

SCOUT'S JOURNEY

Video game script

Jonas Nicolaisen

1. INT. EXCAVATION SITE

An underground cave with scaffolds, a construction lift and a spiral ramp fading upwards into gloom. At the bottom, a busy excavation site lit by electric work lights like a stage.

On that stage is THE PORTAL, a looming stone circle. People pass in front of it like shadows.

DING! It flickers on, emitting blueish light. Then off again.

WOMAN (O.S)

Hey! What just happened?

MAN (O.S)

Dunno. Lucky accident.

SCIENTIST (O.S)

My dear young fellow...

ESPERANZA lights a cigarette and inhales gleefully. A EUFOR lieutenant with close-cropped dark hair, taking it easy behind a supply crate.

SCIENTIST (O.S)

There are no accidents in science.

Essie rolls her eyes and settles in for a nap.

In her fingers, the CIGARETTE BURNS quickly.

2. INT. SCOUT'S APARTMENT

SCOUT, a red-haired woman, sleeping late.

On the floor an old radio, emitting static. A half-empty bottle of "Mosh Pit Premium".

Plastic foil flapping in a broken window. A ticking clock.

The door has a poster of a fawning starlet:

"BRIGITTE BAUDELAIRE in: HERO OF THE INCA TRAIL"

Beneath it, a LETTER SLOT, unmoving.

3. EXCAVATION SITE

ZAP! The portal flickers to life like an old TV set.

SCIENTIST (O.S)
What have you done?

MAN (O.S)
Nothing, Professor.

SCIENTIST (O.S)
There is no nothing in science!

A SCOURGE ABBOT floats through the portal, dressed in a black cloak, its face hidden behind a silver fluted helmet, its hands oversized armoured gloves. *Otherness.*

SCIENTIST (O.S)
My God!

A BALL OF LIGHT swirls in the Abbot's hands. He's casting a spell, readying the energy between his massive gloves like a snowball!

4. SCOUT'S APARTMENT

A RAP on the door.

Scout opens her eyes. Grey.

The letter slot CLATTERS and noisily spits out a PINK ENVELOPE.

Scout is on her feet like a cat, carefully avoiding line of sight from the door. She hugs the wall on tiptoes, inching toward the letter as if it could bite her.

5. EXCAVATION SITE

Scourge Footsoldiers are streaming from the portal. Dark cybernetic armour. The Abbot speaks hoarsely in Sinet.

ABBOT
Shas nika idye!

The Scourge take position to the left and right like clockwork. They launch Holy Marks, the floating targets unfolding like spinning blades.

WHOOMP! A Scourge Sergeant fires a massive handgun. Screams ring out. The Scorpio fire sets in like a chorus of whips.

Essie YOWLS as the cigarette burns her fingers. Hearing the noise, she rolls to her feet and cocks her rifle.

A SCOURGE EXECUTIONER, his head a grotesque punishment mask, steps through the portal wielding a giant two handed sword. A ten foot nightmare shrouded in a red glow.

6. SCOUT'S APARTMENT

Scout opens the letter. Red paper with "EUFOR" stamped on it and a circle of stars. The word "ACTORD", in bold.

SCOUT

You are to report immediately --
This letter is valid as a ticket --
(gasps)
This can't be right.

She rummages around and comes up with a bunch of keys. With badly shaking hands, she tries to open a beat-up locker.

SCOUT

Oh, oh shit. My stomach.

She RETCHES. Manages to grab a pill bottle. Downs some pills. Drinks water from the tap. Clutches her stomach.

SCOUT

Oh, oh. Fucking anxiety.

She gets the locker open. Pulls out an ASSAULT RIFLE.

7. EXCAVATION SITE

BOOM! The Abbot's spell hits with a flash and a gruesome tearing sound as if the fabric of space itself were ripped open. A ringing sound hangs in the air like a tortured guitar on feedback. Chaos breaks loose.

Essie pops up out of cover, rifle at the ready. She fires.
CRACK! CRACK! CRACK!

NARUUK THE STAR-EATER, the Scourge's god, comes through the portal, a good four meters tall and a striking sight in his cybernetic goat-head mask.

Essie, her face spattered with blood, stares in disbelief.

The ominous GOAT-HEAD MASK. Screaming and terror!

8. INT. WINDOWLESS ROOM WITH A MIRROR

Scout wipes the mirror clean. Grey eyes large in her pale face. Grey flak jacket labeled "EUFOR". Silver hair clip.

SCOUT

I'm not back in the army. I'm not.
I did my time...

Her radio earpiece sputters to life.

BIG BEAR (V.O)

I don't like you, I don't want you
on my team, and I've got more
important people in the line.

SCOUT

This is a mistake! I shouldn't be
here!

BIG BEAR (V.O)

No shit, sherlock. But I guess
you'll have to do. Move out!

SCOUT

I barely got basic training! This
is all wrong!

No answer.

SCOUT

I filed all the right papers, I
swear!

Reflection of her scared face.

SCOUT
 Why can't the nightmares stop?

9. INT. HERDBASE, MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Running feet.

A HERD TROOPER turns to present his slotted visor.

CHEN JIAO, a young but competent soldier of Chinese descent, takes position by a row of windows with her group of Banshees, all women in black-and-white Herd body armour carrying huge energy rifles. An elite squad.

JIAO
 (into wrist-mounted radio)
 Team A in position. Infantry coming
 up the backside. This shit's real!

She quickly glances outside.

JIAO
 I can see one, two, three drones.
 (shouting)
 And two MBTs!

10. ENTRANCE HALL

Essie alone in a vast space. Daylight cutting through gloom from high overhead windows. Maps and radio equipment. A burning oil drum. Large black banners with the goat's head.

The goat's head is also on her breastplate. Black and white body armour. A tired look on her face, a thousand yard stare.

ESPERANZA
 (whispers)
 So it's come to this.

NKOYO (V.O)
 Mother Goose, this is Scorpion.
 Gunship incoming.

ESPERANZA

(sighs)

Herd teams, you're cleared to fire.
Scorpion, don't let that bird see
you. I'm coming to deal with it.

She hefts her TEMPEST RIFLE, a huge bioelectric weapon,
labeled "001".

11. EXT. THE SKY - NIGHT

A helicopter ROARS by into the distance, tail light flashing.

BIG BEAR (V.O)

It's me. The package is on the way.

CATHERINE (V.O)

(distorted)

Have you gone mad? Don't contact me
like this! Loose lips sink ships.

BIG BEAR (V.O)

I found the kid. She's coming.

Beat.

CATHERINE

Praised be the Goat-Headed One.

12. EXT. LANDING PAD - EARLY MORNING

Rain.

Chen Jiao peering through a pair of binoculars.

JIAO

Been a while since we got visitors.

She looks up at NKOYO ADEYEMI, the leader of this Banshee
patrol, an imposing soldier of Yoruba descent with ritual
scars, wearing an eternal scowl.

JIAO

Not since the battle.

She lifts her binoculars again.

NKOYO
 (into radio)
 Mother Goose, Scorpion. Helicopter
 inbound. Looks like a transport.

ESPERANZA (V.O)
 So be it. Place my marker. I will
 deal with it.

Nkoyo signals retreat. Jiao produces a small sphere. An elegant underhand throw. It sprouts legs and begins blinking.

13. INT. HELICOPTER

INFERNAL NOISE. The door is open despite the rain and wind.

CREWMAN
 (yelling)
 Some weather, eh? You okay, missy?

Scout is clinging to a hand grip, looking very sick.

CREWMAN
 Sure you don't need a puke bag?

14. LANDING PAD

Underside of the helicopter as it prepares to land. Lights blooming from it.

PILOT (V.O)
 EUFOR command, this is Black Rose.
 LZ looks clear.

Essie steps out of the shadows. Looks up into the rain. Raises her Tempest rifle.

BOOM! The heli is speared by a ray of light!

15. HELICOPTER

Beeping alarms. Blinking lights. Wild spinning and tilting.

PILOT (V.O.)
 We've been hit!

CREWMAN

Pull the fucking rip panel!

PILOT (V.O)

I can't hold it!

CREWMAN

Holy mother! Get out, kid!

He yanks Scout toward the open side door.

CREWMAN

Jump!

He pushes her through the door.

16. LANDING PAD

Scout sees the spinning heli come down, SCREAMS and flees into the

17. AIRLOCK

leading to the installation. The heli CRASHES into the concrete behind her, turbines HOWLING, blades spinning and breaking, churning into the ground.

She instinctively punches a button. The heavy security door HISSES shut. On the other side, CRASHING, BURNING, and people yelling for help.

Scout stares at the door, gripping her head, her mouth, in terror, struggling for breath, the scene lit by an amber flashing beacon. A fire alarm sounds in the distance.

SCOUT

My...

BIG BEAR (V.O.)

You're alive? Which one are you?

SCOUT

(panting)

Oh my god.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
The kid? Excellent.

SCOUT
The people in the helo...

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
Never mind them.

SCOUT
What?!

Something EXPLODES on the other side of the door.

SCOUT
Oh. Oh no.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
Get a move on!

SCOUT
Are you insane? We just crashed!

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
I said: Move out!

Screams from the other side.

SCOUT
I've got to help them!

She grabs the emergency open handle and pulls it a couple times, panting. The door won't budge.

SCOUT
Please...
(gasping)
Damn it!

FWOOSH. Another explosion. Scout jumps.

SCOUT
(panting)
Ah.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)

I'll throw you to the sharks if you don't get moving. You fancy going this alone?

SCOUT

O... Okay...

She moves away from the door and turns around - then SCREAMS, muffling it with both hands across her mouth.

Esperanza watches her curiously.

Scout falls and crawls into a corner, terrified, until the airlock's inner door closes between them.

SCOUT

There's someone in here.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)

You're full of crap, you know that?

SCOUT

You said this was a green zone!

A breathless pause.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)

Now, would you kindly?

Scout manages to open the door. No one there. She starts down a

18. SHORT CORRIDOR

Another security bulkhead SCREECHES closed behind her. She whips around, startled. The FIRE ALARM is blaring.

She wipes her nose on her sleeve and looks around.

CHANGE TO FIRST PERSON:

19. INT. HERDBASE LABS - DAY

The basic commands are shown to the player: WASD to move, etc.

SCOUT
This isn't happening.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
My callsign is Big Bear. I'm the
one who gives the orders.

SCOUT
(very quietly)
I'm Elin. They call me Scout.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
Are you armed?

SCOUT
No. It's... it was... in the helo.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
Good. The excavation site is
roughly a click away.

SCOUT
Who was that?

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
What?

SCOUT
There was somebody there. This was
supposed to be a green zone.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
Standard recon operating procedure.
It gives us an unbiased picture.

SCOUT
Bollocks.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
Trust me, I know exactly what I'm
doing.

SCOUT
(yelling)
You know shit!

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
That's "yes, warrant officer, sir."

Beat.

SCOUT
(whispers)
I've got to get out of here.

The base is in disrepair. Lights are offline or flickering. Scout has nothing - not even a flashlight.

There is a door that can be unlocked from the nearby scanner room. Information such as graffiti can also be found:

"BROTHERS AND SISTERS - UNITE OR FALL"

"BROTHERS DON'T KILL BROTHERS"

20. SCANNER ROOM

A holographic display of the goat's head, surrounded by dead computers. Only one console is still functional. Upon using it, all monitors plonk to the goat's head logo.

The hologram changes to the figure of a robed woman.

CATHERINE (V.O.)
Brothers and sisters! The dogs of
EUFOR will never prevail! In the
name of the Goat-Headed One: Join
the Herd or perish!

The scanner display dies down. The monitors plonk to static.

SCOUT
This isn't a recon job anymore.

BIG BEAR (V.O.)
This is exactly a recon job.

21. ATRIUM

The cargo lift access is locked. It has to be opened from another room.