

THE NEW FRONTIER

The War is Over.

We won. If you could call it winning.

No one really won. No one got what they wanted. We just survived.

The aliens, the Nylaa, what's left of the force that made it planet-side, are scattered.

Some in internment camps. Others have set up outposts, communities. They have no way home. And if you believe the stories, no home to go to. We were there last hope.

But we didn't know that then.

Maybe we would have welcomed them with open arms. But some trigger happy xenophobic ass hat military bigot shot that dream all to shit along with three fourths of the entire Nylaa race.

And when the Nylaa decided to raise an army to defend themselves with the only resource at hand, our dead...

Let's just say no one appreciated fighting the reanimated husks, Rennies, of loved ones long put to rest.

It was more than demoralizing. It was inhuman. But what could we really have expected from an alien race desperate to survive.

The Bug Shit Nut Jobs? Beyond System Norms? We just call them Besinjis. The ones infected by the Scourge virus. The resistance force Nova Corporation mutated to fight our as yet unknown enemy, culled from the populace under the false pretense of an infectious outbreak? The curse? The scourge that became our salvation and our damnation? They're still out there. Hunting in packs like wild dogs, looking for leadership, hungry to spread the disease, to fight a war that no longer needs fighting.

And then there's us. What remains of the human race. Scratching out an existence in the ruins. It's not what the pundits predicted for The Final War. We're not back in the Stone Age with bear skins and stone knives. We have hot water at times. We have some electronics that weren't toasted by the EMP wave. Hell, we even have power in places. Lights are coming back on in most of the cities that weren't leveled or bombed out of existence.

But most places, it's the Old West again.

Law is what the law is. The Strong take. The Stronger make them back down or take more. Some are bent on revenge. Making 'them' pay, whoever 'they' are. Too many questions, too many things unknown. Some just want answers. Some want to be left alone. Most get up in the morning, thankful for a day above ground.

There is compassion, hatred, greed, happiness, love, desperation, fear and caution. There is humanity.

But mostly there is hope.

Hope and a purpose.

This is the New Frontier.

Viva Humanity!

LOGLINE: In the aftermath of an averted alien invasion and what very well could have been World War III, a group of survivors begin to rebuild when one of their number awakens from a coma with information and an agenda that could reignite and accelerate the conflict.

DRAMATIC QUESTION: Can we stop a potential traitor before he restarts WWIII?

MAIN CONFLICT: Abel needs to not only stop Gundersen before he restarts a war that just ended but must convince everyone else he needs to be stopped.

DILEMMA: Is Gundersen telling the truth or is he really working for the enemy.

THEME: Often, not everything is as it appears to be; even the best intentions are predicated on having the right information.

CAMERON ABEL – Street smart High School drama teacher and karate instructor forced to fight in a war he neither wanted nor understood, but had enough sense to know our future lies in the survival of our youth.

HANCOCK GUNDERSEN – Career Military man. Nothing takes precedent above the mission and defending our country, even if he has to betray it to do so.

EXT. WOODLANDS – DAY

Grass gently blows in the breeze. Leaves flutter. A stream babbles.
A man, DONATO LIGHTFOOT, runs.

INT. COMPOUND – DAY
Another MAN IN MAKESHIFT MILITARY FATIGUES, takes a bedpan upside the head.

EXT. WOODLANDS – DAY
Lightfoot runs.

INT. COMPOUND – DAY
COLONEL HANCOCK GUNDERSEN, in bandages, fights several men in a makeshift medical ward.

EXT. WOODLANDS – DAY
Lightfoot stumbles.

INT. COMPOUND – DAY
Gundersen takes out a few more men.

INT. COMMAND POST – DAY
Lightfoot bursts inside a tent.

EXT. COMPOUND – DAY
Colonel Gundersen runs outside.

INT. COMMAND POST – DAY
Lightfoot gets the council's attention.
LIGHTFOOT: He's awake.

EXT. COMPOUND – DAY
Col. Gundersen is struck by a Taser. Collapses.
MAJOR RYER STRICKLAND, scarred and rugged, stands over him with the Taser.

EXT. ELSEWHERE – DAY
A man, CAMERON ABEL, takes out several targets quickly from a sniper's perch.

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING – DAY
Able moves closer. With his katana takes out two more sentries as they cook dinner.
He notices the meat in the pot and a man staked and carved up nearby. CANNIBALS.

INT. COMPOUND – DAY
Gundersen wakes. Handcuffed to the makeshift gurney.
GUNDERSEN: What the hell is going on?
STRICKLAND: There's been some changes while you were out. Wanted to make sure you were up to speed before you hurt yourself or anyone else.
Nods to LT. MARK ADDISON who unlocks the cuffs
STRICKLAND: The war's over. We won, if you could call it winning. Or at least I think we did.
Communication is spotty. We get feeds here and there. Reports from rovers.
Suddenly gunshots in the background. Firefight. Lightfoot burst in.
LIGHTFOOT: Rennies!

EXT. COMPOUND - DAY
As they scramble from the tent, Strickland is shot in the head.
Gundersen sources the shot as they dive for cover.
Zombies with Machine Guns.

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING – DAY
Able hears the sounds of fighting from inside the building. He hastens to get inside.
Confronted and delayed by several more cannibals.

EXT. COMPOUND - DAY
They scramble for weapons. Gundersen peppers a Rennie. It has almost no effect.
GUNDERSEN: What are those things?
ADDISON: The Nylaa Army of the undead
GUNDERSEN: How is that possible?
ADDISON: They're reanimated dead.

(The following explanation comes in bits and pieces as they fight. Primarily we need only the information to stop the immediate threat. The remainder as Gundersen, Addison and the survivors survey the aftermath)
"The Nylaa crashed without whatever army they were bringing. Discovered they could control press-gang human hosts to serve as their ground forces. Only problem was our willpower. We're not so easily manipulated. As long as we were alive they couldn't control us. Not true if there was no brain activity. See all they needed was our nervous system. Once there was no will to fight, we made excellent soldiers. Only problem was they couldn't raise an army fast enough, so they used mind controlled Reanimates or Rennies to dig up bodies to use as cannon fodder. The newly dead with a still viable nervous system got controllers. Anything too old or decrepit just got a manipulator. They made up the front line. Take all the ordnance we could throw at them. Waste our resources. Worst thing about the Rennies? You've got to destroy the controller or blow 'em up. Or basically just keep

hammering at them until they're nothing left to hammer at. Human body can take a lot of damage when there's no pain receptors to shut it down."

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING – DAY

Able puts the last cannibal down. Hears the sounds of fighting from inside the building. He hastens to get inside. Burst through the closest wall. Comes up short.

A petite black teenage girl, LORELIE BEA, stands in the middle of the room, disabled cannibals litter the floor. Able coughs.

Bea turns to confront the new threat. Visibly relaxes. She signs rapidly. She is deaf.

Abel signs back.

EXT. COMPOUND - DAY

We learn about Gundersen's mission. They found his military convoy attacked, most everyone was dead. He's been in a coma ever since. Communications shut off, only got word through couriers and military band radio.

GUNDERSEN: We were headed for the Cape to activate the Dragon's Tooth, one of three fail-safes. Supposed to work off magnetic ley-lines. A theoretical design to disrupt Nylaa communication. A device to end the war before it ever started. I've got to get there, make sure it gets activated.

ADDISON: The war's over. We won.

Gundersen looks around at the Rennies.

GUNDERSEN: I don't call this winning. If the war is over, then who's controlling these things?

ADDISON: Random feeder bands? Maybe the word hasn't made it out to everyone yet?

GUNDERSEN: Maybe it has, maybe it hasn't. Doesn't matter, from what I just saw, we need to turn them off. Break whatever hive mind control they have. Besides, you got something better to do?

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING - DAY

Abel and Bea find information that puts Gundersen and his motives in question.

(maybe Intel about the Besinji were created by the military and Gundersen worked for NOVA CORP)

They run across several Besinji

ABEL: Run. Get to the compound.

EXT. COMPOUND – DAY

Bell and Abel make it into the compound with a group of Besinjis hot on their heels.

Gundersen seems to know exactly how to handle the Besinjis.

After the battle as Addison congratulates him.

Abel confronts Gundersen in private with the knowledge that Gundersen knows exactly what they are and how to stop them because the military created them.

Gundersen knocks him out Abel. Tells him there's a new sheriff in town.

EXT. COMPOUND – DAY

Gundersen and his troops head out.

Bea discovers Abel unconscious and bound.

Abel relates his story to Lightfoot and the rest of the compound.

ABEL: There never was a virus and the miracle cure wasn't a miracle cure.

The virus was orchestrated, created and released by a company called NOVACORP.

LIGHTFOOT: But they're the company that found the cure.

ABEL: Yes, to a virus they created. The cure was a ruse, a ploy.

LIGHTFOOT: Why?

ABEL: Oldest reason in the book. Money. They made millions from our suffering. Gundersen worked for NOVACORE. He's not going to The Cape to shut down the Nylaa. He's going to coordinate the Besinji.

They were being bred as slave labor for the Nylaa.

LIGHTFOOT: That doesn't make sense. Why didn't the Nylaa just control them when they crashed?

ABEL: Because Gundersen didn't make it to turn on the Dragon's Tooth, that switch of his. And if we don't stop him, this war won't be over, it'll just be getting started.

EXT. COMPOUND – DAY

Abel, Bea, Lightfoot and a small group head out after Gundersen

INT. THE CAPE – DAY

Abel and his group confront Gundersen and destroy the Dragon's Tooth.

(Need a clever way for Abel to reach The Cape before Gundersen. Hot Air balloon? Ultra-light? Hang-glider? Maybe a third party Abel helped earlier comes to his aid, if there is some way to communicate the need)

INT. CAPE CONTROL ROOM – DAY

The aftermath of the battle. Gundersen lies dying in Abel's arms.

GUNDERSEN: It's pretty complicated, but to simplify it, the virus was just a cover. A man named Temujin discovered the Nylaa. Don't know how, but he knew they were coming. And he knew why. He was building an army to combat them. He was working on mutating humans to fight the Nylaa on their own terms. To save the human race.

ABEL: The Nylaa weren't an invading army. They were just looking for a place to survive. Some place they could call home

GUNDERSEN: Don't believe everything you read kid.

As Gundersen dies, Abel realizes Gundersen was right and he may have just destroyed the only chance we had.
And now,
We're fucked.