

OIL & WATER

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

A run-down gas station convenience store. The windows are caked in dirt and cracks. Rows of metal shelves make up the middle of the store. A wall of fridges line one side, with the low whine like a puppy coming from them.

The walls are plastered with posters. One is a robot eye with the words "SEE THE ENEMY. REPORT THE ENEMY. SAVE YOUR CITY."

Another poster is of a metal arm and a white-armored arm, handshaking with the words "SUPPORTING ENFORCERS SUPPORTS THE WAR"

A third poster is a picture of a piece of paper held by a robot hand, with the words "SUPPORT YOUR SOLDIERS. BUY WAR BONDS!"

Behind the cash register, ZANE, 26, flips through a newspaper. He wears a faded polo and khakis. His name tag sits a jar on his chest.

BEAT

The doorbell RINGS. The disheveled figure of TERRANCE, 28, stumbles into the store. He wears a prison uniform that is dusty and has a blood stain around the collar. Terrance's eyes dart around the store.

ZANE (O.S.)  
(blasé)  
Welcome in.

Terrance spots the posters. He studies them.

TERRANCE  
(to Zane)  
Can you help me?

ZANE  
Stuff on the shelves is half off,  
gas is self-serve, and we got  
everything but waters in the  
fridge.

TERRANCE  
I just need to get out of town.

ZANE  
Go North. Show the guards your ID,  
then keep going north.

Terrance turns and goes to the counter.

TERRANCE

Can you show me on a map?

Zane sighs and puts down his newspaper. Terrance's eyes go wide. Zane's right eye is metallic, with wires extending around the side and into a box on the back of his head.

Terrance steps back from the counter.

TERRANCE (CONT'D)

You-you're a-

Zane's eyes narrow. Terrance turns and bolts for the front door... right as they fly open! Terrance stumbles back.

FRANK, 42, steps through the doorway. He wears a flannel shirt, jeans, and a cowboy hat. His right arm is purely mechanical. His eyes narrow.

FRANK

Gotcha!

Terrance turns. Frank grabs Terrance. His mechanical arm locks around Terrance's chest.

ZANE

Frank, thank god you're-

FRANK

Zip it, Zane!

Terrance tries to break free.

FRANK (CONT'D)

The more you struggle, the more it will hurt!

Terrance cries in pain. He struggles again.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You can keep fighting but you'll just end up with Enforcer's if you do.

BEAT

Terrance stops struggling. He sighs. Frank tentatively reaches for a pair of handcuffs on his belt. Terrance doesn't resist. Frank nods and cuffs Terrance.

ZANE

Thank you Frank.

FRANK  
Just doing my job.

Zane chuckles.

ZANE  
Oil and water, right?

BEAT

Frank looks at Zane.

FRANK  
What?

ZANE  
Oil and water? You know, can't let  
two things mix.

Frank nods.

FRANK  
Right, Oil and Water.

Frank turns and pushes Terrance out of the store.

INT. FRANK'S TRUCK - DAY

Frank SLAMS the driver's side door closed. Terrance sits in  
the passengers seat.

TERRANCE  
Guess you're taking me back to the  
compound, right?

FRANK  
You want to get out of town?

Terrance blinks.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
You want to be free and alive?

Terrance slowly nods.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
Good. Give me your hands.

Terrance stares at Frank. Frank pulls out a key ring.

TERRANCE  
What?

FRANK

Trust me.

TERRANCE

Trust you? You're an amalgamation!  
You're just gonna hand me over to  
Enforcers!

Frank shakes his head.

FRANK

I don't have any reason too.

TERRANCE

You have every reason NOT too!

FRANK

Look, I won't try to get you to  
understand why I'm doing this. All  
I'll say is this...

(beat)

...You want to escape, I want those  
in charge to pay for what they've  
done to us A.L.'s.

TERRANCE

What?

FRANK

Look I'll make this simple: You  
leave and try to die on your own,  
or you stay with me and have a  
chance to escape.

Frank unlocks Terrance's handcuffs.

FRANK (CONT'D)

The choice is yours.

Terrance blinks. Terrance looks at Frank. The door handle.  
Frank. Terrance's free hands. Frank.

The RUMBLE of a truck breaks through the silence. Frank  
glances in the mirror.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Shit, Enforcers.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

A red pick-up truck RUMBLES into the gas station. It parks  
behind Frank. Two white-armored Enforcer's step out of the  
backseats. Each one wields a glowing, metal baton.

WALTER, the 27-year-old Enforcer Captain, steps out of the driver's seat. Walter dons the same armor but with an orange triangle emblazoned across his chest piece.

Walter points at the gas station.

WALTER  
Check inside, I've got parameter.

The Enforcer's nod and head into the convenience store. Walter turns and steps towards Frank's truck. He draws his own baton.

INT. FRANK'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Frank turns to Terrance.

FRANK  
Terrance, it's now or never!

Terrance stares at his hands.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
Fine!

Frank SLAMS on the gas pedal. Terrance is thrown back in his seat.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Walter is thrown to the ground. Frank's truck flies out of the gas station.

Walter grits his teeth. He pulls out a walkie talkie.

WALTER  
(into walkie talkie)  
All units in the Eckta District, I  
have a white pick-up housing a  
human escapee. This is priority  
level one!

Walter gets up and runs to his pickup truck. The other Enforcers re-emerge from the gas station.

WALTER (CONT'D)  
I am not letting another one  
fugitive escape!

Walter gets into his truck. He SLAMS on the accelerator. His truck RUMBLES forward.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A dusty highway. Rolling fields sits on either side of the highway. A rusted tractor sits in field, with an old truck nearby.

Looming over the equipment is the massive, rusty, shell of a mechanical amalgamation. It towers three stories tall and looks like a spider missing two of its legs.

Frank's truck barrels down the highway, dwarfed by the size of the landscape.

INT. FRANK'S TRUCK - DAY

Frank looks in his rear-view mirror.

FRANK

Shit!

TERRANCE

What's wrong?

FRANK

You took too long.

TERRANCE

What?

FRANK

Those Enforcers now know my truck,  
we'll have to ditch it.

TERRANCE

How will we make it to the  
checkpoint then?

FRANK

There's a path through the woods  
we've taken before.

TERRANCE

We?

FRANK

You got coded right?

Terrance pulls down his prison uniform collar, revealing a small gash in his neck.

TERRANCE

Removed it as soon as I could.

Frank nods.

FRANK

Good, means we won't be killed  
immediately.

Frank picks up a water bottle.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Drink this.

Terrance hesitantly takes the water bottle. He takes a big  
gulp from the bottle.

TERRANCE

If I'm not being tracked, why do we  
need to ditch the truck?

FRANK

The open road leaves us exposed.  
That Enforcer Captain has my truck  
plates. We roll up on a checkpoint,  
they'll kill us before we can step  
out of the truck.

Terrance leans back in his chair. He looks out the window.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Terrance and Frank trek through a well-worn, dirt path. The  
CRUNCH of leaves and tree branches echo with each step.  
Pieces of metal sit mixed into the natural backdrop.

Terrance passes by a pile of old propaganda pamphlets. They  
read "HUMANS ARE THE DISEASE, A.L.'S ARE THE CURE!". Terrance  
stops and stares at them. Frank turns.

TERRANCE

How long has the war been going on?

FRANK

What do you mean?

TERRANCE

I lived here before the war  
started.

FRANK

Oh, so you're an original?

Terrance blinks.



TERRANCE  
Sure. How long has the war been  
going on?

FRANK  
Umm... five years I think?

Terrance closes his eyes.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
If you're an original, why didn't  
you leave with everyone else?

TERRANCE  
I didn't get the chance.

FRANK  
What?

TERRANCE  
I was in the first neighborhood the  
amalgamations hit. I was in the  
camp before anyone had a chance to  
escape.

Frank blinks. A tear roles down Terrance's cheek.

BEAT

Terrance wipes his cheek and continues into the woods. Frank  
watches Terrance.

BEAT

Frank heads after Terrance.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

Frank and Terrance pass by a rushing stream. Frank stops.

FRANK  
Let's stop for a second.

TERRANCE  
(annoyed)  
We don't have time.

FRANK  
You look tired.

Terrance whips around.

TERRANCE  
I AM TIRED!

Frank's eyes go wide.

TERRANCE (CONT'D)  
(explodes)  
I'm tired of running! Tired of  
fearing for my life! Tired of  
hoping and praying that I'll see  
freedom for the first time in five  
years!

Frank blinks.

TERRANCE (CONT'D)  
I'm most tired of having to put my  
trust in one of the very things  
that placed me that death camp five  
years ago!

FRANK  
You still don't trust me?

TERRANCE  
How could I? YOU are one of them!  
You CHOSE to become one of them!  
(beat)  
I am a human. You aren't. Why would  
you ever want to help me? All your  
kind does is lie, steal, and kill!

Frank looks at the stream.

TERRANCE (CONT'D)  
It's like that guy at the gas  
station said. Oil and water. We  
don't mix.  
(beat)  
We can NEVER mix.

FRANK  
Why are you here then?

TERRANCE  
Where the hell else can I go? I'm  
going to die either way. Better to  
live in this fantasy than die two  
hours ago.

FRANK  
You really think it's that great  
being an A.L?

TERRANCE  
You. hold. all. the. power.

BEAT

Frank gestures to the stream.

FRANK  
Put your hand in the water.

Terrance scoffs.

TERRANCE  
What?

FRANK  
You think being an A.L. Is amazing?  
(beat)  
Stick you hand in the water.

Terrance hesitates. Frank turns to Terrance.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
You want to know what it's like?  
Put your hand in the water.

Terrance blinks. He slowly steps towards the stream and places his hand in the water.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
What do you feel?

TERRANCE  
Cold?

FRANK  
What else.

TERRANCE  
Wet. Annoyed. Angry. What the hell  
is your point?

Frank goes to the stream and sticks his mechanical hand in the water.

FRANK  
Now ask me.

TERRANCE  
What?

FRANK  
Ask. me.

Terrance rolls his eyes.

TERRANCE  
This is so stupid. What do you  
feel?

FRANK  
Nothing.

TERRANCE  
(annoyed)  
Shocker, the metal feels like  
metal.

FRANK  
No.  
(beat)  
I don't FEEL anything.

Terrance blinks.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
You think it's great having this  
hunk of metal attached to my flesh?  
Think it gives me so much power?

Frank locks eyes with Terrance.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
You still have a life. You can  
still hug. hold. feel.  
(beat)  
You don't have a cold piece of  
metal constantly reminding you of  
the choices you've made.

Terrance looks at his right arm.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
You don't get the luxury of giving  
up on life...

Terrance looks at Frank.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
...especially when you have a hell  
of a lot more to live for than me.

Frank pulls his arm out the water and stands.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
Let's go, we've wasted enough time.

Frank heads back into the woods. Terrance looks at his arm in the stream. The water rushes over his hand.

Terrance stands and heads after Frank.

EXT. TREE LINE - DAY

Terrance and Frank hide within the tree-line along a back country road. Just up the road, a military checkpoint blocks the road. Two barriers sit with Enforcers patrolling back and forth. Batons drawn.

FRANK  
I'm going to try and distract them,  
you get as close to the barriers as  
you can.

Frank grabs Terrance's shoulder.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
If I say "Run", you run. Got it?

Terrance blinks.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
(stern)  
Got it?

Terrance nods.

EXT. CHECKPOINT - DAY

Frank trudges towards the Enforcers. As he gets closer, one of the Enforcers raises their baton. Frank holds up his arms.

FRANK  
(shouting)  
Please, I need your help!

The Enforcer lowers their baton at the sight of Frank's mechanical arm.

EXT. TREE LINE - DAY

Terrance sits just behind the checkpoint barriers. The second the Enforcer move from the barriers. Terrance makes his way out of the brush.

EXT. CHECKPOINT - DAY

Terrance escapes the tree line. He stays below the Enforcer's eye-line. He slowly makes his way towards the barriers.

The RUMBLE of a truck cuts through the air. Terrance looks up.

Walter's pick-up truck parks behind Frank. Frank turns. Walter and his Enforcer's march towards Frank.

TERRANCE  
(under his breath)  
Shit!

Frank holds up his hands... Walter SLAMS his baton into Frank's gut. Frank drops to his knees.

TERRANCE (CONT'D)  
(shouts)  
Frank!

Terrance bursts onto the main road. The Enforcers all turn. Terrance stops. Walter turns. Frank looks up.

FRANK  
(wheezing)  
Damn it, Terrance.

WALTER  
Get that fugitive!

The other Enforcers turn and charge at Terrance. Terrance Freezes.

An Enforcer bear-hugs Terrance from behind. Terrance head-butts the Enforcer, causing the Enforcer to release Terrance... just as another Enforcer's baton misses Terrance, and slams into the first Enforcer's chest. The first Enforcer cries in pain as his body is jolted full of electricity.

Terrance bolts back towards the barriers, as the final two Enforcers try to grab Terrance. He dives to the ground, causing the Enforcers to collide into each other.

WALTER (CONT'D)  
(shouting)  
All of you are useless! Just grab him!

Terrance pushes himself to his feet, and keeps running to the barriers.

FRANK  
(shouts)  
Go Terrance!

Terrance reaches the barriers.

WALTER  
Shut it old man!

Walter SLAMS his baton into Frank's gut. Frank cries out in pain. Terrance stops.

Terrance turns. Walter looks up and locks eyes with Terrance. Walter smiles.

Walter SLAMS Frank with his baton again. Frank cries out in pain. Terrance clinches his fist. Walter SMACKS Frank. Frank cries out in pain.

Terrance grits his teeth. The last Enforcer charges at Terrance, baton raised. Terrance raises his arms in a "fighting" stance.

BEAT

FRANK  
(last breath)  
RUN!

Terrance slips the Enforcer's baton, kicks the Enforcer to the ground, and hurdles the barrier. Walter screams.

WALTER  
Fine! I'll just to everything  
myself!

Walter SLAMS Frank one final time, causing Frank to fall limp. Walter then chases after Terrance.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Terrance continues sprinting down the road. He glances behind him. The white-armored outline of Walter gets closer and closer.

Terrance turns. He spots a sign reading "Welcome to Greentin". "HUMAN ZONE" is graffitied over the sign in red, spray paint.

Terrance smiles. He trips. He SLAMS into the ground. He turns over. Walter closes in, baton raised.

WALTER  
It's over for you, human! You will  
never escape me!

Terrance closes his eyes.

BEAT

A GUN SHOT rings out.

Terrance opens his eyes. Walter lies on his back. Motionless.  
A pool of blood forms underneath Walter.

HAILEY (O.S.)  
Who the hell are you?

Terrance rolls over. The barrel of a rifle greets him.  
Terrance throws up his hands.

TERRANCE  
I'm a human! I'm a human!

HAILEY, 25, stands on the other side of the "Welcome" sign.

HAILEY  
How do I know you ain't one of  
them?

Terrance slowly stands to his feet, he pulls down his shirt  
collar, revealing the bloody scar on his neck.

HAILEY (CONT'D)  
You a fugitive then?

Terrance nods. Hailey lowers her rifle.

HAILEY (CONT'D)  
How the hell did you escape?

Terrance glances back down the road.

TERRANCE  
I... had some help.

Hailey cocks her head. Terrance closes his eyes.

FADE OUT.