

V O O D O O K R O N

"Welcome to VooDooKron"

PILOT

Created and Written

by

Stanley B. Gill

NEW ORLEANS MOVING PICTURES Co.

FIRST DRAFT - WHITE
04-24-2014

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V O O D O O K R O N

"Welcome to VooDooKron"

PILOT

COLD OPEN

In a world...

FADE UP:

SFX: LIGHT SWIRLING, FLUTTERING WIND...

MX: FRENCH QUARTER STREET BAND

FADE IN:

CAMERA: FLIES OVERHEAD AND DOWN THROUGH CLOUDS TO...

EXT. NEW ORLEANS MID-21ST CENTURY - DUSK

A young (20's) WILDLY PRETTY GIRL with long flying hair, in a white sun dress and combat boots, playfully rides her clanky bike through the French Quarter as the walking populace gawks at her.

EXT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE - DUSK

She coasts up the sidewalk to THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE, politely parting the FRENCH QUARTER STREET BAND who has graciously provided our music.

She smiles. The band finishes, tips their hats to her and moves along.

INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE - DUSK

The girl merrily strides through the front door as the tingly store bell announces her arrival. A setting sun shines through her dress to reveal her edible figure and a slight sheen of sweat.

The SHOPKEEPER (mid-40's) hunk of a man, who goes by "Shopy," glances up from reading his glowing cool blue COMPUTER TABLET to notice the girl as she strolls through The Gris-Gris door.

SHOPPY

You need any help there darlin'?

WILDLY PRETTY GIRL

(avoiding)

Um, no. I'm just looking around today. Thank you sweetie.

SHOPPY

Well, you let me know if I can help you. We have all sorts of things in here.

WILDLY PRETTY GIRL

I certainly will.

Shopy dips his head back down and slyly gazes over his TECHNICAL SHOP GLASSES to inspect her peculiar, sexy sashay.

SHOPPY

(sotto voce)

All sorts of things.

He is magnetically drawn to stare at her sweating figure as she bends over starkly revealing she's not wearing anything underneath her dress.

She covertly glances back over her shoulder to stone-cold bust Shopy staring. He fidgets.

Strolling to the counter, as her combat boots go...

SFX: CLUMP. CLUMP.

WILDLY PRETTY GIRL

(fanning her dress)

Do you think it's hot?

SHOPPY

(stuttering)

Oh... It's... Hot... Darlin'...

WILDLY PRETTY GIRL

(seductively)

Do you have any cool water?

She bends over, leans on the counter to seductively reveal her bulging breasts. She really isn't wearing anything underneath her dress.

PAUSE. Blank. Stare.

SHOPPY

(sweating; shaking)

Yes. Oh, yes hun.

Shopy gets up, fidgets around, then fills a GLASS OF WATER from the shop's sweating ICE WATER PITCHER.

SFX: TINK, TINK THE ICE CLATTERS AND WATER POURS

SHOPPY (cont'd)
(still shaking)
Here. Here ya go, darlin'. Whew.

He wipes his drowning brow.

She takes the glass in both hands and laps the water like a cat. That's weird. She backs away from the counter, while accidentally on purpose spilling the water over her chest.

Shopy is frozen. What is going on here?

Staring intently at Shopy, she falsely tries to rub the water from her dress, and pops the top button off. It goes flying...

SFX: CLICK. CLICK. TINK.

She sets the glass down and s-l-o-w-l-y begins stripping away the dress until it falls to the floor...

BEAT.

Revealing what she is wearing underneath -- two storm trooper combat boots and a sheen of sweat.

Shopy is stone cold frozen. Breathe, Shopy.

WILDLY PRETTY GIRL
(slowly moving towards him)
Do you think it's too hot...
Shopy?

SHOPPY
(stuttering)
Yes. Yes. It's too hot. Uhhh...

Wait. What did she just call him?

Shopy senses something isn't right. Not right at all.

He measuredly reaches under the counter.

CU: UNDERNEATH COUNTER TO REVEAL GALACTIC SCATTER BLASTER

Shopy's DOUBLE BARREL SHOTGUN slung under the counter is ready for quick draws. Yet, this shotgun doesn't look normal. Blinking lights...

SFX: STATIC AND HUMS

She approaches the counter, with her boots and wet sheen, staring directly at Shoppy. Shoppy stares directly back.

His heartbeat is racing. You can hear it. Hers?

Shoppy's CRYPTORING hand engages his weapon under the counter. Without that CryptoRing, the galactic scatter blaster won't fire.

SFX: CLICK. HUM. ENGAGE.

WILDLY PRETTY GIRL
(sultry; computer-
generated)
Do you think it's hot... Shoppy?

SHOPPY
(tense)
Oh, it's about to get all hot up in
here darlin'.

SFX: SWISH!

Shoppy wheels out his weapon, beeping, humming and everything, from underneath the counter.

Dead aim right at her head -- she stops. He shakes.

She doesn't flinch or move one inch while staring him down.

SFX: VBOOM!

The entire pawn shop starts to shake fast. Things fall. Her water glass shatters.

Shoppy is alert, puzzled and still has his target.

She does not move one inch. It's a stare down.

An ESCAPE KEY has been dropped from the VOODOO GRID (VDG).

The VDG -- the VooDoo Grid. You can see it. You can hear it. You can taste it. You can smell it. You can even touch it. If not for your belief in the VooDoo religion, you couldn't survive in the VDG. It is the unseen alternate reality of VooDooKron.

Escape Key -- the detonating device, which looks like a digital grenade, used by BUFFERS to open a hole in the TRAVERSE PORTAL (TP) in order to move between the VDG and the CONSCIOUS GRID (CG).

Buffers -- the jumpers, the movers, the shifters, the travelers through the Traverse Portal.

The TP -- the Traverse Portal. The gateway between the VDG and CG through which Buffers must crossover. The TP ripples space and time into a brief dimension where time is rolled-back a few seconds, allowing Buffers to jump through it to the CG or VDG.

The CG -- the Conscious Grid. The physical world as most inhabitants of Earth know it.

VFX: TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES OPEN

SFX: VBOOM!

SOME GUY (mid-30's) very physically fit, in some sort of military tactical outfit, crash lands onto the floor of The Pawn Shop as the...

VFX: TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES CLOSED

Dust is flying. Settling. Rattles.

The girl spins on her boots, with Shoppy at her back, to watch The Guy recover.

ECU: HER EYES TURN FROM NORMAL TO VDG GREEN TO VDG RED

What is up with this chick?

Shoppy's had enough of this. He stands tall. Throws his chair back gunfighter-style.

SFX: CLANK, CLACK, CRASH!

He David-Caruso-offs his technical shop glasses.

Weapon aimed. Energized. Shaking. CryptoRing on!

The Guy rises, stunned and pensive. He has no clue where he's at, where he's landed. Shoppy has no clue who he is. The Guy turns around to face the girl with the combat boots and sweat.

She saunters towards The Guy. Does she know who he is?

At this point, we'd all like to know.

SFX: THUMPF!

BOOYAH! Momma said 'knock you out!' Reflexively, The Guy PUNCHES her out.

SFX: DIGITAL DEATH

She drops like a sack of potatoes between him and Shoppy.

OUCH! He looks at his hand wondering why it did that.

What is going on up in here?

Shoppy has his futuristic scatter blaster pointed directly at The Guy. Really shaking now.

SFX: WEAPON RATTLES. HUMS. BUZZES. BLINKS.

The Guy looks up.

SHOPPY (cont'd)

(tense; sweating)

If you so much as exhale son, I will blow you back into the muddy Mississippi. Or where ever it is you came from.

The Guy, still dazed from the Escape Key sequence, HOLDS HIS BREATH at the threat of certain death.

Shoppy and The Guy exchange looks.

They look in unison at the sack-of-girl, or whatever that thing is on the floor. They turn back to each other.

Watching The Guy turn blue...

SHOPPY (cont'd)

(conceding)

Okay. You can breathe. But don't move!

EXHALE!

The Guy doubles over trying to catch his breath.

Just when you thought it was okay to breathe...

SFX: SLAM!

Now what?!

The Guy reflexively spins. Shoppy looks deep.

END COLD OPEN

CUT TO MAIN TITLES:

TITLE:

VooDoo (VOO-doo)
noun.

a religious order colonized on the third planet
from the Sun - Earth - in a Type SBc galaxy
called the Milky Way.

fuses doctrines of mythic rituals, dark sorcery
and spiritual possession.

TITLE:

In the not too distant future...

TITLE:

Earth inhabitants have enjoyed decades of relative peace,
free from wars. Humans find mutual extinction abhorrent.

The Jacquard-Laveau code outbreak in New Orleans gave rise
to the Xenophons, a virulent computer species which
mutated, crossed-over and systematically became SELF-AWARE.

A powerful and clandestine military caste of VooDoo
Warriors were commissioned by the stealth U.S. Cyber
Intelligence Agency in response.

TITLE:

Their only directive -

GLOBAL ORDER NO. 1:
SEARCH, DETECT, AND TERMINATE XENOPHONS IN THE WILD.

TITLE:

To launch their missions, the VooDoo Warriors must traverse
a wild called...

TITLE:

V O O D O O K R O N

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT ONE

VFX: TIME LAPSE VIBRATIONS OF NEW ORLEANS - NIGHT

EXT. NEW ORLEANS SKYLINE (CG) - NIGHT

A light, fluttering breeze in the Conscious Grid (CG).

A hint of rain as...

CAMERA: DESCENDS ON OUR VOODOO WARRIORS

EXT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/REAR (CG) - NIGHT

After that bizarre encounter with the walking-talking sex doll and the KronJob, Shoppy and The Guy are sitting out back of the closed shop, smoking CIGARS and drinking WHISKEY.

Shoppy is examining the girl's abandoned white dress with his technical shop glasses and a BLUE LIGHT XDNA SCANNER.

He's much the inquisitive type.

XDNA Scanner -- the XDNA Scanner is a blue light scanning device. It can scan for DNA and digital markers, which can only be revealed upon agitation of their electro-digital state. These digital markers are fragments of computer code unintentionally or, intentionally, left behind.

The screen reveals the hidden marking on the dress...

ECU: BLUE LIGHT XDNA SCANNER SCREEN "DIGIXXX 2238"

A DigiXXX -- pronounced "Dij-IKS" is a replicant, male or female, which is engineered for human pleasure. They are completely life-like and are simple droids designed for human companionship, more physically perfect, than mentally (computationally) perfect. They can be purchased and hacked for exotic XXX pleasure, too.

SHOPPY

(dejected)

DigiXXX 22-38. Hmmm. After all that, my busted-up shop, and this is what I have left? Ain't that something? Mmm. Mmm. Mmm.

SOME GUY
(laughs; curious)
DigiXXX 22-38? Let me see that.

Shopy tosses the abandoned dress to The Guy but...

SFX: SPARKLING STATIC. VHOOSH!

VFX: THE DRESS DISAPPEARS LIKE SPARKLERS INTO THIN AIR

It self-destructs. Typically, a DigiXXX is programmed to self-destruct if it gets out-of-control. A safety feature which can be bypassed, but at the owner's peril, as they can be held liable for anything their DigiXXX does to someone.

SOME GUY (cont'd)
(surprised)
Whoa.

PAUSE. They stare into thin air where the dress vanished.

SHOPPY
(stunned)
There's some VooDoo magic mojo
something going on there.

SOME GUY
Wait. Back up. What did you say?

SHOPPY
I said there's some VooDoo magic
mojo something--

SOME GUY
(cuts him off)
That's it!

SHOPPY
That's what?

SOME GUY
That's it. That's where I came
from.

SHOPPY
What do you mean... Came from?

SOME GUY
(thinking out loud)
The last thing I remember before I
fell... Landed in your shop... Was
a loud explosion.
(MORE)

SOME GUY (cont'd)

I felt like I was treading water.
Walking in slow motion.

(pauses)

VooDoo. VooDoo? Something VooDoo.

SHOPPY

Yeah, you right. It's VooDoo
something on the bayou.

SOME GUY

(sotto voce)

My head is killing me. Grid?

(realizing)

No. Grid. I fell from the VooDoo
Grid. Jumped from the VooDoo Grid.

Shopy has a blank stare on his face.

SOME GUY (cont'd)

(painfully)

Awww!

His head begins to hurt again.

SHOPPY

(scared)

I needs me to drink more.

Shopy begins to pour himself a drink and slowly turns his
head to look at The Guy.

SHOPPY (cont'd)

You looks to needs you a drink too,
mister.

SOME GUY

(taking the drink)

She knew I was going to be there,
here.

SHOPPY

Be where? That DigiXXX doll?

SOME GUY

(drinks)

Yeah. At your shop.

SHOPPY

That walking-talking sex doll?

(pauses in thought)

Man. Did you see her--

SOME GUY

(cutting off)

She didn't know. She was sent.
Someone, or some thing, sent her to
find me. To be ahead of me. Ahead?
DigiXXX? Why do I know this?

SHOPPY

You mind if I ask... Who you are,
mister?

BEAT.

SOME GUY

(thinks; looks at weapon)

Shopy. Why do you have that...
That weapon?

Shopy reaches down and cradles his space-aged, humming,
blinking-light galactic scatter blaster like a teddy bear.

SHOPPY

(staring at his weapon)

I've always had it.

SOME GUY

(searching for answers)

How long have you been here? Here
at this...

(looks around)

This shop?

SHOPPY

(hesitating)

I've always been here.

SOME GUY

You can't have always been here.
Where were you before? Before here?

SHOPPY

(long pause; confused)

I... I... Don't know, mister. I've
always been here.

(looking at his weapon)

I've always had this.

SOME GUY

(deep in thought;
realization)

All I can see is a grid. A VooDoo
Grid. What's a VooDoo Grid?

ECU: VODOO BLUE EYE

SHOPPY
(uncomfortable)
Listen. I don't want to know
nothing about no VooDoo, mister.
Uh, uh. No sir. Not me. Ergo I
don't know nothing.

The headache starts again.

SOME GUY
(painfully)
Awww!

Shopy stares deadpan at The Guy, looks at his half-full glass of whiskey, looks at the bottle and picks it up and begins to drink.

SFX: VBOOM! BOTTLE SHATTERS!

VFX: TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES OPEN

And out jumps ANOTHER GUY (mid-30's) very physically fit and wearing some military tactical outfit, too. He's dazed, confused and soaking wet. Stumbling.

Where are all these military-looking people coming from...

Dropping out of the sky?

Shopy is frozen still with a busted whiskey bottle in his hand.

SHOPPY
(instinctively yells)
KronJob!

The Another Guy turns, comes to, and readies himself for...

Some Guy grabs Shopy's weapon.

CU: THE SOME GUY TURNS

SOME GUY
(determined)
Welcome to VooDooKron.

END ACT ONE

CUT TO BLACK.

ACT TWO**FADE UP:****SFX:** LIGHT WIND AND RAIN BREATHE INTO THE CITY...**MX:** VOODOOKRON MAIN TITLE THEME DEVELOPING HINTS**CUT TO:****VFX:** TIME LAPSE VIBRATIONS OF NEW ORLEANS - NIGHT**VFX:** TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES OPEN**EXT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/REAR (CG) - NIGHT**

Some Guy and Shoppy get spooked by yet another Traverse Portal jump. Another Buffer. What is going on here?

SHOPPY

KronJob!

The Guy is armed with Shoppy's galactic scatter blaster. Shoppy is armed with a half-shattered bottle.

The Another Guy jumps out of the Traverse Portal soaking wet. He turns, comes to, and readies himself for...

ANOTHER GUY

(painfully)

Awww!

VFX: TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES CLOSED

Aiming at the Buffer ...

SOME GUY

(tense)

She's gone! She's already gone!
They already took her.

ANOTHER GUY

(recovering; confused)

Who? Who's gone? Holy crap, my head
hurts.

SHOPPY
(half-drunk; answering)
That walking-talking sex doll!

ANOTHER GUY
(painfully)
Awww! Whew!
(focused)
Man. That one hurt a little. Why
are the jumps doing that?

SOME GUY
(pensive)
What are you? Where did you come
from? How did you do that?

ANOTHER GUY
(aggravated)
Horatius. Give Shoppy back his
blaster. Wake up, dude.

"Horatius?" Shoppy freezes. Not this again.

SOME GUY
(unsure)
Do you know us? How do you know us?
What did you call me?

The Another Guy walks towards our Some Guy. Some Guy aims directly at him. The Another Guy raises his hands in surrender.

ANOTHER GUY
(cautious)
Easy there Tex. You don't even have
a CryptoRing on. Damn, my head.

He points at Some Guy's hand.

Some Guy rotates Shoppy's galactic scatter boomer revealing he's not wearing a CryptoRing, required for the blaster to fire, on his shooting hand. Lights aren't on. Beeps aren't beeping. Hums aren't humming.

SOME GUY
No. What did you call me before?

Shoppy is still frozen. The Another Guy realizes something is off. We realize something is off.

Who are these people?

Where do they keep coming from?

ANOTHER GUY

Have either one of you fine gentlemen experienced anything out of the ordinary lately?

Shopy and Some Guy look dumbfounded. At each other.

ANOTHER GUY (cont'd)

People just popping-in out of the blue? Now you see them. Now you don't? Awww! My head. Crap.

Shopy and Some Guy look dumbfounded and at each other. Again.

ANOTHER GUY (cont'd)

Horatius? What the H, dude?

Some Guy turns to him, but doesn't know why.

SOME GUY

(confused)

Yes! That's it. That's what you called me.

ANOTHER GUY

It's me. Kronos, man.

(pause)

Horatius? Don't you see me?

(waving hands)

Hello? Houston?

Ah, now we see. This Another Guy is KRONOS (30's) Navy SEAL-chiseled and wearing some sort of military tactical gear, which appears to have all his gear missing. Soaking wet.

SHOPPY

(happily scared)

I needs me to drink more.

Shopy looks at the broken bottle he's still holding from the Traverse Portal jump shattering it.

Finally, we see our Some Guy is actually HORATIUS.

Horatius slowly lowers the boomer. Kronos is not the enemy.

KRONOS

(pleading)

Shopy? Don't you see me?

Kronos waves his hands at Shopy.

SHOPPY

(agreeable)

Oh, I see you alright. I needs to see me drinking more. Yeah. That's what I needs to do.

HORATIUS

Why are you calling me Horatius?
Who are you?

Long beat.

KRONOS

Bruh... It's me. Horatius? Your brother. You are here on the Conscious Grid. The C-G. Did you have a bad jump? The VooDoo Grid is having some issues, dude, 'cause my head is killing me.

Another long beat.

SHOPPY

(laughing)

Oh! Oh! That's some VooDoo bayou magic alright.

Shopy gets up and yanks his galactic blaster back from Horatius.

SHOPPY (cont'd)

Gimme that. I got the CryptoRing.

Shows him.

KRONOS

Man. You didn't make a good jump again, did you? Were there other Buffers in the Traverse Portal? I think I saw them. Is your head still hurting?

HORATIUS

(opening up)

It's been hurting all day. What do you mean... Conscious Grid? Buffers? Traverse, what?

Kronos steps up to Horatius to look into his eyes.

Horatius is cautious.

ECU: HORATIUS' VOODOO BLUE EYE

Kronos shakes his head 'okay.'

KRONOS

You didn't make the jump from the
V-D-G very well, did you?

(sotto voce)

I wonder why this keeps happening?
The last few times--

HORATIUS

(interrupting)

V-D-G? What are these Buffers?

KRONOS

The VooDoo Grid, dude. The V-D-G.
This is the Conscious Grid. The C-
G. What's up with you?

SHOPPY

What the...? VooDoo?

It's a drinking game now for Shoppy.

KRONOS

Wait. Why am I telling you this?

(pause)

You know...

(slyly)

May I have a drink there Shoppy?

SHOPPY

Might as well. The night's still
young. Want a cigar, too?

KRONOS

(smiling)

Don't mind if I do.

SHOPPY

How do you know me, mister?

Shoppy leans over to hand another bottle of whiskey to
Horatius.

Horatius turns to grab the bottle.

Shoppy sparks a ZIPPO LIGHTER to light his cigar.

SFX: VFOOP, VFOOP! CLICK! CLICK! ZAPPP!

Kronos has fired a GALACTIC STUN GUN at Horatius' back!

HORATIUS
(screaming)
AWWW!

VFX: GREEN ELECTRIC BOLTS DANCE DOWN THE WIRES TO THE CLAW-LATCHES

The claw-latches have landed and grabbed a hold of Horatius' back.

Shopy is frozen. Zippo lighter flaming.

KRONOS
(yelling)
Horatius?! Give me your Escape Key!
Quick!

Kronos lets up.

HORATIUS
(painfully)
My... What?

SFX: ZAPPPP!

Kronos begrudgingly zaps Horatius again.

HORATIUS (cont'd)
(screaming)
AWWW!

Horatius is coming back.

HORATIUS (cont'd)
(regains it)
STOP! STOP! You bastid! WAIT!
(takes a deep breath)
Wait! Is this it?

Kronos stops the shock treatment session.

Shopy's eyes are the size of pancakes. Ouch! He drops the hot Zippo lighter.

Horatius reaches inside his tactical vest and tosses out an ESCAPE KEY. It bounces, rolls over onto the ground. Lights. Beeps.

KRONOS
Whoa! Whoa! It's still armed. That
thing could pop, dude!

Horatius collapses on the ground. Kronos picks up the Escape Key. Disarms it.

SFX: TINK. CLICK. VOOM.

HORATIUS

(measured; breathing heavily)

Kronos. What the hell are you doing to me? I made the jump and you didn't come with me. I didn't see you come. Why didn't you jump with me?

Kronos realizes Horatius is back. The headache is subsiding as if Horatius has a bad hangover.

KRONOS

(hopeful)

Are you back?

HORATIUS

(breathing heavily)

Yes. Let me catch my breath. Yes. I'm back. Stop shocking me or I'm gonna kick your butt.

Shopy is still frozen. Sucking on his burned thumb like a baby. He has no clue what's going on.

HORATIUS (cont'd)

What the hell are you shooting me with that stun gun for?

(pause)

Wait. I got it. I remember. I got stuck. Didn't I? I got stuck.

Kronos nods, yes.

SFX: DE-ENERGIZE. CLICK. CLICK. CLANK. CLANK. BEEP. ZIP.

Kronos releases the claw-latches on the stun gun and they fall off of Horatius' back to the ground. Another beep and the wires zip back into the stun gun.

HORATIUS (cont'd)

(stretching)

We've got to find a better way to get unstuck. This stun gun crap is killing me every time.

Kronos helps Horatius up. Dusts him off.

KRONOS

It hurts me to see you that way,
dude.

Horatius gives Kronos a look 'yeah, right, I'm the one getting shocked.'

KRONOS (cont'd)

I saw you were stuck. I tried to jump back to grab you, but you went through anyway. Once the Escape Key popped, I got knocked out of the T-P. I'm not sure why you get stuck sometimes. You hesitated. The Xenophons were all over me so I jumped over the wall into the river.

XENOPHONS -- the Jacquard-Laveau code outbreak in the mid-21st Century in New Orleans gave rise to the Xenophons, a virulent computer species which mutated, crossed-over and systematically became SELF-AWARE. They are a new species which must be terminated by the Voodoo Warriors, lest they assimilate the Earth, the CG and VDG. They exist mainly in the VDG, undetected by CG inhabitants, and can present themselves in human-like forms. They are only detected by Voodoo Warriors with special training and equipment.

HORATIUS

(trying to catch breath)

Yeah. Me, too. Either I'm not getting into the Traverse Portal right, or I'm not getting out right. Every time I have a bad jump, my head hurts and I feel like I'm walking in molasses. I can't even remember my own name.

KRONOS

Yeah. My head hurts a little, too.

Kronos and Horatius look at Shoppy. He raises his scatter blaster.

SHOPPY

(serious as a heart attack)

If y'all zap me, I'm gonna blast the both of you back to--

KRONOS

(completing)

--to the muddy Mississippi.
We know.

HORATIUS

(completing, too)

--to the muddy Mississippi.
We know.

Shopy isn't fazed. He just s-l-o-w-l-y falls over drunk.

KRONOS (cont'd)
Good morning.

HORATIUS
Good evening.

KRONOS
And good night.

HORATIUS (cont'd)
And good night.

Shopy's done for the night. Goodnight, Shopy.

They laugh and go over to pick up Shopy.

The boys -- The VooDoo Warriors -- are back.

END ACT TWO

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT THREE**FADE UP:****SFX:** LIGHT WIND AND RAIN BREATHE INTO THE CITY...**MX:** VOODOOKRON MAIN TITLE THEME DEVELOPING HINTS**CUT TO:****VFX:** TIME LAPSE VIBRATIONS OF RAINY NEW ORLEANS - NIGHT**INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/BACK OFFICE (CG) - NIGHT**

Kronos is shirtless, drying off from the river. Horatius is shirtless, drying off from the rain. Shoppy is in his shorts and T-shirt, in his cot out like a light.

SFX: HEAVY RAIN, THUNDER AND LIGHTNING FRIGHTEN THE CITY

They laugh when Shoppy snores.

HORATIUS

(thinking)

Just as you came out, Shoppy yelled, KronJob!

Shoppy snorts.

HORATIUS (cont'd)

(whispers)

KronJob!

(normal)

Somehow he instinctively...

(shakes head)

Thought you were a KronJob.

KRONOS

Me? A KronJob?

HORATIUS

One came into the shop earlier to recover a DigiXXX.

KRONOS

(surprised)

What was a DigiXXX doing in the shop?

HORATIUS

(re-creating)

I don't know. I made the jump.
Landed in the shop. And this
DigiXXX was there.

Shopy snorts -- twice. Then wheezes.

KRONOS

(strained whisper)

What the hell is Shopy doing with
a DigiXXX?!

HORATIUS

I have no idea. I jumped. Landed.
Next thing I know, I punched her
lights out.

KRONOS

(strained whisper; again)

You punched her lights out?!

Horatius nods.

KRONOS (cont'd)

(normal)

Was she a good looking model at
least? I've seen some...

Horatius gives him the stink eye.

HORATIUS

Oh, they're building them way
better now days. I don't know. Mama
said knock her out.

Kronos laughs.

KRONOS

We have to figure out another way
to get Shopy back because I don't
want to wrestle him if shock
therapy doesn't work. Your boy will
be a bear to take down.

Shopy snorts. They look at him.

KRONOS (cont'd)

He's seems to be stuck here in the
C-G. We just have to find a way to
get him to the V-D-G and back.
Maybe that'll get him unstuck? And
without all the headaches.

HORATIUS
And shock therapy.

Kronos laughs.

HORATIUS (cont'd)
(thinking)
She had to have jumped before me.
She wasn't in my jump. I didn't see
any other Buffers. Even her. I
think she jumped before me. Kronos,
she was there for a reason. Shoppy
didn't have a clue why she was
there. Shoppy's just not...

They look at Shoppy. Snorts. Wheezes.

Long pause. Uncomfortably long pause.

KRONOS
(measured)
They're close brother. They're on
us. It's just a matter of time. The
XenoPhons are looking. And they're
going to find us. We need Shoppy
back. We need his mojo to figure
out why we're having these bad
jumps through the Traverse Portal
before we execute another mission
plan.

HORATIUS
They're not going to find us. That
DigiXXX didn't know I was going to
land there. At that moment. She was
built though.

KRONOS
You think they've upgraded their
kernel on the DigiXXX to a combat
app? An intel app?

HORATIUS
(perplexed)
That? A combat app? That's a lot of
work for a combat app. A whole lot
of work.

KRONOS
Did she have any blasters?

Shoppy wheezes. Wheezes again.

HORATIUS

(wide-eyed blank stare)

Oh! She had some guns alright, bro.
Those were nice guns.

KRONOS

I take that as a no.

Kronos isn't thinking what Horatius saw.

HORATIUS

(serious)

The XenoPhons aren't going to call-up those amount of resources to port-over a DigiXXX and upgrade the kernel to some stealth combat app. Or even an intel app. DigiXXX are just pleasure apps. That's it. Put the credit in and have at it.

He makes a crude thrusting action with his fist.

KRONOS

But we can't be sure. You think she was looking to get probed?

Horatius gives him the 'you-got-to-be-kidding-me' look.

KRONOS (cont'd)

(figuring it out)

I mean did they send that DigiXXX as a probe?

HORATIUS

Why would the XenoPhons send a DigiXXX as a probe? They're just apps designed for service calls. Maybe Shoppy needed some... Uh, servicing? A little something, something?

KRONOS

They're looking for us, Horatius. The XenoPhons want to kill us off. We're the last of the VooDoo Warriors and they want us dead. No if, ands, or buts--

SFX: VBOOM! RATTLES!

INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/MIDDLE OF HOUSE (CG) - NIGHT

The Gris-Gris House shelves are vibrating. Dust everywhere.

VFX: TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES OPEN

INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/BACK OFFICE (CG) - NIGHT

Kronos and Horatius hit the deck.

Shopy snores. Man, he's out. Mama knocked him out.

Horatius reaches up and grabs the boomer off the table, rolls over and pulls Shopy's CryptoRing off to put on his shooting hand. This time he's ready.

SFX: CLICK. HUM. ENGAGE.

INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/MIDDLE OF HOUSE (CG) - NIGHT

Things are rattling. Jumping.

SFX: COMBAT BOOTS LANDING OUT OF THE T-P

VFX: TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES CLOSED

SFX: CLUMP. CLUMP. GO THE COMBAT BOOTS.

CU: COMBAT BOOTS WALKING ACROSS FLOOR

The dust is settling. A glass VooDoo doll falls off a shelf.

SFX: SHATTERS

INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/BACK OFFICE (CG) - NIGHT

Kronos and Horatius look at each other. Ready. Ready for what?

Shopy snorts.

SOME TOUGH GIRL (mid-40's) military-lean, wearing tactical gear leans over the front counter.

SOME TOUGH GIRL
(happy-go-lucky)
Hey guys! What's shakin'?

Kronos looks at Horatius who's trained the blaster on the guest.

Horatius doesn't check his aim.

Kronos looks back.

KRONOS

What now?

END ACT THREE

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT FOUR**FADE UP:****SFX:** HEAVY RAIN, THUNDER AND LIGHTNING FRIGHTEN THE CITY...**MX:** VOODOOKRON MAIN TITLE DEVELOPING**CUT TO:****VFX:** TIME LAPSE VIBRATIONS OF NEW ORLEANS - NIGHT**INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/MIDDLE OF HOUSE (CG) - NIGHT**

The shop is violently rattling, shaking...

SFX: VBOOM!**VFX:** TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES OPEN

The Some Tough Girl, a silhouetted figure of a long-haired female armed for battle, in military tactical gear, blaster holstered, built like a DigiXXX, jumps from the Traverse Portal.

VFX: TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES CLOSED**CU:** COMBAT BOOTS WALKING ACROSS FLOOR

The shop is calming down. Dust is settling and a glass VooDoo doll falls to the floor.

SFX: GLASS SHATTER

The rattling slows.

INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/BACK OFFICE (CG) - NIGHT

Horatius is down on the deck and has Shopyy's Galactic Scatter Blaster trained on the front counter. This time he has Shopyy's CryptoRing on.

Kronos is frozen next to him. Unarmed.

Shopyy is in his cot, coming to...

INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/FRONT COUNTER (CG) - NIGHT

The well-built shadowy figure leans over the front counter unaware of what awaits her.

SOME TOUGH GIRL
(happy-go-lucky)
Hey guys! What's shakin'?

Horatius and Kronos exchange a glance. Who is she?

SHOPPY
(sitting-up, barely awake)
There's another one of them walking-
talking sex dolls!

KRONOS
(confused)
That's one of those new DigiXXX?

HORATIUS
Sure looks--

SOME TOUGH GIRL
Listen you asshats! I'm not a
DigiXXX.
(commanding)
Get that blaster off me Horatius.

This Some Tough Girl may be built like a DigiXXX, but she sounds like a leader who doesn't take any crap.

Kronos and Horatius are confused as they stand up.

Horatius still has the blaster ready for action.

Shopy sits up on his elbows in his cot.

HORATIUS
Whoa. Wait. What's going on here?
How does she know his name?

SHOPPY
(forcing)
That's one of them DigiXXX.

SOME TOUGH GIRL
(barks)
I'm not a DigiXXX. Shut up, Shopy!

How does she know Shopy's name?

SOME TOUGH GIRL

Damn it. Horatius? Do you have a headache?

Horatius shakes his head no.

SOME TOUGH GIRL (cont'd)

Kronos. Do you have a headache?

KRONOS

No.

HORATIUS

Wait. How do you know us?

SOME TOUGH GIRL

(ignoring)

Shopy...

Shopy grabs his covered-up junk with both hands.

SOME TOUGH GIRL (cont'd)

Forget it.

(angered)

You guys don't even know who I am, do you? This again. Damn it.

KRONOS

(pointing at front of shop)

If you just made that jump, why don't you have a headache?

They don't know what to believe, or who she is.

Shopy pulls his blanket up further like a scared child.

SOME TOUGH GIRL

(sotto voce)

It's the damn Xenophons. They must be close.

HORATIUS

Whoa. How do you know about the Xenophons? We're not--

SOME TOUGH GIRL

(cutting-off)

I bet cyberbit credits to beignets there is something wrong with the damn Escape Keys. Virus?

(to the boys)

Have any of you jumped recently?

Pause.

Kronos and Horatius are giving in. They don't know who she is but...

KRONOS
We both have.

HORATIUS
Yeah.

SOME TOUGH GIRL
Headaches after?

HORATIUS
Yeah.

KRONOS
Yes.

They're coming around.

SOME TOUGH GIRL
How about you Shoppy?

SHOPPY
I don't know nothing.

She looks strangely at Shoppy. She doesn't know what to think, but Shoppy isn't, well, Shoppy.

Everybody's not themselves to her.

SOME TOUGH GIRL
(to the boys)
Where's your Escape Keys?

KRONOS
(guarded)
Uhhh...

SOME TOUGH GIRL
Let me see them.

Kronos and Horatius look at each other, they're still not fully there yet.

SOME TOUGH GIRL (cont'd)
Listen, I'm not going to pop any.
Just let me see them.

Kronos hesitates. Finally he reaches inside his jacket hanging on the wall from drying and pulls out Horatius' Escape Key he took earlier.

He gives it to her.

SOME TOUGH GIRL (cont'd)
That's it? Just one?

HORATIUS

That was my last one.

SOME TOUGH GIRL

(to Kronos)

That's his? Where's yours?

KRONOS

(nods 'yes')

I popped it to get us through...

She walks over to the table, grabs a chair and sets the Escape Key down. She reaches in her utility SIDE PACK strapped on her leg and pulls out a short NYLON LINE and...

CU: TIES DOWN THE PULL PIN WITH A SQUARE KNOT AND HALF HITCHES

She has skills. She slides a lever on the Escape Key and the lights goes from OFF, to BLINKING, to SOLID.

SFX: BEEP. DIT, DIT, DIT. DAWWW.

HORATIUS

Whoa. What are you doing?

KRONOS

Don't pop that thing in here!

SOME TOUGH GIRL

Hopefully I'm getting rid of your headaches.

Horatius and Kronos exchange a curious glance.

CU: SHE PULLS OFF HER XDNA SCANNER FROM HER TACTICAL ARM CASE, TOUCHES THE SCREEN AND SCANS THE ESCAPE KEY

The scanner screen pops-up a warning...

CU: SCREEN DISPLAY "WARNING: .G.NATS WORM DETECTED"

She touches a few more screens.

CU: SCREEN DISPLAY "WARNING: QUARANTINE IMMEDIATELY"

She sets down her XDNA scanner.

SOME TOUGH GIRL (cont'd)
(indignant)
Crap! I was right.

KRONOS
Right about what?

SOME TOUGH GIRL
This Escape Key has a worm.
(reading scanner)
G-NATS worm? What asshat would name
a worm G-NATS?

HORATIUS
Whoa. How do you know there's
really a virus in that Escape Key?

SOME TOUGH GIRL
A worm.
(tosses it to him)
Wanna try?

Horatius' 'not me' look answers that question.

KRONOS
(not convinced)
This explains the headaches in our
jumps?

SOME TOUGH GIRL
The XenoPhons have found a way to
infect our Escape Keys with this G-
NATS worm. Or, something...
(sotto voce)
But why? What were they trying to
do? Maybe it didn't work? Maybe it
did?

HORATIUS
Oh, I can tell you the headaches
worked alright. They're for real.

SOME TOUGH GIRL
No. Somehow the XenoPhons infected
our Escape Keys, don't ask me how,
and every time you drop one and
jump... You come out of the T-P
with a bad headache.
(beat)
I don't think giving us headaches
was their goal. Is it code
corruption?

KRONOS

Maybe they were looking to cut-off
the jumps?

SOME TOUGH GIRL

Possible.

(to Shoppy)

Shoppy. When was the last time you
made a jump?

Shoppy is standing up holding his blanket like a poncho
around him.

SHOPPY

I... Don't know. I've never jumped.

SOME TOUGH GIRL

(miffed)

Shoppy. You've jumped before. When
was the last time you had a bad
headache?

Shoppy has a blank stare. Like a child, shrugs his
shoulders 'dunno.'

She senses something's wrong with Shoppy.

KRONOS

What would've happened if we
dropped an Escape Key and the
worm--

SOME TOUGH GIRL

(cutting him off)

It probably would've killed the
jumper and any Buffer with them. I
don't know for sure. But I do know
we need to scan every damn Escape
Key we have and sanitize them.

(to Kronos)

Kronos? Put your arms out.

She scans him. Negative.

SOME TOUGH GIRL (cont'd)

Horatius? Come here.

He puts his arms out. She scans him. Negative.

SOME TOUGH GIRL (cont'd)

Negative, too. No Trojans.
Implants. Good.

She's thinking. Solving.

SOME TOUGH GIRL (cont'd)
(testing)
Shopy. What's an Escape Key?

SHOPPY
I don't know.

Kronos and Horatius look at Shopy just a little weird.
She senses something with Shopy. He covers his junk,
again.

SOME TOUGH GIRL
It's okay, Shopy. I'm not gonna
scan your junk.
(sotto voce)
I bet Shopy had a bad jump.

KRONOS
You think Shopy had a bad jump?
But he said he didn't have a
headache.

Shopy looks scared. He shakes his head 'no.'

SOME TOUGH GIRL
He said he didn't know. I think
Shopy's last jump almost got him.
Maybe his Escape Key was infected
with this stupid G-NATS worm and
somehow it worked better than
yours. He appears to have no
memory, or little memory.

Shopy shakes his head 'yes' then 'no.'

SOME TOUGH GIRL (cont'd)
Shopy. What's my name?

Shopy just stands there like a five-year-old.

They all look at Shopy.

HORATIUS
(to her)
What is your name?

BEAT.

NYX
I'm Nyx.
(beat)
Your sister, Horatius. Can you see
me?

(MORE)

NYX (cont'd)

(beat)

I have to find a way to bring y'all back.

Ah, so now we know. Our visitor's name is Nyx, one of the VooDoo Warriors. She's a former Navy Commander. She might look like a DigiXXX, but she's built for combat. Smart. Leadership is strong with her.

Horatius looks confused.

So does Kronos because he's Horatius' brother.

KRONOS

(not persuaded)

You're his sister?

NYX

(to Kronos)

And yours.

Kronos' eyes grow bigger. What's going on here?

HORATIUS

Whoa. Wait. This isn't right. We don't have a sister.

(to Kronos)

Do we?

Kronos is confused, too.

NYX

(thinking)

The XenoPhons are getting better... Closer. Shoppy's out-of-orbit.

(to the boys)

You two are standing there like some dumbass KronJobs. Somehow they've figured out how to disconnect your memories... Corrupt your memories... Or...

BEAT.

KRONOS

Or what?

BEAT.

NYX

(puzzled)

Or give you new ones.

END ACT FOUR

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT FIVE**FADE UP:****SFX:** LIGHT WIND AND RAIN BREATHE INTO THE CITY...**MX:** VOODOOKRON MAIN TITLE THEME DEVELOPING HINTS**CUT TO:****VFX:** TIME LAPSE VIBRATIONS OF RAINY NEW ORLEANS - NIGHT**EXT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/REAR (CG) - NIGHT**

The rain has given the city a break from drowning, yet still lets her know it's there.

Nyx stands out back trying to gather her thoughts.

Kronos, Horatius and Shoppy fall out to have drinks and cigars.

Who is this new friend?

KRONOS

Hey, Nyx. How about some cigars and whiskey.

NYX

(hesitates)

I could use a little decompression.
Yeah.

The VooDoo Warriors gather around.

KRONOS

Hey, Shoppy. Want a cigar and a little shot?

SHOPPY

Naw. That's alright. I don't drink much.

HORATIUS

(sotto voce; stunned)
Could've fooled me.

SHOPPY

Don't drink. Don't smoke either.

Wait. What? They all know Shoppy likes his cigars and whiskey.

What's going on here with Shoppy? Where's his memory?

NYX
(playing along)
You don't drink or smoke, Shoppy?

SHOPPY
Naw. I've got to watch my weight.
That gumbo gets in my way.

Kronos and Horatius exchange looks. Is Shoppy just too hung over?

NYX
(toying with him)
As long as I've known Shoppy, he leads a clean life. No drinking. No smoking.

SHOPPY
Yeah, you right.
(nervously)
Yeah, you right.

Kronos and Horatius exchange looks. Again. Something's off.

HORATIUS
You don't drink... Shoppy?

SHOPPY
Nope. No sir. Hadn't much time.

Nyx is looking around. She's spying for something. But what?

HORATIUS
We were just out here--

NYX
(cutting-off)
We've known each other all our lives, Shoppy and me.

SHOPPY
Yeah, you right. All our lives.

The storm is slowly coming back to haunt the city. Lightening is flashing around. Thunder is starting to make a move.

KRONOS

Nyx?

NYX

(turns to him)

Yeah.

KRONOS

You said you were related to us?
Our sister?

NYX

Yes. I'm your sister. And his.
(turns to Shoppy)
And Shoppy's our father.

Kronos and Horatius freeze. What's going on here?

NYX (cont'd)

Isn't that right, Shoppy?
(pressuring)

You are our father... Right,
Shoppy?

That's not rain on his forehead. Shoppy starts to sweat.

SHOPPY

Uhhh... Man. This humidity is
killing me.

Shoppy wipes his soaked brow. Fidgeting.

Nyx pulls up a chair at the patio table. Right in front of
Shoppy, interrogation-style.

SHOPPY (cont'd)

(having to address Nyx)

Well... Well darlin'... I treat
everyone the same.

He pokes a glance at his galactic scatter blaster laying on
the table.

That look isn't lost on Nyx.

NYX

Shoppy. Do you remember the time
when I was a little girl, you took
me to the cemetery? They weren't
even born yet. It was late one
night. I was tired.

SHOPPY

I think I do. It's been a long while. You know?

Kronos and Horatius step-up and lean in.

NYX

Do you remember I was so scared? I didn't want to go, I was tired, but you said it was okay? You wanted to show me something. You said it would be okay. I was crying.

SHOPPY

I, I haven't gotten much sleep lately... With all this excitement and all.

Kronos and Horatius are watching intensely.

NYX

I was scared. But you said it would be okay. I was crying.

SHOPPY

(sweating)
Uh, yeah. Uhhh...

The thunder and lightening are starting to invade the interrogation.

NYX

Do you remember what the sign above the gate said...
(pause)
Daddy?

Kronos and Horatius are now thoroughly confused. Daddy?

NYX (cont'd)

The sign... What did the sign say?

SHOPPY

Darlin'... Da-dad-daddy can't remember back that far. He's getting a little old. You know?

NYX

(pressuring)
What did the sign say?!

SHOPPY

(stuttering)
Uhhh... I...

KRONOS

Shopy's had a pretty rough night.
Maybe you should--

NYX

(cutting him off; angry)
What did the sign say?!
(yells)
What did the sign say?! Tell me
what the sign said!

Kronos and Horatius lean back.

Nyx leans in. Serious is on.

Shopy's frozen.

SHOPPY

(sweating)
It said... It said...
(beat; looks around)
'Welcome all ye souls.'
Wel-wel-welcome all ye souls.

BEAT.

NYX

(fake smile)
Awww! I just love you!
(beat)
I knew you could remember...
(pause)
Daddy.

Shopy smiles. Laughs. Looks at Nyx.

Nyx swings her gun leg up on the edge of the table. Her boot rests on the edge. The end of her blaster sticks out of her holster directly at Shopy.

Kronos and Horatius begin to laugh, too. Whew. That was intense.

Nyx slowly raises her gun hand up. Rests it on her own galactic scatter blaster.

CU: NYX' HAND ON HER BLASTER

SFX: CLICK, GOES THE RELEASE. ENGAGE.

Ut, oh.

The laughter stops.

BEAT.

Nyx stands up and kicks her chair back western-poker style.

Shopy's smile and laugh changes to survival mode.

CU: SHOPPY REACHES FOR HIS BLASTER ON THE TABLE

She's got the drop on him.

Nyx swings out her blaster and unloads right into Shopy!

SFX: BLAMMM!

What the H is going on here?!

Shopy flies up and backwards over his chair and hits the deck.

Kronos goes for Shopy's blaster on the table. Kicks the table up and the blaster flies.

Horatius grabs Nyx from behind in a choke hold.

Nyx flings Horatius over her hip and he crashes down onto the table destroying it.

Shopy's blaster goes flying, up and into the hands of Kronos.

He's got the drop on Nyx.

KRONOS
(intense)
Move and I'll blast you!

NYX
You don't have a CryptoRing.

Kronos looks.

KRONOS
Damn it!

Shopy pops up from behind the table. Wasn't he blasted?

VFX: SHOPPY IS HALF HUMAN AND CYBORG

The fight is on! Nyx spins.

Kronos instinctively dives to the deck.

Nyx unloads another two rounds into Shoppy.

SFX: BLAMMM! BLAMMM!

VFX: SHOPPY IMPLODES AND EXPLODES INTO THOUSANDS OF FIRE SPARKLERS

Wow!

The sparks hit the ground like thousands of fiery metal bits. Bouncing. Zipping.

SFX: FLAMING METAL BITS SPRAY EVERYWHERE

The concussion blows Kronos and Nyx down on the deck.

KRONOS (cont'd)	NYX
(painfully)	(painfully, too)
Awww!	Awww!

Horatius is barely coming to.

Kronos is moaning.

Nyx is moaning.

MS: HORATIUS STEPS UP TO NYX WITH SHOPPY'S BLASTER POINTED RIGHT AT HER HEAD

Slightly bleeding from his head and nose...

HORATIUS
If you move, I'll blast that pretty
little head off you.
(smiling)
I have his CryptoRing.

Horatius rolls his gun hand over to show Nyx.

Kronos stumbles over to them.

Nyx, on her back, throws her hands up. She gives.

NYX
(breathing heavily)
Shoppy was a KronJob.

BEAT.

Horatius and Kronos look at each other.

Kronos stumbles over to them.

BEAT.

KRONOS

(in a little pain)

What do you mean 'Shopy was a KronJob?'

NYX

(still breathing heavily)

Shopy's not our father. That was a KronJob clone.

HORATIUS

He wasn't making any sense. It wasn't making any sense. Shopy loves cigars. That wasn't Shopy.

Kronos bends down to pick-up a handful of COOLED MOLTEN METAL BITS -- the remnants of Shopy's blasted clone.

SFX: GLASS AND METAL TINKLY BITS

NYX

(looking at Kronos)

Now do you believe me?

Horatius and Kronos look at each other.

Kronos gives the 'okay nod' to Horatius.

Horatius lowers his blaster.

NYX (cont'd)

When have you ever known Shopy to turn down a cigar?

(pause)

Help me up.

The boys help her to her feet. They're still a little confused.

KRONOS

Something doesn't fit here. If that was a clone, where's Shopy? Why was a clone here?

(challenging Nyx)

Maybe you're a clone?

Nyx walks over, GRABS her blaster off the deck and RELOADS it.

NYX

(holsters blaster)

Wanna test me?

And she means it. She's a former Navy commander and Nyx isn't taking crap from anyone.

KRONOS

(aggravated)

None of this is making sense, dude.
What was that whole DigiXXX thing
about Horatius? Something's
missing.

NYX

Wait. What? What DigiXXX?

HORATIUS

I found one in the shop when I
jumped last. Shoppo... The
KronJob... I don't know what to
believe anymore.

NYX

Listen. Guys. That wasn't Shoppo. I
sure don't know what that was. But
I know it wasn't Shoppo.

KRONOS

If that wasn't Shoppo...
(beat)
Where is Shoppo?

They look at each other with blank stares.

SFX: THE WIND AND RAIN SPIRAL

VFX: THE WIND AND RAIN BEGIN TO SPIRAL

SFX: VBOOM!

VFX: TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES OPENS

Horatius, Kronos and Nyx are blown down again on the
ground. This isn't your typical TP opening. This one is
more powerful.

The rain begins drowning everyone and everything.

VFX: ANOTHER SHOPPY JUMPS OUT OF THE TRAVERSE PORTAL

VFX: TRAVERSE PORTAL RIPPLES CLOSED

The wind and rain won't surrender now.

Shopy lands out of the TP and he's mad. No. He's steaming mad.

SHOPPY

What is wrong with you people?!

(beat)

Huh?!

Nyx and Horatius draw down on him.

Horatius with Shopy's blaster in hand, Kronos lying stunned on the deck and Nyx is stunned, too, aiming at this 'new' Shopy.

Where the hell did this Shopy come from?

SHOPPY (cont'd)

(to Kronos and Horatius)

Couldn't you see I was stuck in the dangit VooDoo Grid? Lordy.

Horatius and Kronos are still dumbfounded, still aiming at the new Shopy.

SHOPPY (cont'd)

We were supposed to jump at the same time. Can't you please follow a simple mission plan?

HORATIUS

Whoa. I don't have a headache anymore. It's gone.

KRONOS

Me neither.

SHOPPY

I'll give you a headache you dangit KronJob.

Nyx RISES up on her elbows. She grins. This is the Shopy she knows. Holsters her blaster. Horatius lowers his.

SHOPPY (cont'd)

(to Kronos and Horatius)

What is wrong with you two knuckleheads?

(to Nyx)

At least your sister had the common sense to smoke that clone. The mission plan was simple. We were to get in, get some intel and jump back out of the V-D-G. What is wrong with you people?! Lordy.

Nyx grins, again.

They look at her.

Kronos helps her up.

Shopy walks over to Horatius who's on the deck.

SHOPPY (cont'd)
(to Horatius)
Give me that dangit blaster.

Shopy snatches it out of Horatius' hands.

SHOPPY (cont'd)
I've got the locked CryptoRing you
knucklehead. Lordy.

Shopy shows Horatius his CryptoRing. Horatius looks at his. Fake.

SHOPPY (cont'd)
Good thing you didn't actually try
to use that thing. What a surprise
that would've been. Uh, huh. Click.
Fizz. Uh, oh.

Nyx and Kronos help Horatius up.

SHOPPY (cont'd)
I don't know about you people but
I'm getting to get me inside. You
can stay out here and make like a
crawfish all you want.

Shopy walks towards the back door.

SHOPPY (cont'd)
(sotto voce)
I'm trying to get back from the V-D-
G and y'all are screwing around up
in here. Knuckleheads.
(to Nyx)
Oh, that was a good one. Convinced
a KronJob I was your father... What
is wrong with you people?

The VooDoo Warriors smile and stumble their way inside out of the wrath of wind and rain. And Shopy's wrath, too.

Instinctively, they know 'this' is the real Shopy.

VFX: TIME LAPSE VIBRATIONS OF RAINY NEW ORLEANS

INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/BACK OFFICE (CG) - NIGHT

The VooDoo Warriors are drying off from their city showers.

Shopyy is making coffee. His special chicory coffee. Dries you off faster.

NYX

(to Shopyy)

Shopyy... While you were screwing around in the V-D-G...

Shopyy pauses making coffee and gives her the look of death. He turns back to the coffee pot.

SHOPPY

(sotto voce)

Screwing around... I'll show y'all some screwing around alrighty. Lordy.

Horatius is using Nyx's XDNA scanner on Shopyy. Behind his back. Trying not to be noticed.

Shopyy turns, with coffee in hand. Stares at him.

SFX: BEEP. BEEP.

HORATIUS

Negative.

SHOPPY

I'll 'negative' you.

NYX

(smiling)

I scanned Horatius' Escape Key.

SHOPPY

(to Horatius)

His? How did you end up having an extra Escape Key? We popped Kronos'.

HORATIUS

I don't know. It was in my jacket.

KRONOS

He didn't know it was there. While I was shocking him, he coughed it up. He had a bad jump.

SHOPPY

Shocking him?

KRONOS

Yeah. With a stun gun. He was stuck.

SHOPPY

Stun gun? Stuck? Boy, if any of y'all zap me, I'm gonna blast you full stop into the Mississippi. Ergo I ain't gonna get zapped.

HORATIUS

That's exactly what your clone said.

Shopy gives him that look.

KRONOS

(to Shopy; jokingly)
Maybe you're really Son of KronJob?

SHOPPY

Go ahead and zap me. See where it gets you. Boy, I'll blast you.

They laugh at Shopy.

Shopy passes around the coffee.

SHOPPY (cont'd)

We all jumped to the V-D-G with one Escape Key each. Or did you have another brilliant plan Horatius? Kronos popped his and boom. Y'all done be gone. Oh? Where's Shopy?

HORATIUS

(defensively)
No. I don't know where that Escape Key came from.

SHOPPY

Y'all forget me? Like I'm hard to see? Or, something?

NYX

Look--

SHOPPY

No. Y'all didn't look. Lordy.

Nyx goes to the counter, reaches under and pulls out a METAL SHIELD BOX. It has lights and all blinking.

She punches a few keys and it pops open.

CU: HORATIUS' ESCAPE KEY INSIDE THE METAL SHIELDED BOX

Nyx pulls it out, sets it on the table and begins to scan it with her XDNA scanner.

CU: SCREEN DISPLAY "WARNING: .G.NATS WORM DETECTED"
"QUARANTINE SUCCESSFUL"

SHOPPY (cont'd)

Let me see dat here.

Shopyy grabs her scanner and reads the screen.

SHOPPY (cont'd)

G-NATS Worm detected? What
knucklehead names a worm G-NATS?
Sanitized?

NYX

No. Not yet. I wanted you to look
at it. The only thing I can guess
is the Xenophons have somehow
figured out how to infect our
Escape Keys. Or at least the ones
we took on the last mission. Or...
Just Horatius' Escape Key?

KRONOS

(thinking out loud)

We must've dropped infected Escape
Keys coming back out of the VooDoo
Grid and all Hell broke loose.

HORATIUS

You mean the headaches broke loose.

SHOPPY

What do you mean headaches?

KRONOS

Yeah. After my jump back to the C-G
I got this really bad pain... It
was a headache. It was sharp and
then it'd go just as fast. Horatius
was stuck--

SHOPPY

What's this stuck you keep
yammering about?

KRONOS

Yeah, he was stuck.

HORATIUS

I had a bad headache.

NYX

Funny. I didn't get a headache on my jump.

SHOPPY

Maybe not infected?

KRONOS

He had no idea who I was, so the only thing I could think of was to electroshock him... To get him unstuck.

SHOPPY

(half-jokingly)

You couldn't have just slapped him?

HORATIUS

(indignant)

Yeah. Why didn't you just slap me? That crap hurts you know.

KRONOS

(justifying)

I recalled reading some old intel reports from the U-S-C-I-A about an Operator who used a stun gun to get her partner unstuck after a de-programming attack by a Xenophon. Think of it kind of like zapping your memory... To bring her partner back to the C-G, out of the V-D-G. That's all I could think of.

(to Horatius)

You're back now aren't you?

HORATIUS

Yeah.

KRONOS

You have a headache?

HORATIUS

No.

KRONOS

Then stop complaining dude or I'll slap you.

HORATIUS

You wrong.

SHOPPY

(ranting)

Yeah, well listen. The U-S Code Intelligence Alliance were the knuckleheads screwing around where they shouldn't have been. If the Jacquard-Laveau code outbreak had never happened--

NYX

(aggravated)

Well, it did. And if we don't figure out how the XenoPhons infected our Escape Keys... Gentlemen... We can't jump again. We can't take that risk.

KRONOS

They were either trying to slow us down. Or, cut us off from getting back to the CG.

SHOPPY

Or done kill us.

Pause.

NYX

The XenoPhons are becoming more self-aware and have apparently picked-up good intel from somewhere--

SHOPPY

(cutting off)

Or someone.

They look at Horatius.

HORATIUS

Hey! Don't look at me.

NYX

They know we're Operators now... And they're trying to kill us. Period. End of story.

(grabs Escape Key)

This infected Escape Key is a clue.

SHOPPY

Go ahead and sanitize that daddy.

Nyx grabs her XDNA scanner. A few screen touches.

CU: HORATIUS' ESCAPE KEY

NYX

Sanitized.

HORATIUS

Let me see.

Horatius grabs Nyx's scanner with his fake-CryptoRing hand and reads the screen.

CU: SCREEN DISPLAY "WARNING: .G.NATS WORM DETECTED." CURSOR BLINKING "WORKING..."

Horatius puts the scanner down on the table.

Shopy sips his last bit of coffee.

The VooDoo Crew is getting tired. Getting?

SHOPPY

It's some good mojo we all made it back finally, that's for sure. We also know they have figured out how to make pretty damn good clones. And if you have a clone and you're stuck in the VooDoo Grid, you ain't gettin' back, Jack... Until someone smokes your clone in the C-G... You ain't gettin' back. No way. No sir. No how.

(to Nyx)

Oh, by the way darlin', thanks for blasting my clone.

NYX

(smiling)

Anytime Shopy.

She hugs the big guy.

SHOPPY

Ooo, my doggies are tired. Lordy. Tough on them when they get left behind.

He looks at everyone. Smiles.

KRONOS

Yeah, we need to re-charge.

HORATIUS

Don't say charge.

Everybody laughs.

Our VooDoo Warriors get ready to turn-in for the night.

Horatius looks at his 'fake' CryptoRing. Tosses it on the table and it lands next to Nyx's XDNA scanner.

EXT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/REAR (CG) - NIGHT

The wind has taken over for the tired rain as the VooDoo Warriors turn-in for the night.

VFX: THE BLASTED METAL BITS OF CLONE-OF-SHOPPY START TO VIBRATE OUT ON THE STREET. THEY DANCE TO A BEAT OF THEIR OWN AND SLOWLY SPEED AWAY WITH A PURPOSE DISSOLVING INTO THE FLOWING WATERS OF THE STREET

INT. THE GRIS-GRIS HOUSE/BACK OFFICE/TABLE (CG) - NIGHT

Our VooDoo Warriors have turned-in for the night. And what a night it has been.

It has finally quieted down in our Gris-Gris House, save for the calming wind talking to the VooDoo City outside.

Sitting on the table is Nyx's scanner. The screen pops-on. Glows.

CAMERA: SLOWLY PUSHES INTO NYX'S SCANNER ON THE TABLE

SFX: BEEP. BEEP.

CU: SCANNER SCREEN GLOWING "WARNING: .G.NATS WORM DETECTED"
"QUARANTINE IMMEDIATELY"

END ACT FIVE

CUT TO END TITLES:

FADE OUT.