

BEACON SYNOPSIS

Sometime in the future: Our hero awakens from stasis within a cryogenic tube somewhere deep in an underground bunker. A translucent blue liquid slowly drains from around his immersed body as various instruments spring to life nearby, analyzing his vital signs and other obscure characteristics. After a few moments, he is finally released as the tube retracts clumsily into a recess in the ceiling above him. Our hero collapses to the tiled floor as the glowing blue liquid seeps into a nearby drain. After a prolonged coughing fit, he gathers himself and stands tall, carefully observing his surroundings. He is obviously in an improvised lab; obsolete equipment such as CRT monitors and dot matrix printers have been assembled for tasks beyond their intentions. Finding a sealed manila envelope addressed to his confidential care, he opens it to find an unmarked VHS tape and promptly plays its contents.

Upon watching the tape, gaps in our hero's recovering memory are filled piece-by-piece: a high-ranking scientist addresses him personally and refreshes him about his specified purpose. It is revealed that he is an augmented soldier participating in a terrestrial reclamation project, meant to provide a final stand for humanity against a theoretical alien invasion. The strained truce between the world governments and the alien threat has rapidly escalated towards a seemingly inevitable conflict. His revival is meant to occur years in the future after a proclamation of war, hopefully to emerge and join a triumphant human race... or to follow certain protocols should the worst have occurred. Coordinates are given as a rendezvous point to meet with the scientist and plan an appropriate course of action given the uncertain circumstances awaiting him at the surface.

After gathering supplies and fitting himself in a specialized combat uniform, our hero climbs a lengthy ladder towards the surface above. Opening a pressurized door, he climbs out and silently surveys the environment. He finds himself amidst a clearing in a dense forest and begins his journey towards his destination. Along the way, our hero encounters strange fauna and peculiar growths on trees... evidence that something substantial has altered, or is altering the Earth's environment. Passing through several abandoned towns only substantiates the logic that humanity is losing or has lost the war.

Undaunted from these discouraging signs, our hero finally arrives at his destination to find a house in modest upkeep, with gardens growing and other signs of life. An wheelchair-bound man greets our hero with surprise and reveals that he is the scientist who provided him the information in the confidential video. He explains that the war ended several years ago as a stalemate, with the alien invaders causing substantial damage before being driven back by a new weapon. Nevertheless, organic weapons released by the extra-terrestrials during the war are still operational and methodically probe the landscape in search of human survivors for neutralization.

Our hero is eventually introduced to our heroine, a reclusive yet hot-tempered young woman who was an alien abductee for a lengthy period of time. In time, she reveals that she was implanted with superhuman abilities that lay dormant until the appropriate time to mobilize alongside a collective ground force, paving the way for the invasion. However, in a twist of fate, her mind implant malfunctioned which freed her from telepathic alien influence while still retaining her powers. She fought back against the invaders and was one of several rogues who provided an advantage that humanity desperately needed against the initial wave of attacks. When the aliens finally retreated, she became a lost soul who stumbled across the scientist's compound and lived with him as communications slowly deteriorated between isolated refugee camps. Having lost hope for humanity's long-term survival, they've resigned their efforts towards quiet lives and extend an offer for our hero to join them.

While weighing his options, our hero establishes a unique bond with our heroine, adopting the role of a surrogate "big brother" as he contemplates his decision to embark on his own or forfeit his ultimate directive. Days after his arrival, a small group of Stalkers (a nickname for the organic weapons left by the aliens) attack the compound, killing the scientist during the skirmish. Our heroes struggle with fending them off until a sniper in the distance provides unexpected assistance, eliminating the threats with uncanny efficiency. Once the dust has settled, the sniper introduces himself as a scout who purposely follows the Stalkers, noting their remarkable efficiency in finding human survivors. He reveals that there is indeed a military stronghold that exists, with a small band of "locusts" (a nickname that his type of soldier has been given) finding refuge there. Harboring the appropriate technological resources, the military has confirmed that the aliens are planning another invasion, meant to extinguish the remaining human race and lay the groundwork for a new species to propagate the Earth. Presented with the prospect of joining an established military in their efforts, our heroes begin their long venture towards the stronghold, where a cooperative general and a well-trained militia await their arrival.

After some tribulations, our band of heroes finally arrive at the stronghold and are welcomed through the gates. Wasting no time, our protagonist meets with three other locusts and is informed that twelve total were commissioned, scattered across several continents. Once mobilized, they are meant to congregate at a certain set of coordinates near Dulce, New Mexico and utilize a mysterious method of repelling further attacks by the aliens, once and for all. They decide to direct their efforts towards pinpointing the other locusts and arranging their relocation as the stronghold undergoes repeated attacks by Stalkers and a new, more terrifying enemy. In a disastrous chain of events, the Scout character dies and our heroine is robbed of her powers during a siege. Nevertheless, our heroes press on with their mission.

After several close calls, the twelve locusts finally meet in the predesignated area, each holding a key towards unlocking and activating the weapon... assuming their unanimous approval. To their shock and awe, a prerecorded message reveals the weapon to be a chemical agent that would be released into the environment throughout the world, meant to drastically alter the Earth's ecosystem, making it uninhabitable to any foreign invader. A warning is given, stating that this measure should be a last resort; the agent may have unintended consequences and put humanity's long-term survival at risk. Not surprisingly, signs in the sky indicate an approaching invasion, putting pressure on the locusts to reach a decision. What decision shall they make? Will they undergo this drastic measure or try to fight back against the invaders themselves? Or will they solemnly accept their fate?

NOTES

Sorry this took so long. I had to spend a lot of time ironing out my ideas and making sure everything was in order as far as the progression of the story.

I tried to divide the story into three acts. The first act would end when our Scout character is introduced and informs our heroes of their new motivations. The second act ends during a siege of the stronghold, when our Scout character dies (a likable character) and our heroine is somehow removed of her powers... the lowest point of the story. The third act obviously ends with whatever decision we make about the ultimate fate of the Earth.

I tried to make motivations clear, as well. The locusts are initially meant to help human survivors in their designated areas, but a pending re-invasion motivates them to seek out their "ultimate purpose." Also, there will be a love dynamic between our hero and heroine which unexpectedly evolves from their initial dislike for each other. Think Princess Leia and Han Solo, except our hero is much less of a jerk. Haha. I abandoned the idea of our hero awakening past his intended time frame, because I found it to be an unnecessary complication. I thought that might be a neat theme to explore... both our hero and heroine being "fuck-ups," in a sense.

Well, there you have it. I'm now hard at work creating some visual representations of our characters. Call me if you have any questions or concerns.