

For This Purpose - Script

EXT. BATTLEFIELD DESERT - NIGHT

A loud *BOOM* shakes the ground GEMMA stands on. Gemma, a soldier, hides behind a hill. Rocks and dust scatter all over her from the explosion.

Gemma holds a communication device to her ear.

GEMMA
Seventy fivers ground force to Eitorian
command: We're out numbered and under heavy
attack. We need air support NOW.

Two other soldiers from her platoon pop out and fire multiple rounds at the advancing enemy.

GEMMA (cont'd)
Stronglandian regiments are advancing from
the South and the West. We're pinned...

A grenade flies over and lands by one of the soldier's feet, SEBASTIAN.

GEMMA (cont'd)
WATCH OUT.

Gemma lunges for the grenade and throws it as far away as she can. It explodes in mid air.

Gemma finds herself launched off her feet. The shockwave lifts and slams her into the rocky hill. *CRACK*, her head hits the rock violently. Even though the helmet she wears provides some protection, Gemma drowns in a cloud of white

EXT. LUSH GREEN FIELD - DAY

RAPHAEL, a confident man in his early thirties, holds Gemma's hand and guides her through the field.

RAPHAEL
No peaking okay?

GEMMA
Ooh, I'm so excited. How long?

RAPHAEL
Almost there.

Raphael makes a gesture with his hand and a PORTAL appears right in front of him.

He turns to Gemma and holds both her hands.

RAPHAEL (cont'd)
(whispers in her ears)
This is gonna feel a bit weird, but trust me.

Raphael touches her cheek. Gemma leans her face into his open palm and smiles.

GEMMA
Okay.

Raphael turns to the portal. It swirls with a myriad of colors.

RAPHAEL
Jump.

They both jump through it.

Instantaneously, they are transported to ...

EXT. ANCIENT CITY, ROOF TOP - NIGHT

Gemma loses her balance for a moment and opens her eyes.

GEMMA
Whoa. Where did we go?

She stands on a roof top in front of a table with a birthday cake. The cake has the number 29 floating on top of it. It spins around slowly. The words "Happy Birthday" are in lit letters on top of the number.

RAPHAEL
Gemma, Happy Birthday, you don't look a day
over 25.

GEMMA
Aww.

Raphael makes a gesture with his hand and the "Happy Birthday" explodes into a colorful mini fireworks.

Gemma laughs at the display and hugs Raphael.

GEMMA (cont'd)
Oh this is so great.

RAPHAEL
Oh, Oh. It's not over yet.

Raphael guides her to the edge of the roof and makes a grand gesture intended to encompass the view of the ancient city.

RAPHAEL (cont'd)
Tada.

GEMMA
Oh wow!

RAPHAEL
I didn't want to just do anything, you know.
I wanted something special.

Gemma is mesmerized by the view.

GEMMA
This is amazing. Eitoria, what? Two thousand,
three thousand years ago?

Raphael smiles, mischievously.

RAPHAEL
Are you sure it's Eitoria?

Gemma looks around and spots a distinguished watch tower.

GEMMA
Yeah. The south watchtower is right there.
(points to an open area)
Liberation square.
(points to a river running
to the south)
The River Wild. It's Eitoria alright.

RAPHAEL
But haven't you read "The Road to
Strongland"? Two Stronglandians rescue an
Eitorian Count's son, who is half Eitorian,
half Stronglandian.

Gemma laughs.

GEMMA
That's a fairy tale.

RAPHAEL
When he grew up he returned the land to the
Stronglandian people... Just saying!

GEMMA
Come on Raphael. Are we going to get our
history from fairy tales now?

RAPHAEL
(leans closer)
What if I told you, it isn't a fairy tale.

Gemma looks at him a bit bewildered.

GEMMA
It is. Are you serious? You don't really...
Are you pulling my leg?

Raphael smiles and pulls her closer to him.

RAPHAEL
How about pull your hand... for a dance.

Raphael gestures with his hand and music starts playing. It comes from all around them.

GEMMA
You had me going for a second there.

Raphael spins Gemma around and then dips her. She giggles.

RAPHAEL

I was hoping it would be more than a second.

They continue slow dancing; a couple in love.

RAPHAEL (cont'd)

Sometimes, I just wonder what our country would be like if we're not in constant conflict with Strongland, you know? How much different our lives will be if a few people stood up against the constant war?

Gemma snuggles close to Raphael.

GEMMA

I hear ya.

EXT. ANCIENT CITY, ROOF TOP - LATER

Gemma sits on the edge of the roof with her head resting on Raphael's shoulder.

GEMMA

Wanna hear a story?

RAPHAEL

Does it start with "Once upon a time"? you know me... I love fairy tales.

Gemma smiles.

GEMMA

Well, once up on a time...

EXT. BATTLEFIELD DESERT - NIGHT

Three military jets fly over head. The ground shakes with falling bombs. Gemma's eyes fly open. Her vision is hazy. Her fellow soldiers yell in triumph, pumping their fists in the air.

A soldier, SEBASTIAN, helps Gemma up.

SEBASTIAN

We got them. Your message got through. We got them. WOHO

Gemma grabs her rifle and follows the other soldiers to inspect the damage.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD DESERT, FLAT LANDS - CONTINUOUS

Gemma and five other soldiers comb through the battlefield. Armored vehicles are destroyed and on fire. Bodies of Stronglandian soldiers are scattered here and there.

BANG BANG. Gemma jumps at the sound of two shots ringing out. She rushes towards the source.

Sebastian had shot a Stronglandian soldier in the chest. Another wounded one crawls away. Sebastian points his rifle at him, but Gemma pushes it away just in time, causing him to miss.

GEMMA

What are you doing?

SEBASTIAN

They attacked us.

GEMMA

We're not monsters. Put your weapon down.

Gemma looks at the wounded soldier. He rests his back against a rock and holds his side. Blood seeps through his fingers as he breathes rapidly.

Gemma takes a medical kit from her back pack and approaches the soldier.

GEMMA (cont'd)

We're not going to hurt you.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD DESERT - LATER

The Eitorian soldiers hide behind rocks. They aim their heavy artillery towards the battlefield.

Sebastian lays beside Gemma.

SEBASTIAN

This is a bad idea.

Through the smoke and the fog, they see a Stronglandian soldier emerge with a raised white flag.

Gemma looks through her binoculars.

GEMMA
Hold your fire. He's unarmed.

Two other Stronglandian soldiers approach with a stretcher. They load up the wounded soldier on to it and back up.

EXT. ANCIENT CITY, ROOF TOP - NIGHT

Gemma looks distant.

RAPHAEL
You're a hero. You're my hero. We need more people like you, who can show us the right path.

GEMMA
(chuckles)
The Eitorian military doesn't share your sentiments. I was released from my service shortly after this incident. There is no place for emotions on the battlefield, they said.

Raphael holds her chin up.

RAPHAEL
It's their loss.

They look into each others' eyes and then lean over for a passionate kiss. They part.

GEMMA
Let's take the leap. Let's really meet.

Raphael looks away. Gemma immediately feels embarrassed.

GEMMA (cont'd)
Oh. Oh. I thought... I didn't mean to... I just thought it's been going so good

Gemma gets up

RAPHAEL
Please. It's not that.

GEMMA
I'm gonna go.

RAPHAEL
No. Please. It's not what you think. I just need more time.

GEMMA
Sure. Sure. Thanks for the Birthday.

Gemma reaches for her head and grabs a hold of an invisible helmet. She pulls it off.

Her image disintegrates.

INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gemma takes off her VIRTUAL REALITY GOGGLES and puts it beside a 3D computer screen. She scans the back of her left hand over a sensor attached to the computer.

On the screen, the words "DEREGISTRATION FROM THE EITORIAN NET COMPLETE" flash for a moment and then are replaced by "EITORIAN NET: EITORIAN TECHNOLOGY FOR THE EITORIAN PEOPLE"

Gemma gets up and paces back and forth, visibly upset. Her phone beeps. It's an e-mail from Raphael, no last name. It reads "SORRY DIDN'T WANT TODAY TO END LIKE THIS. I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU NEXT WEEK. I PROMISE."

Gemma puts the phone down frustrated.

EXT. LIBERATION SQUARE - DAY

Gemma walks with a friend, TULSI, in Liberation square; an open garden. In the center stands the south watchtower, which we saw in the Eitorian Net simulation. Except it looks very old, down to the bare bricks; no paint. A futuristic building serves as the backdrop. It has a logo of a lion's head with two swords crisscrossed behind it.

GEMMA

Maybe I did something wrong. I could've waited a bit.

TULSI

Stop it, Gemma. Seriously? You're not actually putting the blame on yourself, are you?

GEMMA

I mean...

TULSI

No. You don't mean. I'm tired of hearing you put yourself down. Any guy would be lucky to have you.

GEMMA

Well, we both know that's not true.

TULSI

Why don't you get out and meet people, huh? It's always work and home for you. You're missing out.

Gemma looks away.

GEMMA

It's just the connection I have with Raphael. It's so.. real.

TULSI

Gemma, you understand you actually don't know who that guy is. Right? He could be some creep living in his mother's basement.

GEMMA

No. We've been seeing each other for more than a year now. I would've known.

TULSI

You've been seeing each other in a virtual world. Using Avatars that don't even look like you. Come on. Doesn't that seem weird to you? Falling in love with someone you've never met.

(beat)

Are you sure you're not just trying to escape your past?

GEMMA

It's not about James. I made my peace with that.

TULSI

You did? You sure? You guys were about to get married when he left you because you stood up for that Stronglandian soldier. He chose his military career over you. That must've stung.

Gemma looks away, hurt.

TULSI (cont'd)

I'm sorry, I didn't mean... I just don't want to see you go through that again.

GEMMA

I'm gonna put this to rest, okay? I'll sort it out with Raphael. We can't keep doing this virtual thing forever. I'm gonna find out if he's serious about pursuing a real relationship... or not.

Tulsi looks at Gemma sympathetically.

TULSI

If you want my advice, just forget about him. He sounds like trouble to me.

INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gemma hesitantly puts the VR goggles on.

EXT. LUSH GREEN FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Gemma stands in the green field.

GEMMA
History.

A menu appears in front of her. She scrolls through and clicks on an entry.

The portal appears. She jumps through it.

EXT. ANCIENT CITY, ROOF TOP - CONTINUOUS

Gemma appears on the roof top in the ancient city. She gestures with her hand and pulls up another menu.

GEMMA
Find the owner of this EN Realm.

The menu oscillates and flashes for a moment. "NO OWNER REGISTERED FOR THIS REALM" appears.

GEMMA (cont'd)
What? Identify the origin of this Realm?

"NO MATCHING RECORDS FOUND"

GEMMA (cont'd)
Search for Raphael in the EN Directory and
cross reference the results with this Realm's
creation date.

"NO RAPHAEL FOUND IN THE EITORIAN NET DIRECTORY"

GEMMA (cont'd)
That doesn't make sense.

She swipes with her hand and the menu disintegrates.

Suddenly the entire world is drowned in red. The sky flashes different shades of red and an alarm sounds.

COMPUTER
This is an illegal EN Realm. Deletion is
imminent. This is an illegal EN Realm.
Deletion is imminent.

The ground shakes under her feet.

GEMMA
What the hell?

She reaches for her head and tries to take off the invisible helmet, but she can't. She panics and tries again with desperation. The disintegration of the EN Realm approaches.

The buildings on the horizon start to decay; past them only static.

GEMMA (cont'd)
What is going on?

The chaos approaches her quickly. After a brief moment's hesitation, Gemma heads towards a scaffold erected by the face of the building and climbs down.

Her weight dislodges a few old wood planks and they go tumbling down. Gemma loses her balance but halts her descent by grabbing onto a pole. As she does she cuts her hand on a sharp edge.

GEMMA (cont'd)
Aah

There is a strange looking cut in her hand; part organic, part digital.

GEMMA (cont'd)
This can't be possible.

CRASH. Gemma snaps towards the noise and sees the building next to the one she's on start breaking apart. She climbs down in a hurry.

EXT. ANCIENT CITY, STREET - CONTINUOUS

Gemma runs. She turns a corner and stops, looking back. The disintegration process continues. She tries again to take off the invisible helmet, but to no avail.

She gestures with her hand, trying to call up the menu, but nothing happens.

GEMMA
Damn it. This can't be possible. How am I not
getting out of here?

That's when she notices a flickering blue light break through the bleak RED color of the world. It originates from a building ahead of her. The window on the second floor pulsates blue. But destruction approaches it in haste.

Gemma sprints to that building and bursts through the front gate.

INT. ANCIENT CITY, BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Gemma enters the building and climbs up to the second floor. The blue light seeps through from under a closed door. She tries to open it, but can't. She backs up and kicks it in.

INT. ANCIENT CITY, BUILDING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gemma sees a portal. Just then the back wall of the room vanishes in a burst of digital mayhem. The portal itself destabilizes.

Gemma dives through it.

EXT. WHITE SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Gemma is propelled through and lands roughly, groaning in pain. She scrambles up on her feet, looking around, left and right. Everything is disorientingly white. Then her sight lands on a revolving logo, a lion's head with two swords crisscrossed behind it. Underneath it are the words: "EITORIAN DEFENSE NET (EDN)".

GEMMA
Holy shit. How did I get here?

The whiteness starts to make way for more structure. It looks like she's in ...

INT. ADVANCED LAB - CONTINUOUS

Raphael catches her eyes. He works on a console connected to one of the mainframes in the room. A strange energy field surrounds him.

GEMMA
Raphael?
(louder)
Raphael.

Gemma hears growling noises behind her. She snaps around and finds herself face to face with a mythical beast.

GEMMA (cont'd)
Whoa.

Gemma backs up.

The beast charges her. She dives to the side, but not fast enough. The beast head butts her. She's launched backwards and *CRASHES* into the machinery of the lab. Sparks fly.

Gemma collapses on the ground and coughs blood.

She looks at her blood on the floor, not believing what's happening.

The beast approaches her calmly. Gemma backs up on all fours. Then the beast lunges at her. But before it makes contact it explodes into a burst of digital light.

When the sparkles from the explosion disappear, she sees Raphael with a mobile device in his hand.

RAPHAEL
Are you okay?

GEMMA
What the hell was that?

RAPHAEL
It's an anti-virus program. It's designed to
protect the Eitorian Defense Net.

Raphael helps her up. He looks concerned for her.

RAPHAEL (cont'd)
You sure you okay?

GEMMA
What is going on? I shouldn't feel pain in
the EN. But all my body bloody hurts.

Gemma tries to pull off the invisible helmet, but again is met with failure.

GEMMA (cont'd)
And why can't I get this thing off. ?.

RAPHAEL
It's no use trying. The EN has taken over your brain. It's paralyzing you in the real world. Gemma, you were never suppose to be here. You're putting your life in danger.

Gemma backs away from Raphael and heads to the console he was working on. But when she gets close she hits the energy field.

RAPHAEL (cont'd)
Please stop.

GEMMA
You're trying to break into the Eitorian Defense Net. Why? What are you trying to steal?

Gemma turns to Raphael.

GEMMA (cont'd)
Who in the bloody hell are you?

RAPHAEL
Okay, take it easy. I'll show you.

Raphael types a few commands in the device on his hand. And an image of another person forms around him. The image lasts only for a moment. It's the SOLDIER Gemma saved that many years ago.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD DESERT, FLAT LANDS - FLASHBACK

Gemma approaches the wounded soldier. He's Raphael.

INT. ADVANCED LAB

GEMMA
You! How are you here? This is a closed network. And it's way beyond Stronglandian technology.

RAPHAEL
Please believe me. I never wanted you involved. Never wanted to hurt you.

Raphael steps closer to her, but Gemma takes a step back.

RAPHAEL (cont'd)
At first I just wanted to meet the woman who saved my life. I never thought I'll fall in love with you.

GEMMA
Love? You lied to me.

RAPHAEL
I didn't lie to you Gemma. I wanted to tell you who I really am, but I couldn't.

The console beeps. They both look there and see "DOWNLOAD COMPLETE".

Suddenly Gemma kicks Raphael in the chest sending him hurtling back. With another swift kick she dislodges the CONTROL DEVICE he had from his hand.

RAPHAEL (cont'd)
No please.

But Gemma acquires the control device and deactivates the field around the console. She sprints to it. Raphael catches up and tries to hold her back, but she elbows him in the face.

Gemma unhooks a STORAGE DEVICE from the console.

GEMMA
You're not getting this.

RAPHAEL
Gemma, listen to me. The data in these files will change everything we know about our two nations.

Suddenly, drones materialize out of nowhere. That moment of distraction is enough for Raphael to snatch the control device from Gemma. He shoves her behind another machine in the lab.

RAPHAEL (cont'd)
Hide.

GEMMA
Get away from me.

Gemma pushes Raphael away and rushes out into the open space.

The drones detect and scan her. Raphael hurries to her side.

RAPHAEL
Great. You just painted a target on your back.

GEMMA
I'll tell them the truth.

RAPHAEL
Do you really think they'll care? Do you?
Especially when they realize who we are to each other?

Gemma looks at Raphael as she realizes the gravity of her dilemma.

RAPHAEL (cont'd)
I have to get you out of here.

The drones circle them. Raphael taps a few commands on his control device and presses the execute button. The device explodes forcefully.

Everything goes white.

INT. GEMMA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gemma exits the EN. She snatches the VR goggles off her head and throws them on her desk.

On her 3D screen a folder icon rotates slowly, below it: "DOWNLOAD COMPLETE".

Her mobile phone rings. It's an unknown number.

GEMMA
(carefully)
Hello.

RAPHAEL
Gemma, they're coming for you.

Rapid knocks sound on her door.

OFFICER (O.C.)
Gemma, open up. It's James.

RAPHAEL
Don't trust him. Take the file and leave.

The knocks get louder.

JAMES (O.C.)
Open up.

RAPHAEL
(pleading)
Do it now. Please. I'll find you.

Gemma swipes the folder from her computer to the mobile device and heads to the window. With the first few steps she holds her side in pain. But she overcomes her pain and continues on.

At the window, she looks down at a ledge which runs across the tenth floor of her apartment building. She takes a deep breath and steps out.

JAMES breaks the door open and walks inside, gun ready. He goes to the computer and examines Gemma's VR goggles.

JAMES
Oh, Gemma. You crossed the line.
(in ear piece)
Start tracking procedures.