

GENE GENERATION 2.0

by  
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SECOND DRAFT - ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

Four bodies lie in shallow graves in a barren desert. Beneath the sand, a pair of bloodshot eyes fly open. Buried alive!

Sitting upright, ABADDON bursts through the sand, gasping for air. Once human, he is now a genetically-engineered bio-punk. A living weapon.

His spine has been replaced with a chainsaw. His massive War-like frame fused with heavy metal armor plating. Hoses and tubes wind around his body. On his shoulders, little valves protrude from raw, unhealed wounds.

Abaddon quickly digs out his three companions (APEP, MOLOCH, and ERINYES) so they, too, can breathe. One by one they bolt upright, coughing and choking.

They are all bio-punks, but their modifications vary:

APEP - Scrawny and frail, he looks like a Famine victim. Undulating chains around him reinforce his brittle bones.

MOLOCH - A clever DNA hacker, he Conquers his victims by manipulating their genes. His mods are more subtle - he looks human but his blood is made of acid.

ERINYES - A beautiful woman dressed in an ancient Kabuki costume with a giant fan on her back. Like Moloch, she appears human, but her saliva carries a deadly neurotoxin. Hers is the face of Death.

Together, they are the Four Horsemen.

ERINYES

Are we dead?

ABADDON

Not anymore.

Apep wanders away from the others. Stares out into the blasted landscape. Eyes vacant.

APEP

Power was given him to scorch men  
with fire from the Sun, and the  
world was burnt with great heat.

Apep focuses on another world; a world only he can see. Moloch approaches. His movements sound like Azuki beans being washed.

MOLOCH

What is it? What do you see?

INSERT APEP'S VISION

A series of quick, distorted cuts. Memory masquerading as prophecy.

- A deformed fetus floating in embryonic fluid.
- An underground lab packed with scientific equipment.
- A battered sign flapping in the wind outside a dilapidated shantytown. OUTPOST 6.

BACK TO SCENE

Apep plucks out his eye. Removes a small video recording device. Offers it to Moloch.

APEP

I'll show you.

Without flinching, Moloch pulls out one of his own eyes. Connects the device to his optical nerve.

EXT. OUTPOST 6 - ENTRANCE - DAY

Led by Apep's visions, the Four Horsemen approach a decrepit shantytown. A post-apocalyptic nightmare of twisted steel and corrugated metal rusting beneath the relentless desert sun.

A battered sign flaps in the wind. It's the same from Apep's vision, but someone has spray-painted over it:

"Abandon all hope, ye who enter OUTPOST 6."

A gang of armed MEN step forward, blocking the entrance to town. Grubby and disgusting, they are the dredges of society. But they outnumber the newcomers two-to-one.

ABADDON

It's the welcoming committee.

BAD TEETH

We got no use for your kind here.

MOLOCH

What do you think this is, Demeter of the desert?

BALDING MAN

You'd best keep on moving.

Apep scans the slums, looking for the location of the underground lab from his vision.

APEP

There.

Apep starts toward a rickety lean-to. Emboldened by Apep's frail appearance, Balding Man stands in the way.

BALDING MAN

Wrong way, mister. Exit's back the way you came.

ONE-EYED MAN

Y'all should go now.

Eager for a fight, Abaddon reaches for his large blade. The hilt looks like a giant Gatling gun. Moloch stops him. Not yet.

BAD TEETH

Except her. She stays.

Bad Teeth grabs Erinyes by the arm. She struggles as he forcibly kisses her.

MOLOCH

Wouldn't do that if I were you.

Bad Teeth discovers to his horror that Erinyes' saliva is deadly poison. Foaming at the mouth, he flings her away. She tucks her hair back into place as he falls to the ground, flailing in agony.

ERINYES

You should treat women with more respect.

Howling with rage at the death of their friend, the gang charges the Horsemen, guns blazing. The other Horsemen duck behind Abaddon for cover. The bullets ping harmlessly off his armor.

The Outposters quickly realize that confronting these strangers was a horrible mistake.

Apep's skin splits open, revealing the chains beneath. A string of chains fly in the air, knocking the guns from the startled Outposters' grasp.

From the giant fan on her back, Erinyes whips out a pair

Flings them into the torso of her attackers. The effect is almost immediate. They drop like stones, writhing.

Moloch cuts open his own palm, his acidic blood sizzling. He strikes one of the Outlanders with the butt of his hand. As the blood comes in contact with the Outlander's face, the skin bubbles and melts away.

Gleeful, Abaddon joins the fray, quickly finishing off the remaining Outposters with his monstrous sword.

FROM THE SHADOWS

An old man (ROTOR) watches the deadly exchange. Avoiding attention, he slips behind a lean-to into a hidden entrance to the tunnel system below the surface.

CUT TO:

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

Sweating, MICHELLE stops for shade in the shadow of a rusted-out hulk of machinery in the middle of the desert.

She drinks from a canteen. Splashes some of the water onto her face. To her horror, her hands appear covered in blood. Startled, she drops the canteen.

INSERT FLASHBACK

Michelle cradles her dying brother JACKIE. Her hands covered in his blood.

BACK TO SCENE

Michelle's hands return to normal. She kisses a small vial on a chain around her neck - it is filled with Jackie's blood. A constant reminder of why she's here.

Michelle picks up the canteen, chagrined to see the precious liquid has leaked out onto the sand.

She reaches into her pocket. Pulls out a tattered map of the Badlands. On it, numerous Outposts are indicated. Several have already been crossed off.

Next on her itinerary - Outpost 6. She sets off into the desert, alone on her quest.

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - DAY

Deep in the tunnels below the outpost, the Four Horsemen enter the lab from Apep's vision. It is thrashed. The equipment hastily disassembled.

ERINYES

He knew we were coming.

APEP

Not totally unexpected.

Moloch inspects the machinery. He finds a DNA HACKING DEVICE tucked away beneath a mass of tubes and wires.

MOLOCH

Ah, my favorite toy.

APEP

We need to remove the equipment.  
Take it someplace safe. Abaddon,  
can you carry it?

In response, Abaddon hoists up a heavy hunk of steel. Flings it over his shoulder like a sack of potatoes.

ABADDON

Where do you want it?

MOLOCH

Careful! That's extremely  
fragile. It's going to be hard  
enough to reassemble without you  
damaging it.

APEP

Moloch, clear the streets. I  
don't want any witnesses.  
Erinyes, go scout out -- Erinyes?

ERINYES (O.S.)

I found him. I found Caim.

Erinyes has vanished into the dark recesses of the lab. She reappears cradling CAIM, an oversized fetus floating in amniotic fluid. The Madonna with her Child.

ERINYES (CONT'D)

It'll all be OK. You're safe with  
us now.

She tenderly cuddles the hideously deformed fetus.

EXT. OUTPOST 6 - ENTRANCE - DAY

Moloch picks his way among the corpses of the dead Outposters. He nudges them aside with his toe.

He turns over a body bent at an impossible angle. The lifeless face of the Balding Man stares up at him.

MOLOCH

You'll do.

He opens up a vein. Pours a few drops of his own blood into the Balding Man's sightless eyes.

The eye jelly sizzles and pops as it comes in contact with his acidic blood.

EXT. OUTPOST 6 - BACK ALLEY - DAY

A GARBAGE MAN sorts through the day's refuse, trying to find something worth salvaging.

In the distance, he hears what sounds like Azuki beans being washed. Moloch is nearby.

The Garbage Man squints at a figure lurching towards him. It's the animated corpse of the Balding Man. His movements jerky, unnatural. Like a marionette.

GARBAGE MAN

Hey, you're supposed to be on guard duty. Why aren't you at your post?

As the Balding Man steps into the light, the Garbage Man sees that his eyes and body are horribly disfigured and covered in blood.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

Nearby, Moloch types into his DNA Hacking device.

GO... NOW... PLAGUE...

As Moloch types in the words, the Balding Man's Corpse speaks them aloud.

BALDING MAN CORPSE

Go... now... plague... disease all over... it's here...

Moloch smiles as he continues to type in a code. He hits

The walking Corpse coughs out blood. It sprays all over the Garbage Man.

GARBAGE MAN

What the hell--? Get away!

Moloch continues typing.

RUN... SAVE YOURSELF...

BALDING MAN CORPSE

Run... save yourself... get everybody out...

Moloch types in a few commands. Hits the 'execute' button again.

This time, the Corpse screams. Coughs up more blood. It sprays around and hits the walls.

In fear for his life, the Garbage Man bolts and runs.

Grinning, Moloch steps out from the darkness. He turns off the DNA Hacking device.

The Balding Man's Corpse crumples. Dead for good this time.

EXT. SECTOR 6 - ENTRANCE - DAY

REFUGEES pour out of the Outpost, meagre belongings in tow. Wasting no time evacuating the doomed shantytown.

They give the dead bodies at the entrance a wide berth. Not even inspecting them close enough to determine the actual cause of death.

Hidden out of sight, a SPY-DER, a little insect-like creature with a tiny video camera attached to it, watches the exodus of Refugees.

EXT. SHADOW HUNTERS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The headquarters of the nomadic Shadow Hunters is more like a desert bedouin camp. Various SHADOW HUNTERS (Ninja-like mercenaries) train in the middle. SENTRIES armed with heavy artillery stands guard on the perimeter.

A Shadow Hunter runs up. Bows to the LEADER on his makeshift throne.

SHADOW HUNTER #1  
M'lord, there has been a disease  
outbreak in one of the Outposts.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
Which one?

SHADOW HUNTER #1  
Outpost 6. We have reports of  
mass evacuations.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
Outpost 6 is our primary source of  
protection money. How many have  
left?

SHADOW HUNTER #1  
All of them...

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
ALL OF THEM?

At the sound of his outburst, everyone stops training.  
The camp falls silent.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER (CONT'D)  
We are not losing an entire  
Outpost! Gather our men, I want a  
full investigation in that area.

SHADOW HUNTER 1  
Yes, M'lord

INT. SHADOW HUNTERS HEADQUARTERS - LATER

A group of Shadow Hunters gather around maps. The SHADOW  
HUNTER COMMANDER briefs them on their mission.

SHADOW HUNTER COMMANDER  
The spy-ders indicate there is  
still some activity within the  
Outpost. Could be the infected.  
Or looters.

SHADOW HUNTER #2  
It's hard to believe the outbreak  
caused so much panic so quickly.

SHADOW HUNTER #3  
After the last plague, do you  
blame them?

ANGELICA (O.S.)  
But the surrounding sectors are  
unaffected. Something's wrong.

They are interrupted by a female figure dressed as a  
Shadow Hunter. ANGELICA steps into the light. Not even  
the clothes of death can hide her beauty and figure.

SHADOW HUNTER COMMANDER  
Angelica. What are you doing  
here?

ANGELICA  
Going with you.

SHADOW HUNTER COMMANDER  
This is Ground Zero of a new  
outbreak. It's too dangerous.

Angelica's hands wrap slowly around the hilt of her  
blade. The Shadow Hunters back away slowly.

ANGELICA  
You think I'm afraid?

SHADOW HUNTER COMMANDER  
Blades are no match for disease.  
We don't know how it will  
effect... I'm sorry Angelica,  
this mission is not for you.

Ignoring her, he returns his attention to the other  
Shadow Hunters.

SHADOW HUNTER COMMANDER (CONT'D)  
Masks are mandatory. Until we  
learn more this pathogen, we  
assume it's airborne.

The Shadow Hunters groan.

SHADOW HUNTER #1  
But they impair our visibility.

Realizing that she is no longer a part of this  
conversation, Angelica steps back.

Her expressionless face hints that she is something more  
than she appears.

ANGELICA  
(sotto voce)  
I'm coming. Whether you like it  
or not.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

Michelle encounters a Refugee on the road. It's Rotor, the old man who witnessed the Horsemen's attack on the Outpost. He runs, puffing, as fast as his little legs will take him.

MICHELLE

Why the hurry, old man?

He's extremely short. Michelle would have mistaken him for a midget.

ROTOR

You don't want to go that direction. There's nothing there but death.

MICHELLE

Death and I are old friends, but we've got a score to settle. He took someone from me. Someone very close.

ROTOR

Look around, lady. Think you're the only one?

MICHELLE

No, but I'm the one who's going to do something about it. Do you know a man named Rotor?

Rotor blanches, unwilling to reveal his identity.

ROTOR

That two-bit hack?

MICHELLE

I hear he can bring back the dead.

ROTOR

You don't want to do that. The dead don't like it when you bring them back.

MICHELLE

So it's true? He can resurrect my brother?

Thinking he might have just give himself away, Rotor's mind races.

ROTOR

I've heard rumors, same as you.

Michelle grabs him by his ragged collar. Choking him.

MICHELLE

You're lying. Where is he?

He flails about, gasping for breath.

ROTOR

I don't know.

MICHELLE

Tell me, or you'll be meeting  
Death sooner than you planned.

In the process, Rotor slips something in Michelle's pack.

ROTOR

Last I heard, he was in Outpost 6.

She drops him. He collapses to the ground in a heap.

ROTOR (CONT'D)

But if I were you, I'd avoid that  
place like the plague.

Michelle walks off, not caring. She pulls out the vial  
filled with blood, all that's left of her brother.

MICHELLE

Getting closer now, Jackie.

Rotor watches her leave, a strange smug look on his face.

EXT. OUTPOST 6 - ENTRANCE - DAY

Angelica emerges from beneath the desert sands. Grains  
of sand run off her gas mask like water.

She adjusts her comm unit, listening in on the Shadow  
Hunters who have entered the Outpost ahead of her.

SHADOW HUNTER #1 (O.S.)

Pity about Angelica.

SHADOW HUNTER COMMANDER (O.S.)

We don't know what the effects on  
her would be.

Angelica creeps up to the bodies of the dead Outposters.

SHADOW HUNTER COMMANDER (O.S.)  
(CONT'D)

Check on the team in the lower  
levels. We've lost communication.

SHADOW HUNTER #1 (O.S.)

Right away...

She flips them over with her foot. Upon closer  
inspection, she sees that the bodies are crushed,  
bloodied, acid burnt.

She removes her mask. Eyes narrow, suspiciously.

ANGELICA

What kind of plague leaves exit  
wounds?

Suddenly, Angelica's comm unit goes wild with the sounds  
of combat.

SHADOW HUNTER #2 (O.S.)

What the hell is THAT?

SHADOW HUNTER #1 (O.S.)

Attack! Attack!

SHADOW HUNTER #3 (O.S.)

Commander, we need heavy artill--  
gah!

Throwing caution to the wind, Angelica whips out her  
sword. Rushes into the Outpost after her comrades.

EXT. OUTPOST 6 - MAIN STREET - DAY

Angelica picks her way through the street lined with  
blood and destruction. Bending down, she stares at the  
dead bodies of Shadow Hunters.

The bloodied face of the Shadow Hunter Commander stares  
at her with lifeless eyes.

ANGELICA

I will avenge you.

Hearing a sound from the distance, Angelica carefully  
threads around the bodies. Her back pressed against the  
wall.

ABADDON (O.S.)

They can't hear you.

In the darkness, a hulking shape emerges from the shadows. It's Abaddon. He slowly rises.

ABADDON (CONT'D)

But I can.

Angelica gasps, realizing her mistake. She turns to run.

Abaddon throws his blade after her. Pinning her to the wall. Grabs Angelica by the back of her hair.

ABADDON (CONT'D)

Where are you going, pretty one?

Throwing Angelica against a wall of corrugated metal, Abaddon rips open her clothes. Taken aback by the sight of her naked body.

She is adorned with tattoos indicating she was in a recent operation. Lines radiate from her chest to several acupoints of her body. Each ending in little circular patterns.

ABADDON (CONT'D)

I don't know what kind of crazy shit you're into, but I like it.

EXT. OUTPOST 6 - ENTRANCE - DAY

Michelle strides toward the Outpost. Doesn't even acknowledge the dead bodies rotting in the sun.

EXT. OUTPOST 6 - MAIN STREET - DAY

Abaddon touches Angelica's body, molesting her. His lusty eyes scan Angelica as he licks her perversely.

MICHELLE

Ahem...

Abaddon stops as he sees Michelle squatting nearby.

ABADDON

What do you want? Scram!

MICHELLE

Pardon the intrusion, but I'm looking for someone. Do you--

ABADDON

Go away. Unless you want to become part of the body count.

With that, Abaddon continues to lick Angelica.

He stops. Michelle appears in front of him. Squatting. Staring.

MICHELLE

You interrupted before I could  
finish my question.

Abaddon roars. Pulls out his blade. Swings at Michelle.

She blocks his attack. The force of the blow sends her flying backwards. Abaddon can now see her in the light.

ABADDON

Hey, you don't look too shabby  
yourself. I never had two in one  
day before...

MICHELLE

For a fat bastard, you sure can  
move. But I wonder how you can  
hold up that gigantic weapon...

Quick as a flash, Michelle swings her blade. Slices through his fingers.

Abaddon cries out, dropping his weapon.

Angelica leaps up. Kicks him up in the face. It is enough to send Abaddon staggering a few steps back.

Michelle quickly grabs Angelica.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Let's go.

Quickly, they dart down a back alley. Abaddon roars after them. Aims his Gatling gun after them.

Apep's voice rings out from his comm link.

APEP (O.S.)

Abaddon, I need you to come back  
to the lab.

ABADDON

But they're getting away!

APEP (O.S.)

We have bigger concerns.

EXT. OUTPOST - BACK ALLEY - DAY

Michelle and Angelica stop to catch their collective breathes. Michelle checks to make sure they are not being followed.

MICHELLE

OK, talk. What was that bio-punk doing here?

Angelica sees blood on her chest from where Abaddon had pinned her with his blade. Proceeds to calmly stitch the wound up with a field surgery kit.

ANGELICA

Besides the obvious?

Michelle is stunned that Angelica is stitching herself. Without anesthesia.

MICHELLE

I expect bio-punks in the city, but why was he out here in the middle of nowhere?

ANGELICA

That's the first one I've seen. I'll have to check with HQ, see if anymore have been spotted in the Badlands.

MICHELLE

You're a Shadow Hunter? You control this sector?

ANGELICA

Yes.

MICHELLE

I'm looking for a man who lives in Outpost 6. His name is Rotor.

ANGELICA

Never heard of him. If he's not dead, he's probably long gone, with the other refugees.

Michelle is already walking away.

ANGELICA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

Michelle stops at the end of the alley.

MICHELLE

I need to find out if Rotor's dead or not.

ANGELICA

Wait... you saved my life. I promise you I'll repay it.

MICHELLE

You don't owe me anything.

INT. HORSEMEN LAIR - DAY

Deep in the tunnels beneath the Outpost, the Four Horsemen have filled a room with the stolen machinery from the lab.

The place feels more like a hideout than a headquarters, but it will have to suffice for now.

Abaddon returns to find Erinyes breast feeding Caim, now a deformed infant hooked up to the stolen machine.

ABADDON

The equipment's working now?

MOLOCH

Only the first one. I can't connect it to any of the others because the SiLS are missing.

APEP

Silicone Linkage Systems.

ABADDON

What do they do?

MOLOCH

There are seven steps in the resurrection process. The machines use special silicone linkages to advance the subject from one life stage to the next.

ERINYES

Otherwise, Caim will stay like this forever.

ABADDON

Are they back in the lab? Should we go look for them?

MOLOCH

I already did. They aren't there.

ERINYES

The Maker took them. He has hidden them from us.

APEP

Their Creator has no compassion on them, and shows them no favor.

ABADDON

So now what?

APEP

Abaddon will come with me to search for the missing SiLS. The Maker could not have gone far, they must be nearby.

MOLOCH

What about me?

APEP

Caim is vulnerable in this fetal state. Stay with Erinyes and watch over him.

Moloch eyes Erinyes' exposed breast lustily.

MOLOCH

They'll be safe with me.

EXT. SHADOW HUNTERS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Rotor drags through the desert toward the entrance to Shadow Hunter headquarters.

The grim-faced Sentries spin on their turrets, aiming machine guns at his heart.

ROTOR

Whoa, guys. It's me. Don't you remember?

INT. SHADOW HUNTERS HEADQUARTERS

The Sentries lead Rotor to the Shadow Hunter Leader. Dump him unceremoniously at their Leader's feet.

Rotor dusts himself off.

ROTOR

Hospitable as ever, I see.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
What brings you here uninvited?

ROTOR  
As you know, we live in  
interesting times.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
An ancient Chinese curse. I am  
well familiar with it.

ROTOR  
Since you and I are business  
associates, nay, dare I say,  
friends...

The Shadow Hunter Leader narrows his eyes. He apparently  
does not consider Rotor a "friend."

ROTOR (CONT'D)  
... I have come to you humbly  
seeking sanctuary.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
Sanctuary? From whom?

ROTOR  
I don't know if you've heard, but  
there's been a bit of upheaval at  
the Outpost.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
I am aware of this. My men are  
investigating--

The door flies open as Angelica bursts in.

ANGELICA  
Your men are dead.

She kneels in deference. Rotor shrinks into the shadows,  
admiring Angelica from afar.

ANGELICA (CONT'D)  
M'lord. I am sorry.

The Leader collapses in his throne. His heart heavy.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
All of them?

ANGELICA  
Yes... I was the only survivor.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
What happened?

ANGELICA  
There were bodies, but they were  
killed by weapons, not disease. I  
suspect the outbreak was just a  
rumor to get civilians to evacuate  
the area.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
DNA Hackers?

ANGELICA  
No indication hackers were  
involved. The man who attacked me  
was a bio-punk.

The Shadow Hunter Leader glares at Rotor, accusing.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
A bio-punk? Was this same bio-  
punk also responsible for the  
death of my men?

ANGELICA  
Yes, M'lord.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
How did you escape?

ANGELICA  
I was saved. By a woman looking  
for a man called Rotor.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
Rotor...

ANGELICA  
Do you know him, M'lord?

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER  
Only by reputation. He is  
reckless and irresponsible. The  
time has come for this man to reap  
what he has sown.

Rotor squirms uncomfortably in the corner.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER (CONT'D)  
We need to find out who was behind  
this. I doubt one lone bio-punk  
could have orchestrated something  
this elaborate...

ANGELICA

Whoever it is, I will make them pay.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER

Are you willing to return to the Outpost, despite the dangers?

ANGELICA

More than willing, M'lord.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER

In that case, take this refugee back with you.

ANGELICA

As you wish...

He turns to Rotor, cold fury in his eyes.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER

Your request for sanctuary is denied. Don't ever come back here again or you'll be shot on sight.

Accepting his fate, Rotor nods. As he starts to leave with Angelica, the Leader calls after him.

SHADOW HUNTER LEADER (CONT'D)

There is a second part to that curse. It goes "May you find what you are looking for."

Rotor ponders this as Angelica escorts him out.

EXT. OUTPOST - BACK ALLEY - DAY

Apep watches as Abaddon tears the back alley apart looking for the SiLS.

ABADDON

Do we even know what we are looking for?

APEP

That which is hidden from the eyes of every living thing. Concealed even from the birds of the air.

ABADDON

Great. We're going to be out here all night.

Apep's stare goes blank. His vision filled with otherworldly images.

INSERT APEP'S VISION

A series of quick, distorted cuts.

- The lab with equipment intact.
- SiLS connect the gurgling machinery.
- A adult human shivers naked in the equipment. Tubes and wires connect flesh to machine.

BACK TO SCENE

In a trance-like state, Apep pulls back a hidden compartment. Inside is a circular, palm sized piece of flexible material.

Imprinted on it are the words "Silicone Linkage - Serial Number 066-5.1"

ABADDON (CONT'D)

One down. Six more to go.

Still in his trance, Apep leads Abaddon to another one of the hidden SiLS.

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

Perched on the rooftop, Michelle uses a scope detached from a gun to scan the Outpost structures from afar. She focuses in on Apep and Abaddon.

MICHELLE

(muttering under her  
breath)

Just my luck there'd be more than  
one bio-punk in this town.

She watches as they tear apart the back alley.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

What are you looking for, eh?

Abaddon triumphantly uncover yet another one of the SiLS. Michelle zooms in on it.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

What is that thing?

EXT. OUTPOST - BACK ALLEY - DAY

Eyes clearing, Apep comes out of his trance. Abaddon peers at him expectantly. Apep shakes his head.

APEP

That's all I can see. The location of the others is not fixed. They are in motion. How many do we have now?

ABADDON

Four.

APEP

Give them to me.

Abaddon hands them over.

ABADDON

We done good, eh?

Apep looks around, as if sensing something.

APEP

Indeed. I will deliver these to Moloch. The other SiLS are near, and getting closer. Stand guard and notify me if anyone approaches.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

Angelica trudges through the Badlands, stopping every so often so Rotor, with his short little legs, can keep up.

ROTOR

You think you're going to take on that bio-punk all by yourself?

ANGELICA

He caught me by surprise last time. I won't make that same mistake again.

ROTOR

That's fine for one, but what about the others?

ANGELICA

What others?

ROTOR

Foolish girl. You have no idea what you are getting yourself into, do you? It would be a shame for you to die. Such a waste...

He reaches out to touch her. She slaps his hand away, but not before he slips one of the SiLS into her pack.

ANGELICA

Don't touch me.

She takes off in impossibly long strides. Rotor jogs to catch up.

ROTOR

There are four of them. Three men, one woman. The one you encountered is called Abaddon. He's strong, but slow.

Angelica slows down to listen.

ROTOR (CONT'D)

Apep's appearances are deceiving. He looks frail, but his skeleton is reinforced with living steel. Moloch has blood of acid. Erinyes has a deadly neurotoxin in her saliva.

By now, Angelica has come to a complete stop.

ANGELICA

How do you know so much about them?

ROTOR

It's my business to know these things.

Angelica raises an eyebrow. Not buying it.

ROTOR (CONT'D)

Fine. I saw them when they arrived at the Outpost and killed the guards.

ANGELICA

So you knew there was never a plague?

ROTOR

Of course.

ANGELICA

Then why didn't you stop the evacuations?

ROTOR

Because if everyone had stayed, they'd all be dead by now. Just like your Shadow Hunter clan.

Angelica ponders this for a moment.

ANGELICA

M'lord knew that returning you to the Outpost would be your death sentence.

ROTOR

And after all I've done for him...

ANGELICA

You're free to go.

ROTOR

Go where?

ANGELICA

Anywhere. I won't take you back just so you can die. You saved a lot of lives. That should be enough to earn a reprieve.

Rotor looks at her quizzically.

ROTOR

You're disobeying a direct order?

ANGELICA

Go. Before I change my mind.

Rotor doesn't need to be told twice. He trots off into the desert.

INT. HORSEMEN LAIR - DAY

Erinyes checks on Caim. Her face beaming, maternal.

ERINYES

He's sleeping now.

MOLOCH

You have such grace in the face of our troubled times, Night Mother. I have been watching you...

Moloch touches her in a seductive way. His putrid nature disgusts Erinyes. She brushes him off.

ERINYES

Get your vile hands off me. You know I am saving myself for Caim.

MOLOCH

Saving yourself -- for that?

He points to the deformed infant surrounded by tubes.

MOLOCH (CONT'D)

Suppose Apep's visions are wrong?  
What if we can't bring him back?  
Do you think this--

He holds up the last digit of his pinkie finger, mocking Caim's tiny infant penis.

MOLOCH (CONT'D)

--will be enough to satisfy you?

Disgusted, Erinyes shoves Moloch away.

ERINYES

Apep is never wrong. Caim is the One and he will make me his Queen. You'll see.

She cradles Caim protectively.

ERINYES (CONT'D)

You'll see.