

OMNISHOP

EXT. EARTH - CITY STREETS - DAY

AUSTIN, a young government agent, is walking through the city with a phone in hand talking to his ex-wife, ISABELLA, who's with their daughter, ESMERALDA.

AUSTIN
The sushi spot is on 37th street
right?

ISABELLA (V.O.)
Yeah, we're by the window. I'll let
you know if I see you.

ESMERALDA (V.O.)
Is that daddy? Let me say hi to
daddy!

ISABELLA (V.O.)
Hold on Essy. He's on speaker.

ESMERALDA (V.O.)
Hi daddy!

AUSTIN
Hi Essy! Mama says you've been
doing good in school right?

ESMERALDA (V.O.)
Yeah! And mommy said we can eat all
the sushi!

AUSTIN
That's great baby. I'm proud of
you.

ESMERALDA (V.O.)
I have to give the phone to mommy.

AUSTIN
Okay, hun.

ISABELLA (O.S.)
She's going to start eating the
table if you don't get here soon.

AUSTIN
I'm a few blocks away.

ISABELLA (O.S.)
Oh, before you get here, I have a
business event I need to attend
next weekend. I need you to get
Esmeralda for a few more days.

AUSTIN
Like you need to ask.

ISABELLA (V.O.)
You always were a good father.

AUSTIN
Ha, and you're a good mother.

ISABELLA (V.O.)
Mm. Oh I think I see you, you have
a black jacket right?

AUSTIN
(waving his arm)
Yeah, can you see me? I'm waving my
arm.

ESMERALDA (V.O.)
It's daddy!

A horde of people run across the street. Roaring can be heard
as explosions are set off.

AUSTIN
Am I on speaker?

ISABELLA (V.O.)
No, why?

AUSTIN
Something's wrong and I don't want
to worry Esmeralda.

Austin starts charging to the restaurant. A car lands in
front of him, he jumps back to the ground before the
collision.

ESMERALDA (V.O.)
Daddy!

ISABELLA (V.O.)
Austin! Are you okay?

AUSTIN
(getting up)
Yeah... Something chunked the car.

A giant silhouette towers over Austin. Black smoke emits from
the creature. Austin takes out his firearm and starts
blasting it to no avail. He sprints away from it.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
Get Essy and get the hell out of
there!

ISABELLA (V.O.)
Where are you going?

AUSTIN
Anywhere away from you! I'll see
you soon!

Austin hangs up the phone and turns the corner.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Rubble drifts through space surrounding a building on a giant
rock. The building shape is a block gripped underneath by a
giant hand.

??? (O.S.)
Another one in the collection?
Where's this from?

INT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

OSKAR, a shopkeeper, hangs up a picture frame with moving
visuals of purple foliage flowing in the wind.

OSKAR (O.S.)
Nellus. One of my customers told me
about it as a thank you.

SOLANDRA, a nonchalant woman in a black robe with white
stripes, and CRESTON, an attentive man in a white robe with
black stripes, stand next to several contraptions on the left
side of the shop.

Oskar stands on the right side of the shop next 2 dozen item
stands with floating color coded tokens.

SOLANDRA
I hate it there. How can anything
survive 3 suns?

OSKAR
That was Sonellus, different
universe. Last I checked, the
golems should still be alive.

SOLANDRA
And when was that?

OSKAR

I uh... think they'll be fine.

CRESTON

Did you visit Nellus recently?

OSKAR

I was fine with the check ins, but you're monitoring too?

Creston loudly sniffs the air. Oskar chuckles lightly as he turns and pulls out a purple flower.

CRESTON

Call it a hunch. You covered the shop, Solandra?

SOLANDRA

Guilty.

OSKAR

(putting the flower away)
That's on me.

CRESTON

Look, I'm not trying to be a pain in your ass. You've been doing great, and the shop keeps getting better every time we come in.

OSKAR

Yeah, because renovation is the only thing keeping me sane. That and the customers.

SOLANDRA

Even the ones who try to fight you?

OSKAR

Fight, scam, steal, doesn't matter. I have plenty of stories ready.

CRESTON

You don't get bored?

OSKAR

Always, it's not easy. Sometimes it's a coin flip between helping a person or colony, but that's what I signed up for, right?

CRESTON

Right.

OSKAR

(crossing his arms)

So, why are you here then? I have a feeling this isn't a routine checkup.

CRESTON

Over the past century you've been running the shop, you've been on good behavior.

OSKAR

I try.

CRESTON

But-

OSKAR

(Rolling eyes)

There it is.

CRESTON

You still have a long way to go. You might get lucky within a millennium to be free of our supervision.

OSKAR

You crunched the numbers?

CRESTON

We did. Your sentence was 50 billion years, and your contributions shaved off about 7.

OSKAR

Wow.

CRESTON

And if the bosses are gracious enough, we can-

SOLANDRA

We can try to get better perks for you, but that's a BIG try.

OSKAR

Depends on what we're talking about. I don't need any more inventory and I can defend myself just fine.

CRESTON

How about unsupervised travel? To, say, places you've had your eye on?

OSKAR

What are you getting at?

CRESTON

I know in your search for different galaxies, for "business proposals" as you call them, certain ones in your records have been getting a lot of attention but no activity. Why not just act? Or is there something or someone there you're not allowed to see?

OSKAR

What's wrong with a little curiosity?

CRESTON

I heard it kills.

OSKAR

IF something happens.

CRESTON

IF can become a WHEN in a snap. That's why we're here right?

OSKAR

How long have you known?

CRESTON

Past 4 visits now.

Oskar's eyes light up. Creston walks toward him.

CRESTON (CONT'D)

(Lightly poking his chest)

This right here is suspicious as hell. I should report this, but I won't because I've been in your shoes.

OSKAR

Not this long.

CRESTON

You're right, I'll give you that. Half a century in a giant box is enough for me.

(MORE)

CRESTON (CONT'D)
Point is, I'm not your enemy, don't
act like I find this fun.

OSKAR
(Sighs and shakes his
head)
Yeah, you're right. Sorry.

CRESTON
(Exhales)
It's okay. Just keep doing what
you're doing.

SOLANDRA
Yeah, we got your back bro.

OSKAR
I appreciate it.

SOLANDRA
Need anything before we head out?

OSKAR
Not off the top of my head. If
these walls could talk, they'll let
me know and I'll reach out.
Actually...

Oskar walks behind the counter in the back of the shop and
reaches under it. A blue light flashes. He puts a grilled
cheese sandwich on the counter.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
I'm going to have a little snack
before I work. Want a piece?

CRESTON
No, but thanks for offering.

SOLANDRA
When I pop in next time. Fresh too.

OSKAR
You got it.

Solandra nods and signals Creston to head out the bright
glowing entrance.

Oskar takes his sandwich and sighs. He turns to the wall of
portraits behind him. He hears voices while reminiscing that
transition from chatter to screaming.

EXT. EARTH - CITY STREETS - DAY

Austin continues sprinting through the streets, finding a car to hide behind. He hears roaring and gunfire in the distance. He takes his phone out and start recording.

Something comes out of view and starts charging to him again. Austin puts his phone away and takes out his firearm once more to no avail. The creature keeps charging.

AUSTIN

Damn it!

Austin fires at a van's gas tank, blowing it up. Austin enters a street with abandoned buildings, noticing a glow in one of them.

INT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

As Oskar is about to grab his grilled cheese, Austin trips and falls through the entrance. Oskar is startled and drops his snack. He looks over it, sad and defeated.

OSKAR

(Grunts sadly)

My sandwich...

He hears groaning behind him, noticing Austin. He takes a breath before rushing over to help. Austin is rowdy while Oskar tries to keep him still.

AUSTIN

(dazed)

What the- where the- what is this place?

OSKAR

(holding him firmly)

Easy macho.

AUSTIN

I need to get back. My daughter is out there!

OSKAR

Out where?

AUSTIN

New York! With these- these- freaks of nature!

OSKAR
You can't go out there like this!
Let me help you!

Austin grabs Oskar's shirt with an angry expression. Oskar waits for him to regulate his breathing.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
Better?

Austin nods while panting. He slowly releases his grip and lets his arms fall as he contains his composure.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
Good. Now, if you mentioned New York, that means you're from an Earth. In any case, nothing can get you here.

AUSTIN
(looking out a window)
An Earth? No it's just Ear- that's
- are we in outer space?

OSKAR
Y- Yes... but maybe not the one
you're used to. Come on, let's get
you up.

Oskar picks him up from the floor and wipes down his attire.

AUSTIN
Thanks. I'm sorry, but who are you?

OSKAR
Oskar.

AUSTIN
Austin.

OSKAR
Well, if you're really in a hurry,
the exit's behind you. But if you
need something, I'll be at my
counter.

As Oskar turns to walk to his counter, Austin grips his shoulder tightly while looking everywhere. Oskar notices he looks pale.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
Something wrong?

AUSTIN

Um... I think those things drugged me.

OSKAR

What makes you say that?

AUSTIN

The-the pictures, they're moving!
And-and the space outside, it's so-so...

OSKAR

Beautiful? Colorful?

AUSTIN

Yeah. Just to be clear, those aren't videos, holograms...

OSKAR

Nope, here the supernatural is...
well, natural. Same with tech,
magic and whatever otherworldly
forces are on the table.

Austin lets go of his grip and crosses his arms while observing the shop with caution.

AUSTIN

I thought government work was
taxing, this is overkill for me.
(Shakes his head)
But I have a problem I need to take
care of back home, I don't want to
trouble you.

OSKAR

Maybe I have something here that
might help. How about I get you
some water and you think about it?

AUSTIN

Okay. Yeah that'd be nice, thanks.

Oskar turns and walks to the counter, reaching under his desk and pulling out a big cup of cold water. Austin looks at the entrance, then at Oskar. He observes the shop in awe.

OSKAR

Here.

AUSTIN

Thanks.

Austin drinks the entire cup of water and catches his breath.

OSKAR

That help?

AUSTIN

(Clears throat)

I think so.

OSKAR

Good. So what's going on macho?

AUSTIN

I can't ignore the fancy setup you have here. What is this place?

OSKAR

This is the Omnishop, we have anything and everything you can think of from every corner of every galaxy.

AUSTIN

You serious?

OSKAR

Hmm, it's mostly a tagline. I update everything as more customers come in. Anyway, you were talking about some freaks of nature giving you trouble?

AUSTIN

I don't think you'd believe me if I told you.

OSKAR

You'd be surprised.

AUSTIN

Alright... These creatures started attacking my city, they're made of some smokey black energy I never saw before. Even my hand cannon is just a toy against these things.

Austin pulls out his phone and shows a video of a quadruped engulfed in black smoke. Oskar squints.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

I'm telling you the truth, I swear!

OSKAR

I know.

AUSTIN

You're not joking right? Cause I'm really not in the mood.

OSKAR

I offered you grilled cheese on a space rock in another dimension. You think a pest problem is new to me?

AUSTIN

Heh, when you put it that way, I guess not. So what do we do?

OSKAR

First I need to scan and register you in my database.

AUSTIN

Thanks, but no. I just need something to kill these monsters and I'll be out.

OSKAR

I don't know how you or your universe's laws work. I can't risk giving you something that can harm you.

AUSTIN

Harm me how? And how often does it happen?

OSKAR

...Let me see what I can get you.

AUSTIN

Anything, please.

OSKAR

So I'm assuming you're a regular human? No abilities, powers, magic?

Austin shakes his head.

OSKAR (CONT'D)

I can't offer you much except standard food, clothes, firearms and a canine companion.

AUSTIN

That's all?

OSKAR
My hands are tied.

Austin scratches his head and rubs his face. Oskar looks remorseful, but keeps his head high.

AUSTIN
Okay... okay, fine.

OSKAR
(smiling)
It'll be quick. Step in the Bio
Chamber on your left, it shouldn't
take more than a few minutes.

Oskar points to a machine with an energy barrier and a control panel inside. Austin steps in.

AUSTIN
Now what?

OSKAR
Get comfortable.

SUE, a magician with a blindfold, comes through the entrance in a medieval fantasy cloak. Oskar and Sue meet each other's gaze intensely.

Austin looks back and forth. He readies his hand to draw his firearm.

SUE
(pointing at Oskar)
MACHO!

OSKAR
(Pointing at the magician)
MACHO!

The two laugh and embrace each other with a warm hug. Austin relaxes his shoulders and stands straight.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
I got your potions ready, Sue. Let
me get them for you.

SUE
That would be lovely. Thank you,
Oskar.

AUSTIN
Old friends?

SUE

Very. He has the wisdom of a philosopher, a heart of gold, and the grace of an ogre.

OSKAR

You love ogres.

SUE

What is your name?

AUSTIN

Austin, pleasure to meet you.

SUE

Sue.

Oskar stares at her blindfold.

OSKAR

(plops a bag on the counter)

Here you go, mana potions and magic grenades ready.

SUE

Wonderful.

OSKAR

Actually now that you're here, I could use your help with something if it's not much trouble.

SUE

No, of course not.

OSKAR

Great.

He gestures Sue to come behind the counter. He shows a screen with a diagram and statistics for Austin.

OSKAR (CONT'D)

Have you seen any magic similar to this? The residue on his clothes are not from his world.

SUE

Hmm... This is reminiscent of necromancy or conjuration, but it's just a theory.

OSKAR

Better than nothing, thanks.

SUE
I'll see you around.

Sue wakes to the entrance but stops.

SUE (CONT'D)
Something on your mind Austin?

AUSTIN
Excuse me?

SUE
You're wondering about the
blindfold aren't you?

AUSTIN
How did you-

SUE
Magic, sensory magic.

AUSTIN
I didn't mean to stare, I'm sorry.

SUE
It's okay.

AUSTIN
If you don't mind me asking, how
did that happen?

She nudges her head in Oskar's direction. Austin looks at him, Oskar looks down in embarrassment.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
Why?

SUE
I begged him to sell me a scroll
from another universe once, I know
the spell now but...
(Pointing at her eyes)
It came with a cost.

AUSTIN
That's terrible. I'm sorry.

SUE
Actually, it's been great. I can
sense almost everything in here.

OSKAR

I didn't want it to happen to anyone again, so I made the chamber you're in.

SUE

It was a terrifying accident. That's when I learned different galaxies play by different rules. You can only mix and match so many elements before something goes awry.

AUSTIN

How did you get past this?

SUE

(walking to Oskar)
Oskar helped. He didn't have to help me because he warned me so many times.

(Grabs Oskar's face and playfully shakes it)
But he did it anyway, and for that I'm grateful. This is a man that knows destruction.

Oskar grunts defeatedly.

SUE (CONT'D)

But he can create something beautiful from it too.

He grunts in acknowledgement. She lets go and Oskar smiles lightly as he rubs his cheek. She waves at both men before leaving.

AUSTIN

She's something.

OSKAR

One of the few who gave me a second chance without vilifying me.

AUSTIN

Happen often?

OSKAR

Another time. About your situation, I don't think outside help is possible for me.

AUSTIN

Tell me she wasn't your trump card.

OSKAR
She's not, but I know where to start.

AUSTIN
So you know how to stop them?

OSKAR
No...

Austin looks flabbergasted.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
BUT I can whip up something, I'll need your help though.

AUSTIN
Name it.

OSKAR
You'll have to go back and get me a sample.

AUSTIN
Hell no! I have nothing to defend myself with!

OSKAR
I won't let you go back empty-handed, you can buy one of my weapons or we can trade.

AUSTIN
I don't have cash, you take debit or credit cards?

OSKAR
What's a debit card?

Austin smacks his lips and groans in disappointment. Oskar glances at his firearm.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
Mind if I take a look at your pistol?

AUSTIN
(handing over the weapon)
Knock yourself out.

He examines the weapon thoroughly.

OSKAR
Nice. Custom build?

AUSTIN
3 round burst pistol.

OSKAR
Ammo?

AUSTIN
39 millimeter bullets.

OSKAR
Tell you what, you can rent one of
my weapons while I keep your
pistol.

AUSTIN
What's your inventory like?

OSKAR
(scrolling through screen)
I don't even know what I don't
have. If conjuration is even close
to how they're made, maybe this
will help.

Oskar summons a futuristic rifle.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
It's an atom rifle. Not as good as
a magic weapon, but should slow or
paralyze them.

AUSTIN
So give me a magic weapon.

OSKAR
There's no magic in your world to
draw from. I could give you a mana
bank but...

Oskar rubs his fingers together, signifying currency.

AUSTIN
Fine, pass the rifle.

Oskar hands the rifle and Austin inspects it.

OSKAR
I have a testing room if you want
to try it.

Oskar opens a door on the left side of the shop. It reveals a
training room with a firing range and dummies.

AUSTIN
A little underwhelming.

OSKAR
What aesthetic would you like?
Beach? Battlefield? DMV?

Oskar customizes the training room to the locations specified before changing it back to the original look of plain white with grid lines.

AUSTIN
You hate the DMV too?

OSKAR
No but a lot of my other human
customers say the same.

AUSTIN
Huh. Well, change it to battlefield
and make the targets about 10 feet
tall.

Oskar changes the room to fit his criteria. Austin examines the range and begins shooting the dummies until smoke comes out the barrel.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
No mags?

OSKAR
Only a cool down if you start
blasting like a lunatic.

He repeats the process several times until he fully gets accustomed to it. He walks out with his head up high.

AUSTIN
I think I got it. I'm heading out.

He walks out and heads toward the entrance.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
How will I get back?

OSKAR
The same way you came before. Which
reminds me.

Oskar walks to AUSTIN and places a tracker on his hand.

AUSTIN
A dog tag?

OSKAR
Best tracker I have.

AUSTIN
But, I'll come back.

OSKAR
Call it insurance. If my superiors ask, I have to find whoever rented my items and do my job.

AUSTIN
Got it. Wish me luck.

OSKAR
Get back safe, macho.

Austin leaves the shop. Oskar exhales and walks to his counter.

EXT. EARTH - CITY STREETS - DAY

Austin emerges from a glowing doorway inside an abandoned building. He walks out to roam the streets.

He darts towards sounds of destruction to be met with several OFFICERS unsuccessfully fending off a dark creature against a group of civilians.

He gets the creature's attention by blasting, missing the target.

AUSTIN
Over here!

The creature roars and charges to Austin.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
(Muttering to himself)
Please work.

He fires it, paralyzing the creature and making it collapse. The officers fire at it, inflicting serious damage and shooting off a ligament, making it retreat.

OFFICER 1
Thanks. I thought that thing was going to slaughter the rest of us.

AUSTIN
Where's the safest place we can go?

OFFICER 1

Our station is a few blocks down,
but it's crawling with those
things.

AUSTIN

I'll help with cover fire over
there, then I have to go somewhere
else.

OFFICER 1

What's more important than this?

AUSTIN

I need to know my family's safe. My
daughter and her mother are top
priority.

OFFICER 1

What about that shiny rifle of
yours? Something from the
government?

AUSTIN

I know a guy who can make me a
better weapon for these bastards. I
just need to head to the abandoned
district.

OFFICER 2

We'll help how we can, but I have
to help with safety first.

AUSTIN

I understand, let's go.

Austin picks up the ligament and leads the group until they
turn around a corner. They gaze upon a war between police and
a horde of the creatures.

OFFICER 2

Ready?

AUSTIN

No, but better forward than back.
On me.

INT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Oskar is munching on a new sandwich as he's researching the
flower he collected. He commences a computer simulation that
plays the following:

The flower is turned into a projectile that fires from a gun to disintegrate a clump of cells. He smiles with excitement.

He picks up a communication device to call Solandra.

OSKAR

Hey Solandra, I need a favor.

SOLANDRA

Shop duty?

OSKAR

You know it.

Solandra comes through the entrance.

SOLANDRA

So what's the situation this time?

OSKAR

(Showing computer screen)
Customer of mine is dealing with a new kind of pest. I think a few of these flowers should do the trick.

SOLANDRA

Think that'll work?

OSKAR

In theory.

SOLANDRA

Isn't this from the planet uh... Nellus?

OSKAR

Same one. I put the frame up earlier, should be a quick trip through there and back. Unless you want to run the-

SOLANDRA

Me? Oh no, that's all you. If where you're going smells even remotely like that flower, go do your thing. I got it covered.

OSKAR

Thanks.

SOLANDRA

You owe me a sandwich.

OSKAR

What?

SOLANDRA

Grilled cheese, fresh. That's my price to cover you.

OSKAR

Ha, coming up.

Oskar goes behind the counter and summons another sandwich. Solandra smiles and Oskar salutes her before going to the picture of Nellus.

He sticks his arm out and a bright light flashes from the painting. Oskar disappears as a new customer comes in.

PATRON

This the Omnishop?

SOLANDRA

Sure is. How can I help mach... how can I help sir?

EXT. EARTH - CITY STREETS - DAY

The streets are scorched with fire, rubble and destroyed vehicles. People flee into the police station while Austin and the police officers drive away the creatures.

OFFICER 2

Hot damn! I haven't felt this alive in a while.

OFFICER 1

(To Officer 2)

Hell yeah. As terrifying as it was, we're turning the tides.

(To Austin)

Speaking of, your friend can get more of those weapons right?

AUSTIN

Eh, he's working on it, but I don't know what to expect when I get back to his shop.

OFFICER 1

Better than nothing. We'll stay here and guard the station. Can you make it back?

AUSTIN
I have to try. But first, I need to
make a call.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Austin heads inside the station and pulls out his phone. He
makes a call to Isabella.

ISABELLA (O.S.)
Austin? Are you okay?

AUSTIN
I'm fine. Where are you and Essy?

ESMERALDA
Daddy!

AUSTIN
I hear an echo.

Austin gets tackled from behind by a little girl, his
daughter Esmeralda hugs his waist tightly. He turns around,
drops his items and picks her up to hug her.

ISABELLA
Austin!

They all embrace in a group hug. Isabella let's go.

AUSTIN
How long ago did you guys get here.

ISABELLA
A few minutes. Someone told us the
police station was a bomb shelter,
so it seemed like the best place.

AUSTIN
Ugh, that's a relief.

ESMERALDA
Daddy, is that a sticker on your
hand? And a space rock? And a space
laser?!

Esmeralda points to the rifle and tries to touch the sticker.
Austin puts her down.

AUSTIN
Yeah sweetie, I'm fighting the bad
aliens.

ESMERALDA

Yay!

ISABELLA

(whispering)

Where did you get all that?

AUSTIN

(Whispering)

I know a guy who's helping us, but
I need to get back to him to get
something for these assholes.

ISABELLA

(whispering)

She needs you!

AUSTIN

(Whispering)

I need her too, but she's safest
with you right now. I'll be back in
a few, okay?

Austin pulls back and Isabella nods with worry in her eyes.
Austin kneels down to face his daughter.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

Essy, daddy's got to help the good
guys. Watch mommy for me please.

ESMERALDA

(sadly)

Okay...

Austin hugs Esmeralda tightly. He waits for her to let go
before heading out. He exits the station and makes his way to
the abandoned district. He sprints back to where he came from
when he sees a horde of creatures.

AUSTIN

(whispering)

Goddamn it.

He notices several dead bodies around him and notices a
purse. He empties it out and puts the ligament inside.

INT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Solandra is showing the patron a battle axe and a sword.

SOLANDRA

So these are my top picks.

PATRON

What do you think is the best overall?

SOLANDRA

Eh, it's situational. I can ask the owner of the shop if you'd like.

PATRON

Please.

Solandra puts down the weapons and contacts Oskar.

OSKAR (V.O.)

Need something Sol?

SOLANDRA

Hypothetically, if you were to fight off creatures made of the forest itself, would you go with an axe or sword?

OSKAR (V.O.)

If we're talking about- eugh!

SOLANDRA

You okay?

OSKAR (V.O.)

I'm fine. These flowers are rancid. Um... anyway, if the monsters are more foliage like bushes or shrubs, a sword is the go to. If they're mostly wood, then the axe.

SOLANDRA

That help?

PATRON

It did. I'll take the pyro sword please.

SOLANDRA

For you... that'll be 300 gold.

The customer hands her a bag filled with coins after counting. She hands him the sword.

PATRON

Perfect! Thanks!

SOLANDRA

(Waving)

Come back soon!

The patron leaves, Solandra feels accomplished. As she is about to take a bite of her sandwich, Oskar returns from the painting.

SOLANDRA (CONT'D)
I keep forgetting how much I like
hel-
(sniffing, then coughing)
What the hell is that?

OSKAR
(holding his nose)
Flowers you... never give to...
someone you love. Pass me a
container.

She reaches under the desk and tosses him a container. He packs them up, placing them on the counter.

SOLANDRA
A little warning next time.

OSKAR
Making a note of it now.

SOLANDRA
You got it from here?

OSKAR
Yeah, you're free to go.

SOLANDRA
(walking to the entrance)
You're welcome, next time let me
try another san-

Austin flies through the entrance, landing on Solandra. His the rifle is damaged and he's bleeding heavily. He's gasping for air.

OSKAR
You guys alright? Sol, Macho?

AUSTIN
(coughing)
So many... they hit like a truck.

Oskar helps both of them up, supporting Austin from falling.

OSKAR
Can you breathe?

AUSTIN
(Wheezing)
Barely.

OSKAR
Get him in the Bio Chamber. I'll
prep it.

SOLANDRA
Okay.

Solandra helps Austin to the chamber. Oskar runs to the counter when one of the dark creatures enters the shop.

As it focuses on Austin, Oskar fires a beam from two fingers, disintegrating it. He immediately helps Solandra put him in.

SOLANDRA (CONT'D)
What the hell was that?

OSKAR
The pest I told you about. Press
that button on the panel.

Solandra activates a pop out reclining table to lay Austin on. Oskar signals her to step out while he lays there.

She grabs the rifle and purse on the ground near where she fell. Sparks fly and circuits are damaged on the rifle.

SOLANDRA
Those things don't play nice.

OSKAR
Neither do I. They did a number on
this thing, but I can fix it.

SOLANDRA
(Pulling the ligament out
the purse)
This important?

OSKAR
That might be the sample I needed.

SOLANDRA
Looks like your friend got tossed
around for it.

OSKAR
I'm lucky that's all they did. He's
in bad shape, but not missing
anything.

SOLANDRA

Good, gore makes me queasy.

OSKAR

Think you can stay for a while,
until I get him sorted out?

SOLANDRA

Eh, what the hell? Got nothing else
to do.

Oskar and Solandra do a complex handshake involving slapping,
bumping fists, and shaking hands.

OSKAR

Thanks.

SOLANDRA

Don't mention it. Seriously don't,
Creston always gets on my case
about this.

OSKAR

Lips are sealed.

Solandra sits on a chair watching Oskar work. The Bio Chamber
whirls, Austin's injuries fade and his scars heal rapidly.
Austin shoots up with a burst of energy.

AUSTIN

Oh wow, that feels good!

OSKAR

How are you feeling?

AUSTIN

Like- like I can fight 10 of those
bastards!

OSKAR

(Holding the ligament)
Funny you should say that. I think
the... whatever this is, should be
enough for me to make a weapon.

AUSTIN

What are we waiting for? Let's do
it!

OSKAR

You got it. Solandra get me the
flowers.

Oskar takes the ligament, Austin's pistol, and the flowers, lifting them in the air telepathically.

His eyes glow, manipulating the objects to spin in rapid succession with the gun in the center. Austin is mesmerized. Solandra has a neutral expression.

In one swift motion, Oskar clasps his hands together, a white light flashes, the glow from his eyes dissipates and the gun slowly descends on the counter, completing the process.

Oskar closely examines the weapon and smiles.

OSKAR (CONT'D)

There you go, one gun ready for slaughter.

AUSTIN

I- what- what the hell was that?!

OSKAR

Magic.

AUSTIN

What kind?!

OSKAR

Fusion.

AUSTIN

Right. Right... that's the first time I've seen you- seen anyone, do that whole... hocus-pocus act.

OSKAR

Hocus-pocus?

AUSTIN

It's not a spell if that's what you're wondering.

SOLANDRA

Knew it.

AUSTIN

So, how much damage can I dish out?

Oskar opens the training room door, showing one training dummy covered in black smoke and the other normal.

Oskar slowly extends his arm and fires the smoking dummy. Oskar's eyes widen as the dummy isn't marked. He stares back at Austin. Solandra stands up from her seat confused.

OSKAR
You saw nothing.

AUSTIN
(Playing along)
See what?

SOLANDRA
Exactly.

Oskar tampers with the gun and fires at the smokey dummy, nothing happens. He fires at the normal dummy, and it disintegrates.

OSKAR
I need a minute.

AUSTIN
Need me to-

OSKAR
No no no, please. It's just a bug I can fix.

AUSTIN
Does this normally happen?

OSKAR
(Slapping and flipping the gun)
Not often. But using new elements- like these flowers I found- never goes right- the first time!
(stops than catches his breath)
That's why I have to keep trying.

SOLANDRA
Short answer: yes.

AUSTIN
What is it supposed to do?

OSKAR
Hopefully, this.

Oskar fires the gun once more at the smokey dummy, this time disintegrating it.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
Finally.

AUSTIN
It's perfect!

OSKAR

Don't thank me just yet.

Oskar raises the gun again and fires at the normal dummy, no damage is seen on impact.

OSKAR (CONT'D)

It only works against targets with the same energy as those monsters. Anything else, nada.

AUSTIN

Why?

OSKAR

This gun can disintegrate any living being's cells like a chain of firecrackers. The ligament acts like a filter.

AUSTIN

You thought I could've shot someone?

OSKAR

That, or someone could use it on you.

AUSTIN

I just needed a new gun, that model was customized for me. I can't get another one like it anytime soon.

OSKAR

Lucky for you, I've customized a lot of firearms.

Oskar hands the firearm to Austin. He points to the normal dummy.

AUSTIN

(pointing at a lever)

Flip that and try shooting.

Austin shrugs his shoulders, flips the switch and fires the gun again. It shoots how it normally does.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

You gave my gun a switch?

OSKAR

Yup. You can blast away like a lunatic anytime. Um, with the magic mode anyway.

AUSTIN
It's like 2 in 1, and feels like
nothing happened. You work is...
wow.

OSKAR
Glad you think so.

AUSTIN
So what's the catch? How much is
this?

OSKAR
Well since it's a custom-built
item, I let the customer make a
choice.

AUSTIN
For?

OSKAR
Option one: No charge and I own the
blueprint to use for my shop. If
you need it fixed, come back to pay
for a repair.

AUSTIN
Doesn't sound too bad.

OSKAR
Option two: we set a price and you
buy it. Warranty's included, which
is on my dime.

AUSTIN
Hmm. Let's go with the first
option.

OSKAR
Smart choice. All yours.

AUSTIN
Thanks. As great as you are Oskar,
I don't want to be back anytime
soon.

OSKAR
If you don't, I guess I did a good
job then, right?

Austin nods in approval and Oskar smiles.

AUSTIN
(pointing at the tracker)
Oh and uh, you can have this back.

OSKAR
That's right. Sorry.

Oskar takes the tracker and salutes Austin. Austin exits the shop. Oskar sighs in relief and places a chair in front of a window and reclines on it.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
(Whispering to himself)
Let's hope it's enough.

Footsteps can be heard behind him as Austin enters again. Oskar catches his breath and fixes his composure.

AUSTIN
One more thing, in case I don't see you again: what the hell was that smell earlier? It was intoxicating, not in a good way.

OSKAR
(chuckling)
A flower you never give to a loved one, macho. Don't worry about it.

AUSTIN
Got it. Thanks, Oskar.

OSKAR
(Giving a thumbs up)
Anytime.

Austin leaves once again. Oskar relaxes and puts his arms behind his head as he kicks his feet up.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
(Pats a chair)
Enjoy the view, Sol.

SOLANDRA
Eh, got nothing else to do.

She sits in the chair next to Oskar and they both fist bump. After several seconds, Solandra groans.

OSKAR
Forgot something?

SOLANDRA
A drink. I just got comfortable.

OSKAR
I'll get it, I need something
myself.

Oskar walks behind his counter. He pulls out 2 cups of lemonade. He hands one to her as he sits and they clash cups before drinking.

She pauses and looks at Oskar with a piercing grin.

SOLANDRA
There're raspberries in here, isn't
there?

Oskar deviously laughs while Solandra shakes her head, trying to hide her smile.

SOLANDRA (CONT'D)
Hey, so, did you ever find out what
makes the flower tick?

OSKAR
Like how I used it for the gun?

SOLANDRA
Not that, more like how it exists.

OSKAR
Where's this coming from?

SOLANDRA
Something felt off when you started
slapping the gun and it worked.

OSKAR
Tech is stubborn like that. A kick
and a spit shine is sometimes all
that's needed.

SOLANDRA
But wasn't the other stuff
supernatural?

OSKAR
(Curious)
Yeah.

SOLANDRA
I know you fixed guns like that,
but magic weapons like staffs or
tomes? No.

OSKAR
I'll run a few tests, thanks.

SOLANDRA
Before you do that.
(Shakes her cup)
NO raspberries this time.

OSKAR
You're really hungry.

SOLANDRA
And you'll feed me every time.

He scoffs and takes the cup.

EXT. EARTH - CITY STREETS - DAY

The creatures disintegrate with each blast from Austin's gun.
Austin charges down several blocks to the police station.

He passes the two officers from his last visit, who notice
one creature is about to attack him from behind. They shoot
it to draw attention.

OFFICER 2
Over here!

Austin turns around. He aims at the creature, but the gun
doesn't fire. He switches the firing mode to shoot it.

The creature turns around and charges toward Austin. He
switches the mode again and tries firing.

AUSTIN
(Slapping the gun)
Come on you piece of crap!

He finally destroys the monster 10 feet before it can attack
him. The officers run toward him to regroup.

OFFICER 2
(Exhausted)
You took your time.

AUSTIN
I ran into trouble, but I think
this was all worth it.

OFFICER 1
(Exhausted)
That thing is a miracle, but you
sure it's good?

AUSTIN
It's one of a kind, so it might
have some kinks. Anything new about
these monsters?

OFFICER 2
We'll tell you on the way.

The officers signal civilians to follow them to start heading
to the police station.

AUSTIN
Okay, what did I miss?

OFFICER 2
Right now, we still don't know what
these things are, so we started
calling them Smokers.

AUSTIN
Cute. Any idea where they're coming
from?

OFFICER 2
A couple buddies of yours from the
government stopped by the station,
your name's Austin right?

AUSTIN
That's right.

OFFICER 2
Your director wants to see you to
talk about that.

Austin frowns. The group makes it to the police station and
are met with paramedics on site. Austin rushes inside and is
met by Isabella and his daughter.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

ESMERALDA
Daddy's back!

Austin carries and hugs her.

ISABELLA
What happened?! I tried reaching
you but there was no service, and
the monsters were attacking the
station, and Esmeralda was-

AUSTIN

(Gesturing to his weapon)
I'm okay. My friend kept his
promise and got me what I asked
for.

ESMERALDA

Where's your sticker daddy? And the
space rock?

AUSTIN

Daddy's friend needed it to give me
a super cool laser!

ESMERALDA

WOW!

He puts down Esmeralda.

??? (O.S.)

Austin! Enjoying your time off?

DIRECTOR HAYNES, an elderly man in a black suit and
government badge, approaches him.

AUSTIN

I was sir, until a car almost hit
me.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Sounds like every day in the city.
I hate to take time from you and
your family, but I need you. It's
urgent.

AUSTIN

I... I understand.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

How are you, Isabella?

ISABELLA

I don't know what's going on,
Haynes. But seeing you helps a bit.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

(Looking at Esmeralda)
How about you little one?

ESMERALDA

Good. My daddy says he's fighting
the bad guys!

DIRECTOR HAYNES

(Chuckles)

That's right. I need to talk to your dad so he can stop all the bad guys. Is that okay?

ESMERALDA

Yeah!

Austin hugs Isabella and Esmeralda. He follows Haynes into a meeting room accompanied by his ASSISTANT and several agents standing against the walls.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Alright everyone, our star player is here.

AUSTIN

One of the officers said you know how these things came here.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

I do. It's a bit to take in so please sit.

Haynes directs his assistant to pull up surveillance footage of a nearby park. It shows a small portal open slowly.

Two appendages rip it open, causing several smokers to charge out and cause havoc.

DIRECTOR HAYNES (CONT'D)

This footage was captured several hours ago. We don't know how but a portal from an entirely separate galaxy ripped through our reality.

AUSTIN

How do you know it's not another invasion?

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Our friends in high places were monitoring the energy from the portal. They were dumbfounded and couldn't make sense of it.

AUSTIN

Like magic?

DIRECTOR HAYNES

A strange way to classify it, but
not inaccurate.

The footage is sped up, then played normally when the Smokers
went back into the portal and eventually closed it.

DIRECTOR HAYNES (CONT'D)

We have plenty of witnesses say
that was your doing with a rifle
they hadn't seen before. Now
there's a few stragglers within a
2-mile radius we need you to take
out.

AUSTIN

(Getting up from his
chair)

Yes sir.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

And Austin, where did you get that
weapon?

AUSTIN

From a shopkeeper in another
galaxy.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

What?

AUSTIN

From a shopkeeper in another
galaxy, sir.

Haynes and the other agents look at him in confusion.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Uh huh, and how did you get this
weapon if I may ask?

AUSTIN

I got chased into the abandoned
district, went through a portal to
another galaxy, got offered water,
tested an atom rifle, shot the
smokers-

DIRECTOR HAYNES

I'll stop you right there, son. As
long as you have the weapon on you,
we can discuss it further. We can
make more of them right?

AUSTIN

Not without a ligament from the Smokers sir. Even then, the rifle I had was damaged and my weapon now completely disintegrates them.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Goddamn it. Well, let's get the stragglers.

(Pointing to several agents)

You 4, cover his ass and coordinate. We'll keep watching their whereabouts here.

Austin and the 4 agents leave.

ASSISTANT

Permission to speak sir?

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Granted.

ASSISTANT

You think he's lying at all?

DIRECTOR HAYNES

If he is, it's not on purpose.

INT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Oskar is typing away at his computer. Solandra is in the training room testing out different grenades.

Oskar runs another computer simulation using the flower, showing results that frustrates him.

SOLANDRA (O.S.)

Nothing yet?

OSKAR

Two things: never put it in your body, and the smell is poisonous to some species.

SOLANDRA

Looks like we're immune then.

OSKAR

But not unaffected. I'm going to make a call.

Oskar get his communication device to make a call.

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

Hello?

OSKAR

Hey macho, it's Oskar from the
Omnishop. How are you?

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

Oh hey man. I'm good and you?

OSKAR

Good, thanks. I don't want to take
too much of your time but I was
wondering if you can help me with
some questions about the flowers on
Nellus.

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

I'll tell you this now: that planet
is beautiful, but those plants are
terrifying.

OSKAR

Really? What's the history behind
it?

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

My people call it the Suicide
Flower.

SOLANDRA

Charming.

OSKAR

That's a pretty harsh label.

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

But it's true! Anything you make
with that flower, gone. Food is
poisoned, medicine's infected,
equipment explodes!

Solandra leaves the training room to rush to Oskar.

OSKAR

What?

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

They're very sensitive to pressure.
Doesn't matter what, if it feels
like it's threatened too much,
it'll adapt to destroy the user.

SOLANDRA

So, hypothetically, if I made armor with it, would it explode?

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

Eventually, or if it gets slapped around a lot, sure.

SOLANDRA

What if you're poisoned?

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

You can try to use it for a vaccine, but no one I know has been successful. At most we use remedies to slow its effects.

OSKAR

I see... You've been a good help macho. Next order is 20% off, whatever it is.

CUSTOMER (V.O.)

Thanks, Oskar! Need anything else?

OSKAR

No... thank you again.

Oskar hangs up and breathes heavily while pacing around the shop.

OSKAR (CONT'D)

(Muttering to himself)

No, no, no, no, no...

SOLANDRA

I-I'm not sure what to do.

OSKAR

Same, but you've helped more than I could ask for. If you want to head back with Creston, go for it.

SOLANDRA

Wait, think he might know someone?

OSKAR

Wouldn't hurt to ask.

Solandra gets Oskar's communication device to call Creston.

CRESTON

Oskar?

SOLANDRA

It's me.

CRESTON

Where's he gone this time?

SOLANDRA

He's here, listen. We need someone who knows something about Nellus.

CRESTON

I first heard about it from Oskar, I don't know anyone else.

SOLANDRA

You and the other Monitors don't know anything?

CRESTON

I mean... maybe I can ask around. Their convicts don't explore as much as him, so I need a minute.

SOLANDRA

Okay, thanks.

The call hangs up.

SOLANDRA (CONT'D)

It's something.

OSKAR

It is, but I think we can find countermeasures, or make them.

SOLANDRA

Didn't what's-his-name say there weren't any?

OSKAR

Yet. They're weren't successful YET. Doesn't mean we can't try.

SOLANDRA

This is so frustrating. How much time you think that gun has?

OSKAR

Not sure, I just hope he doesn't slap it like I did.

SOLANDRA

If he saw you fix it that way, who's to stop him from trying?

OSKAR
(Pinches his nose)
Oh, that's right.

SOLANDRA
Does this happen often?

OSKAR
First few decades it did. Recently,
no. Still, got to keep the fire
burning whenever hiccups like these
pop up.

SOLANDRA
You're not afraid something's going
to happen to Austin?

OSKAR
I am. I always am. With everyone I
make business with. Not just ogres,
aliens, humans, or animals.
Everyone. I always feel it, I just
can't let it consume me.

SOLANDRA
Let me ask you then: is that fear
always there because it's too much
to deal with or there because you
want it to keep you on guard?

Creston enters the shop.

CRESTON
(Holding papers)
I have some good news people. Hey,
did I walk in on something? You
guys look troubled.

OSKAR
Just tense about our situation.

CRESTON
You sure?

OSKAR
We're sure, thanks for asking... So
what's that you're holding?

CRESTON
Some notes I want to go over.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Haynes and several agents observe a monitor showing the locations of Austin, his squad and Smokers.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
Excellent. There's two more West of
your location by about 4 blocks.

AUSTIN (V.O.)
On it, sir.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
How's your weapon handling?

AUSTIN
It keeps jamming for some reason,
but a good whack or two gets it
working again.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
Understood.

Haynes' assistant monitors the statistics.

ASSISTANT
Sir, there's about 5 more left.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
Good. This mess has gone on long
enough. How's the search for our
mystery benefactor?

ASSISTANT
No sign of anything yet. We found
an urban explorer, but no one else.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
Get all our other guys out of there
and focus on civilians then.

AUSTIN (V.O.)
We're making contact now. You two,
sneak around those vehicles and
prep to lead the civilians to
safety. Rest of you cover me.

AGENTS (V.O.)
Yes sir!

ASSISTANT
They seem to have everything under
control.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

They do, but let's be honest, it's Austin doing all the heavy lifting.

ASSISTANT

With all due respect sir, our agents are doing everything in their power.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

And don't think I haven't noticed. You can't teach guts or bravery. All out agents are just as important as the next.

ASSISTANT

But something else is troubling you, correct?

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Yes. It's the fact that without Austin's ally, none of our weapons would stop them. I don't think our cousins in the East have anything like this. That's what scares me.

AUSTIN (V.O.)

Targets neutralized.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Good. Let's see where the last ones are.

The monitor shows 3 blips heading toward their location.

DIRECTOR HAYNES (CONT'D)

They're heading to the station!

AUSTIN (V.O.)

Okay understood. They're heading back to the police station. Let's move.

Haynes gestures all the agents out the room and make their way towards the entrance.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

DIRECTOR HAYNES

(Talking through radio)

All channels, this is Director Haynes. The last of the Smokers are heading to the police station.

(MORE)

DIRECTOR HAYNES (CONT'D)
Protect everyone and yourselves by
any means necessary. Shoot them,
blow them up, run them over, don't
let them overwhelm us!

He walks right into Isabella.

ISABELLA
What's going on?

DIRECTOR HAYNES
They're coming here. Keep yourself
and the little one inside.

ESMERALDA
Is he going to fight the bad aliens
with daddy?

ISABELLA
Yes Essy, Come on, let's stay with
the other families.

EXT. EARTH - CITY STREETS - DAY

Austin and the rest of the AGENTS are running back to base
with the civilians.

AGENT 1
Sir, permission to speak freely?

AUSTIN
No need to ask, same for all of
you. I think you guys earned the
right to speak your minds.

AGENT 1
Sir, this is the worst day off I've
had in a while.

AUSTIN
Oh yeah?

AGENT 2
With all due respect sir, yes.

AUSTIN
Same here, I was supposed to meet
my ex and baby girl at this sushi
place, I forgot the name.

AGENT 2
On 37th? I love that place.

AGENT 3

Wait, did you almost get hit with a car earlier?

AUSTIN

You saw that?

AGENT 3

Yeah, I was with my family there earlier. We didn't even get our entrees, had to scarf down the dumplings.

Several people nearby laugh.

AUSTIN

Haha, talk about bad timing.

AGENT 3

Luckily, I knew the police station was a bomb shelter and led everyone there. If you hadn't shot that Smoker, I don't know if we would've made it.

AUSTIN

Maybe Haynes can buy us all lunch.

AGENT 1

I'm for it.

AGENT 2

Same here.

AGENT 3

Me three.

AUSTIN

(Looking at the 4th agent)
How about you?

AGENT 4

Sorry, I'm just worried about my brother. He's in the station.

AUSTIN

My family's there too. I'm sure some people here have someone they care about inside, but this job is almost done.

AGENT 2

Yeah man, and look at us. Couple of handsome bastards stopping an alien invasion, I think we earned a laugh or two.

AGENT 4

You know, we do. Let's get that free lunch.

AUSTIN

We're almost there. Get ready, everyone else, wait on our mark.

They arrive at the police station. 3 Smokers attack civilians only to be counterattacked by other agents with explosives and getting hit by military vehicles.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

On me!

Austin and the agents rush in to help the others. 2 Smokers are lashing out aggressively. Austin tries to shoot, but the gun keeps jamming. He hits the gun, it starts shaking.

DIRECTOR HAYNES (V.O.)

Take the shot, Austin!

AUSTIN

I have to get in close.

DIRECTOR HAYNES (V.O.)

Why?

AUSTIN

It's starting to malfunction. I don't want to be too far when it finally works.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Damn it.

Austin charges toward one Smoker in the middle of the street attacking 6 agents. They're stunning it with grenades long enough for Austin to destroy it.

He heads for the one in front of the station. Austin fires once again, nothing happens. He switches to the regular mode and shoots the Smoker.

It starts to chase him until it's distracted by two agents. He then switches back and hits the gun several times before firing another deadly shot.

AUSTIN
Everyone okay?

DIRECTOR HAYNES (V.O.)
The building's still intact.

Haynes opens the front door and walks out. Isabella and Esmeralda are a few feet behind him.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
Now where's the last one.

The last Smoker leaps onto the street and faces Austin. He aims the gun, it shakes violently. The smoker charges through agents.

DIRECTOR HAYNES (CONT'D)
Austin, now would be good.

AUSTIN
I don't want to risk a misfire. I need to get close.

ESMERALDA
Daddy!

AUSTIN
Esmeralda, stay inside!

He grips the gun and fires point-blank, but the Smoker pins him down. Austin struggles to escape its grasp. It diverts its attention to agents shooting at it, allowing Austin to finally squeeze out and fire his gun.

A purple explosion occurs, destroying the last Smoker and knocking back Austin. A big cloud disperses from the gun onto the streets and into the station.

Everyone rushes to Austin's location, he's dazed and is helped up on his feet.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
You alright?

AUSTIN
(Dazed)
Um... Yeah, I... wow that was... something.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
What the hell is this stuff in the air?

Coughing can be heard from inside the building. Isabella runs out with Esmeralda. She's coughing hard.

AUSTIN
Hey hey hey, baby what's wrong?

ESMERALDA
I don't feel so good daddy.

Everyone in the vicinity starts coughing hard, including Austin himself.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
(Coughing)
We need to get inside now!

AUSTIN
It's already inside. I'm going for help.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
Where to?

AUSTIN
My shopkeeper friend. Isabella come on!

Austin carries Esmeralda and leads Isabella to run toward a nearby military Humvee. He helps them into the backseat. Austin drives to the abandoned district.

ISABELLA
The hospital isn't this way.

AUSTIN
I know someone who can help us.

INT. SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Oskar, Solandra and Creston are all huddled around the counter looking at reports on the Suicide Flower.

OSKAR
I think I understand it now.

CRESTON
You do?

OSKAR
Sort of. I think only the petals are pure enough to use for a vaccine. Everything else is tainted.

CRESTON

Interesting theory, but your flower
guy's people couldn't make one.

OSKAR

Then I'll take one step at a time
until it works.

SOLANDRA

What about the explosions?

CRESTON

Luckily they're not lethal. It's
the fallout that's troubling.

Creston's communication device is ringing, he answers.

??? (V.O.)

Creston, you're needed at the
council. Where are you?

OSKAR

With Oskar and company. Still going
over the reports I borrowed.

??? (V.O.)

Wrap it up fast, you're training
another Monitor today.

CRESTON

I'll be there in a minute.

The call ends and Solandra starts collecting the reports.

OSKAR

Thanks, Creston.

CRESTON

Long as you do your thing, it's no
trouble. Let's head out Solandra.

SOLANDRA

I'll stay for a few more minutes.

CRESTON

The council needs us.

SOLANDRA

They need you. Technically, he
still needs help and you're going
to have your hands full. Who's
gonna cover you while you're
training?

Creston ponders momentarily before chuckling and accepting defeat.

CRESTON

Ha, I hate when you're right.

SOLANDRA

And that's why we're partners.

(Hands Creston the
reports)

I'll try to get this done and meet
up with you, okay?

CRESTON

Okay. See you later.

Creston leaves. Oskar looks through his inventory and takes out the flowers and some glass tubes.

OSKAR

Pluck these for me, Sol.

She begins plucking the petals off the flowers and shoving them into the tube. Oskar is on his computer modifying the tracking device.

SOLANDRA

Why are you pulling that up?

OSKAR

Making some adjustments. Just want
to be ready when we see Austin.

SOLANDRA

Think he killed whatever those
things were?

OSKAR

I only hope it's not the opposite.
It shouldn't be too hard to track
him down.

Isabella pulls Austin through the entrance while carrying Esmeralda. The adults collapse to their knees, barely holding onto their daughter.

The family coughs violently. Solandra and Oskar rush over to help.

OSKAR (CONT'D)

What happened?

ISABELLA
Gun exploded... purple gas went
everywhere... Please help my
daughter.

Austin's heavy breathing becomes slower and his heart beating progressively becomes louder. He looks up at Oskar and Solandra helping Esmeralda and Isabella first. Austin's hearing is weakened, everything sounds muffled.

OSKAR
(Heavily muffled)
Change the fitting room to a Med
bay.

SOLANDRA
(Carrying Esmeralda)
What do we give them?

OSKAR
Get the healing mist, it'll
stabilize them. I'll get the
flowers.

Austin passes out and everything becomes silent.

FADE TO BLACK:

Austin slowly regains consciousness, waking up to fainting murmurs and blurry vision.

Solandra is conversing with Isabella about the shop. He lets out a weak groan, and both women look in amazement.

ISABELLA
Austin! How're you feeling?

AUSTIN
Like I got choked out... Wait... Essy!
Essy, where are you?

SOLANDRA
(Holding him by his
shoulders)
She's with Oskar! She's with Oskar.

AUSTIN
Oh... Thank god.

SOLANDRA
Don't worry, the little marshmallow
is okay.

Austin looks up to see Esmeralda huffing from excitement and jumping with joy as Oskar points to various pictures on his wall.

SOLANDRA (CONT'D)
Isabella told me you took the brunt
of the mist. Take another minute,
no one's going anywhere.

Austin nods and controls his breathing. Oskar entertains Esmeralda.

ESMERALDA
(Pointing to a moving
picture)
Where is that?

OSKAR
That's where animals can talk.

ESMERALDA
Wow! I wanna go there! Please, Mr.
Oskar.

OSKAR
Have to ask your mom and dad,
macho. But you don't want to go
there.

ESMERALDA
Why?

OSKAR
(Kneeling down)
A little birdie told me... they don't
have sushi.

ESMERALDA
No!

AUSTIN (O.S.)
Something wrong, Essy?

Esmeralda turns around to see Austin slowly walk to her.

ESMERALDA
Daddy!

Austin kneels down to give her a hug. He sighs with relief.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D)
Mr. Oskar said the talking animals
don't have sushi!

AUSTIN

Oh really?

OSKAR

They're all vegetarians. Carnivores
are jailed or...

(Looking at Esmeralda)

Have to... leave forever.

AUSTIN

So what happened?

OSKAR

Solandra, can you watch their
daughter for a second? Isabella, I
need you here too.

ESMERALDA

Are you and mommy in trouble?

AUSTIN

No honey, Oskar and I need to talk.
Solandra's going to show you
something cool.

ESMERALDA

Okay.

Solandra grabs Esmeralda's hand and shows her some pictures
around the shop.

ISABELLA

What's wrong?

OSKAR

I'll keep it brief. Bad news is we
mitigated the gas in your bodies
but you're still infected. The
symptoms will come back.

ISABELLA

Oh god.

OSKAR

Good news is I think we have a
vaccine ready to try.

AUSTIN

So why haven't you done it yet?

OSKAR

Because you guys would be the trial
patients.

(MORE)

OSKAR (CONT'D)

That and I didn't want to use it on your daughter without asking.

AUSTIN

I mean... you could've... never mind.
I'm sorry.

OSKAR

No worries. So, ready to try it out?

ISABELLA

Hmm. What's the alternative? If we don't take it?

OSKAR

(Leaning in and
whispering)

Within a week, the gas will replace all the oxygen in your body. You'll be slowly breathing your last breath.

Isabella and Austin are speechless.

AUSTIN

We have to.

ISABELLA

I guess we have no choice huh?

OSKAR

You do, but might not be the best one.

ISABELLA

Okay... Let's do it.

OSKAR

Okay, let's head in the Med bay.

(To Solandra)

It's time, Sol.

Everyone gathers in the Med bay. Solandra stands next to Oskar as he pulls out a spherical device.

AUSTIN

What is that?

OSKAR

A healing ventilator. If this works, we can cure everyone. Now I need everyone to take a big breath, the biggest one you can take.

Solandra does a countdown from five with her fingers. When she reaches one, Oskar activates the device and drops it.

The family blow out air involuntarily, dropping to their knees and coughing. Solandra helps them up and Oskar takes out a scanning device.

AUSTIN
(Holding Esmeralda while
coughing)
Did it work?

OSKAR
(Holding device)
Let me see... Good, good, and good!
All 3 of you are clean!

The family hugs in light of the news. Oskar gets another ventilator and Solandra escorts them to the exit. He meets up with them.

OSKAR (CONT'D)
I only had enough materials for one more. This one should cover a 3-mile radius. Just press this button here and toss it on the ground when you're ready.

AUSTIN
(Holding the ventilator)
Got it. You feel good Essy?

ESMERALDA
It hurt, and was scary.

ISABELLA
(To Esmeralda)
I know baby, but you were brave.
(To Oskar and Solandra)
Thank you guys so much, you have no idea how relieved we are.

OSKAR
It's my fault it happened in the first place. I'm just fixing it.

ISABELLA
I respect that.

AUSTIN
Hey wait, where's my gun?

OSKAR
Hm? Oh right.

Oskar runs behind the counter to get his weapon.

OSKAR (CONT'D)

I know we made a deal this would need a repair fee, but I'm going to void it and tweak the policy. It's just like it was before we met.

AUSTIN

(Inspecting the gun)

Hmm. Yeah, ol' reliable is just like how she was.

(To Oskar)

Thanks again, I owe you for this.

OSKAR

Please, let's call it even.

Austin sticks out his hand and Oskar firmly shakes his hand. The family leaves and Esmeralda waves goodbye before leaving.

SOLANDRA

I didn't want to say this in front of them, but I just wanted to bite her little cheeks! Esmeralda really is a little marshmallow!

OSKAR

Yeah... She is.

SOLANDRA

You thought it wasn't going to work didn't you?

OSKAR

Is it obvious?

SOLANDRA

You can't lie to me.

(Slaps his back)

Give yourself some credit. You rebounded like you always... mostly do.

OSKAR

I'll take it. Thanks for helping.

Oskar and Solandra do their complex handshake.

OSKAR (CONT'D)

Alright let's put everything back.

SOLANDRA

Actually, I have to meet up with
Creston. You'll be good.

OSKAR

But the training room and the
tubes-

SOLANDRA

(Pointing to Oskar,
speaking rapidly)

That's why you got this. You're my
favorite convict, got to go, love
you, bye,

She leaves the shop. Oskar stands there dumbfounded and
laughs before tidying up the shop.

OSKAR

I think it'll be enough this time.

EXT. EARTH - CITY STREETS - DAY

Austin parks in front of the police station where everyone is
coughing or knocked out. Haynes is being examined in an
ambulance. He noticed Austin walk up to the entrance.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

You got your help?

AUSTIN

(Pulls out the ventilator)

That and then some.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

What the hell is that?

AUSTIN

It's a vaccine. I press this, it'll
spread for miles. I need everyone
to take a breath.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

That's no vaccine I've ever seen.

AUSTIN

I need you to trust me on this.

ESMERALDA

My daddy's telling the truth!

Haynes thinks about it and concedes.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
Take a breath you said?

AUSTIN
Biggest one you can.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
(Over radio)
Everyone listen, we're going to
release an airborne vaccine in the
vicinity. I'll give everyone a
minute to tell those not on these
comms.

Commotion can be heard inside the station and all over the
streets.

DIRECTOR HAYNES (CONT'D)
This friend of yours is a hell of a
miracle worker.

AUSTIN
You have no idea.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
Hmm. Do it.

Austin nods and presses the device. He tosses it on the
ground and it disperses the mist with great force, covering
city streets within seconds.

Everyone infected coughs violently and collapses, gasping for
air. A minute passes, everyone begins standing with little to
no coughing. Austin helps Haynes up.

AUSTIN
Sir, how are you feeling?

DIRECTOR HAYNES
Like I got sucker punched! But... I
feel great.

AUSTIN
Looks like everyone is feeling the
same.

DIRECTOR HAYNES
I know you said it was a cure, but
I still need you and your family to
get checked out before I can
dismiss you. Need to cover all our
bases.

AUSTIN

Yes sir. It'll give us time to talk
about free lunch with the other
agents.

DIRECTOR HAYNES

What do you mean?

AUSTIN

You'll see.

Austin leads his family in the station. Haynes notices the
empty ventilator and takes it. His assistant heads outside
and notices him.

ASSISTANT

Want our scientists to look at
that?

DIRECTOR HAYNES

Along with the Smoker samples.

The assistant takes the device and heads inside with Haynes.

INT. THE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Oskar takes down the picture of Nellus and tries hanging up
another one when a customer comes inside.

CUSTOMER (O.S.)

This the infamous Omnishop I heard
so much about?

OSKAR

(Turning around)

Sure is. How can I help macho?

THE END