

BLOOD OATH

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EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

Rik and Vincent, armed for battle, are in a forward position. Rik is looking ahead with his binoculars.

P.O.V. RIK'S BINOCULARS -- EVENING

Nothing but a desolated urban landscape.

RIK

(VO)

Joint Command swore that Vincent and I would only be recalled for duty in times of extreme danger.

EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

Vincent looks back at the squad behind them.

RIK

(VO)

We should have read the fine print.

EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

Watching from nearby shadows is Goggles. He is crouched to act, and suddenly springs into action

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE - A FAST PACED-MONTAGE OF MAGNA-STYLE COMIC PANELS AND LIVE ACTION DEPICTING THE CREATION OF THE ALTEREDS, THE INDUCTION, TRAINING AND SERVICE OF COLONEL RIK HERON AND MAJOR VINCENT GREVEN, THROUGH VINCENT'S DISAPPEARANCE AND RETURN. THERE ARE DOMESTIC SCENES OF THEIR LIVES TOGETHER. IT ENDS WITH THEIR SIGNING OF A RETIREMENT AGREEMENT.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

The warehouse is in an empty and deteriorating urban area in a disputed territory.

Sounds of a distant explosion and less distant helicopters are in the background.

Vincent slips inside at super fast speed, Rik over his shoulder in a fireman's carry.

He carefully lowers the unconscious Rik to the ground.

Vincent reaches into one of Rik's bags, and pulls out a gizmo. Vincent places the gizmo in the center of the room and turns it on.

With a flicker, Rik and Vincent disappear from view.

Vincent stands over the gizmo as he hears a helicopter pass low overhead. When it finally leaves, Vincent turns his attention back to Rik.

Vincent tries to remove Rik's gear. Vincent finds his own equipment is getting in the way and quickly strips his own off first. Vincent straddles Rik and examines him, concerned that he hasn't yet awakened.

VINCENT

Rik...wake up for me, please.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RIK AND VINCENT'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

FLASHBACK -- Rik is holding Vincent who is partially on top of him. Rik wakes first. He caresses Vincent's bare back with a smile. Vincent smiles without opening his eyes.

RIK

You're horny.

VINCENT

And you're stomach's growling. What do you want first?

Rik responds by turning Vincent enough to really kiss him. When he lifts his head, he smiles again.

RIK

I really want one of your omeletes.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

Vincent is frowning at Rik who still isn't fully conscious.

VINCENT

An omelete? Fat chance.

When Vincent gently grasps Rik's shoulder, he wakes badly startled. Vincent holds him still.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Easy, Blitz. We're safe for now.

RIK

Safe...we were ambushed. How'd we get here? Where is here?

VINCENT

Stay still. That bastard may have cracked a rib.

CUT TO:

EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

FLASHBACK -- Rik charges hard at Goggles, his hand glowing with energy. Goggles dodges the attack, and kicks Rik in the side. Rik drops, and comes up fighting.

Vincent is on the sidelines, behind a pile of debris.

VINCENT

Rik!

Vincent takes a step towards him and the ground lights up with incoming fire.

Rik and Goggles trade blows. Goggles clearly has the upper hand, as Rik has not fully recovered from the first hit.

Vincent tries to line up a shot with his own glowing hand, but he can't get a clear shot with the way the two are fighting.

Goggles keeps Rik between him and Vincent. Rik drops to his knees. Goggles keeps Rik propped up as he begins to really lay into him. Rik starts to lose consciousness.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

RIK

How'd we get out of there?

VINCENT

Grenades.

RIK

You had grenades?

VINCENT

They had grenades. Crates of them.

Rik smiles at Vincent's evil grin shaking his head. Then, he scans the room.

RIK

The Camo Field is set.

Vincent is prepping medical supplies while kneeling close to Rik.

VINCENT

I got a signal out. We've got about 5 hours before they can get us an extraction team. So far they've only sent choppers.

RIK

We're lucky the enemy is too lazy to do a door to door sweep.

VINCENT

We're lucky the grenades knocked Goggles on his ass before he could get his hands on you again.

(beat)

What happened out there, Rik? You don't improvise against a planned attack. You just spent weeks drumming that into the cadets' thick skulls. Why did you take him on without me in position?

RIK

(pause)

I...ah...it was the flash... Re-orienting everything on the field...

CUT TO:

EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

FLASHBACK -- Rik and Vincent are moving ahead of their battalion just in sight of the enemy line. There is a whine, followed by a blinding flash. When it clears, their battalion seems to have vanished and they are a lot closer to the enemy.

Rik and Vincent head for the nearest cover. Goggles leaps in front of their path. Before Vincent can react, Rik throws Vincent out of the way and charges Goggles.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

RIK

It was the flash. It was like before.

Vincent stops prepping the supplies to stare at Rik.

VINCENT

Like before? The only other flash like that was...

RIK

When you disappeared.

VINCENT

But you weren't there.

RIK

Yes, I was. I only got as close as the rise beyond the crater.

(MORE)

RIK (CONT'D)

I called out to you, but you were gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. PORTAL SITE -- DAY

Vincent has just finished firing a bolt of energy. There is a whine. Vincent turns to see a large device activating.

Rik reaches the edge of a berm some distance from the device and Vincent.

RIK

Vincent!

There is a flash and Vincent is consumed.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

VINCENT

(to himself)

I thought I'd imagined that.

(beat)

Lift your arms. I need to check your ribs.

Rik carefully raises his arms so Vincent can remove his shirt and the body armor. Rik's torso is badly bruised. Vincent gently feels along the bruises while Rik tries not to cry out.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Breath for me, Rik, very slowly and deeply.

Rik complies, closing his eyes and breathing through the pain. Vincent is straddling his legs. He motions for Rik to raise his arms and rest his hands on Vincent's shoulders. Then, Vincent begins to bind Rik's torso.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

You're badly bruised, but I don't think anything is broken or dislocated.

RIK

I don't think so either. I still wouldn't mind a shot of Doc Auerbach's magic elixir.

VINCENT

Not until we're ready to move.

(MORE)

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Can't have you crashing in the middle
of a fight.

(beat)

So, were you going to take on a
battalion and a new portal to keep
me from being taken?

RIK

It was my turn wasn't it? Ouch!

VINCENT

The wrapping has to be snug.

Vincent finishes wrapping Rik. Then Rik caresses his hair.

RIK

I wasn't thinking, Love. It was a
bonehead move. All I could see in
my mind was you disappearing.

Vincent allows himself to be pulled closer. He is reacting
to rik's hands on him, but he is resistant about being held.

VINCENT

You're an idiot. I never blamed you
for what happened.

RIK

I sent you out there alone.

VINCENT

We each had a job to do. Joint
Command wouldn't have listened to
me. Hello, renegade Altered wild-
child here.

Rik lowers his gaze. Vincent gently lifts his chin.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

We thought it wasn't finished yet.
No one could have anticipated their
activating it rather than surrender.
Forgive yourself, Rik. I never had
to.

Rik kisses Vincent. It is a very moving kiss. Vincent is
slow to recover.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

You are such a slut.

RIK

Pot kettle brat.
(winces as he settles
back)

VINCENT

Well, this brat is giving orders tonight. First, no one is leaving anyone. Second, I need you to act more like you and not like me.

Rik steals one more kiss.

RIK

Then, stop distracting me.

Vincent glares at Rik as he moves to sit beside him. He gives Rik a bottle of water while he puts away the medical supplies.

RIK (CONT'D)

What direction did you take to this building?

VINCENT

South/southeast. Ten kilometers.

CUT TO:

EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

FLASHBACK -- Rick scans the area with high-tech binoculars.

P.O.V. RIK'S BINOCULARS -- EVENING

Through the view screen, he notes an urban center at the exact location Vincent just stated.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

RIK

We didn't change locations.

CUT TO:

EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

FLASHBACK -- The flash and unfolding and erection of a large screen that obscures Rik and Vincent's Battalion from view. Rik and Vincent are seen blinking and struggling to see, then realizing that they seem to be alone.

RIK

(VO)

The flash distracted us while our combatants threw up a large camouflage screen.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

RIK

To our eyes, we were alone.

Rik finishes the swig of water. Vincent is prepping packets of field rations.

VINCENT

The battalion probably thought the same thing.

RIK

Then, they set Goggles on us before we could get our bearings.

(beat)

This was all about separating us from our forces. They wanted a live Altered.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- LATER

Close up on Vincent's camo field generator. Vincent and Rik are eating field rations. Rik digs in with relish while Vincent chews his food deep in thought.

RIK (CONT'D)

I still can't believe you found a way to make this stuff taste great.

VINCENT

I'm more than a pretty face.

(beat)

Why would they want an Altered? They have Goggles.

RIK

I was wondering about that, too.

(beat)

Goggles moved very strangely for an Altered.

CUT TO:

EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

FLASHBACK -- Replay of the fight with Goggles from another angle. Goggles is very fast and powerful, but his movements are jerky.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

RIK

He was fast and really strong, but
not as fluid as he should have been.

VINCENT

My brother was more smooth and
controlled even before he was trained.

Both men eat in thoughtful silence.

CUT TO:

EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

Slow motion of Rik blocking one of Goggles punches.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

RIK

I heard odd sounds when Goggles moved.

CUT TO:

EXT. BATTLEGROUND -- EVENING

Replay of the hit in even slower motion. There is an odd
whirr as Goggles' hand moves.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

RIK

Servos.

VINCENT

Goggles is a guy in a suit. I am
going to kick his ass.

RIK

No, Love. He's mine. We need to
spank all their asses. Hard.

VINCENT

That's my Colonel Bastard. How do
you feel?

RIK

I can fight. After I have Doc
Auerbach's serum, I'll be 100 percent
long enough for us to get home.

Rik finishes his meal. He is still thoughtful. Vincent
starts packing up.

RIK (CONT'D)

I have a feeling that Goggles and company aren't the only ones needing a spanking.

VINCENT

I don't follow.

RIK

That attack took a lot of planning. They'd need detailed intelligence on our movements.

VINCENT

Traitor? Spy?

RIK

Sounds about right.

VINCENT

We were set up.

RIK

Sort of. We were given this op at the last minute.

(beat)

I think we're bait for counter intelligence to flush out the problem.

VINCENT

Nice of them to tell us.

RIK

Not if the the traitor is on our staff.

VINCENT

When I find out who it is...

RIK

Forget him. For all we know, he's already been busted. However, I'm bothered by the precedent.

VINCENT

What precedent?

RIK

Our agreement is for us to be recalled for extreme emergencies. This is bad. But this is not that bad.

VINCENT

We are proving useful.

RIK

Yeah. Let's fix that.

Rik takes a drink from a small bottle. He takes a deep breath and is clearly rejuvenated.

RIK (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, that's much better.

(beat)

First we're going to take care of Goggles. Then in four hours this stuff is going to knock me out, just in time for you to tell the extraction team how close we all came to death. They'll think twice before trying this stunt again.

VINCENT

Simple. Elegant. And Evil. I like this plan.

Rik again caresses Vincent's hair then his jaw.

RIK

Let's do it. Let's get home.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW BATTLEGROUND -- NIGHT

Goggles is surveying the area.

P.O.V. GOGGLES -- NIGHT

Rik's body lies on the ground.

EXT. NEW BATTLEGROUND -- NIGHT

Goggles goes to Rik.

As Goggles pauses to examine Rik body, Vincent deactivates his camo field.

Vincent fires a bolt of energy. Goggles deflects it.

Rik spin kicks Goggles. Rik jumps on Goggles. Goggles throws him off and stands.

Vincent slugs him. Goggles hits Vincent twice.

Rik hits Goggles. Goggles swings at Rik and misses.

Rik hits Goggles again. Goggles spins into Vincent's fist. Goggles spins into Rik's fist.

Goggles grabs Rik. Rik grabs Goggles back and drains his suit of power.

Goggles' POV of power loss.

Rik pulls off Goggles' mask. Goggles' POV as Rik slugging him.

EXT. NEW BATTLEGROUND -- NIGHT

Quick inserts of Goggles' being stripped, Vincent tearing off a piece of duct tape, and Goggles' hands being bound.

Vincent is trying on the goggles. Rik looks with mock disapproval at Vincent, who then lowers the goggles around his neck. They leave Goggles behind, bound naked except for his boxers and his scarf.

FADE OUT: