK END STATUE of a Greek god - the satyr known as Pan, whose devious smile seems to stand in approval of the general's unspoken plans.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. OPULENT ESTATE - OFFICE - NIGHT

WE PULL OUT from the same book end statue of PAN, but it is now sitting on another well-stocked bookshelf in the office of a victorious man. The room is decorated with banners and slogans of the 1940 Presidential Election.

SUPER: "Washington, D.C., 1940"

The newly elected Vice President, HENRY WALLACE (50's) sits with his feet up on the desk, leisurely smoking a cigarette, reliving recent events in his mind. A KNOCK at the door snaps him out of his day dream.

V.P. WALLACE

Come!

NICHOLAS ROERICH (66), a mysterious bald man with a thick, long, white goatee enters wearing what looks like formal Japanese robes. He is carrying a rectangular shaped box draped by an ornate piece of cloth that has the image of a sun embroidered in gold thread.

The Vice-President gets up to greet his visitor with a respectful bow.

V.P. WALLACE (CONT'D)

Guru Roerich! Welcome back.

(CONTINUED)

ROERICH

It is always a pleasure to return
to this glorious land of destiny,
Sir Galahad.

V.P. WALLACE

(humbly apologetic)
Uh, listen... I'm sorry for...

ROERICH

No need for apologies my friend.
I understand politics. I have
come to congratulate you.

Seeing the "casket" in Roerich's extended hands, something
comes over the Vice-President.

V.P. WALLACE

Another piece of Lapsit Exillis?

ROERICH

No. The Chintamani is indeed the
treasure of this world, but in my
travels, I have found an even
more extraordinary artifact.

Roerich pulls the casket back to himself as his eyes move to
observe something off to his right.

The Vice-President follows his gaze to the framed ONE DOLLAR
BILL hanging on the wall.

ROERICH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

The force of which will surely
bring about your... "*New Deal.*"

Roerich moves toward the framed currency. He touches the
glass with a strange admiration.

ROERICH (CONT'D)

A true work of art. F.D.R. was
wise to flip the seals.

As the Vice-President approaches, Roerich turns to face him.

ROERICH (CONT'D)

Has the decision been made?

V.P. WALLACE

Yes. Everything has been set in
motion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROERICH

Excellent. Then you must distance yourself from me forever.

V.P. WALLACE

No guru. I'm sure I can...

ROERICH

Enough. Preserve the contents of this casket until the appointed time and my legacy shall pass to the final generation.

Roerich hands the casket to the Vice-President.

ROERICH (CONT'D)

I wish only success for my greatest apprentice. Be well...
Mr. Vice-President.

With that, he turns and quietly exits the room.

The Vice-President looks down at the small, ornate casket. Turning it around, he cautiously shakes it. Hearing the faint CLUNK inside, he sets the casket down on his desk. Suddenly, the door swings open and he jumps as two MEN quickly enter dressed in all black, modern combat gear, carrying twenty-first century weapons. One points his AR-15 at the V.P..

V.P. WALLACE

What is this? Who are you?

MAN # 1

Shut up!

The other man grabs the casket and the two back out of the office as quickly as they entered. As they leave, the silhouette of a tall, THIN MAN appears in the doorway.

THIN MAN

Yes. You would do well never to speak of this event again. Good night, Mr. Vice-President.

With that, the silhouetted thin man closes the door, leaving the Vice-President - and us - to deal with many unanswered questions.

HARD CUT TO:

CLOSING TITLE ON BLACK: **SEED**

END OF SHOW