IRON MAN 3

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. BLACKNESS - UNKNOWN

The voice of TONY STARK is heard over a black background.

TONY (V.O.)
They say that we create our own demons....

An explosion is heard. PEPPER POTTS can be heard in the background screaming.

TONY (V.O.)
I never believed in wise-man sayings like that....

PEPPER (V.O.)
Tony!

TONY (V.O.)
Until it was too late.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony's eyes open and he gasps.

INT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

In his Iron Man suit, Tony holds onto a beam of his house as a set of rockets from a helicopter collides with the walls. Several large chunks of concrete collapse on top of Tony, knocking him off the beam. Tony desperately reaches out for something to latch onto, and manages to grab onto a piece of struck out pipe with one hand.

EXT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

Three helicopters continue to fire rockets and bullets at Tony's house.

INT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

Tony looks out at one of the helicopters as it lines up to target him.

TONY
Jarvis! I need options!

The voice of Tony's A.I., JARVIS, is heard.
JARVIS
Unfortunately sir, all weapon systems in the Mark Forty-Two except for the basic repulsors have been damaged. Extensive repairs will need to be....

TONY
Is Pepper safe?

JARVIS
Sir?

TONY
Is Pepper out of the goddamn building or not, Jarvis?!

JARVIS
Ms. Potts is clear of the structure.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony sighs and closes his eyes for a moment.

INT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

Tony looks back at the helicopter. The helicopter fires another volley of missiles as the screen turns black.

EXT. BLACKNESS - UNKNOWN

The black screen stays as an explosion is heard, followed by Tony's voice.

TONY (V.O.)
It's funny.... every day before that, all I could think about was myself, and in that last moment.... when I knew it was all over.... I could only think of her.

The title 'IRON MAN 3' displays over the black screen.

TONY (V.O.)
But that's not exactly how this story began....

EXT. BERN CONFERENCE HALL - NIGHT

A conference hall in Bern, Switzerland is seen as the year '1999' is displayed.
Tony is seen inside of a large party hall. He is walking alongside MAYA HANSEN and HAROLD 'HAPPY' HOGAN. Tony leads the three towards a table full of several cakes.

TONY (V.O.)
Ironically enough, this story actually began in another time.... another life.... with another girl.

Tony picks up a slice of cake with his bare hands and starts to eat it.

MAYA
That's not very dignified.

Tony quickly swallows his bite of cake.

TONY
I never claimed to be.

Tony shoves another bite of cake into his mouth.

MAYA
Yes you did, in that speech of yours.

TONY
I did? Hell, why are we talking about this? Eat the cake.

Maya looks at Tony with a confused look. Tony picks up another piece of cake and holds it out in front of Maya's mouth.

TONY
Eat the cake. Eat the cake!

Maya picks up a fork from the table and carefully scoops out a small section of the cake Tony is holding. She eats the cake slowly and sensually, before looking at Tony in a mocking manner. Tony smirks, and then turns to Happy.

TONY
You wouldn't betray me, would you?

HAPPY
No way.

Happy grabs the cake out of Tony's hands and eats it. Tony looks at Maya with a disapproving face.
TONY
Now there's someone who understands me. Put it there, big guy.

Tony reaches out his fist. Happy places his fist against Tony's. They both nod after the fist-bump.

MAYA
Well, maybe you should date him instead.

HAPPY
Speaking of dates, today marks six months for you two. Congratulations.

Maya smiles.

MAYA
That's right! Thanks, Happy.

TONY
What are you, my butler? How do you remember stuff like that?

HAPPY
Considering that I've made nachos for you before, I'd say that yes, I am.

TONY
I'm going to have to fix that.

HAPPY
What are you going to do? Build a computer that makes nachos?

TONY
Maybe.

As Happy eats another piece of cake, HO YINSEN walks up to Tony and holds out his hand.

YINSEN
Mr. Stark, my name is Ho Yinsen. Excellent speech.

Tony shakes Yinsen's hand.

TONY
Look at that. I finally met a man named Ho.

Maya punches Tony softly in the shoulder.
TONY
Ow!

MAYA
Be nice!

Maya then looks over at Yinsen and smiles before extending out her own hand.

MAYA
Hi, I'm Maya Hansen.

Yinsen shakes her hand.

YINSEN
Oh yes, I know of your work as well, Doctor Hansen. It's very nice to meet you.

Tony looks over at Happy.

TONY
She actually hit me very hard. You're supposed to be my bodyguard. I think she's a legitimate security threat.

Happy just shrugs at Tony. Tony shakes his head at Happy.

TONY
Right. Well, good to talk to you, but we're heading out for now.

YINSEN
Perhaps we'll meet again another time, Mr. Stark?

TONY
Perhaps.

Tony, Maya and Happy walk away.

INT. BERN CONFERENCE HALL: HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tony, Maya and Happy enter a hallway and head for the elevator. As they do, ALDRICH KILLIAN walks by and notices the three.

KILLIAN
Uh, Tony! Er, I mean, Mr. Stark!

Tony looks at Killian with a confused face.
KILLIAN
My name is Aldrich Killian. Could I have a word?

TONY
Yeah, the word is no.

MAYA
Tony!

KILLIAN
I know of you as well, Ms. Hansen. My organization has been tracking your work since year two of MIT.

Killian then enters the elevator.

TONY
Oh look, he made it.

KILLIAN
I wanted to speak to you both about my new think tank. It's a privately funded research group called Advanced Idea Mechanics, or AIM for short.

TONY
Yeah, I saw it on your shirt.

Killian hands two business cards to Tony, who shakes his head.

KILLIAN
My card.

TONY
She'll take both. One to toss out and one to not call.

Maya rolls her eyes, and takes both the cards. She looks intently at one of them. The elevator bell rings and people start to file out.

MAYA
Well, I definitely will call you, Mr. Killian.

Maya and Happy leave, but Tony stays and blocks the elevator door.
TONY
Actually, Aldrich, I find your proposal rather... intriguing. See you on the roof in five, we'll talk details, okay?

KILLIAN
Really? Great!

Tony then walks out of the elevator as the door closes.

TONY (V.O.)
So why am I telling you this? Why start the story here? Because I had just created demons, and I didn't even know it.

INT. BERN HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT
Tony and Maya are seen kissing as fireworks explode outside, as seen in the window behind them.

EXT. BERN HOTEL ROOFTOP - NIGHT
Killian stands on the roof by himself. He looks down at his watch and then continues to wait.

INT. BERN HOTEL ROOM - DAY
Maya wakes up and gets out of bed when she hears a door close. She looks around, and sees only one bag next to the door, with space for a second one. Maya then sighs.

TONY (V.O.)
And because of certain.... character flaws.... I didn't realize that that night would come back to haunt me.

EXT. AVENGERS TOWER - NIGHT
Avengers Tower in New York is seen, with the title 'Present Day' appearing on the screen.

TONY (V.O.)
Yet before a recent vacation in an Afghan prison camp, I tended to have a short memory span about such things. I had forgotten that night in Switzerland, and moved on with my life, because I am.... well, you know who I am.
INT. AVENGERS TOWER: IRON MAN ROOM - NIGHT

Tony stands on a platform in front of the armour hall, which features the first seven 'Mark' armours. He then walks over to a table with a plate of nachos, and eats one.

TONY
Thanks for the merienda, Jarvis.

JARVIS
You're welcome sir. Although I am quite pleased that you've finally decided to eat something today, I'd also like to remind you that you've been awake for nearly seventy-two hours.

TONY
I'll sleep when I'm dead, Jarvis. Stamp date and time.

JARVIS
Of course sir.

Tony gets back on the platform and looks at the armours.

TONY
Attention, everyone! Welcome to the birthing suite. I would like to announce the imminent arrival of your bouncing, badass, baby brother.

Tony turns around.

TONY
This is the first test of the prehensile armour, Mark Forty-Two, designation 'Prodigy'. Jarvis, hit my jam.

Over the loudspeakers, 'I'm Sexy and I Know It' starts playing as Tony begins to slowly dance. He then sticks out his arm. Nothing happens for a few seconds, and Tony sticks out his arm again.

TONY
C'mon!

Tony wacks his arm.

TONY
Maybe the internal sensors aren't working....

On a nearby table, one of the armour pieces starts to float.
Tony sticks out his arm again and the piece latches on, forming around his arm.

TONY

Nice!

Tony sticks out his other arm, and another piece latches on. A third piece then latches onto his left leg.

TONY

Alright, I got this. Let's try the full set.

Tony strikes a pose as the other pieces of armour latch onto his legs, torso, abdomen and neck. One last piece whizzes past his head, crashing into a table.

TONY

Hey! Watch the hair!

The piece starts to float, revealing itself to be the mask.

TONY

C'mon little guy. I'm not afraid of you.

The mask then rushes forward, but knocks into the table again, turning it upside down. Tony reacts by leaping into the air and doing a flip, with the mask landing perfectly on his face before he finishes the flip, landing in a three-point pose.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - NIGHT

Tony smiles in satisfaction.

TONY

I'm the best.

INT. AVENGERS TOWER: IRON MAN ROOM - NIGHT

One last piece flies in at Tony from behind, and knocks Tony off the platform, sending the various armour pieces scattering across the floor.

JARVIS

As always sir, it's a pleasure watching you work.

TONY

It's alright, I can fix that.

JARVIS

As well, you guest has arrived.
TONY
Huh, what?

Tony looks over to see BRUCE BANNER walking in the room.

BRUCE
Well, it looks like I'm not needed. You've made enough of a mess already.

TONY
Nah, it's all good. This is actually standard operating procedure for me.

BRUCE
Your armour shattering and you getting knocked on your ass?

TONY
Yeah.... uh.... yeah.

JARVIS
Welcome back to Avengers Tower, Doctor Banner. It is always nice to see you.

BRUCE
Thanks, Jarvis. Keeping Tony in line?

JARVIS
As best I can, Doctor Banner. Unfortunately, he rarely listens to me. Perhaps, as the rare individual he considers a peer, you could convince him to take a nap?

TONY
Don't encourage him, Bruce. I get enough of this sassy Brit as it is. Want a nacho?

BRUCE
I'm good. I actually keep precise control over my food intake at all times.

TONY
Eating a few nachos isn't going to cause you to get all.... temperamental. Unless you're lactose intolerant.
BRUCE
So you called me over for help on your 'special project', correct?

TONY
Yeah, I'd been working on the potential mishaps that could come from one my earlier models, figured you could help out.

BRUCE
Well, I'm actually pretty exhausted from the trek over here, and Jarvis isn't going to stop bugging you, so how about we start in the morning?

TONY
Yeah, I suppose seventy-two hours is a long time between siestas. Let me show you to your room.

Tony and Bruce walk out of the room.

TONY (V.O.)
At the time, I thought that the quirks in my latest armour test was as bad as it could get. Then I turned on the TV.

INT. MANDARIN VIDEO TAPE - DAY

The Ten Rings logo flashes on the screen before showing the MANDARIN.

MANDARIN
Ladies.... children.... sheep....

The Mandarin is seen walking amongst several terrorists as they execute hostages in the streets of a Middle-Eastern town.

MANDARIN
Some people call me a terrorist.... I consider myself a teacher.

The Avengers logo is seen crudely painted on a wall.

MANDARIN
Lesson number one.... heroes.... there is no such thing.

The Avengers logo is then shot by an off-screen assailant. The Mandarin is then shown sitting on his throne.
MANDARIN
America.... ready for another lesson? In eighteen-sixty four, in Sand Creek, Colorado, the U.S. military waited until the IM braves had all gone out hunting, so they could slaughter the families left behind.... and claim their land.

A building in Kuwait is seen exploding.

MANDARIN
Thirty-nine hours ago, the Ali Al-Salam air base in Kuwait was attacked. I did that. A quaint military church filled with wives and children of course. The soldiers were out on maneuvers. The braves were away.

The Mandarin is seen alongside fellow terrorists as they light fire to a mock-up of the President.

MANDARIN
President Ellis.... you continue to ignore my attempts to educate you sir, and now, you've missed me again.

The Mandarin is seen again on his throne.

MANDARIN
You know who I am. You don't know where I am.... and you'll never see me coming.

An explosion is seen as the Ten Rings logo flashes on the screen again before fading out.

INT. WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

PRESIDENT ELLIS stands at the podium, delivering a press conference. In attendance is CHRISTINE EVERHEART, who stands up.

EVERHEART
Mr. President, all attempts to find the Mandarin since the beginning of his campaign have proved unsuccessful. How are you planning to respond to his latest attack?
ELLIS
Central to my administration's response to this terrorist event is a newly minted resource. I know him as Colonel James Rhodes. The American people will soon know him as the Iron Patriot.

Ellis turns to the right and JAMES RHODES walks onto the stage, in his new IRON PATRIOT armour.

INT. AVENGERS TOWER: IRON MAN ROOM - DAY

Tony shakes his head in disbelief at the television as it displays the press conference. Bruce is in the background working on his laptop. Tony then looks over to his own laptop, which shows Rhodes on the screen.

TONY
Really? Iron Patriot? That's what you went with? What was wrong with War Machine?

RHODES
Look, I didn't choose the name. They thought War Machine was too aggressive. This sends a better message.

TONY
Okay, okay, fine, I get it. But look, can you at least tell me what is really going on with this guy? The whole country's up in a scare.

RHODES
And that's exactly why most of the information is classified, Tony. The government can't afford for people to get into a panic. They need to appear that they have a handle on things.

TONY
Which means that they don't. Let me in, I can help.

Rhodes sighs before looking back at Tony.

TONY
Fine, I understand. It's not superhero business.
RHODES
It's not, it's American business. There's been nine bombings, Tony. Nine. Only three have been reported to the public. We've had pyrotechnic experts from all over the world on this case, and they have no idea what the tech is.

TONY
What do you mean, how is that possible? A bomb's a bomb.

RHODES
Not like this. The explosions leave no trace. There's no bomb casings. There is no evidence towards there being any kind of known technology involved.

TONY
Rhodey, just let me help. I have all kinds of new tech, new suits. I've even finished a bomb disposal one, maybe it can....

RHODES
When was the last time you had a good night's sleep?

TONY
Einstein slept three hours a year.

RHODES
I'm worried about you. You've been locked up in that tower for weeks, you don't answer your phone. Pepper's been calling me asking if I know anything and I don't know what to tell her.

TONY
Pepper?

RHODES
Yeah Tony, Pepper. You know, your girlfriend? The one you left in charge of your multi-billion dollar company? She literally has several thousand things on her plate and you know what she worries about? You. You, of all people.

Tony runs his fingers through his hair as he looks away from Rhodes.
RHODES
You need to talk to her.

TONY
How can I.... when I don't even
know what's going on myself?

RHODES
What do you mean?

TONY
Look.... I know, that when it
comes to Pepper, I have a lot of
apologies to make. Nothing's been
the same since New York. You
experience things.... and then
they're over, you know?

Rhodes nods his head. Tony sighs.

RHODES
Look, New York wasn't your fault.
You know that. No one could have
predicted that all of a sudden
aliens would come popping out of a
giant wormhole in the....

Tony seizes up and grabs his chest as he gasps for air.

RHODES
Tony? Tony!

Tony stands up and starts to awkwardly shuffle as he
struggles to breathe. Bruce looks over.

BRUCE
Hey, Tony, you alright?

Tony gently shoves Bruce out of the way as he breaks into a
sprint towards a nearby set of armour. Tony leaps into it as
it closes around him.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony starts to breathe properly.

TONY
Check the heart.... check the....
is it the brain?

JARVIS
No sign of cardiac anomaly or
unusual brain activity.
TONY
So what happened?

JARVIS
My diagnostic is that you've experienced a severe anxiety attack.

TONY
Me?

INT. AVENGERS TOWER: IRON MAN ROOM - DAY

Bruce walks up to Tony and places his hand on the armour's shoulder.

BRUCE
Hey Tony, you're scaring me. What's going on?

Tony stands up.

TONY
I don't know.... I don't....

BRUCE
Look, Tony, everyone's been thinking the same thing about you lately. You've been cooped up in this tower for too long. Trust me, I know what staying trapped up in one place can do to a guy. Go to Los Angeles. Say hi to Pepper. I'll keep up with the tower, and you can come back in a couple days after setting your affairs straight.

Tony slowly nods.

BRUCE
Okay?

TONY
You're right. I should go. See her. Talk to her. Plus, it'll give me a chance to test the new suit in flight. Jarvis, prep it.

JARVIS
Yes, sir.

Tony steps out of the armour and walks back to the laptop.
TONY
You hear that, Rhodey?

RHODES
I did.

TONY
Will I see you in LA?

RHODES
Sorry, can't make it. Iron Patriot business.

TONY
Well, then suit up.

EXT. STARK ENTERPRISES COMPANY OFFICE - DAY
The Stark Enterprises Company Office is seen.

INT. STARK ENTERPRISES COMPANY OFFICE - DAY
In the main hall of the company office, VIRGINIA 'PEPPER' POTTS walks alongside Happy.

HAPPY
....and I'd say that we should also replace all of the interns down on the printing level.

PEPPER
Why is that?

HAPPY
I'm pretty sure one of them is stealing ink.

PEPPER
So why fire all of them?

HAPPY
Well, not only do we guarantee that we get rid of the culprit, but also it sends a message to all further applicants that we mean business.

Pepper scoffs and shakes her head. She then stops and turns to face Happy.

PEPPER
Look, Happy, I'm very happy that you're now Head of Security, but we've seen a rise in company complaints by over three-hundred percent since you took over.
HAPPY
That's great.

PEPPER
How is that in any way 'great'?

HAPPY
Well, that means I'm keeping everyone on their toes.

Pepper shakes her head with a disbelieving smile on her face.

PEPPER
Look, I've got a meeting, so I'll see you in a few minutes. Just sit here in the lobby and wait for me.

HAPPY
You sure you don't want me to come in?

PEPPER
I'm sure. I don't want you biting his head off, even if I don't particularly like him.

HAPPY
Who is it?

PEPPER
An old co-worker of mine. Wait here, okay?

Happy reluctantly nods and then sits down.

INT. STARK ENTERPRISES COMPANY OFFICE: MEETING ROOM - DAY

Pepper walks into the meeting room to see Killian standing there. She stops for a moment as she appears to be stunned by his appearance.

KILLIAN
Pepper.

PEPPER
Killian? What....

KILLIAN
Oh please, call me Aldrich. You look great.
PEPPER
You.... so do you. What happened to you? Last time I saw you, you could barely stand.

KILLIAN
Several years of physical therapy and a much needed haircut. Come in, I didn't just ask for this appointment so I could catch up.

Pepper and Killian sit down at the table in the room.

PEPPER
So I'm assuming you're still with AIM.

KILLIAN
Of course. I founded it, didn't I? I was very disappointed when you left, but that's the past. I wanted to speak to you because AIM is working on a new project, and I was interested in seeing if Stark Industries wanted to help out.

PEPPER
And what project is that?

KILLIAN
Extremis. Observe.

Killian takes three orbs from his pocket and throws them on the table. The orbs then display a screen. On the screen is a map of the human mind.

KILLIAN
This, as you're probably aware, is the human mind. This one is actually mine. Now, AIM has been working for years on bio-tech research, but only recently have we managed to work out a chemical formula for our genetic engineering program.

PEPPER
Genetic engineering program?

KILLIAN
Well, the crux of it is that we've been working on a chemical that once introduced into the brain, can recode its DNA in a way that is both safe and beneficial.
PEPPER
You mean to say that you can completely alter the genetic code of the brain.

KILLIAN
Essentially, yes. Extremis allows us to modify the base genetic code in the brain cells. You know how when you get a cut, it heals, right?

PEPPER
Yeah.

KILLIAN
That's because the brain keeps a sort-of blueprint for your genes, so that your body knows exactly what to replace and how to replace it when you're injured. Extremis hacks into and changes that blueprint, so that the brain forces the body to recreate itself.

PEPPER
That sounds incredibly dangerous.

KILLIAN
Before Extremis, it was. Many people on the team thought it was an impossible goal. But as recent events have shown us, many things that we initially impossible have become much closer to reality than we could have possibly expected.

PEPPER
Wow.

INT. STARK ENTERPRISES COMPANY OFFICE: FOYER - DAY

Happy sits in the foyer, looking over at Killian and Pepper talking as his phone buzzes in his pocket. Happy pulls it out and answers it.

HAPPY
Hello?

TONY
This is Mr. Red down in Dispatch, I'd like to report a stolen cardboard box....
HAPPY
Hey, Tony! Good to hear from you!
Where have you been?

TONY
Working on things, buddy. Hey, I tried calling Pepper's office and she didn't answer. Is she with you?

HAPPY
Not exactly. She's in a meeting. By the way, what the hell are you thinking, ignoring her like this?

What?

HAPPY
This woman is the best thing to ever happen to you, and you haven't called her in weeks. What's the matter with you?

TONY
Look, Happy, I've been busy....

HAPPY
Don't give me that crap. You've been hiding from your problems again. I've seen you go down this road a dozen times before, Tony. You find a girl, you like her, you start going out.... then when it gets serious, you shut down and eventually leave. Look, I've stood on the side before but not this time. Pepper deserves better than that.

TONY
You're right. You're absolutely right. That's why I'm flying down there right now.

Now?

HAPPY

TONY
Yeah, I'm coming down. I've already thought about what I'm going to talk to Pepper about.
HAPPY
Well.... good. Are you coming to the office?

TONY
No, the house.

HAPPY
Alright, then I'll have to catch up with you tomorrow or something.

TONY
Alright, looking forward to it.

HAPPY
And Tony?

TONY
Yeah?

HAPPY
You're doing the right thing.

Tony is silent for a moment.

TONY
Yeah.

Happy hangs up and looks back at Pepper and Killian.

INT. STARK ENTERPRISES COMPANY OFFICE: MEETING ROOM - DAY
Pepper and Killian are sitting down and talking.

KILLIAN
So, what do you think?

PEPPER
It sounds incredible. I mean, the applications are too many to count.

KILLIAN
I know! Regenerating lost limbs, forcing the body to adapt to harsh environmental conditions.... the team is very excited about the possibilities.

PEPPER
However, that's exactly what has me concerned.
KILLIAN
What do you mean?

PEPPER
I know that to some, this type of project sounds like something to create enhanced soldiers for private armies and such. As you probably know, Stark Industries no longer creates weapons.

KILLIAN
Except for suits of nearly indestructible power armour.

Pepper scowls at Killian.

KILLIAN
I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

PEPPER
Unfortunately, it's going to be a no from me, Aldrich, as much as I'd like to help you.

Killian sighs and shrugs.

KILLIAN
Well, I can't say I'm not disappointed, but I understand. Thanks for at least meeting with me, Pepper.

Killian and Pepper stand up.

PEPPER
It was great seeing you again Killian. Good luck with your work.

KILLIAN
Thanks. I'll see you later, Pepper.

Killian plants a quick kiss on Pepper's cheek before leaving. Pepper takes a moment to watch as Killian leaves the building. Happy walks up to her.

HAPPY
You okay?

PEPPER
Yeah.

Pepper walks away and Happy looks over at Killian as he gets into his car. Happy takes out his phone and takes a picture of Killian's license plate.
EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

James Rhodes, in his Iron Patriot armour, flies over a village in the Middle East.

RHODES
Iron Patriot to Mission Control.
Come in, over.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
Go ahead, Iron Patriot.

RHODES
I've arrived at target destination. Requesting update on mission parameters.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
Target location was the last place where the Mandarin was confirmed sighted. Volume of munitions and armed forces has increased exponentially in the last few days. Assess the threat level and to try to obtain any intel on the Mandarin's current location.

RHODES
Understood. Iron Patriot out.

After a moment, a massive explosion jostles Rhodes out of the sky.

INT. IRON PATRIOT HELMET - DAY

RHODES
Whoa!

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Rhodes regains his flight balance and looks down to see a massive tank firing at him.

RHODES
That tank doesn't look like any terrorist contraband I've ever seen.

Rhodes flies down to dodge another shot from the tank. Rhodes fires his shoulder cannon, which incinerates the top of the tank. Rhodes lands on the tank and rips off the top. Several soldiers with assault rifles open fire on Rhodes, and Rhodes quickly dispatches them with a combination of repulsors and his shoulder cannon. Rhodes then jumps into the tank and punches out the driver.
RHODES
This is definitely way too advanced for this area. Who is supplying these guys?

Rhodes then looks at the control panel for the tank. At the top left of it, he sees the AIM logo.

RHODES
AIM?

Rhodes then flies out of the tank.

EXT. MALIBU HOUSE - NIGHT

Pepper drives up to the Malibu House. She parks the car and walks inside.

INT. MALIBU HOUSE - NIGHT

Pepper walks into a main living room to see the Mark Forty-Two sitting on the couch.

PEPPER
Oh, look who finally decided to visit.

TONY
Not exactly the warm welcome I was hoping for.

PEPPER
Why are you wearing that in the house? What is that anyway, Mark Fifteen?

TONY
Uh, something like that.

The armour gets off the couch and walks over to Pepper.

TONY
How do you think I got here so fast? I decided to come over, like, two hours ago.

PEPPER
Well, that's very nice, but I have things to take care of. I had a lot of meetings today, including one with, get this, Aldrich Killian of AIM....
TONY
Look, I know I haven't exactly been....

PEPPER
Can you take the face-mask off while we talk, or....?

TONY
Well, uh.... actually.... it's stuck.

PEPPER
Stuck?

TONY
Yeah. Can't open it.

PEPPER
Right. I'm going downstairs.

TONY
Wait! I wouldn't do that if I were....

Pepper walks down the stairs and sees Tony at his engineering bench working on pieces of armour. He then turns around to face Pepper.

TONY
Hi, honey.

PEPPER
You have got to be kidding me.

The Mark Forty-Two walks down the stairs and stands next to Pepper.

PEPPER
This is your idea of a visit?

TONY
I was just waiting for you to get home. You know me, I have trouble staying still so I just started working on the.... old, work bench, you know?

PEPPER
I thought you had moved most of your tools to the tower so that your work bench could be there.
TONY
I did. I just had some of this stuff laying around so I picked it up.

Pepper looks at Tony with an unimpressed face. Tony stands up.

TONY
Okay, okay, I give. I should have called, and I should have been there to greet you personally rather than have Prodigy do it.

PEPPER
Prodigy? That's this one's name?

TONY
Yup. Say hi, Prodigy!

The Mark Forty-Two waves at Pepper.

PEPPER
Look, that's a neat trick, but I have to get washed up and ready for bed, so....

Pepper starts to turn.

TONY
Wait.

Pepper stops.

TONY
Look, I'm sorry. I'm sorry, okay?

Pepper turns back to Tony.

TONY
I've been a mess. I haven't spoken to you in weeks, and I know that's my fault. You've been nothing but good to me and I've just been a terrible boyfriend, I know. But honey, I swear, it's because....

Pepper looks at Tony with a concerned face.

PEPPER
What is it? Why can't you talk to me?

Tony closes his eyes and places his one hand on his forehead.
TONY
Pepper.... I can't sleep. I try everything I can, but nothing works.... and whenever I do manage to finally get a bit of rest, I have nightmares.

Tony looks back at Pepper.

TONY
Honestly.... there's a hundred people out there who want to kill me. To take what I have. But that's not what's bothering me. Every night, I flash back to New York. Being halfway across the universe, holding a nuke in my hands. I never felt so alone. I never felt so powerless. Sure, I saved the day, the aliens were stopped, hurray, yeah, go team, all that good stuff. But it made me realize how small I really was. I mean, gods, aliens, other dimensions.... I'm just a guy in a tin can. Sure, we stopped Loki, but he could've flattened me with magic at any moment. That sense of.... vulnerability.... it's something I've never felt before. Not like this.

Tony looks down and shakes his head. Pepper walks up to him and sits down next to him. She grabs his hand with hers.

TONY
And, all that time.... when I was in space.... I was thinking of you. I was thinking to myself.... 'will I ever see Pepper again'? Cap told me it was a one way trip, and I did it anyway because I knew it had to be done.... but I wasn't thinking about the people I was saving. I was just hoping I would get to hold you in my arms again. I wanted to protect the one thing I can't live without.... that's you.

Tony and Pepper look at each other for a moment. Pepper then places her forehead against his and they both close their eyes for a moment.
TONY
I'm sorry I've been gone so long.

PEPPER
It's okay. You're here now.

INT. MANDARIN FORTRESS - NIGHT

The Mandarin sits on his throne in his fortress, his face out of view. One of the Mandarin's SOLDIERS runs into the room.

MANDARIN
Report.

SOLDIER #1
Master, one of our outposts was attacked. It was the American that was on the news. The one working for President Ellis.

MANDARIN
So, I threaten an entire nation, and they send a lackey to find me. I'm not surprised.

SOLDIER #1
He defeated the squadron we had in the village. Master, what should we do?

MANDARIN
We're going to prepare a little trap for Ellis' pet. Call Killian. I want another meeting.

SOLDIER #1
Yes, Master.

The soldier runs out of the room as the Mandarin folds his hands together.

INT. MALIBU HOUSE: BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tony and Pepper are sleeping in the bedroom. Pepper is holding Tony from behind. Tony begins to moan and spasm in his sleep. After a few moments, Pepper wakes up.

PEPPER
Tony?

As Pepper places her hand on Tony's shoulder, the Mark Forty-Two jumps on the bed and grabs Pepper's arm, violently tugging it off Tony. Pepper screams. Tony wakes up.
TONY

Deactivate!

The Mark Forty-Two powers down, and Tony knocks it away, causing it to shatter.

TONY

Pepper?! Are you alright?

PEPPER

I'll survive.

Pepper sighs and wipes the sweat from her forehead.

TONY

I'm so sorry.... I was having another nightmare, I must have called it in my sleep.... I'll have to recalculate....

Pepper hugs Tony from behind. Tony starts to cry.

TONY

I'm sorry.... I'm sorry....

PEPPER

It's okay.

Pepper kisses Tony on the side of his forehead.

PEPPER

It's okay.

INT. HAPPY'S VAN - NIGHT

Happy pulls up to a Chinese theater as he sees Killian's vehicle stop there. Happy narrows his eyes as he sees Killian exit the vehicle along with a THUG.

HAPPY

So where are you off to, Mr. 'Old Co-Worker'?

Happy gets out of the van.

EXT. CHINESE THEATER - NIGHT

Killian and the thug walk through the courtyard in front of the Chinese theater. Happy follows as he makes his way through the crowd. Happy watches as Killian and the thug divert from the main door and head to a side door hidden in the corner of the courtyard. After they enter, Happy follows them inside.
INT. CHINESE THEATER - NIGHT

Killian and the thug walk into a dimly lit room with nothing but a computer console on a table. Killian presses a few buttons on the console and it creates a holographic display with the Mandarin's face on it. Happy looks from behind a corner.

HAPPY
The Mandarin?

MANDARIN
Mr. Killian.

KILLIAN
How may I be of service, sir?

MANDARIN
President Ellis has responded to our latest attack with an assault from Colonel Rhodes. He's moving through my decoy outposts as we speak. I want some of your soldiers to head there and apprehend them.

KILLIAN
I'll have some shipped out on the next flight.

MANDARIN
Excellent. As well, to push Ellis into a corner, I want you to destroy this theater. I will have an agent contact you with a new meeting location.

KILLIAN
Understood.

Killian turns off the display. Happy moves to try and get a better angle, but trips on a piece of debris. Killian and the thug turn around.

THUG
Who's there?

The thug starts to glow orange. He then forms a fireball in his hand and throws it Happy, knocking him from behind the corner. Happy then stands up.
KILLIAN
Ah, if it isn't Mr. Hogan. You thought I'd forgotten you, didn't you?

HAPPY
Wait a minute.... you're.... you're that guy from Switzerland!

KILLIAN
Indeed I am.

HAPPY
You're the guy who used to work with Pepper? And now you work with the Mandarin?

KILLIAN
Indeed I do. And as you've probably figured out, I cannot allow you to leave this building alive.

The thug then breathes fire at Happy, forcing him to run away from the door.

HAPPY
You're not going to get away with this.

KILLIAN
Of course I'm not.... because I won't be blamed. The Mandarin will.

Killian then takes a small breathing device from his pocket and forcibly sprays it into the thug's mouth. The thug reels back in pain.

KILLIAN
I'm sorry, but it had to be someone.

Happy takes the opportunity to run out of the door. Killian slowly walks, following him.

EXT. CHINESE THEATER - NIGHT

Happy runs back into the courtyard and starts waving his arms.

HAPPY
Everyone move! Everyone get out of here! There's a bomb!

The crowd starts to panic and run away. Killian then walks
up to Happy.

KILLIAN
Goodbye, Mr. Hogan.

The Chinese Theater explodes, sending Happy and several other patrons flying. Happy lands, and looks up. He sees Killian, whose entire body is torn with burn marks. Killian then slowly regenerates as his body glows orange. As Killian walks away, Happy's eyes close.

INT. MANDARIN VIDEO TAPE - DAY

The Ten Rings logo flashes on the screen, and then the Mandarin is seen on his throne, smashing a fortune cookie.

MANDARIN
True story about fortune cookies: they look Chinese. They sound Chinese. But they're actually an American invention.

The camera focuses in on the Mandarin's eyes.

MANDARIN
This is why they're hollow, full of lies, and leave a bad taste in the mouth.

The Mandarin is seen smashing another fortune cookie. Then the screen switches to the Chinese Theater as is lies in ruins.

MANDARIN
My disciples have just destroyed another cheap American knock-off: the Chinese Theater. Mr. President, I know this must be getting frustrating, but the season of terror is drawing to a close.

The Mandarin is shown being embraced by several children, followed by a legion of followers who are cheering for him.

MANDARIN
Don't worry, the big one is coming.

The Mandarin is shown shooting an assault rifle at a poster of President Ellis' head.

MANDARIN
Your graduation.
INT. LOS ANGELES HOSPITAL - DAY

Tony is sitting in the hospital waiting room. He holds his hands together. After a few moments, a DOCTOR walks up to him. Tony stands up.

TONY

Happy?

DOCTOR

He doesn't have long. Come in.

INT. HAPPY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Tony walks into the room to see Happy on the bed.

DOCTOR

I'll let you have some space.

The doctor leaves. Tony stands there for a moment, with tears in his eyes.

TONY

Happy.... Happy....

Tony walks up the bed and places his hand on Happy's hand. Tony looks at the heart monitor as it slowly beeps. Tony puts his head down and cries for a few moments.

EXT. LOS ANGELES HOSPITAL - DAY

Tony walks out of the hospital as several news reporters run up to him. They ask him about the Mandarin, but Tony remains silent as he walks up to his car. Finally, an INTERNET BLOGGER runs up to him with a camera phone.

INTERNET BLOGGER

Hey Stark! When is someone going to kill this guy? Just saying.

Tony turns around and looks at him.

TONY

Is that what you want?

Everyone is silent for a moment.

TONY

Here's a little message I've been wanting to send to the Mandarin. I just didn't know how to phrase it until now. My name is Tony Stark and I'm not afraid of you. I know you're a coward, and now, you've just killed one of my best

(MORE)
TONY (CONT'D) friends. So I've decided that you just died, pal. I'm going to come get the body. There's no politics here, just good old fashioned revenge. It's just you and me.... and on the off chance you're a man.... here's my home address. Ten, eight eighty Malibu Point. Nine oh two six five. I'll leave the door unlocked.

Tony then grabs the phone out of the blogger's hand.

TONY That's what you wanted, right?

Tony then angrily throws the phone at a nearby wall.

TONY Bill me.

Tony then gets in the car as the reports continue to try to ask him questions. Tony then drives away.

INT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

Tony sits at his computer.

JARVIS Sir, I've managed to compile the database on the Mandarin as you've requested.

TONY Good.

JARVIS Also, I have a call waiting for you.

TONY There's dozens of calls waiting, and they're going to wait.

JARVIS Not this one, sir.

Tony's screen then changes to a video call, and MARIA HILL appears on the screen.

TONY Ah, Ms. Hill. To what do I owe the honour?
HILL
Can it Stark. What the hell were you thinking?

TONY
Me? What the hell were you thinking, allowing the Mandarin to go on this long without being stopped?! Happy is dead. Do you hear me? Dead! And what the hell did SHIELD do to stop it?

HILL
Stark, the Mandarin is not SHIELD's main objective right now....

TONY
Well it should be!

HILL
Stark, you have to understand, we each get our individual assignments. The Mandarin was handed to the CIA, not SHIELD.

TONY
Well then I guess I get to blame them. And if the Mandarin is not your business, then why are you calling me?

HILL
Because you are our business, Stark. You just threatened a terrorist on national television. We need to....

TONY
We don't need to do anything. I'm going after the Mandarin, whether SHIELD likes it or not. I don't work for you, and this call is over.

HILL
Stark! Stark....!

Tony hits the release button and Hill's face disappears. Tony then picks up the laptop and throws it before screaming in anger. Tony starts to breathe heavily before sitting back down.
JARVIS
Sir?

Tony doesn't respond.

JARVIS
Sir? I know this is not the best time, but I have an audio message you might be interested in.

TONY
I don't care.

JARVIS
It's from Colonel Rhodes.

TONY
I care. Play it.

RHODES (O.S.)
Hey Tony, listen. I know I'm not supposed to share information like this, but I think this stuff with the Mandarin might be more involved than we thought. I tagged a Mandarin cell in the Middle East, but get this.... they were carrying tech that appeared to be from an organization called AIM.

Tony's eyes light up.

RHODES (O.S.)
I didn't know who they were so I looked it up. Advanced Idea Mechanics. They're a technology group similar to the ones you used to do business with. Now I have to keep on with my work, but if you could perhaps look into this AIM, you might be able to help me out. Also, tell me how your talk went with Pepper. Talk to you later, buddy.

Tony scratches his chin.

JARVIS
This message was sent last night, but you were busy with Ms. Potts. Given the tone, I'm assuming that Colonel Rhodes did not yet know about Mr. Hogan.
TONY
AIM. AIM.... Pepper mentioned AIM last night. I know I had heard the name before, but I can't remember where.... Jarvis, give me a screen.

A large holographic display appears in front of Tony, simulating a computer screen.

TONY
Search Advanced Idea Mechanics. Also, cross reference with the Mandarin database you compiled.

Several pictures of the AIM logo and Aldrich Killian appear on the display.

TONY
Aldrich Killian.... I've seen that face before.

Tony moves the screen over to a document about the Extremis project.

TONY
Currently in development.... the Extremis project.... bio-tech research.... genetic engineering.... this doesn't sound like....

Tony flips another page.

TONY
Here we go. Along with AIM's main focus on biological research, AIM also maintains a large division of weapons manufacturing and innovation. These guys might be giving the Mandarin his tech.... maybe they're the ones that were able to come up with that bomb that can't be identified.

JARVIS
I've finished the cross referencing. No known matches of information between Mandarin database and AIM search.
TONY
Dammit, there has to be something.  
Show me all information on the bombings.

JARVIS
Displaying now.

Information on the bombings is shown. Tony starts to cycle through the various attacks.

TONY
Several stateside and a few internationally.... the Mandarin must have someone who is ferrying these bombs around.... Jarvis, what type of heat signature is emitted by the Mandarin attacks?

JARVIS
An extremely specific one. Excess of four thousand degrees kelvin.

TONY
There's got to be some link I can trace....

The doorbell is then heard.

TONY
Jarvis! We're supposed to be on full security lockdown! C'mon, I threatened a terrorist!

JARVIS
I'm sorry sir, but there's only so much I can do when you give the world's press your home address.

INT. MALIBU HOUSE: FOYER - DAY

Maya Hansen is seen knocking on the door. The door then opens and she walks in. After taking a moment, Tony walks up to Maya in the Mark Forty-Two armour.

TONY
Right there's fine.

Maya stops and looks at Tony.

TONY
You're not the Mandarin, are you? Are you?
MAYA
You probably don't even remember me, do you?

TONY
Oh, I remember you, Maya.

Maya smiles.

TONY
The question is.... what are you doing here?

MAYA
I was going to ask you the same thing, given that you told the Mandarin your address. Then again, you never did think things through, now did you?

TONY
Look, Maya, if you're looking to rip on me because of Bern, I totally get it. I do. But now really isn't the time....

MAYA
Relax. I know about Happy. I'm not here to chastise you. I'm here to help.

PEPPER (O.S.)
Who's that?

TONY
It's Maya Hansen, honey. An old.... friend of mine.

Tony and Maya walk back into the main living room as Pepper walks over. Tony looks down to see several packed bags on the floor next to her. Tony gets out of the armour.

PEPPER
Good, then you two can catch up in the car after we leave.

MAYA
That sounds fantastic. Let's get going.

TONY
Pepper, we've been over this. We're staying here.
PEPPER
Absolutely not.

TONY
Pepper, I can't protect you out there.

PEPPER
We are leaving right now, Tony!

Maya looks at a nearby television screen, which shows the Malibu house with a missile heading towards it.

MAYA
Uh.... guys?

Tony and Pepper look over.

MAYA
Do we need to worry about that?

Tony and Pepper look at the screen, before looking out the window to see the missile hit the house, sending all three of them flying backwards.

EXT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

Five helicopters fly towards the Malibu house. As they fly, their sides open to reveal several missile launchers.

INT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

Tony picks himself up off the floor to see Maya unconscious near him. Pepper stands up and wobbles as she walks.

TONY
Pepper! Are you okay?!

PEPPER
Yes! But Maya looks hurt!

TONY
Get her out of here!

PEPPER
What?

Another missile collides with the house, knocking Tony off balance and ripping a massive hole in the floor between Tony and Pepper.

TONY
Get Maya to safety!
PEPPER
But....

TONY
Stop stopping! Go!

Pepper reaches down and helps Maya up and she starts to waken. Tony then motions his arms, and the various pieces of the Mark Forty-Two armour start to come to him. Pepper helps Maya to her feet.

PEPPER
Can you walk?

MAYA
I think so.

Pepper and Maya then run out of the room as the last few pieces of the Mark Forty-Two form around Tony. As the face-mask lands, another missile hits the wall behind Tony, sending him crashing into a pile of debris. Tony tries to fly, but finds he cannot.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony has a concerned look on his face.

TONY
Jarvis?! Why can't I fly?

INT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

Tony pulls himself off the ground.

JARVIS
The suit's flight systems have been damaged, sir. I will need time to activate the auto-repair protocol.

Another set of missiles hits the house. Tony looks over at the nearest helicopter, as he starts to slide down the concrete. Tony then sees his piano falling in front of him, and Tony times a repulsor blast so that the piano flies out and hits the helicopter, causing it to crash into the cliff face.

TONY
That's one.

Tony starts to run as the helicopters fire machine guns at him. Tony arms a rocket from his arm, and fires it at a helicopter, causing it to explode.
TONY
That's two.

Another set of rockets hits near Tony, forcing him to desperately cling onto the beam from the beginning of the film. Several large chunks of concrete collapse on top of Tony, knocking him off the beam. Tony desperately reaches out for something to latch onto, and manages to grab onto a piece of struck out pipe with one hand.

EXT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

Three helicopters continue to fire rockets and bullets at Tony's house.

INT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

Tony looks out at one of the helicopters as it lines up to target him.

TONY
Jarvis! I need options!

The voice of Tony's A.I., JARVIS, is heard.

JARVIS
Unfortunately sir, all weapon systems in the Mark Forty-Two except for the basic repulsors have been damaged. Extensive repairs will need to be....

TONY
Is Pepper safe?

JARVIS
Sir?

TONY
Is Pepper out of the goddamn building or not, Jarvis?!

JARVIS
Ms. Potts is clear of the structure.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony sighs and closes his eyes for a moment.
EXT. MALIBU HOUSE - DAY

The helicopter that lined up with Tony fires another set of missiles, destroying the piece of concrete he was holding onto. Tony is sent flying as most of the Malibu house collapses into the ocean, along with Tony. Pepper runs to the cliff, looking down at the wreckage.

    PEPPER
    Tony!

The helicopters turn and start flying away.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Under the water, Tony finds himself unable to move because of the crushing weight of the concrete on top of him. Tony's back hits the ocean floor as more concrete piles on him.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony gasps for air as water begins to pour into his helmet.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Tony struggles as the debris falls around him.

    JARVIS
    Hold on sir!

The right arm of the armour detaches from Tony, before flipping around and grabbing on his real arm. The hand pulls Tony out from under the wreckage before reattaching.

    JARVIS
    I have managed to restore flight power, sir. The rest of the systems will be online soon.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony's eyes start to close.

    TONY
    Thank you Jarvis....

The screen fades to black as Tony's eyes close.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Tony, with various pieces of the Mark Forty-Two armour strewn around him, lies with his face up. The sun is starting to set.
INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY
Tony starts to stir.

EXT. BEACH - DAY
Tony continues to stir.

JARVIS
Sir....

Tony moans in pain.

JARVIS
Sir!

TONY
What.... what is it....

JARVIS
Please sir, wake up! Wake up!

Tony jumps up and sits on the sand. He then lifts his mask.

TONY
Ugh.... oh man....

JARVIS
Welcome back, sir.

TONY
How long was I out?

JARVIS
Four hours. I managed to regain flight power long enough to take us to a secluded area. We are several dozen miles down shore from the Malibu house.

TONY
Where's Pepper?

JARVIS
Unknown, sir. The last readings I was able to obtain before the destruction of the Malibu mainframe showed her and Ms. Hansen leaving the premises. All of my data is now streaming through Avengers Tower.

Tony takes the helmet off and places it on the sand next to him. He then looks around at the various pieces of armour. Tony sighs and then stands up. He spends a moment looking out at the ocean.
EXT. ROXXON GAS STATION - NIGHT

Tony runs up to a Roxxon gas station, and puts a quarter into the slot. Tony picks up the phone and dials. After a few moments, the phone reaches an answering message.

PEPPER (O.S.)
Hi, this is Pepper Potts. Please leave a message at the beep. Beep!

The phone then beeps.

TONY
Pepper, it's me. I'm okay, and I just wanted to let you know that.

Tony pauses for a moment and sighs.

TONY
Look, I know I've said this a lot recently, but I need to say it again: I'm sorry. What happened with Happy.... I overreacted, and I put you in danger. I'm sorry, and it won't happen again.

Tony starts to cry.

TONY
I'm also calling.... because I can't come home yet. I have to find this guy. I can't let him get away with this. I'm not sure exactly what I'm going to do, but I can't come meet you without putting you at risk.... I know that if I'm with you, the Mandarin will come looking for you. So stay with Maya. Stay safe. I'll figure something out.... and I'll see you soon.

Tony hangs up the phone as he wipes a tear away from his face. Tony then leaves the gas station and walks behind a bush, where the pieces of the Mark Forty-Two armour are stashed. Tony takes the helmet and puts it on.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - NIGHT

The HUD lights up around Tony's face.

TONY
Jarvis? What's the status?
JARVIS
Automatic repairs are underway now sir. Full system restore will be difficult without outside assistance.

TONY
Alright. I'll get some tools. See you soon.

Tony takes off the helmet and places it back on the ground before running off.

EXT. PEPPER'S CAR - NIGHT
Pepper's car is driving on a highway.

INT. PEPPER'S CAR - NIGHT
Pepper is driving the car with Maya in the passenger seat. Both women are silent as she drives.

MAYA
Look.... Pepper.... Tony is resourceful.... I'm sure he will....

PEPPER
Why are you here?

MAYA
What?

PEPPER
Who are you? You show up out of nowhere, and suddenly helicopters show up and open fire on....

Pepper stops and looks away with a concerned face.

MAYA
Look, I'm sorry about what happened. I don't know exactly what's going on. I came to talk to Tony.... but given that you don't know who I am, maybe I shouldn't have come at all.

PEPPER
What do you mean?

MAYA
Tony and I used to date, thirteen years ago.
PEPPER
He never told me about you.

MAYA
He doesn't like talking about relationships. That's part of his problem. He always seemed cold and distant.... and then one day, after six months of being together.... he left. No explanation. No break-up. He just left.... and we never spoke again.

Pepper is silent for a moment.

PEPPER
I'm sorry, I didn't know.

MAYA
It's fine, I got over it relatively quickly after realizing that it was standard operating procedure for him. So I moved on. Focused on my work.

PEPPER
Then why did you come back?

MAYA
Because I think my boss might be working for the Mandarin.

Pepper narrows her eyes.

PEPPER
Wait.... what? You think your boss.... might be working for the Mandarin?

MAYA
Yes.

PEPPER
What do you do?

MAYA
Biological research for a technology think tank. However, we also have a weapons division, and I think we might be supplying the Mandarin with weapons tech.

PEPPER
This boss.... does he have a name?
MAYA
Aldrich Killian.

Pepper's eyes widen.

PEPPER
Aldrich Killian? You work for AIM?

MAYA
You know us?

PEPPER
I used to be a member of AIM, years ago. Aldrich is working for the Mandarin?

MAYA
Well, I can't prove it yet, but I've noticed a large amount of our tech and supplies being rerouted to locations where the Mandarin has attacked.

PEPPER
Well, then we have to do something.

Pepper takes her phone out of her pocket and turns it on, and it connects to the car's computer.

PHONE VOICE (O.S.)
One new message.

PEPPER
Huh? Play.

PHONE VOICE (O.S.)
Playing new message.

The phone beeps.

TONY (O.S.)
Pepper, it's me. I'm okay, and I just wanted to let you know that.

Pepper gasps.

PEPPER
Tony!

TONY (O.S.)
Look, I know I've said this a lot recently, but I need to say it again: I'm sorry. What happened with Happy.... I overreacted, and (MORE)
TONY (CONT'D)
I put you in danger. I'm sorry, and it won't happen again.

Maya narrows her eyes in concern as she listens.

TONY (O.S.)
I'm also calling.... because I can't come home yet. I have to find this guy. I can't let him get away with this. I'm not sure exactly what I'm going to do, but I can't come meet you without putting you at risk.... I know that if I'm with you, the Mandarin will come looking for you. So stay with Maya. Stay safe. I'll figure something out.... and I'll see you soon.

The phone beeps. Pepper closes her eyes for a moment. Maya looks over at Pepper.

MAYA
You're lucky, you know.

PEPPER
Why?

MAYA
Because he truly does care for you.

Pepper looks at Maya before looking back at the road. Maya then looks down at her right hand pocket, and takes out a small device with the AIM logo. She presses a button on the device and puts it back in her pocket.

EXT. AIR FORCE ONE - DAY

Air Force One is seen flying over the sunrise.

INT. AIR FORCE ONE - DAY

President Ellis seen sitting at his conference table with several advisors. VICE PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ walks into the room and sits down next to the Ellis. As he does, a PRESIDENTIAL AIDE runs into the room.

AIDE
Mr. President! There's another Mandarin video!

The Aide turns on the television. Everyone in the room watches as the Ten Rings logo flashes on the screen.
INT. MANDARIN VIDEO TAPE - DAY

The Mandarin is seen sitting on his throne, holding a pistol. On the floor in front of him is Roxxon Oil Corporation accountant THOMAS RICHARDS, who is tied up and gagged.

MANDARIN
Mr. President.... say hello to Thomas Richards. Good strong name, good strong job. Thomas here is an accountant for the Roxxon Oil Corporation. I'm sure he's a really good guy. I'm going to shoot him in the head.

The Mandarin aims the pistol at Thomas' head. Thomas screams, but his scream is muffled by the gag. Tears stream down Thomas' face.

MANDARIN
Live on your television in thirty seconds.

The Mandarin points towards the phone sitting on the table next to him.

MANDARIN
The number for this telephone has been conveniently placed in your cell phone. Interesting to think how it got there, isn't it? America.... if your President calls me in the next half minute, Tom lives. Your move, Mr. President.

INT. AIR FORCE ONE - DAY

Ellis pulls his phone out of his pocket, and sees a phone number with the Ten Rings logo on top of it.

ELLIS
How did this get in my phone?

AIDE
Mr. President, do not call that number.

ELLIS
I have to do this.
AIDE
I would strongly advise against that, sir....

ELLIS
It's the right thing to do.

Ellis dials the number and places the phone next to his ear.

INT. MANDARIN VIDEO TAPE - DAY
The Mandarin looks directly at the screen as the phone rings. After a moment, he aims at Thomas' head and pulls the trigger.

INT. AIR FORCE ONE - DAY
Ellis slowly lowers the phone as he looks at the screen in shock.

INT. MANDARIN VIDEO TAPE - DAY
The Mandarin looks directly at the screen.

MANDARIN
There's just one lesson left Mr. President, so run away, hide, kiss your children goodbye.... because nothing.... not your armies, not your missiles, not your red, white and blue attack dog can save you!

Mandarin takes a moment.

MANDARIN
I'll see you soon.

The video cuts to the Ten Rings logo before fading out.

INT. AIR FORCE ONE - DAY
President Ellis puts the phone down and stands up.

AIDE
Mr. President?

ELLIS
Call Rhodes. Tell him to find this lunatic, no matter what he has to do.

Vice President Rodriguez finishes talking to a nearby aide and then looks at the President.
RODRIGUEZ
Sir... we've tried. We can't get in contact with Colonel Rhodes.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Rhodes, in his Iron Patriot suit, lands on a bridge in the Middle East as he engages several soldiers attacking him with assault rifles and RPGs. One soldier fires an RPG at him, but Rhodes dodges to the left before firing a blast from his shoulder cannon which kills the RPG soldier. Rhodes tosses another soldier off the bridge as he fires a rocket at a nearby tank, incinerating it. The last soldier in the area continues to shoot at Rhodes as he rips the assault rifle out of his hand and grabs him by the throat before slamming him against a van on the bridge.

RHODES
Where is the Mandarin?

The soldier is silent.

RHODES
I said, where is the Mandarin?

The soldier quickly grabs a pistol from his holster and shoots himself in the head before Rhodes can stop him.

RHODES
No! Dammit!

Rhodes tosses the body to the floor. Rhodes then turns around as he sees an APC drive onto the bridge. The back of the APC opens up to reveal four Extremis soldiers as they file out.

INT. IRON PATRIOT HELMET - DAY

Rhodes smirks.

RHODES
You know, if you wanted to fight, you probably should have brought some guns.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

The Extremis soldiers grin at Rhodes.

EXTREMIS SOLDIER #1
Oh, we don't need guns, Colonel.

RHODES
How do you....

The Extremis soldiers begin to glow orange. The one in the
lead then opens his mouth and breathes a stream of fire from it.

RHODES
What the....?!

Rhodes barely dodges the stream of fire as the other Extremis soldiers charge him. Rhodes opens fire with his repulsors and his shoulder cannon, blasting them away. However, they quickly regenerate and attack him again, except for the one who was attacked by the shoulder cannon, whose head is blown off. The soldier in front tries to physically attack Rhodes, but Rhodes uses CQC to deflect his attacks, before snapping his neck and throwing him off the bridge. Another soldier leaps onto Rhodes from behind and uses her glowing hand to grab and burn Rhodes' face-mask. She then smashes Rhodes' helmet against the floor, knocking him out. The two remaining soldiers stand over him.

EXTREMIS SOLDIER #2
Call the master. Tell him we have the patriot.

INT. HOTEL - DAY
Pepper and Maya are sitting inside of a hotel room.

PEPPER
Maya....

MAYA
Yeah?

PEPPER
Thanks for this.

MAYA
Don't worry about it. I'm sure Stark Enterprises has enough money to pay me back for one hotel room stay.

Both Pepper and Maya laugh before going silent for a moment.

PEPPER
So you're a biologist.

MAYA
Yeah.

PEPPER
Were you on the Extremis project?

Maya looks at Pepper with widened eyes.
MAYA
Yes. How do you know about it?

PEPPER
Aldrich came to see me the other day. He wanted to know if Stark Enterprises wanted to help out.

MAYA
He didn't tell me about any meeting with you. Then again, I'm just a researcher. I don't have any say on the business end of things. So.... what was your answer?

PEPPER
I turned him down. Too many.... potential applications.

MAYA
I understand. That's what the government thought about our project as well. It's why they shut us down. It took Aldrich dozens of meetings and favours to get us back up and running again. You know.... when it comes to science.... everyone starts all starry-eyed. It's all purely to obtain knowledge and explore the possibilities. But after a while.... mistakes come. Compromises have to be made for the sake of progress.... and then.... you end up with something that barely resembles what you started with.

PEPPER
Is that what it's like for you?

MAYA
Sometimes.

Pepper turns as a knock is heard on the door.

PEPPER
Did you order room service?

MAYA
Yeah, while you were in the shower.
Oh.

Pepper stands up and opens the door to see the room service server standing with a trolley.

Please, come in.

Thank you.

The server moves the trolley inside, but is stopped by Killian jumping from around the corner, who glows orange as he grabs the server's head and smashes it against the wall. Pepper screams as Killian then grabs her by the neck and holds her up. Maya then stands up and walks over to Killian.

What took you so long?

I'm sorry, weren't you able to pass the time by making friends?

I didn't know that you and the Mandarin were going to blow up his damn house. Look, Killian, I've told you before.... we can use them to our advantage.

Them?

Stark is alive, Killian.... and I think he might be onto us.

Killian holds back a scowl.

Look, let's just get her to the facility.

Right.
EXT. FIELD - DAY

Tony is seen using a welding torch on pieces of the Mark Forty-Two in the middle of a field. He has the helmet on, but the mask up.

TONY
Talk to me, Jarvis.

JARVIS
Internal repairs complete, sir. The arc reactor battery has replenished itself and all primary systems are back online.

TONY
Stellar. Call the Tower. I need to talk to Banner.

JARVIS
Of course, sir.

EXT. AVENGERS TOWER - DAY

Avengers Tower is seen in New York.

INT. AVENGERS TOWER: HULK ROOM - DAY

Bruce is seen sitting in a meditative pose in his room. His eyes are closed. The room is completely silent. Bruce breathes in deeply. After a moment, he exhales slowly. As he does this, Jarvis' voice is heard.

JARVIS
Doctor Banner?

Startled, Bruce falls over and shouts. He reaches out and grasps his chest.

BRUCE
Jesus!

Bruce takes a moment before looking at his heart monitor on his watch, which starts to beep fast.

BRUCE
Jarvis.... what did I tell you about interrupting my meditation?

JARVIS
I am sorry, Doctor Banner, but I have an urgent call from Mr. Stark.

Bruce gets up and runs out of the room.
INT. AVENGERS TOWER: IRON MAN ROOM - DAY

Bruce runs into the Iron Man room and turns on his laptop.

BRUCE
Send it through, Jarvis.

Tony appears on the screen.

TONY
Bruce, you there?

BRUCE
I'm here Tony. I heard on the news about Happy.... and your house! What the hell is going on down there?!

TONY
Look, I don't have much time to talk. Here's the gist: the Mandarin hates me, and I'm trying to stop him. Pepper is safe as far as I know, but she won't be for long.

BRUCE
There was another Mandarin video this morning. Tony.... he executed someone on live television and threatened the President. He's going to strike again soon, and it's going to be big.

TONY
I know, and that's why I have to stop him. Listen, I think I might have a lead on the Mandarin attacks, and I need your help.

BRUCE
What do you need?

TONY
I need you to try and get a location on any facilities nearby that belong to Advanced Idea Mechanics. Ever heard of them?

BRUCE
Yeah, I have. What do they have to do with this?
TONY
I'm pretty sure they're the ones supplying the Mandarin with their weapons. Also, try and get any information you can on the Extremis project.

Bruce moves Tony's call window to the side and starts typing.

BRUCE
Looking it up now.

Bruce puts on his glasses as he types.

BRUCE
I've found something.

TONY
Don't keep me in suspense, Banner.

BRUCE
It looks like the Extremis project actually had a brief test period a couple years ago before being shut down by government mandates. Apparently they thought it was far too dangerous.

TONY
But what is it?

BRUCE
The information here is vague. Recoding genetics.... this doesn't seem like something the Mandarin would use.

TONY
There has to be a connection....

BRUCE
Wait a minute.

TONY
What?

BRUCE
I'm on AIM's main page. Hang on, I need to do some hacking....

Tony looks at Bruce with a disbelieving face.
TONY
Who says 'hack' anymore?

BRUCE
I'm in.

Tony looks at Bruce with a bewildered face.

TONY
That was fast.

BRUCE
I've found what appears to be some classified Extremis files.

Bruce looks at a video showing Aldrich Killian and some AIM employees placing several test subjects into metal braces.

BRUCE
Jarvis, feed this video to Tony. You need to see this.

TONY
I see it.

INT. AIM EXTREMIS VIDEO - DAY

Aldrich Killian stands in front of the test subjects as the AIM operatives, who are in yellow outfits, latch them in.

KILLIAN
Hello, everyone, and welcome to the future. My name is Aldrich Killian.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony furrows his brow.

TONY
I remember him now.... Switzerland.

INT. AIM EXTREMIS VIDEO - DAY

The AIM operatives prepare large syringes that are placed inside of the arm latches on the test subjects.

KILLIAN
All of you are here for a reason, and that reason.... is progress. For the past ten years Advanced Idea Mechanics has been working on all kinds of innovative scientific projects, but this.... Extremis.... is our alamo.
The syringes arm and place themselves next to the subject's skin.

    KILLIAN
    When the injection process begins, Extremis will start bonding with your cells. It will then rewrite your genetic code on the base level. I'm not going to lie. It will be excruciatingly painful. Some of you will most likely not survive. However, you've all signed on knowing that if this process is a success, you will become the pinnacle of human evolution. Drones! Initiate the procedure.

One of the AIM operatives flips a lever on his control panel. From the ceiling, titanium walls fall and enclose around the test subjects, placing each one in their own individual cell. The camera quickly switches between each one as the syringes inject themselves into the subjects. After a few moments, the subjects start to scream as their bodies glow orange. One of the subjects, who is a woman with one arm, starts to regrow her arm.

INT. AVENGERS TOWER: IRON MAN ROOM - DAY

Bruce's jaw starts to drop.

    BRUCE
    My god.

INT. AIM EXTREMIS VIDEO - DAY

The subjects continue to scream and convulse as their entire bodies glow with radiant orange light. One of them starts to shake much more violently than the others.

    KILLIAN
    Subject five is starting to reject. The other subjects appear to be accepting.

The subject shrieks in pain and then violently explodes.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony's eyes widen.

    TONY
    That's it.
INT. AVENGERS TOWER: IRON MAN ROOM - DAY

Bruce narrows his eyes as he pauses the video and makes Tony's call window appear in the center of the screen.

BRUCE
What's it?

TONY
That's the Mandarin's bomb. Right there.

BRUCE
The person?

TONY
Think about it. Rhodey told me that no one's been able to identify a device because there's no bomb casings or other remains. That's because the bomb isn't a bomb.... it's a person!

BRUCE
So you're saying the Mandarin hired AIM to develop human bombs?

TONY
Well, not just that. Killian said that one of them was 'rejecting' the serum. Presumably, the ones that accepted the serum would be enhanced.

BRUCE
An army of enhanced soldiers with DNA that's been rewritten to make them superhumanly durable and regenerative.

TONY
Exactly. So whether they're successes or failures, they can still be useful.... and nearly impossible to trace to the source.

BRUCE
An army of super-soldiers. Where have we heard that before?

TONY
Do you have a lock on any Extremis facilities?

Bruce starts to type again.
BRUCE
Looks like this video was taken at.... oh no.

TONY
What?

BRUCE
Tony, this video was taken at an AIM laboratory.... in Los Angeles.

TONY
Here?!

BRUCE
Yes.

TONY
Jarvis! Code the address into the navigation system.

JARVIS
Done, sir.

TONY
Thanks, Bruce. I'm on my way now.

EXT. FIELD - DAY
Tony motions as the armour forms around him, and he blasts off.

INT. MANDARIN FORTRESS - NIGHT
The Mandarin is seen on his throne as he presses a button on his display screen in front of him. Killian's face appears.

MANDARIN
I want an update, Killian.

KILLIAN
The soldiers are being prepped as we speak. They'll be ready to launch on your mark. Special preparations for your secondary attack are also complete. As well, we've captured the Iron Patriot.

MANDARIN
Excellent.

KILLIAN
But sir, there is something else.
Mandarin
What's that?

Killian
Stark is alive, sir.

The Mandarin scowls before slamming his fist against the table near him, crushing another fortune cookie.

Mandarin
You told me you could take care of him.

Killian
We destroyed his entire house, sir. How he escaped we don't know....

Mandarin
I know how he escaped. He's Tony Stark. He's intelligent, resourceful, and right now, the only one who can stop us. Get the Patriot ready. But remember, Killian....

Killian gulps.

Mandarin
I don't want the scraps. I want the Avenger.

Ext. Los Angeles Skyline - Night

Tony flies across the sky in his Mark Forty-Two armour.

Int. Iron Man Helmet - Night

Tony watches the HUD as it guides him to his destination.

Jarvis
Might I suggest a more subtle approach, sir?

Tony
What?

Jarvis
AIM might notice you if you fly overtop at full speed. Perhaps a stealthier mode might be in favour?
TONY
Good idea. Luckily, I incorporated some of the stealth-tech from Mark Sixteen. Engage stealth mode.

EXT. LOS ANGELES SKYLINE - NIGHT

The Mark Forty-Two armour emits a phase of energy across itself as it becomes translucent.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - NIGHT

Tony continues to watch the HUD.

JARVIS
Stealth mode engaged, sir. Speed has now been capped at fifty percent to minimize chances of enemy detection.

EXT. LOS ANGELES SKYLINE - NIGHT

Tony does a barrel roll to the left and flies through Los Angeles.

INT. AIM FACILITY - NIGHT

Pepper, handcuffed, walks behind Aldrich Killian and Maya Hansen. Behind her are two AIM operatives in yellow outfits holding pulse rifles.

KILLIAN
So Ms. Potts, it looks like you're going to be working with AIM anyway. Of course, I originally believed you would be killed in the attack on Tony's house, but it looks like the timely arrival of Ms. Hansen spared you such a fate.

Pepper looks up and scowls at Maya, who looks away.

KILLIAN
I really didn't mean for this to happen, Pepper. If you had signed on with AIM before, you would have been quite safe. In fact, if it weren't for Mr. Hogan nosing around, Stark Industries wouldn't even have been dragged into this mess.

The group starts to walk down a flight of stairs that leads to a catwalk.
MAYA
You wanted to know about potential applications of Extremis, Pepper?
Here they are.

Pepper looks down to see AIM operatives cleaning and arming various Extremis soldiers.

PEPPER
So.... enhanced soldiers.

Pepper scoffs.

PEPPER
How predictable.

KILLIAN
Well, the application suits the buyer really.... and since the first person to show interest in our work was the Mandarin, this is how Extremis turned out.

PEPPER
So this is what you meant, huh Maya? You end up with something that barely resembles what you started with?

Maya, whose face Pepper cannot see, looks downward with a disappointed glance.

KILLIAN
Don't shortchange Ms. Hansen, Pepper. She was the brain-child that made all of this possible. You see, while Tony aptly.... rejected my offer to join AIM, she enthusiastically accepted. Her work was the foundation for Extremis, and as the head of our biology research division, her name will be the one that is remembered for such a breakthrough.

Maya smiles at Killian and then looks back at Pepper with a vindictive glance.
EXT. AIM FACILITY - NIGHT

Tony lands outside the AIM facility. He looks through one of the window.

TONY
I don't see any movement inside.

Tony taps his left hand, and a small cutting laser pops out of it. He places the laser against the window, and uses it to cut open a large enough hole for him to enter through.

INT. AIM FACILITY: HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tony pulls himself inside the facility, and finds himself in a hallway. Tony, crouched, walks down the hallway before coming to a corner. Tony looks around the corner to see several AIM operatives working inside of an engineering room. He then looks up to see Killian, Maya and Pepper walking on a catwalk.

TONY
Pepper!

INT. AIM FACILITY: CATWALK - NIGHT

Killian turns around to face Pepper.

KILLIAN
So.... what do you think now, Pepper?

PEPPER
I think you're both goddamn monsters.

Killian makes an 'oooo' noise, mockingly showing that he is not hurt by Pepper's words.

KILLIAN
Wow.... that really made me reconsider my position on things.

Maya scoffs.

PEPPER
So why did you come to our house then, Maya? Huh? To kidnap me? You're not a scientist. You're a puppet for animals and traitors.

Maya turns away for a moment before slapping Pepper across the face.
INT. IRON MAN HELMET - NIGHT

Tony scowls.

TONY

Maya....

INT. AIM FACILITY: CATWALK - NIGHT

Maya then pulls a syringe out of her pocket.

MAYA

I don't want to hear anything else out of your mouth, Potts, our I'm going to give you a little taste of Extremis. This dose is three times the size of the safe amount. We'll have cleaning teams scrubbing away your remains from the walls for weeks.

Killian laughs.

KILLIAN

As satisfying as it would be to see that, we're going to keep Pepper around a little while longer. However, it's nice to see that Maya is finally developing a backbone.

TONY (O.S.)

You're not keeping her any longer!

Killian, Maya, Pepper and the AIM operatives turn their heads to where Tony's voice came from.

INT. AIM FACILITY - NIGHT

Tony stands up and turns off his stealth mode.

PEPPER

Tony! They've....!

One of the AIM operatives behind her points his pulse rifle at Pepper's head.

AIM OPERATIVE #1

That's enough!

KILLIAN

Tony! So nice of you to join us! You know, after Maya told me that you survived our little.... visit, to your home, I was wondering how (MORE)
KILLIAN (CONT'D)
long it would take for you to find us.

TONY
I know about the Ten Rings. Your little soirée with the Mandarin is over.

Killian nods his head. All of the AIM operatives in the room aim their pulse rifles at Tony.

KILLIAN
Actually.... it's not. As I was telling Pepper, you could easily have avoided this if you had joined AIM all those years ago, Tony.

TONY
Is that what this is about? Petty revenge?

KILLIAN
Revenge? I don't give a damn about revenge. This is about progress. A new world order is coming, Mr. Stark, and I almost saved you from being swept away by it.... but now, you're just another unfortunate casualty. Dispose of him.

The AIM operatives open fire with their pulse rifles. Tony blasts up and then returns fire with his repulsors. Killian turns to the two operatives that are holding Pepper.

KILLIAN
Get her out of here. You too, Maya.

Maya nods. Maya, Pepper and the AIM operatives then run off towards a nearby door.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - NIGHT

Tony's eyes widen.

TONY
Pepper!
INT. AIM FACILITY - NIGHT

Tony flies towards Pepper as she is being carried out the door. Killian starts to glow orange.

KILLIAN
Not so fast, Stark.

Killian leaps up and puts his fist through Tony's arc reactor.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - NIGHT

Tony spurts blood from his mouth in pain.

INT. AIM FACILITY - NIGHT

Killian lands, holding Tony up with one hand, gripped around the arc reactor. Killian squeezes the arc reactor, causing Tony to shriek in pain.

KILLIAN
How.... egotistical. Your biggest weakness.... and you display it proudly in the middle of your chest. Never thought someone would actually call you out on that, did you?

Killian then heaves Tony, and throws him against the wall behind him. Tony reels from the pain as Killian walks up to him. Killian then reaches down as his hands glow orange and grasps Tony's head with both of his hands.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - NIGHT

Tony screams.

INT. AIM FACILITY - NIGHT

Killian smirks as his hands burn the helmet.

KILLIAN
How does it feel to be outclassed, Mr. Stark?

Killian lifts Tony by the head and tosses him off the catwalk, where he lands on the engineering floor amongst the AIM operatives. The operatives shoot at Tony, who dodges the blasts before firing his repulsors, blowing away an AIM operative. Killian breathes in heavily as his chest glows orange before he unleashes a stream of fire from his mouth, stunning Tony. An AIM operative then fires a pulse blast that hits Tony square in the chest, knocking him against the wall and causing his armour to shatter. Tony collapses and passes out on the floor. Killian and the AIM operatives walk
up to him.

KILLIAN
Lock up the armour in the storage area, and rig him into a containment unit.

AIM OPERATIVE #2
Yes sir.

INT. AIM FACILITY: BASEMENT - DAY

Tony wakes up as the sun begins to shine on his face. He looks down to see that he is latched into one of AIM's containment tables that was used to inject Extremis into test subjects. He looks forward to see Maya sitting in front of a computer. As Tony wakes up, Maya spins her chair around to face him.

MAYA
Good morning.

TONY
Maya. Well.... I wish I could say that this hasn't happened to me before.

MAYA
Ever the wise-cracker.

Maya stands up and starts to walk towards Tony.

MAYA
You know, when I first spoke to Aldrich.... I thought I was getting back at you. When you just got up and left.... I knew why you did it. You're you. So I thought.... why not join AIM? Why not try to overshadow the 'great' Tony Stark? Then I realized that I was just letting you win.... because no matter what I did, you wouldn't care.... because you're you.

Maya scoffs.

MAYA
So I focused on my work.... and I unknowingly created the greatest advancement in biology since the discovery of penicillin. Seeing the Extremis soldiers in action.... how they utterly (MORE)
MAYA (CONT'D)
decimate any adversary put in front of them.... that was my victory. Your suits of power armour are a nice fad, Tony, but now.... it's Extremis that's going to pave the way to the future.

TONY
You know, that sounds great.... if only you weren't using it as a weapon for insane terrorists.

MAYA
I'm using them.

TONY
They're using you. Those are Killian's words, Maya, not yours. I can hear the doubt in your voice. You figure this has been the hand you've been dealt but you always could have walked away.

MAYA
From my life's work?

TONY
From the people who will turn your life's work into a force for evil. I saw your face after you slapped Pepper. You were putting on a con for Killian. You might not think I remembered you, but I remembered your faces, your.... mannerisms.... you were acting. I know you're not the same as these people.

Maya breathes harshly as she furrows her brow.

TONY
Look.... I know I hurt you. Okay? I hurt a lot of people in those days. You didn't deserve that. But that's still not a reason to....

MAYA
You don't get it, do you? This isn't about you, Tony. You still think you're the center of this little fantasy universe you've created where your actions define everyone else.

Tony sighs.
TONY
I used to think that way. Now I see the truth.

MAYA
And what truth is that?

TONY
You're not the woman you used to be.... and that, despite the fact that you didn't deserve to be hurt.... I'm glad it ended when it did. Because now.... I get to wake up with someone.... who still has her soul.

Maya looks to the side with a disdainful look on her face. Killian then walks into the room.

KILLIAN
Ah, so he awakens.

Killian walks up to Maya.

KILLIAN
Entertaining our guest?

MAYA
More like tolerating.

Killian chuckles.

KILLIAN
Oh trust me, I know what that's like.

TONY
You're not still pissed off about the Switzerland thing, are you?

KILLIAN
How could I be pissed at you, Tony? I'm here to thank you. You gave me the greatest gift that anybody's ever given me.... desperation.

Tony furrows his brow.

KILLIAN
If you think back to Switzerland, you said you'd meet on the rooftop, right? Well, for the first twenty minutes, I actually thought you'd show up. Then, in (MORE)
KILLIAN (CONT'D)

the next hour I... well, I considered taking that one step shortcut down to the lobby.... if you know what I mean.

EXT. BERN HOTEL ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Killian stands at the edge of the rooftop as the fireworks explode overhead.

KILLIAN (V.O.)

But as I looked down over that city.... I had a thought that would guide me for years to come.

INT. AIM FACILITY: BASEMENT - DAY

Killian looks back at Tony.

KILLIAN

Anonymity, Tony. How do you think AIM was really able to become a major factor in the field of technological sciences?

INT. TEN RINGS CAVE - DAY

Killian is seen unveiling large caches of AIM weaponry in front of Ten Rings terrorists.

KILLIAN (V.O.)

By selling advanced weapons to terrorists groups around the world in underground dealings.

INT. AIM FACILITY: BASEMENT - DAY

Killian places his hand on the nearby table before turning back to Tony.

KILLIAN

All the while, we were developing some of the most groundbreaking bio-tech research on the planet. Oh Tony.... you know that Pepper used to work for AIM, right? Such a shame she left....

TONY

Don't you dare....
KILLIAN
You're not exactly in a position to demand much of anything, now are you? But you know what.... for the sake of my own, bottomless generosity, I'll let you see her.

Killian takes three orbs out of his pocket and tosses them on the ground. The orbs then form a hologram of Rhodes, who is chained up from his wrists. Tony's eyes widen.

KILLIAN
Oh, I'm sorry, those must have been the wrong orbs....

Killian chuckles to himself. Maya looks at Tony with a concerned face.

KILLIAN
So, let's do a quick score here.... we've already offed Happy, and we currently have both Pepper and Rhodey locked up.

TONY
You're going to die for this.

KILLIAN
And how is that exactly going to happen, hmmm? You're chained up. Your friends can't help you. Even your so called.... Avengers.... where are they?

Tony scowls at Killian.

KILLIAN
Don't feel so bad, Tony. We all have to learn our limitations at some point. Look, to be perfectly honest, I really don't have any personal grief with you. If anything, it was the client that really wanted to do you in.

TONY
What are you talking about?

KILLIAN
Well, you know the Mandarin's whole shtick about wanting to take down 'America' and all that. You see, he didn't just start in the terrorist business a few months ago. He had slowly been gaining
KILLIAN (CONT'D)
power for quite some time. Do you really not remember the Ten Rings?

TONY
What do you....

Tony pauses for a moment.

INT. TEN RINGS CAVE - DAY
Tony sits with Yinsen in the cave.

TONY
Who are these guys?

YINSEN
They call themselves the Ten Rings.

INT. AIM FACILITY: BASEMENT - DAY
Tony looks down and then back at Killian.

TONY
The people who kidnapped me....

KILLIAN
Correct! The Mandarin was leading the Ten Rings even back then. Without him, you might never have become Iron Man. Interesting to consider, isn't it? You want to know why he attacked your convoy?

TONY
He wanted me to build him a Jericho missile.

Killian shakes his head with a smirk on his face.

KILLIAN
No. He attacked your convoy because even before you used a suit made of scrap metal to fly around, you were a symbol. A symbol of what he believes to be "the problem with America" or something like that. I don't know all the details because I honestly don't care about his goals. He hired us to help him overthrow the American government, and to be honest.... it's not a bad deal.
TONY
I'm not going to let you do it. I will stop you.

KILLIAN
Oh, Tony.... you can stop with the comic book heroics, okay? You're locked to a metal slab. You're not going anywhere. Also, you're forgetting that I have Pepper. Don't worry about it Tony. In forty-eight hours.... you won't have anything left.... to worry about.

Killian smiles and then turns to leave. As he does, Tony flicks his wrist.

INT. AIM FACILITY: STORAGE AREA - DAY

Two AIM operatives stand outside the storage area. Inside it, the pieces of the Mark Forty-Two armour rest. After a moment, the pieces start to move and then float. One arm piece then flies up to a small barred window and flies through, followed by a leg piece. The other pieces then all fly towards the window at the same time and crash, causing a big pile up.

AIM OPERATIVE #3
Huh?

The two AIM operatives look over, but don't see anything.

INT. AIM FACILITY: BASEMENT - DAY

Three AIM operatives enter the room as Killian leaves. As this happens, Tony looks over at Maya.

TONY
I suggest you crouch.

MAYA
What?

The arm piece flies into the room and latches onto Tony's arm. Maya leaps away as Tony fires a repulsor blast, knocking away the AIM operatives. Tony's arm brace snaps under the pressure, and then Tony blasts away his other braces as the leg piece latches onto his leg.

AIM OPERATIVE #4
Stop him!

The AIM operatives aim their pulse rifles, but Tony blasts off with his one leg before firing another repulsor blast. Tony flies forward, grabbing a pistol out of a holster from
one of the AIM operatives before firing directly at the head of another operative. Tony then swings his arm to deflect a physical blow from a different operative, before elbowing him away. Maya runs out of the room as Tony blasts the last operative. Tony then strikes a pose.

TONY
Uh.... where's the rest?

INT. AIM FACILITY: STORAGE AREA - DAY

Two AIM operatives aim their pulse rifles at the door of the storage area as it shakes violently.

AIM OPERATIVE #3
Is there something in there?

The door then bursts open as all the other armour pieces fly out, knocking over the two AIM operatives as they fly down the hallway. Another AIM operative who happens to be nearby slams his fist against a large red button on the wall, and an alarm sounds.

INT. AIM FACILITY: HALLWAY - DAY

Killian is walking through the hallway as he hears the alarm. He stops for a moment before grunting in anger and running in the opposite direction.

INT. AIM FACILITY: BASEMENT - DAY

AIM operatives pour into the hallway leading into the basement as Tony fires a repulsor blast to keep them at bay. One of them fires a pulse blasts, which Tony dodges by performing a barrel roll with his one armoured leg. Tony then lies down on the floor and fires a repulsor blast at the wall, knocking him into the air. He quickly turns around and uses the jet on the armoured leg to flip backwards, landing on an elevated position. Another AIM operative fires a pulse blast, which Tony dodges before returning fire with a repulsor blast, hitting her right in the chest. Tony rolls towards her pulse rifle and fires it down the corridor, blowing away several AIM operatives.

INT. AIM FACILITY: DETENTION WING - DAY

Killian walks into another room, where Rhodes is being held by chains. The Iron Patriot armour stands next to him, along with ERIC SAVIN, who has his back against the wall.

KILLIAN
Savin. Time to go.

Savin nods.
INT. AIM FACILITY: BASEMENT - DAY

Tony fires the pulse rifle again, hitting another AIM operative against the wall. As he does, the rest of the armour pieces reach him and latch on, forming the full Mark Forty-Two armour.

TONY
Well, better late than never.

The face-mask closes as Tony rockets off down the hallway.

INT. AIM FACILITY: LABORATORY - DAY

As Tony flies into the room, an Extremis soldier then swings out his arm from behind a corner, clothes-lining Tony and causing him to crash into a table full of laboratory equipment. Tony quickly gets up throws a punch at the same time as the Extremis soldier does, causing the soldier's arm to snap in half. The soldier merely winces as the arm begins to heal. Tony quickly rockets his knee up into the soldier's chin before blasting him with a repulsor. Tony then looks to the window, and sees the Iron Patriot armour blasting off into the sky.

TONY
Rhodey?

Tony then looks back as he hears running footsteps, to see two female Extremis soldiers running at him. The first one tosses a fireball, hitting Tony in the abdomen. The second one tackles him to the floor.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony reels from being knocked to the floor.

TONY
You know, normally I'd be into this sort of thing....

INT. AIM FACILITY: LABORATORY - DAY

The female Extremis soldier then breathes in, and prepares to unleash a fire stream on Tony. Tony then fires the unibeam, blasting her into the air as her fire stream misses. Tony then spins his leg, tripping the other female Extremis soldier. The first one lands, and quickly gets back to her feet as the burns across her entire body start to heal.

EXTREMIS SOLDIER #3
That all you got?

She then breathes a stream of fire, which Tony dodges by flying away from it. He then lands next to a table, which he
kicks towards her, pinning her against the wall as one of the table's legs pierces her abdomen. Tony then looks at the other table, which has several vials of chemicals. As he looks at it, the second Extremis soldier leaps onto him from behind, wrapping her legs around his chest before using her hands to burn his mask.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony's HUD starts to scramble under the heat.

TONY
You know ladies, I really wish we had met under different circumstances....

INT. AIM FACILITY: LABORATORY - DAY

Tony reaches up and grabs the Extremis soldier grappling him and tosses her against the first one, who is still pinned to the wall. He then quickly grabs two vials of chemicals, pours the first into the second, and then tosses the mixed vial at the two girls. The vial promptly explodes, incinerating both soldiers.

TONY
But I'm already spoken for.

Tony then blasts off.

PEPPER (O.S.)
Tony!

TONY
Pepper!

Tony then flies down another hallway.

INT. AIM FACILITY: CATWALK - DAY

Pepper is being dragged away by Killian, followed by two AIM operatives. Tony flies into the room and blasts the operatives with his repulsors before aiming at Killian. Killian quickly aims a pistol at Pepper's head.

KILLIAN
Ah, ah ah.

TONY
Let her go.
KILLIAN
Not going to happen. You better drop all of that armour in about ten seconds.

As Tony and Killian stare down, Killian is suddenly hit by a gunshot. Killian falls back, and Pepper moves out of the way. Tony turns around to see Maya holding a pistol. Maya then unloads five more shots into Killian, causing him to collapse. Tony lands, and Pepper runs over to him, embracing him. Pepper cries as she holds Tony. Tony looks over at Maya, and the two stare at each other for a few seconds. Maya closes her eyes for a moment, reopens them and then nods. Tony nods in return.

MAYA
He's not going to stay down for long, so we should.....

As Maya says this, a syringe hits Maya in the neck. Maya shrieks in pain and then falls to her knees. Tony then looks up to see Killian standing again, holding a small syringe pistol.

MAYA
Aldrich....

Maya coughs as she looks up at him. Killian tosses the syringe pistol aside as his chest glows orange, healing his gunshot wounds.

KILLIAN
Looks like I finally found a test subject for a little pet project of mine. A nanobot parasite. Enjoy, Tony.

Tony looks at Maya and then runs over to her as Killian runs out of the room. Tony crouches next to Maya, opens his face-mask and holds her to his chest as she coughs and struggles to breathe. Tony rips the syringe out of Maya's neck.

TONY
Maya....

MAYA
Don't worry about me, Tony.... I'm just.... glad.... I could....

Maya coughs again as her eyes begin to go bloodshot. Blood then starts to run out of her nose.

TONY
Maya....
MAYA
Run....

TONY
What?

MAYA
Run.... now....

Maya pushes Tony off of him as her body starts to convulse. Her skin then begins to visibly bubble and gyrate.

PEPPER
Tony.... what's happening to her?

TONY
Nothing we want to stay around for. Pepper, go!

PEPPER
They're keeping Rhodey in a nearby room.

TONY
Go! Get him! Now!

Maya's body spasms and convulses as tears in her skin reveal gray flesh underneath. As Pepper runs out of the room, Maya's neck snaps up. She then looks at Tony as her jaw snaps. Tony stares at Maya's face. A single tear drips out of Maya's eye.

MAYA
Goodbye....

Maya's body then explodes, as blood erupts everywhere. Tony closes his face-mask as he blocks the blood with his arm. Emerging from her corpse, a massive gray slug monster with six legs, TECHNOVORE, lands. It looks directly at Tony before roaring, and then charging him. Tony flies up to dodge Technovore's charge. Technovore spins around and roars at Tony again, before spitting a stream of acid at him. Tony flies to the left to dodge before opening fire with his repulsors. Technovore then leaps up, grabbing Tony out of the air and pinning him to the ground.

INT. AIM FACILITY: DETENTION WING - DAY

Pepper runs into the room where Rhodes is being held. Entering the room, Rhodes looks up.

RHODES
Pepper?
PEPPER
Where are the guards?

The ALARM VOICE is then heard over the loudspeaker.

ALARM VOICE
The self-destruct sequence has been activated. Repeat, the self-destruct sequence has been activated. Five minutes until detonation. All employees proceed to their designated evacuation zones.

PEPPER
Self-destruct?

RHODES
Well, that answers your question.

PEPPER
Tony's here. Look, he's in a lot of trouble, and he needs your help.

RHODES
You have to get me down from here.

PEPPER
How?

RHODES
See that gun?

Rhodes motions his head to the left, where there is a table with several pieces of equipment, including a pistol.

RHODES
Shoot one of my handcuffs.

PEPPER
I can't do that.... I've never fired....

RHODES
Yes you can. You said it yourself. Tony needs my help. I can't help him if you don't help me. You can do this.

Pepper picks up the pistol.
RHODES
Now, just aim it directly at the handcuff. Hold it steady with both hands. Then pull the trigger.

Pepper closes one eye and then fires. The handcuff on Rhodes' left arm snaps off.

RHODES
You did it! Give it to me.

Pepper sighs in relief as she hands Rhodes the gun. Rhodes then shoots his other handcuff, freeing him.

PEPPER
Where's your armour?

RHODES
In enemy hands. Let's go.

EXT. AIM FACILITY: ROOF HANGAR - DAY

Killian walks towards the hangar on the roof of the AIM facility. Several AIM operatives pile into the AIM shuttle inside the hangar. One operative stands at the door.

KILLIAN
Did everyone else get out?

AIM OPERATIVE #5
Yes sir.

KILLIAN
Good. Let's go.

Killian and the last AIM operative pile into the AIM shuttle. The shuttle takes off and then blasts into the skyline.

INT. AIM FACILITY - DAY

Tony struggles as Technovore's knife-like tongues slash at his armour.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony's HUD continues to scramble.

TONY
Jarvis, full power to unibeam!

JARVIS
Yes sir.
INT. AIM FACILITY - DAY

Tony fires the unibeam, which blasts Technovore off his body. One of Technovore's legs is severed, and a large laceration on its body begins to bleed. Technovore shrieks before whipping its tails, smashing Tony in the side of the ribcage and sending him flying against a wall. As this is happening, the alarm voice sounds over the loudspeaker.

ALARM VOICE
Three minutes until detonation.

Tony struggles to right himself as Technovore charges him again. Tony equips an arm blade, and then slashes at Technovore's jaw, cutting it deeply. Technovore shrieks in pain as it reels backwards. Tony retracts the blade before firing both of his repulsors at the same time. Technovore quickly dodges the repulsor blasts by leaping to the side, before it leaps into the air, attaching itself to the roof. It then spews another stream of acid, which Tony flies away from. Rhodes and Pepper then run into the room.

RHODES
Tony!

Technovore looks over at Rhodes and Pepper.

PEPPER
Oh my....

TONY
Get out of here!

Technovore leaps at Rhodes and Pepper. Rhodes opens fire with his pistol. Tony then blasts at Technovore, tackling it and knocking it against the nearby wall. Technovore's tails then quickly wrap around Tony, and they start to constrict around him.

PEPPER
Tony! Get out of there!

TONY
You two need to go.... now!

RHODES
Not without you!

Rhodes leaps onto Technovore's body and opens fire with the pistol into its head. Technovore squeals, and releases its grip on Tony. It then lashes out with its tongues, knocking Rhodes to the floor. Tony equips his arm blade again, and jumps onto Technovore's neck. He then plunges the blade into Technovore's head, and haphazardly saws a large cut in it. He then retracts the blade as Technovore struggles, before shoving his arm into the head and pressing the repulsor.
against the brain.

TONY
Goodbye, Maya.

Tony then rapid fires the repulsor, unloading six shots into Technovore's brain as it shrieks. After the sixth shot, Technovore's lifeless corpse collapses. Tony takes a moment, wipes the mucus off his arm, and then steps off Technovore's corpse.

RHODES
You mind telling me what the hell that thing was?

TONY
Just another AIM experiment that's going to end when we finish this.

ALARM VOICE
Thirty seconds to detonation.

PEPPER
Can we get out of here?

TONY
Right. Grab hold!

Pepper and Rhodey both grab onto Tony's arms as he flies up, and then through the skylight in the ceiling.

EXT. AIM FACILITY - DAY

Tony flies out of the facility with Pepper and Rhodes in tow as the facility explodes.

EXT. LOS ANGELES PARK - DAY

Tony lands and allows Pepper and Rhodey to get off.

RHODES
Tony, we've got to get moving now.

TONY
Yeah, I saw your armour flying off. What's that about?

RHODES
I'm scheduled to meet with Air Force One at the airport this morning. Killian put one of his soldiers in the suit.

Tony's eyes widen.
RHODES
Can Jarvis call a number?

TONY
Jarvis, open a com link.

JARVIS
Very well, sir.

Tony's armour chestplate opens, and displays a holographic display of a number pad. Rhodes dials a number into the pad.

INT. VICE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE - DAY

Vice President Rodriguez answers his cell phone in his house.

RODRIGUEZ
Hello?

TONY (O.S.)
Sir, this is Tony Stark.

RODRIGUEZ
Welcome back to the land of the living.

TONY (O.S.)
Sir, I believe that the President is in immediate danger.

RODRIGUEZ
The President is on Air Force One with Colonel Rhodes, as well as a dozen of the Agency's finest. I think he'll be fine.

RHODES (O.S.)
Sir, this is Colonel Rhodes. The Mandarin's forces are using the Iron Patriot armour as a trojan horse. They're going to take out the President somehow. We have to immediately alert that plane.

RODRIGUEZ
Okay, I'm on it. I'll have security lock it down. If need be, they can have F-22s in the air in thirty seconds. Thank you, Colonel.

RHODES (O.S.)
Rhodes and Stark out.

Rodriguez hangs up the phone. An AGENT walks up to
Rodriguez.

AGENT #1
Everything alright, sir?

Rodriguez smiles.

RODRIGUEZ
Couldn't be better.

Rodriguez hands the phone to the agent. He then walks up to his DAUGHTER.

DAUGHTER
Daddy!

Rodriguez' daughter reaches out to him. Rodriguez smiles and hugs her.

DAUGHTER
Daddy.

RODRIGUEZ
I love you, baby.

Rodriguez looks down to see his daughter's amputated leg.

EXT. AIR FORCE ONE: LOS ANGELES AIRFIELD - DAY

President Ellis stands at the base of the staircase leading to Air Force One's loading door, guarded by several riflemen. The Iron Patriot armour then flies by and lands. The armour then walks down the aisle of rifleman towards the President, before saluting him.

ELLIS
It's good to have you back, Colonel Rhodes. We thought we had lost you. Come one aboard.

Ellis and the Iron Patriot armour walk up the steps into the plane.

EXT. LOS ANGELES PARK - DAY

The display disappears as Tony's armour chest piece closes.

RHODES
I still don't think the President is safe.
TONY
Take Pepper to your house. Keep her safe. AIM will think you're dead, so they won't look for you there.

RHODES
I'm not going to let you take them on alone, Tony!

TONY
Can you fly?

Rhodes pauses for a moment.

TONY
Then take care of Pepper.

Tony blasts off.

EXT. AIR FORCE ONE - DAY
Air Force One is seen flying.

INT. AIR FORCE ONE - DAY
The Iron Patriot armour walks into a room where several secret service agents are sitting.

AGENT #2
Is something wrong, Colonel?

The armour picks up a nearby figurine and tosses it through Agent #2's chest. The other agents open fire, but the armour quickly dispatches them with the shoulder cannon. The armour then kicks down the door to the President's room. Ellis tries to escape, but the armour grabs him by the neck and slams him against the wall. The armour's face-mask lifts, revealing Savin's face.

SAVIN
It is an honour, Mr. President.

ELLIS
If you're going to do it, then do it.

SAVIN
Oh, come now, sir. You know that's not how the Mandarin works.

Savin then drags Ellis by the throat into the other room, where the rest of the plane's staff are. The staff scream as Savin tosses the President into the room. As he does, a blast is heard from behind him. Savin turns to see Tony jumping into the plane, closing the door behind him.
SAVIN
Welcome to the party, Stark.

TONY
One of Killian's goons, I suspect.

Savin aims his repulsor at Tony, firing a blast that knocks him back. Savin closes his face-mask and runs at Tony. Tony tries to throw a punch at Savin, but Savin grabs Tony's arm and uses it to flip Tony over. Savin then punches Tony's head before kicking him away.

SAVIN
This is the guy that they called when the world was in danger? Quite pathetic, actually.

Savin aims his shoulder cannon at Tony, but Tony uses his shoulder boosts to dodge the blast, running up the wall as he does so. He performs a flip and kicks Savin in the head before charging elbowing him in the chest with a rocket-propelled arm. Savin grunts in pain as Tony throws Savin into the room opposite the one where the hostages are.

SAVIN
Your armour's nice Stark.... but let's heat things up!

Savin opens the arms of the armour, showing his arms glowing orange. Savin tosses a fireball at Tony, which he dodges. Savin quickly tosses another with the other hand, hitting Tony in the chest. Savin chops at Tony's abdomen, leaving a searing burn on the armour. Tony counters by leaping away and firing a repulsor blast, which leaves a large blast mark on Savin's head that quickly starts to heal. Savin smirks at Tony. Tony then turns to the right grabs the nearby table, swinging at Savin as he charges him, smashing it over his head. Savin responds by grabbing Tony's shoulders and headbutting him, sending Tony crashing into the nearby wall.

SAVIN
It's over, Stark.

Savin starts to breathe in as his lungs glow orange. Tony quickly fires the unibeam, blasting a large hole in Savin's chest. Savin chokes.

TONY
Walk away from that, you son of a bitch.

As Savin collapses, he pulls out a detonator.
SAVIN
See you in hell, Stark.

Savin pushes the button, blows open a large hole in the side of the plane. All of the hostages in the other room get sucked out. Tony quickly flies out of the hole.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Tony looks down as he sees the people falling.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony's HUD starts marking the falling people.

TONY
Jarvis.... how many people in the air?

JARVIS
Thirteen, sir.

TONY
How many can I carry?

JARVIS
Four.

TONY
Wonderful.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Tony blasts downwards. He quickly grabs onto a woman who is falling. Even though Tony grabs her, she continues to scream. Behind him, Air Force One explodes.

TONY
Listen to me.... I can't carry everyone. See that guy there? I'm going to swing by, and you're going to grab him, okay?

The woman nods. Tony then flies towards one of the falling men, and she grabs hold of his arm. Another falling person quickly grabs on.

JARVIS
Eighteen thousand feet.
INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY
Tony smiles.

    TONY
    Nice!

EXT. SKY - DAY
A fourth person grabs onto the daisy chain, followed by a fifth. A sixth person grabs onto Tony's leg.

    JARVIS
    Ten thousand feet.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY
Tony winces in pain.

    TONY
    Man, I wish Thor was here.

EXT. SKY - DAY
President Ellis latches on to the daisy chain.

    JARVIS
    Four thousand feet.

The rest of the people, bar one, latch on.

    JARVIS
    One thousand feet.

    TONY
    C'mon, just one more.

The last person continues to fall.

    JARVIS
    Five hundred feet, sir.

    TONY
    C'mon!

    JARVIS
    Two hundred feet.

The last person is grabbed at the last second, and Tony uses his rockets to slow the descent. After a few moments, Tony releases the people into the water. Tony turns around to look back, and everyone in the water cheers.
JARVIS
All thirteen subjects accounted for sir. President Ellis and his crew are safe.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY
Tony sighs in relief.

TONY
Good work.

JARVIS
Sir, I'm receiving a call from Colonel Rhodes.

TONY
Put it through.

Rhodes appears on the HUD.

TONY
Hey Rhodey, I saved the President, and....

RHODES
Good work Tony, but you need to get back to New York now.

TONY
What?

RHODES
Looks like the Mandarin is making his move. Reports are coming in of shuttles filled with Extremis soldiers pouring into New York, and the Mandarin is there with them. They're heading for your tower, Tony.

Tony's eyes widen.

TONY
Bruce.

EXT. SKY - DAY
Tony blasts off into the skyline.
EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - DAY

New York is shown. Over the buildings, dozens of AIM shuttles fly into the city. Over a loud speaker from the AIM shuttles, the Mandarin's voice is heard.

MANDARIN (O.S.)
Attention, people of New York City. The jewel of America's eye....

INT. AIM SHUTTLE - DAY

Inside one of the AIM shuttles, the Mandarin is seated, surrounded by AIM operatives who are working at the various consoles.

MANDARIN
Welcome to the final lesson. That lesson being: you are not safe. You are not invincible. America is going to crumble....

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - DAY

The AIM shuttles are seen over the skyline.

MANDARIN (O.S.)
...and to show you, I shall burn your precious New York City to the ground!

The sides of the AIM shuttles open to unveil Extremis soldiers who leap into the city. Along with the soldiers, the AIM shuttles also start firing lasers into the various buildings.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

As scores of citizens run away, several military tanks and jeeps engage the AIM shuttles. One of the tanks destroys an AIM shuttle, while Extremis soldiers leap from above. The soldiers quickly overwhelm the military using fireballs and fire streams. Several soldiers leap onto the nearest tank and start ripping it apart with their fists. Another tossed fireball sets two military soldiers on fire.

INT. AVENGERS TOWER - DAY

Bruce looks out the window as AIM shuttles fly past the tower. Bruce takes off his glasses.

BRUCE
My god....

Bruce runs over to his laptop and presses a button on it.
Tony's face appears on the display.

BRUCE
Tony.... where are you?

TONY
Flying to New York as fast as I can. What's the situation down there?

BRUCE
It's goddamn World War Three, is what it is.

TONY
Listen, I'm still a while out. The military isn't going to be able to handle the Mandarin's forces, trust me. I need your help.

BRUCE
What do you want me to do?

TONY
Suit up.

Bruce looks at Tony and shakes his head.

BRUCE
No, no.... I'll cause more harm than good.

TONY
Listen to me, Banner. The last time New York was invaded, you helped save the world. You're a hero, you hear me? You can control it. Please. I'll be there soon.

Tony's face disappears. Bruce sighs. He looks out the window as explosions rock the New York skyline.

BRUCE
Why is it always New York?

Bruce then turns around and runs out of the room.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony looks at the HUD.
TONY
Jarvis, he's going to need some help. I need you to initiate the House Party protocol.

JARVIS
Very well, sir. Are all of the guests attending?

TONY
All except for the two experiments. You know which ones.

JARVIS
Understood, sir. Initiating House Party protocol now.

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - DAY

The battle between the Mandarin's forces and the military continues. A news helicopter is seen flying overhead.

INT. NEWS HELICOPTER - DAY

FIA LUNDSTOM holds a microphone in front of her as she speaks into a camera.

FIA
This is Fia Lundstom. In what appears to be a co-ordinated terrorist attack, the Mandarin appears to be striking the heart of New York with an army of soldiers with some manner of super-powers. As well, we are getting reports that Air Force One has just been destroyed on the West Coast, but according to our sources, Iron Man intervened....

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - DAY

One of the AIM shuttles fires a laser blast at Fia's helicopter, incinerating it. Behind this, on a building adjacent to Avengers Tower, one of the AIM shuttles lands and extends a runway. The Mandarin, flanked by AIM operatives and Extremis soldiers, walks out. The Mandarin looks over the city as AIM shuttles and Extremis soldiers continue to attack the populace.

MANDARIN
Welcome everyone.... to graduation day.

Another AIM shuttle flies onto the roof and lands. Killian walks out, followed by AIM operatives.
MANDARIN
Is Air Force One on the way?

KILLIAN
I just received word from my sources that Stark intervened. Air Force One is destroyed, we've lost the Patriot armour, and the President is still alive.

The Mandarin scowls. He then clenches his fists.

MANDARIN
Stark....

The Mandarin then looks forward at Avengers Tower.

MANDARIN
Target his tower. I want him to know that....

The Mandarin pauses as a loud roar is heard. Everyone on the roof looks as the HULK leaps out of one of the windows on Avengers Tower and lands on the platform jutting from the Tower's penthouse. As the Hulk roars, dozens of Iron Man armours fly out of the tower and form a massive line.

KILLIAN
What....

Tony's voice is played through all of the Iron Man armours at once.

TONY (O.S.)
Attention Mandarin, and anyone else working for him. I'm sorry that I'm not at the party yet, but I figured I would greet you with some party favours. Jarvis, target Extremis heat signatures. Disable with extreme prejudice.

Jarvis then speaks, and the voice echoes through all the armours.

JARVIS
Yes sir.

Cheers are heard from the citizens as the armours all blast off in various directions to engage the Extremis soldiers. The Hulk roars again before leaping off the tower.
EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

The Hulk lands on the ground, creating a massive crater in the road. Several Extremis soldiers turn to face the Hulk and then charge at him. Hulk slams his fists against the ground, knocking the Extremis soldiers away. One of the Extremis soldiers leaps on Hulk from behind, and starts to breathe fire onto his head. Hulk grabs the soldier and whips her down the road, where she is split in half by a street post she collides with. Hulk then rips the door off a nearby car and tosses it at an AIM shuttle, causing it to explode.

INT. NEW YORK BUILDING - DAY

Inside a building, a crowd of citizens run as an AIM shuttle opens fire into the building. As this happens, two of the armours fire their repulsors at the shuttle. They then fly behind and blast the hover engines, causing the shuttle to spin out and crash into the ground. The two armours then work together to rip open a large hole in the wall of the building.

JARVIS
Please step out of the building now.

The citizens then rush out of the building through the hole in the wall.

EXT. NEW YORK BUILDING - DAY

On a different building, Extremis soldiers that are climbing up the wall and breathing fire into the building are blasted off by passing armours. Three soldiers leap onto the same armour and start attacking it, causing it to crash into a nearby wall. Behind this altercation, another building explodes from several Extremis soldiers detonating themselves.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

Hulk punches an Extremis soldier, sending him flying. Several others throw fireballs at him, causing Hulk to put up his arms to deflect the blasts. He then swings his left arm back, backhanding another soldier who crashes into a wall. Hulk then grabs two other soldiers and smashes their heads together before roaring. Two AIM shuttles then fly towards Hulk.
INT. AIM SHUTTLE - DAY

The AIM operative flying one of the shuttles presses a button on his console.

AIM OPERATIVE #6
Engaging Hulk. Shuttle Four, provide crossfire.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

The two AIM shuttles, one on each side of the Hulk, fire their lasers at him. Hulk roars as the lasers sear his flesh. Hulk then leaps into the air towards the first shuttle.

INT. AIM SHUTTLE - DAY

The AIM operative flying the shuttle sits back.

AIM OPERATIVE #6
Mayday!

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

The Hulk lands on the shuttle’s front window, smashing it and causing the shuttle to crash on the ground. The second shuttle continues to fire its lasers at the Hulk’s back. Hulk stuffs his fist into the first shuttle and then swings it around, smashing the front end of the second shuttle. Hulk then drags the first shuttle towards a handful of Extremis soldiers and uses it to brutally beat them.

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - DAY

Tony, in the Mark Forty-Two armour, flies up to the New York skyline. He hovers in place, watching as two buildings in flames crumble to the ground. He also sees dozens of armours and AIM shuttles fighting in the city.

TONY
Jarvis, give me an update.

JARVIS
The amount of enemy targets is quite staggering, sir. AIM shuttles and Extremis soldiers are overwhelming the armours. Marks Thirteen, Twenty-Two and Twenty-Nine are down, with more on the verge of collapsing.
INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony looks at the HUD. He then starts to seize up.

TONY
Jarvis....

JARVIS
Sir, you are just experiencing another anxiety attack.

Tony's view then swaps between seeing Chitauri and seeing Extremis soldiers.

TONY
Jarvis.... help....

JARVIS
Just breathe, sir.

TONY
It's all coming back to me....

JARVIS
Sir! Listen to me! The city is under attack. The people of New York need your help. If you don't act now, the Mandarin wins.

Tony breathes in deeply. He then closes his eyes and reopens them.

JARVIS
The world needs Iron Man.

TONY
Then let's go.

JARVIS
Excellent, sir.

TONY
How's Banner?

JARVIS
Doctor Banner is doing quite well. He seems to be enjoying himself.

TONY
Good.
JARVIS
As well, I would recommend focusing your efforts on the Tower. Several shuttles and soldiers seem intent on taking it down. If Avengers Tower falls, I will no longer be able to assist you.

TONY
Well, I wouldn't want to be out your delicious nachos, now would I?

JARVIS
I thought not, sir.

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - DAY
Tony flies towards the city.

EXT. AVENGERS TOWER - DAY
Four AIM shuttles begin opening fire into Avengers Tower, as well as dozens of Extremis soldiers who leap off the shuttles or are climbing up the walls. Three armours fly up to engage the enemies. One Extremis soldier gets blasted off the tower, while another tosses a fireball that sears one of the armours. Tony then flies by and uses his wrist laser, damaging several Extremis soldiers and cutting one of the hover engines on one of the AIM shuttles.

EXT. NEW YORK BUILDING ROOF - DAY
The Mandarin sees Tony attacking his forces.

MANDARIN
He's here. Killian, bring him to me.

Killian nods and then enters his AIM shuttle.

EXT. AVENGERS TOWER - DAY
Tony uses a repulsor blast on an AIM shuttle, with little effect.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY
Tony furrows his brow.

TONY
Jarvis, I need Heartbreaker.
JARVIS
Very well sir.

EXT. AVENGERS TOWER - DAY

The Mark Forty-Two armour ejects Tony, and the Mark Seventeen leaps into his trajectory and forms around him. Tony then lands on the Avengers Tower roof and aims his unibeam at one of the AIM shuttles.

TONY
Full power to enhanced unibeam!

The unibeam fires from Tony's chest, much larger than any previous unibeam. The unibeam completely disintegrates the AIM shuttle it was aimed at, and also burns off a large portion of another shuttle. Killian's shuttle then arrives, and Killian leaps out of it. Tony turns to him as Killian tosses a fireball that knocks Tony back. Tony and Killian then stare each other down.

KILLIAN
So, here we are.... on the roof.

TONY
It's over, Killian.

KILLIAN
New York is burning, Tony. Eventually you'll run out of armours. There's no shame in giving up.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony narrows his eyes.

TONY
Yes there is. I told you before, Killian.... I'm going to stop you.

EXT. AVENGERS TOWER - DAY

Killian shrugs. He then then sneers at Tony. He then charges at Tony, who charges at him in return. Killian then stops and unleashes a massive fire blast from his mouth. Tony is stunned by the fire blast as Killian charges a chop with his flames, which connects with Tony's shoulder. Killian then uses a palm punch on Tony's chest, knocking him back. As Killian swings for a hook, Tony equips his wrist blade, and slices Killian's left arm off.

KILLIAN
Argh!

Killian reels back as Tony fires a repulsor blast at
Killian's head. Killian's face splits open, revealing the muscles on his face burning and healing at the same time. Killian scowls and emits another fire blast, which Tony dodges. Killian rolls to the side and elbows Tony, stopping his movement. Killian then watches as his arm finishes regrowing.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony has a concerned look on his face.

TONY

He's too fast. I need Mark Forty.

JARVIS

Right away, sir.

EXT. AVENGERS TOWER - DAY

Killian knocks Tony to the floor, near the edge of the roof. He then prepares to punch down.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony looks at the HUD.

TONY

Eject!

EXT. AVENGERS TOWER - DAY

The armour ejects Tony as Killian's fist connects with the center of the armour. Killian looks down with a confused look for a moment before looking back up. Tony falls off the tower for a few moments before Mark Forty latches onto his body. Tony quickly boosts up, uppercutting Killian on the chin, causing him to fall on his back. Killian quickly recovers.

TONY

Round two.

Tony uses the shoulder boosts on Mark Forty to quickly dodge left and right as Killian tosses fireballs. Tony kicks at Killian, but Killian catches the kick and throws Tony over him. Tony uses his rockets to stop himself from landing, and quickly turns around and fires a rocket at Killian. Killian leaps into the air to dodge the rocket before attempting to hit Tony with a downward fist. Tony uses his shoulder boosts to dodge backwards. Tony fires both of his repulsors, but Killian uses barrel rolls to dodge them. Killian grabs hold of one of Tony's arms and charges a chop, but Tony allows his arm to fall out as Killian cuts off the armour's arm. Killian quickly uses the armour's severed arm to whack Tony over the head. Tony fires off a quick unibeam blast which knocks Killian back. Killian then grabs at Tony's chest, and
rips the armour open as Tony falls out of it. Killian walks forward as Tony crawls on the floor.

TONY
Agh....

Killian slowly walks towards Tony. Tony juts out his arm, but Killian steps on it.

KILLIAN
It's over, Stark.

TONY
For once.... I agree.

Killian looks over to see the Mark Forty-Two flying towards him. Killian's eyes widen as the Mark Forty-Two then forms around his body.

KILLIAN
What.... is this....

TONY
This is for Maya. Jarvis.... do me a favour and blow Mark Forty-Two.

KILLIAN
No....!

Killian screams as the face-mask locks onto Killian's head. Tony leaps off of Avengers Tower as the Mark Forty-Two explodes. The Mark Thirty-Three then latches onto Tony and forms around him. He then blasts off and lands on the roof where the Mandarin is. The Mandarin is sitting on a throne, with his hands folded.

TONY
You.

MANDARIN
Indeed. It is I.

TONY
It's over. You lost.

MANDARIN
Did I? Then who won? Your military is scattered. Your citizens cower in fear. Your armours fight a losing battle as New York burns. How does it feel.... to know that I've been ahead of you this entire time, Stark? Who commanded the forces of the Ten Rings during Stane's takeover? Who assisted (MORE)
MANDARIN (CONT'D)
Justin Hammer to break out Ivan Vanko? Who is the one who is feared across the entire first world? I.... the Mandarin. It's always been me, Stark, ever since the beginning.

TONY
I'm going to kill you for what happened to Happy.

MANDARIN
And then what, Stark? I have allies and spies everywhere. If you kill me, you'll just create a martyr. My followers will find you and butcher your friends while America burns to the ground. You don't understand at all. I won this war before it began.

Tony screams and then leaps forward at the Mandarin. The Mandarin lifts his hand, and one of his rings begins to glow. Tony then gets frozen in place in the air, and starts to struggle to move.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY
Tony struggles to move.

TONY
This isn't possible....

EXT. NEW YORK BUILDING ROOF - DAY
Mandarin then flicks his hand, and Tony flies up into the air before slamming to the ground. Tony struggles to lift himself.

TONY
How did you.... those rings....

Mandarin smiles.

MANDARIN
You're not the only one who is friends with a god.

Mandarin then aims his other hand, and one of the rings fires a massive energy blast, knocking Tony to the edge of the roof. Tony grabs hold and clambers back up as the Mandarin laughs.
MANDARIN
So much for being the master of technology, Stark.

TONY
Those rings.... where did you get them?

MANDARIN
Where else? The stars, Stark.

TONY
But.... how.... eh, it doesn't matter! You may have some good tech, but you're still going down.

MANDARIN
And how are you going to accomplish that?

The Hulk roars and then leaps onto the roof next to Stark.

HULK
Hulk smash stupid magician!

TONY
He's going to help. Go get him, Hulk.

Hulk roars and runs at the Mandarin. The Mandarin aims his hand again, and a different ring glows. The Hulk stops for a moment as a green mist forms around the Hulk's head.

TONY
Hulk?

The Hulk's eyes change colour to blood-red, and he then clenches his teeth before turning to Tony.

TONY
Bruce?

MANDARIN
Your head might be covered, Stark, but his isn't. Hulk.... destroy Iron Man.

The Hulk roars.

HULK
Hulk smash Iron Man!
INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony's eyes widen.

TONY

Oh shit.

EXT. NEW YORK BUILDING ROOF - DAY

The Hulk charges at Tony as he blasts off. The Hulk punches down at the roof, breaking off a large section. Tony flies towards the tower and Hulk leaps, landing on the tower wall. He then starts to climb up the wall, chasing Tony.

TONY

Jarvis! Activate the Gamma Emergency Protocol! I need Mark Thirty-Eight right now!

JARVIS

Right away sir.

Tony flies up and then into the tower. Hulk leaps and lands inside.

INT. AVENGERS TOWER: IRON MAN ROOM - DAY

Hulk looks around the room. He narrows his eyes and he sniffs. After a moment, a loud charging noise is heard. Hulk looks forward

HULK

Huh?

The wall in front of Hulk explodes, knocking him back. As the dust clears, Hulk looks forward to see Tony wearing the Mark Thirty-Eight.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony's HUD lights up.

JARVIS

Mark Thirty-Eight, designation 'Hulkbuster', activated, sir.

INT. AVENGERS TOWER: HULK ROOM - DAY

The Mark Thirty-Eight punches its fists together twice. The Hulk roars.

TONY

C'mon Banner, I know you can hear me. Stop this.

The Hulk roars again before charging at Tony. Tony puts his
arms in front of him, blocking the Hulk's punch. Tony hits Hulk with a left hook, before Hulk counters with a haymaker that Tony dodges. The rocket boosters on Tony's back then light up, and Tony blasts forward, dealing a double kick that knocks the Hulk out the window.

EXT. AVENGERS TOWER - DAY

As the Hulk falls, he reaches out to grab the wall of Avengers Tower, but is unable to get a solid grip and crashes onto the road. He slowly starts to pick himself up, before Tony abruptly lands on his back. The Hulk roars in pain.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony shouts.

TONY
Dammit, Banner, listen to me!

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

The Hulk struggles as Tony stamps down on the back of his head.

TONY
This isn't you! The Mandarin's done something to your mind! Let me....

HULK
No more talk! Hulk smash!

Hulk punches the ground with both fists, knocking Tony off balance. Hulk quickly gets up and grabs Tony by one of his legs, swinging him around as he smashes into a marble pillar on a nearby building. Tony quickly recovers and charges Hulk, powering a punch with an elbow rocket booster. The punch connects with Hulk's face, knocking him back. Tony then slams both of his fists against Hulk's skull, stunning him. Tony then throws another punch that connects with the front of Hulk's face, sending him tumbling backwards. The Hulk slowly starts to pick himself up.

TONY
Banner? Can you hear me?

The Hulk looks over at Tony with clenched teeth and blood-red eyes. He then leaps up and smacks his palms together, making a shockwave that stuns Tony. Hulk quickly grabs Tony and starts punching him repeatedly in the chest.
INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony winces as his helmet shakes from the sheer force of the Hulk's blows.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

The Hulk picks up Tony and starts attempting to pull the armour apart. Tony screams in pain. Tony then quickly fires both of his repulsors, breaking the Hulk's grip. After a brief moment, Hulk charges, and Tony blasts into the air. As Tony prepares to deliver a downward punch, Hulk grabs Tony's arm and swings him down, slamming him against the ground.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony winces.

    TONY
    Ugh!

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

Tony is lifted up by the Hulk again as he tosses him away. Tony crashes into the road, and Hulk picks up a nearby car which he throws at Tony. Tony blasts the car apart with his repulsors, but as he does, Hulk charges him and shoulder bashes him in the chest, sending Tony careening down the street, ripping the road apart. Tony sits in the wreckage, stunned, as the Hulk slowly walks towards him.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony opens his eyes slowly to see the Hulk walking towards him.

    TONY
    I'm.... sorry.... Bruce....

Tony then shakes his head.

    TONY
    Wait a minute....

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

As the Hulk prepares to slam both of his fists down, Tony fires both of his repulsors at Hulk's face. Hulk reels back, and Tony leaps into the air before activating his rocket boosters. Tony flies into the air as Hulk roars at him. Hulk then leaps onto the nearest building and starts to climb it.
EXT. NEW YORK BUILDING ROOF - DAY

Tony lands on the Mandarin's roof.

MANDARIN
Back for more, Stark?

Mandarin fires a laser from one of his rings, which Tony deflects with his arms. Mandarin then aims his other hand, and a force field holds Tony still. Despite this, Tony struggles and steps forward with great difficulty.

MANDARIN
Submit!

Tony takes another step.

MANDARIN
Submit!

Tony takes another step. The Hulk leaps and lands behind Tony. Hulk reaches around Tony's neck and grabs hold, trying to pull him back. Despite all this, Tony takes another step.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony clenches his teeth as the HUD scrambles.

EXT. NEW YORK BUILDING ROOF - DAY

The Mandarin steps up and fires a beam at Tony's chest. The beam rips a large hole in the front of the Mark Thirty-Eight, revealing the arc reactor.

MANDARIN
Goodbye, Iron Man.

The Mandarin's laser ring begins to glow again, but Tony activates his boosters, leaping forward. Tony then grips both of the Mandarin's hands in his.

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY

Tony stares forward.

TONY
This is for Happy.
EXT. NEW YORK BUILDING ROOF - DAY

Tony squeezes his hands, crushing the Mandarin's hands. The Mandarin screams in agony. The Hulk's eyes return to their normal colour, and he lets go of Tony, appearing dazed. Tony then lifts the Mandarin by his broken hands and tosses him against the wall behind him. The Mandarin collapses as his rings fall to the floor. Tony then steps on and crushes the Mandarin's throne.

HULK
Hulk.... smash?

TONY
Don't worry, Hulk. It's over.

The Mandarin looks up at Tony with disdain before he collapses.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

The Mandarin is seen being carted into a SHIELD van. Tony stands watching, alongside Bruce. Tony then looks away to see Pepper and Rhodes walking up. Pepper smiles and runs towards Tony, embracing him. Tony looks at Rhodes, who nods. Tony closes his eyes as she holds Pepper, and the screen fades. As this happens, an UNKNOWN REPORTER is heard.

UNKNOWN REPORTER (V.O.)
As the climactic battle between the armours of Tony Stark and the forces of the Mandarin ends, the Mandarin's army have been seen in full retreat. The President estimates that nearly all of the invasion force will be either dead or captured within eighteen hours....

EXT. BLACKNESS - UNKNOWN

Tony's voice is heard.

TONY (V.O.)
And so.... as the next morning began, my journey had reached its end.

INT. BERN HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Maya sits at her desk.

TONY (V.O.)
You start with something pure.
EXT. BERN HOTEL ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Killian stares into the sky.

TONY (V.O.)
Something exciting.

INT. VICE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE - DAY

Rodriguez is arrested and being carried out by two police officers as Rhodes watches.

TONY (V.O.)
Then, comes the mistakes....

INT. AIM FACILITY #2 - DAY

SWAT teams hold up and arrest several AIM operatives.

TONY (V.O.)
....the compromises.

INT. THE VAULT - DAY

The Mandarin is walked down the corridor of the Vault, one of SHIELD's prisons. He has bandages covering his entire hands. He is then placed in a cell.

TONY (V.O.)
We create our own demons....

INT. THE VAULT: STORAGE AREA - DAY

One of the SHIELD agents carries a box with the Mandarin's rings in it. He then places it on a shelf in the storage area amongst other weapons and items.

TONY (V.O.)
....we have to live with them....

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Tony, Bruce, Pepper, Rhodes and other gather around Happy's coffin at his funeral.

TONY (V.O.)
....and the consequences they make.
EXT. MALIBU HOUSE: DESTROYED - DAY

Tony walks up to the remnants of the Malibu House. He stands at the edge, staring into the ocean.

TONY (V.O.)
I only realize now that is was never my armour that made me who I was. I was never defined by what I had, or what I knew.... but what I did.

Tony opens his shirt to reveal the arc reactor. He then takes a moment to look at it.

TONY (V.O.)
Like I once told a good friend of mine.... my power is a terrible privilege. But it's mine, and mine alone.

Tony then buttons up his shirt and turns around.

TONY (V.O.)
So, if I was to wrap this up, tie it with a bow, whatever.... I'd say that I'm now a changed man.

Tony steps into his car.

TONY (V.O.)
You can take away my house.... all my tricks and toys.... but one thing you can't take away....

EXT. BLACKNESS - UNKNOWN

Tony's voice is heard.

TONY (V.O.)
I am Iron Man.

CREDITS

INT. AVENGERS TOWER: IRON MAN ROOM - DAY

Bruce is seen sitting on his laptop.

JARVIS
Commencing Mark Thirty-Nine test.

BRUCE
This was the other experimental armour, right?
TONY (O.S.)
Yup.

BRUCE
Adjust capacitors by ten point six.

TONY (O.S.)
Okay. Jarvis?

JARVIS
Already done, sir.

A phone ringing noise is heard.

JARVIS
Incoming call from Ms. Potts.

BRUCE
Put it through.

PEPPER (O.S.)
Tony? You there?

BRUCE
Hi Pep, it's me.

PEPPER (O.S.)
Hi Bruce! You doing okay?

BRUCE
Yeah.... just making sure I don't break any.... more things.

PEPPER (O.S.)
Is Tony there?

INT. IRON MAN HELMET - DAY
Tony looks at the HUD as Pepper's face appears on the video phone screen.

TONY
Hey, Pepper.

PEPPER
You didn't forget our dinner, right?

TONY
No.... no.... not at all. I'll be there....
PEPPER

Late?

EXT. OUTER ORBIT - DAY

Tony is seen in the Mark Thirty-Nine, 'Starboost' armour, flying in space, with Earth in background.

TONY

Maybe by a half-hour or so.

FADE OUT.