

Mahlen
by
Justin R. Durban

Rev. 7

Justin R. Durban
105 Morning Cloud Cove
Lakeway, TX 78734
justin@justindurban.com

INT. HIDDEN BUNKER

ELIZABETH, an attractive woman in her early 30's stands trembling in a cold and dimly lit bunker. She looks to her hand holding a small piece of paper that reads... (V.O.)

"ELIZABETH, I LOVE YOU. I ALWAYS HAVE AND ALWAYS WILL. I'M SORRY I HAD TO LEAVE AS IT HAS BECOME TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU. I HOPE YOU WILL FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO FORGIVE ME.

STAY STRONG. STAY ALIVE. I'M ALMOST THERE. I FOUND THE CURE. YOU'RE CURE.

-Robert"

Her eyes well with tears.

Reluctantly, she opens a small wooden box and can't help but to let out a smile as she looks at the contents inside.

A loud crash erupts behind her as the bunker is suddenly raided and surrounded by aggressive militant soldiers dressed in all black.

FADE OUT.

TITLE: "MAHLEN"

INT. KITCHEN

Elizabeth effortlessly moves around the kitchen preparing a gourmet meal.

She stops briefly, presses her hand against her head and shakes off another migraine headache.

She puts the finishing touches on her masterpiece and sets it on the counter. Her body trembles as she places the plate on the counter.

She glides her hand over an electronic intercom and it lights up with a soft blue-green glow. She leans closer and speaks softly...

ELIZABETH

Honey...

No one responds from the intercom. She glides her hand over the intercom again.

ELIZABETH

Robert? Honey?

The intercom flashes intermittently with no audible response. She flips on the video feed only to see an empty office. She takes off her apron and leans into the intercom.

ELIZABETH

Robert, I'm beginning to think your work is more important than me. Please don't make me come bring dinner to you again. Robert?

Silence. She becomes worried and verges on the angry side as she feels ignored. She throws down the apron and storms out of the kitchen.

INT. HOUSE

Soldiers dressed in all black storm into a house and disperse in all directions.

EXT. SKYWALK

Elizabeth charges down the skywalk and through an adjacent door. Just as she walks through the door, A spacecraft roars into position just above.

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE

Elizabeth opens the door only to find an uncomfortable silence. The office is in disarray with papers scattered everywhere. One monitor blinks with a message:

"MAHLEN INDUSTRIES. DOWNLOAD COMPLETE"

Elizabeth inches forward cautiously.

ELIZABETH

Robert?

INT. KITCHEN

The soldiers storm through the kitchen and make their way around the corner infiltrating every inch of the house.

A distinctively marked Lead Soldier stops and views the video feed. Elizabeth is walking toward the computer monitors.

The Lead Solider confirms his orders over his telcom:

LEAD SOLDIER
Proceed to objective... Find them.

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE

Elizabeth leans in to touch the keys of the computer when a hand swiftly covers her face and she is turned around face to face with her husband, ROBERT who is in his mid 30's.

ROBERT
Shhhh.. It's me.

Robert hits a few keys and shuts down the computer.

ELIZABETH
Robert!? What's going on?

Robert gathers a few things here and there and shoves them into his backpack. He flips open a golden pocket watch and checks the time.

ROBERT
They are here for me. This time you have to go without me.

ELIZABETH
No, we can do this together.

Elizabeth trembles and begins to pace back and forth.

ELIZABETH
The time I do have, Robert... I want to spend it with you.

EXT. SKYWALK

The soldiers storm across the skywalk as additional spacecraft form in the distance surrounding the house.

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE

ROBERT
This is it. The last component. The missing metal I need to complete the molecular terra-forming.
(Beat)
Understand that it's not something that can be shipped in the mail.

ELIZABETH
I can go with you.

Elizabeth's eyes shutter and she drops down to her knees as her body is too weak to stand any longer.

Robert kneels down to the ground and comforts her pain.

ROBERT
Julius.

ELIZABETH
What about him?

ROBERT
Someone needs to be here for him. I can't take a little boy with me. He's safer here with you.

She curls her body twisted and warped in her own thoughts.

ROBERT
Listen, I want you and Julius to come with me more than anything in the world.

The soldiers begin slamming on the door outside. Robert helps her off the ground and pulls away a painting on the wall to reveal a hidden escape hatch.

ROBERT
They're here. Quickly, you have to go. Trust me. They're not going to hurt either of you. Tell Julius that his daddy loves him and will back real soon.

Elizabeth is taken back. She starts to cry.

ELIZABETH
Robert, I don't understand. What more do they want from us?

ROBERT
Not US... This.
(points to his brain)

Robert pulls out a small wooden box and gives it to her.

ROBERT
No matter what happens to me, keep this safe. I love you so much, Elizabeth.

Robert brushes back her hair and pulls her in close as the chaos outside the door intensifies as the plasma cutters continue to rip a hole in the door.

He leans and kisses her goodbye. He places a note in her hand and closes her fist.

With a few switches on the wall control panel, he opens one of two secret hatches and helps her inside.

ELIZABETH

Please, come back to me. Be safe.

Robert smiles and waves his hands over the controls to the hatch. The elevator door closes her in.

ELIZABETH

Robert! I Lo--

The sound of a fallen heavy steel door crashes down and the room erupts into a violent explosion of tear gas and flash bombs.

Lights flash by Elizabeth as she rides the small elevator.

FADE OUT.

INT. HIDDEN BUNKER

...Continued

Elizabeth's eyes well with tears.

Reluctantly, she opens a small wooden box and can't help but to let out a smile as she looks at the contents inside.

A loud crash erupts behind her as the bunker is suddenly raided and surrounded by aggressive militant soldiers dressed in all black.

She pulls out a small photograph along with a silver "wristwatch" from the box.

The soldiers storm in one by one surrounding Elizabeth's position. The radio chatter fades away.

The photograph shows Robert and Elizabeth at the beach and their small child JULIUS laughing and playing with a big RED ball.

One soldier steps forward...

LEAD SOLDIER
Mrs. Cristo... Where is he?

Elizabeth realizes the soldiers never found Robert. She hides the photograph and wristwatch, turns to the soldier and smiles.

ELIZABETH
I haven't seen him for days.

The Lead soldier thrusts his face into hers and lifts his mask. He grabs her chin tightly. Elizabeth withstands the pain and recognizes the man.

ELIZABETH
Dr. Mahlen? We.. We trusted you.
Robert gave his life to your firm.
His time, his brilliance. The
experiments you are doing to those
people is wrong. Where's your
compassion?

The Soldier slowly walks around her.

LEAD SOLDIER
Look around you. The world around
us is failing. Millions of people,
entire civilizations... Dying.

I read your report, Elizabeth. How
many weeks do you have to live?
One? Maybe two?

Elizabeth tries to hold it all in.

LEAD SOLDIER
I *will* hunt him down and he will
die knowing his wife and son
suffered a slow, irreversible, and
above all... A natural death.

Our technology should be shared
with the world, Elizabeth.

Not One.
(Points to her)

The Lead Soldier marches away and gives a nod to another soldier. The other soldier gestures an order with his hands to another soldier.

She pulls out the picture and whispers to herself.

ELIZABETH

I love you too, Robert.

Elizabeth looks out a window only to see her getaway craft.

Above the ocean in the distance, Robert's space ship rockets safely away above the clouds.

//end