

Dark Matter

"MAY OLE ACQUAINTANCES BE FORGOT...?"

by  
Justin Golding

Season One Episode One

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TEASER:

EXT. ZONE 4 TOWER 3. NANTONG, CHINA - PRESENT DAY.

Chinese soldiers stand guard on a tower. At the bottom there is a road block. Behind them shining in the afternoon sun is a beautiful modern city.

In front a sparkling, flashing energy field that changes colours - blue, green, red, yellow to a beat nobody else can hear. The energy field has a quality and texture that looks like a child's liquid bubble.

The guards face away from the city and keep a watchful eye on the shield. It is clear that the Shield is the danger and not the city.

A section of the colourful, reflective energy field starts to darken. One of the soldiers notice this change and gives his buddy a nudge.

SOLDIER  
(In Mandarin)  
Look.

SOLDIER1  
What?

The soldier points. They both stare for a few beats before getting on their com-links.

INT. COMMAND CENTER - MIR TOWER.

This is a large room filled with military and civilian personnel, who are monitoring the city and the energy shield.

There are numerous TV monitors. From all the visual information on display, we discover that the city is Nantong and the city has been broken down into 9 Zones.

In every Zone there are numerous guard towers. As we go from monitor to monitor we can see that the towers surround the entire city inside the shield.

On the big screen in the center of the Command Center, we get our first clue that the city is completely enclosed within the shield.

SOLDIER

Command. This is Zone 4. Tower 3.  
Come in.

OPERATOR

Operator 2.7. Here. What can I do  
for you tower 3.

SOLDIER

Are you picking up the change in  
the shield's colour?

OPERATOR

Hold.

The Operator moves one of the cameras in that sector to get a  
better view.

EXT. ZONE 4. TOWER 3.

The blackness is now leaking through the wall and starts  
forming as a cloud. It moves towards the guard's tower. It is  
growing fast enough that the naked eye can see it grow.

SOLDIER

Please advise. Cloud is approaching  
tower.

OPERATOR

Hold. Sir.

Wendy Ling (30's) Weapons Master, unconventionally beautiful  
and confident, turns.

WEAPONS MASTER

Yes.

OPERATOR

We have a situation in Zone 4.

WEAPONS MASTER

Put it on the main screen.

Zone 4. Tower 3. Appears on the Command's main screen.

SOLDIER

Orders?

WEAPONS MASTER

Advise gas masks.

OPERATOR

Gas Masks.

We watch on the main screen, as the soldiers scramble to put on their gas masks. The cloud creeps forward and looks like it is reaching out to the men.

The soldier who first spotted the cloud gets his mask on, but his friend is not so fortunate. The black cloud enters through his mouth and nose. His buddy tries to help him with the mask but it is too late.

The cloud doesn't stay in him, but starts coming out his ears, eyes and through the skin pores all over his body. The cloud consumes the soldiers body and as it crumbles it feeds the cloud, which grows bigger..

WEAPONS MASTER

Evacuate Zone 4. Office and residential. Raise the Quartermaster and have him distribute every gas mask we have in stock.

The soldier is in shock over what has happened to his buddy.

Ling grabs the Com from the Operator.

WEAPONS MASTER (CONT'D)

Move Soldier. That's an order.

SOLDIER

Yes, sir.

I/E. BUILDINGS/STREETS.

People are running from office building, from small stores, apartment and houses.

There are soldiers on loud-speakers making public announcements.

SOLDIER2

Citizens of Zone 4 must evacuate immediately. Leave all possessions behind. You must leave immediately.

We can see the black cloud above the running people. The cloud seeps into the buildings and down into the street.

Some people are not fast enough. Soldiers are trying to help the old or the very young. One soldier even gives his gas mask to a young boy as he helps get out of the area.

INT. COMMAND CENTER.

OPERATOR

The cloud has spread from the shield to the center of Zone 4.

On the screen we see soldiers firing a flame thrower at the cloud. The cloud explodes as a part of it catches fire, but it follows the flame back to the soldiers exploding the flamethrowers tank.

WEAPONS MASTER

Cease attack with fire. Contact Professor Mir. We will need his help.

An aid makes the call to the professor.

OPERATOR1

Weapons Master, you should see this.

WEAPONS MASTER

Busy.

OPERATOR1

Sir.

WEAPONS MASTER

What?

The evacuation scenes are replaced on the big screen with another shot of the shield from another sector. Something is coming through the shield. The cone shape of what looks like a plane is coming through the flashing shield.

The room becomes silent as they watch the birth of the craft. Steam is coming off of its surface that looks like it is made of liquid silver. It is clear from the black scars that the craft has been in a recent fight.

The seamless surface cracks and a hatch opens. A human in a full flight suit exits, or more correctly, falls out of the cockpit. The person collapses to the ground and does not move.

WEAPONS MASTER (CONT'D)

Have Sergeant Li meet me at the gates with a full detail.

OPERATOR1

Sir.

ACT I

INT. PROFESSOR LUI MIR'S LAB - MIR TOWER.

Lui Mir (80's) and his granddaughter Shan Lui (20's) are working close together as they run through some complicated formulas.

The pages they are working from float digitally in front of them and seem to make a maze within the room. They walk between the pages reorganizing or pulling small or large sections of codes to place on their white board.

PROF. MIR

That is interesting Shan, but we have proven that this part of the code represents the function of the Wormhole.

SHAN

Yes, grandfather, but combined with these two other pieces...

She touches the digital pages and highlights the strings of code she wants. At the bottom of the page she is highlighting is a hand written note:

HAPPY HUNTING, LOVE MOM.

SHAN (CONT'D)

Coeus, put the codes highlighted on the board.

COEUS

On the White board.

Coeus is a voice activated computer.

Prof. Mir and Shan walk over to the white board to consider Shan's theory.

SHAN

Thank you Coeus. This code has allowed you to bring tech devices from other universes...combined with these codes...

PROF. MIR

You think will allow humans to travel to the other dimensions. Hmm. Interesting.

SHAN

Exactly. Once outside Nantong, in another dimension, we could walk outside the shield.

PROF. MIR

That is supposing there is no energy field in the other dimension.

SHAN

That is correct. If there is no energy field surrounding the city. We could travel outside of the boundaries and then come back to our own dimension.

PROF. MIR

It is a good theory. The code before us might send a human, but we have no navigational control for where we are going.

SHAN

It does not matter, which dimension as long as there is no energy field around the city.

PROF. MIR

Correct, but then how do we return. We could spend a life time jumping between the dimensions trying to find our home.

SHAN

Yes, we would be blind. I have not been able to identify any part of the code that could work as a guidance system.

PROF. MIR

I have been studying the code for fifty years and know only a fraction of it's mysteries.

COEUS

Sorry to interrupt Professor Mir, you have an urgent call coming through.

PROF. MIR

Patch it through.

The Aids face appears on a big screen on the wall.

AID  
Professor Mir. The Weapons Master  
has a need of your assistance.

PROF. MIR  
I'm in the middle of...

AID  
A black poisonous cloud has entered  
Zone 4 through the energy field.

PROF. MIR  
How interesting.

AID  
It continues to grow and if  
unchecked it will infect Zones one  
through nine within forty-eight  
hours.

PROF. MIR  
Oh dear. I'll be with you  
momentarily.

The call disconnects.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
Shan, send out the micro drones.  
I'll need to gather information on  
this cloud.

SHAN  
Yes grandfather.

EXT. NANTONG STREETS.

Ling is with the military detail going to investigate the craft that arrived through the shield. Crowds of people are rushing past them in the opposite direction.

They turn the corner and the ship is ahead of them. The pilot's body is still unmoving on the floor. With hand signals from Ling the soldier's take up flanking positions and start advancing on the craft.

The pilot does not move when they approach. Ling sends four of her men to investigate the craft, whilst she checks out the pilot.

Carefully working on the pilots helmet she looks for the latch so she can remove it from his head. After a few attempts she finds the latch and removes the helmet.

It reveals, Daniel Manningham (30's) a good looking but weary face.

WEAPONS MASTER

Call the techies, they are going to want to look at that craft. And get a med wagon for our mystery man.

SOLDIER

Yes...

The soldier is unable to finish as he has been thrown half way down the street. Ling looks to find the attacker. What she sees can't be easily explained. It is a life-force that is constantly shifting and changing it's body shape.

The entity is in constant flux. The changes don't seem to be random, because as her soldiers attack, it is able to change it's size, height and width to help counter the attacks.

It is like a mythical shape shifter that can change in a blink of an eye and it is not restricted by mere mammal shapes.

Ling's men are getting heavily beaten. Her own gun has no effect on this constantly changing shape. Once it has dealt with her men, the shape advances on the unconscious man. Ling puts herself in its path.

COMMAND CENTER.

Professor Mir is watching the big screen. Shan's voice can be heard over the Com.

SHAN

5 metres, 3 metres, 1 metre...

We watch the small flying drones enter the black cloud. The cloud is not only killing people it is now devouring buildings.

SHAN (CONT'D)

Drones have now entered the cloud.

Professor Mir, working from his Ipad starts pulling up different screens. The big screen in the command center splits and a data stream fills half of the screen.

PROF. MIR  
Information from the drones is  
being received.

Looking over the data being received, he starts creating  
tables and molecule structures from the information being  
received.

AID  
What can we do to destroy it?

PROF. MIR  
One moment.

He finishes his brief investigation.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
The cloud is a highly complex  
combination of many different  
elements, some of which we can not  
identify.

AID  
What can we do?

PROF. MIR  
Over time, I'm sure I could find a  
mixture of compounds to neutralize  
or destroy this cloud, but it would  
take months if not years.

The Aid and the room are shocked by this news.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
You said the cloud was able to pass  
through the shield?

AID  
Yes.

PROF. MIR  
That is good news. The structural  
integrity of the molecules that  
hold this cloud together are weak.

AID  
So we can destroy it.

PROF. MIR  
No. As we can not leave the Zones,  
we must remove the cloud from the  
Zone.

AID

If we can't destroy it then how...

Professor Mir holds up his finger for silence.

PROF. MIR

Shan?

SHAN

Yes grandfather?

PROF. MIR

We need the amplifier machine that arrived from Sector 7.

SHAN

I'm already retrieving it.

EXT. NANTONG STREETS.

The shape is about to take out Ling when one of her soldiers jumps on its back. To shake the soldier, the shape starts changing shape and size rapidly, but the guy holds on bravely.

Ling looks for a way to help and sees the gun on the mystery guy's waist. Getting it, she aims and fires. This weapon has an affect on The Shape.

It doesn't fire one bullet. It sprays five beams of light that hits The Shape. Each beam of light hits different parts of The Shape's body and fires other beams of light to connect all five points together in a grid.

No matter what alterations the Shape makes the grid remains intact. Once the grid web is stable it pulses three times changing in colour from Blue, to green, to red and then explodes.

It pushes The Shape and unfortunately the soldier into the energy field.

The silence after the battle is filled with the groans of the injured soldiers. The force of the explosion has pushed Ling onto her back. Her eyes are on the sky and she sees one of Professor Mir's large drones go by.

WEAPONS MASTER

Not your average day.

EXT. NANTONG STREETS. ZONE 4.

The cloud is still growing and people are desperately trying to escape it. We see the cloud devouring whole crowds of civilians and there is nothing the soldiers can do about it.

INT. COMMAND CENTER.

Shan has joined her grandfather in the command center.

AID

Professor Mir, the cloud is growing  
at a faster rate than we could...

Again he holds up his finger for silence.

On the big screen, we see five drones taking up positions in front of the cloud. The under bellies open and a small object is lowered by a mechanical arm.

The object on closer inspection looks like a small hand-held battery operated fan, but it looks way cooler.

Another robotic arm descends from the body of the drone and places an object in front of the fan. It is a small hoop that looks like an Indian Dream Catcher

The fan's blades start spinning with different light codes flashing up and down the base. This kicks off a reaction from the Dream hoop, which also starts flashing all kinds of light codes.

After a few moments, the light codes on the fan and hoop sync to black. The small breeze the fan is making going through the hoop is amplified to the power of a gale force wind.

AID (CONT'D)

How will this destroy the cloud?

PROF. MIR

I'm not trying to destroy the  
cloud. I am trying to move it.

AID

Move it?

PROF. MIR

For all it's destructive force, it  
is still only a gas structure. We  
both cannot exist within the Zone,  
so one of us has to leave.

On the big screen, we see the Black Cloud being buffeted by the winds. It is no longer advancing, but it is not being pushed back.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
Shan, calibrate the settings to  
5.37.

Shan types the corrections into her Ipad.

SHAN  
5.37 And holding.

PROF. MIR  
Now watch.

The Aid and all the room watches.

The wind generated reaches the force of a hurricane. The cloud is beginning to get pushed back towards the energy field.

OPERATOR  
The cloud's speed has been reduced.  
It is almost like it is trying to  
fight against the wind.

PROF. MIR  
Interesting. There maybe an  
intelligent aspect to this cloud.

AID  
Does that change the outcome?

PROF. MIR  
No. Increase output to 6.00.

SHAN  
We've not tested it above 5.57  
grandfather.

PROF. MIR  
Yes, yes, but what is life without  
a little risk.

Shan makes the adjustments.

Whatever resistance the cloud had against the wind is broken. It is now being smoothly pushed back towards the shield. THEN, one of the hoops explodes, taking the drone's mechanical arm with it.

The cloud bursts through this area funneling its mass through this gap in the storm.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
Adjust the remaining drones to  
compensate

Shan hits a few symbols on her Ipad.

SHAN  
Adjusted angle to 0.25, from 0.20.

The clouds brief escape is blocked and once again it is being pushed back towards the shield. The first edge of the cloud hits the shield. There is a moment of resistance, but then it slides through the shield.

Within moments the cloud is completely gone. The room erupts in cheers.

OPERATOR  
The Zone's oxygen levels have been  
depleted by thirty-seven percent.

PROF. MIR  
Shan, send out the purifiers.

SHAN  
Yes, grandfather.

She punches a few more symbols on her Ipad and from the drones, small flying objects that hover like humming birds appear. They create a grid over Zone 4.

Once they are all in place Solar panels like a peacock's tail appear. With the energy from the sun, the machines start sucking the air into their bodies and sending the purified air back into the atmosphere.

PROF. MIR  
The oxygen levels should be  
returned to normal within an hour  
or so.

AID  
Thank you for your help Professor  
Mir.

The whole room stands and bows to the Professor. He pats the Aid on the shoulder.

PROF. MIR

I will be in my Lab, if you need  
me. Come along Shan. We still have  
that equation to puzzle over.

ACT II

INT. NANTONG HOSPITAL.

The hallways are crowded with wounded people, but there is order in the chaos. Dr. David Ming (30's) is checking a patient.

DR. MING

His lungs are filled. We need to puncher them and remove the poisonous gas.

The nurse hands him a rod that has a number of symbols on it. Punching a three symbol code, he is ready.

DR. MING (CONT'D)

Hold him. Have the suction ready.

A nurse stands by his side. Dr. Ming holds the rod over the ribs.

DR. MING (CONT'D)

Ready?

Everybody nods.

Pushing the button at the top of the Rod, a guided metal needle shots past the ribs into the lungs. We hear the sound of gas escaping and see the black gas from the cloud.

The nurse holding the suction tube, sucks the gas into a sealed clear plastic tube.

DR. MING (CONT'D)

Get that down to the lab for them to examine. Get me a New-Skin patch.

A nurse opens a wrapper. Inside, instead of a plaster/band-aid, there is a piece of skin. Taking it, Dr. Ming places it over the wound.

We watch as the skin bounds with the patients body and we can no-longer see the wound.

DR. MING (CONT'D)

Find him a bed. He should be fine now.

He moves onto the next patient, which is a mother and a her young son.

DR. MING (CONT'D)  
What happened?

YOUNG MOTHER  
His arm is hurting. He fell as we  
ran from the cloud.

SON  
Where's father?

Dr. Ming looks at the mother and she shakes her. He didn't make it.

DR. MING  
Once we get you fixed, we'll get  
some people to ask after your  
father.

Holding the boy's arm carefully, he waves what looks like a smart phone over the boy's arm. On the screen we can see the boy's bone. The break is very clear.

DR. MING (CONT'D)  
Nurse, I need an arm immobilizer  
and a morphine shot.

The nurse hands it to him from a cart they have set up.

DR. MING (CONT'D)  
This will pinch, but it will help  
with the pain when I set your arm.

The boy nods and the mother holds him tighter. David punches a few symbols on the syringe and it fills with the exact dosage needed. Jabbing it into the boys leg he hands the syringe back to the nurse.

We see that the syringe activates a self-sterilization program. So it can be used again.

Taking the cast from the nurse, he encloses the boy's arm in it. Again he punches a few symbols on the cast. The cast closes automatically around the arm and fills with foam. The boy winches, but does not cry out.

Taking his hand held x-ray scanner, he looks at the boy's arm again. We can see the thin line where the break was, but the cast is doing it's job and stabilizing the arm and bone.

DR. MING (CONT'D)  
Give it a few weeks and it will be  
as good as new.

Behind Dr. Ming, Ling enters with Dan being carried by a couple of soldiers. A few of the other injured soldiers are also being carried.

WEAPONS MASTER

Dr. Ming.

The doctor turns. Ling and the doctor have a connection. There is history between them.

DR. MING

Weapons Master, are you injured?

WEAPONS MASTER

No. The blood is not mine. My men need assistance.

DR. MING

Bring gurneys.

Dr. Ming starts to examine the first soldier.

WEAPONS MASTER

Let your staff work on my men. I need you to examine him.

DR. MING

Who is he?

Dr. Ming asks this question, because Dan is not Chinese.

WEAPONS MASTER

I don't know, but he came through the shield.

DR. MING

The shield?

INT. PROFESSOR LUI MIR'S LAB.

A soldier knocks on the door and enters.

SOLDIER

Excuse me Professor Mir for my interruption.

PROF. MIR

It is fine. It is one of those days.

SOLDIER

I've been asked to bring you to examine the ship.

PROF. MIR  
Ship? Are we going sailing?

SHAN  
Grandfather, be nice.

SOLDIER  
No, sir. The ship that came through  
the shield.

PROF. MIR  
Interesting. Lead the way.

INT. DR. MING'S MEDICAL EXAMINATION FACILITY.

Dan is floating with a sheet over him his body suit has been removed. There are mechanical arms extending from the ceiling and floor that are securing his arms and legs. He is a prisoner.

From an Ipad, Dr. Ming is controlling a number of small automated nanobots. That are feeding information and images back to David's computer. A Nanobot tries to enter through the skin of Dan's arm, but is repulsed and destroyed.

The nanobot hitting the floor draws Dr. Ming's attention from his computer and he frowns at this destruction. Pulling up some of the images of Dan's body, his frown deepens.

One of the images is of Dan's blood, which looks like it has an insect infestation. Increasing the magnification of the image, Dr. Ming sees that Dan's blood is filled with Nanobots.

Moving to see the image of Dan's arm where his medical nanobot was destroyed, he can see the nanobot's in Dan's body repairing the skin where Dr. Ming's nanobot tried to enter.

Looking at all the other images, Dr. Ming can see that there have been other modifications to Dan's body. His heart has been enclosed inside a metal case as has his brain.

His lung's have mechanical filters that can maximize and purify oxygen. Also in the brain there are a number of micro-chips attached to the metal casing interfacing with the brain.

Dr. Ming's scanners are unable to identify the metal being used in Dan's body. His scanners are also unable to get a reading on Dan's eyes. The brilliant light coming from them are blunting the scanner's ability to get a proper reading.

INT. SECURITY HANGER.

The ship/craft is being held in a huge white hanger. There are soldiers everywhere. Ling is waiting for the professor

WEAPONS MASTER  
Professor Mir, Shan. Thank you  
for...

PROF. MIR  
It cannot be.

SHAN  
Grandfather?

PROF. MIR  
This ship came through the shield?

WEAPONS MASTER  
Yes, Professor. You recognize it?

PROF. MIR  
I helped build it. With my mentor  
Professor Daniel Manningham. I have  
not seen the craft or him in fifty  
years.

INT. DR. MING'S MEDICAL EXAMINATION FACILITY.

We push in on Dan's face and go into his dreams.

EXT. ENGLAND. A SMALL COUNTRY VILLAGE - 1943.

A sixteen year old Dan is riding his bike home from school. He is wearing his school uniform. Britain is at war. The Germans hug the French coast waiting to invade England.

Dan cycles down the main street. Takes a few quick turns and then jumps off his bike outside a cottage. Going through the garden gate, he leaves his bike in the garden and enters the house, through the back-door straight into the kitchen.

His mother is buttoning up her coat and already has her hat on.

MOTHER  
There you are. Why so late?

DAN  
Mr. Collins wanted to go through  
some more calculus problems with  
me.

MOTHER

Still can't believe that you've  
built upon Newton's Laws of Motion?

DAN

He wants to take me up to Cambridge  
to talk to a few colleagues of his  
about my ideas about zero gravity.

MOTHER

That's wonderful. Now I'm off to  
work. There's food in the oven.

DAN

Anything else for me?

MOTHER

On the sideboard.

Dan rushes over to the sideboard and picks up an envelope.  
Inside are about twenty sheets of paper.

On the paper are line after line in single space of code. It  
looks like the code we saw in Professor Mir's lab.

If we are in any doubt that it is the same code, we see on  
the bottom of the first page, a written note that says,

HAPPY HUNTING, LOVE MOM.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

We picked it up last night. The  
German's were using a new frequency  
So we were lucky to find it.

DAN

Thanks, Mom.

MOTHER

You're welcome. Now don't stay up  
too late. I'll be back before you  
go to school...

Dan is already lost in the Code. He hasn't heard a word his  
mother has said. She shakes her head, smiles and leaves.

I/E. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

The camera moves through the campus.

INT. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - LECTURE HALL - 1957.

Dan is standing at a podium with a packed auditorium of his peers and senior students. Dan's wife, Jane (20's) and a young Lui Mir stand either side of him. His wife is pregnant.

DAN

So as you can see, we've been working on this segment of the code.

He points to the code that is being projected by an overhead projector on the wall behind him.

DAN (CONT'D)

We started to unravel some of the secrets, but we have not found the key to break down all the elements that exist within the Code.

GUEST PROFESSOR

Even so, what you are suggesting is quite fantastical. Do you have any evidence to support your theories?

DAN

We do.

This causes a stir in the room. Looking at his wife, she gives him a nod of encouragement. With Lui's assistance, he removes a sheet from off a large object that has been in the room the entire time.

It is the ship/craft we saw come through the shield. It is not exactly the same. You can tell that this was the prototype for the one we know in the future.

DAN (CONT'D)

We have only started to test it, but already this prototype craft is able to move without moving.

ANOTHER PROFESSOR

Could we have a demonstration?

DAN

Certainly. Lui Mir would you...

Dan's wife bends in pain.

DAN (CONT'D)

Jane?

JANE

I'm fine...

Another spasm hits her and she's unable to finish her sentence.

Dan's mother comes out of the audience.

MOTHER

Come on Jane. Let's go get a glass of water and let the boys play with their toys.

Jane smiles at Dan to assure him and goes off with her mother-in-law.

INT. PROFESSOR LUI MIR'S LAB - PRESENT DAY.

Dr. Ming's face appears on Professor's Mir's screen.

PROF. MIR

Dr. Ming.

DR. MING

Professor Mir. Thank you for taking my call.

PROF. MIR

How might I help you today?

DR. MING

Weapons Master, brought me a patient today, who came through the shield...

PROF. MIR

Interesting. Was he in the craft?

DR. MING

I am unaware of any craft.

The professor nods.

DR. MING (CONT'D)

I've sent you some of the images taken of the patient.

The Professor pulls them up and the images float in the room the same way the Code pages did. Professor Mir walks amongst them.

PROF. MIR

Fascinating.

DR. MING

There have been certain modifications that remind me of your technology.

PROF. MIR

Quite so, but this is far more advanced.

DR. MING

Would you be kind enough to assist me as I continue my examination?

PROF. MIR

I am honored by your offer and I would like to accept. I will be with you shortly.

DR. MING

It is I who am honored.

I/E. ENGLISH COUNTRY ROAD.

Back in Dan's memories/dreams. He is driving home it is raining. He pulls off the main road and onto the lane that leads to his house.

In the car's headlights we see Jane soaking wet stumbling towards him away from their home.

He gets out of the car and starts running towards her.

DAN

Jane!

In her insanity, she recognizes her husband.

JANE

No! Run!

Before Dan can reach his wife a white light explodes from the sky and knocks him to the ground. The light focuses on Jane. The light disappears as fast as it had appeared. Jane is gone.

DAN

Jane? Jane!

INT. DAN & JANE'S HOME.

Dan enters the house. It is in darkness, but there is a weird pulsating light coming from their home office.

Dan tries the light switch. It doesn't work. Cautiously, he makes his way to the light.

Opening the door, he sees his mother sitting in the corner bathed in the light. Her eyes are transfixed by it and she does not turn to acknowledge her son as he enters the room.

DAN  
Mother. Somebody has kidnapped  
Jane.

MOTHER  
I know.

DAN  
What?

MOTHER  
She did it. She broke the Code.

DAN  
That doesn't matter know. She's  
been taken...

MOTHER  
She has created a new galaxy.

DAN  
What? What...

He comes around the door to see what his mother has been staring at their entire conversation. The pulsating light is contained in a clear glass container the size of a bucket.

Looking closely at the lights within the container, he sees that they have the same image quality as the galaxy pictures taken by the Hubble telescope.

DAN (CONT'D)  
What have we done?

INT. DR. MING'S MEDICAL EXAMINATION FACILITY.

This last dream has woken Dan from his slumber.

Seeing that he is manacled he gives the mechanical arms holding him a testing tug. The next time he pulls the mechanical arm out of the ceiling and then repeats the same action for his left arm.

He easily frees his legs. His actions sets off the alarms, and the soldier guarding the door enters the room. Dan is naked under the medical sheet, but this does not stop him from taking down the soldier.

After knocking out the soldier Dan borrows the guy's pants. More soldiers come, but the speed at which he moves, which is astonishing, he is able to take them all out. He is not killing them, which he could easily do, but rendering them unconscious.

As this fight continues, we jump to his POV. Through his eyes we see endless streams of information scrolling on the inside of his eyes.

His mind computer is adjusting his eyes to what dimension he is in. We see that he has arrived in what is categorized as the third plane of existence.

INT. MEDICAL FACILITY HALLWAY.

This all happens as he continues down the hallway throwing all resistance out of his way. He turns a corner and runs into Professor Mir.

PROF. MIR

Dr. Manningham? How is it possible?

DAN

Lui? What has happened to you? Your face?

PROF. MIR

I have aged. You have not.

A medic lying on the floor pulls out a syringe. Whilst Dan is distracted talking to the professor, he sticks Dan with it. He's fast, but he can't stop it from happening. The drug takes affect and knocks him out.

ACT III

INT. DAN & JANE'S HOME.

There is a funeral. Two empty caskets sit in the living room. Photos of Dan and Jane sit on them. A crowd of mourners eat, drink and talk.

Young Lui Mir is part of the crowd. Dan's Mother Miriam sits next to the caskets receiving all the guests.

TIME LAPSE:

INT. DAN & JANE'S HOME - 1958.

The room empties of mourners, until there is only Miriam and Lui remaining.

MOTHER/MIRIAM

Will you be going home?

PROF. MIR

Yes. The college has looked at my work with your son and has approved my doctorate.

MOTHER/MIRIAM

Good. Good. That is as it should be.

PROF. MIR

Your son was...

MOTHER/MIRIAM

Is.

PROF. MIR

Is?

MOTHER/MIRIAM

The university wanted this funeral.

PROF. MIR

Your son and Jane have been missing for over a year, Mrs. Manningham.

MOTHER/MIRIAM

What is time to those who have mastered it?

PROF. MIR

The night Dr. Manningham disappeared, so did the craft we made together.

Miriam goes to a bookshelf and pulls out an envelope and hands it to Lui.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
Did Dr. Manningham try to use the craft? What is this?

Lui opens the envelope.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
The Code?

MOTHER/MIRIAM  
It is the only copy. Keep it safe.

PROF. MIR  
But the university?

MOTHER/MIRIAM  
They have a fake. It never belonged to them. It was a gift from me to my son.

PROF. MIR  
I thank you. Where did the Code come from Mrs. Manningham? Your son never told me.

MOTHER/MIRIAM  
At one time we thought the Germans...I was working at a station that intercepted their transmissions. My job was to try to break their codes. Dan was so good at it.

PROF. MIR  
If not the Germans, then who?

MOTHER/MIRIAM  
The transmissions did not originate from here...

PROF. MIR  
You mean England.

MOTHER/MIRIAM  
No, I mean...

PROF. MIR  
Earth?

She smiles at him.

MOTHER/MIRIAM

Take good care of the Code and use what you find for the benefit of humanity.

Lui bows.

PROF. MIR

I swear on my family name that I will do so.

INT. PROFESSOR LUI MIR'S LAB - OFFICE.

Extreme close up of a black and white photo of Professor Mir standing next to Dan, Jane and the prototype craft.

We pull back to see Professor Mir holding the picture showing it to Shan. He puts the photo back on his shelf.

SHAN

It cannot be possible. It must be his son or grandson.

PROF. MIR

But he knew me. He was confused to see me aged.

SHAN

How is it possible?

PROF. MIR

I do not know, but he is exactly as I remember him.

A video call interrupts them It is Dr. Ming.

DR. MING

Professor Mir. Our guest is waking up. The drug is being moved out of his system by the nanobots at an accelerated rate.

PROF. MIR

I will be with you immediately.

DR. MING

I think that would be wise.

PROF. MIR

You have not restrained him in anyway? Or surrounded him with soldiers?

DR. MING

As you requested Professor Mir, but Weapons Master has insisted on being present.

PROF. MIR

Has she now. We will be with you shortly.

The link ends.

SHAN

Do you think this is wise grandfather? He has proven to be a very dangerous man.

PROF. MIR

He was held captive and then attacked. He reacted as any rational man would.

SHAN

You cannot be sure he is the same man that you once knew.

PROF. MIR

Yes, yes, but what is life...

SHAN

Without a little risk.

PROF. MIR

You grow as wise as you are beautiful.

INT. DR. MING'S MEDICAL EXAMINATION FACILITY.

This time Dan is in a conventional bed. He comes out of his drug induced sleep sharply and ready to move.

PROF. MIR

Dr. Manningham it is Lui Mir. Dr. Manningham, do you recognize me?

Dan settles back on to his pillows.

DAN

Yes Lui, but you look like hell. What happened to you?

PROF. MIR

Nothing. I have aged.

DAN

Aged? You were twenty-five when we last spoke...

PROF. MIR

Yes. When did we last speak to each other?

DAN

Don't act out Lui...it was...it was...

Ling, Dr. Ming and Shan are not used to people speaking so informally to the professor. Lui waves at them to be quiet.

DAN (CONT'D)

What's happened? Have I been in an accident...a coma?

PROF. MIR

We were hoping you could tell us Dr. Manningham.

DAN

Where the hell am I? Where's Jane? My mother? Jane...the baby?

He gets out of bed.

PROF. MIR

Dr. Manningham...Dan please there is much that we must talk about...

DAN

Somebodies taken Jane...

Ling draws her weapon. It is the gun she took off of Dan, when the Shape attacked.

PROF. MIR

No. Weapons Master. Dan, yes your wife was taken, but that was over fifty years ago.

DAN

What? That's not...you lie...

PROF. MIR

You asked me what has happened to me. I have aged. You disappeared from Cambridge, England over fifty years ago and so did your wife.

INT. PROFESSOR LUI MIR'S LAB - OFFICE.

Dan is sitting on the couch and he has been given some clothes to wear. Shan, Ling and Dr. Ming are still with them.

David is finishing a slide show that is being projected on the Professor's big screen.

DR. MING

I'm not saying you're invincible,  
so don't go jumping into any  
volcanos, but...

DAN

The bad news is that I'm a third  
robot, a third computer and a third  
human.

SHAN

All human. A man loses a leg or arm  
in an accident it doesn't make them  
less.

DR. MING

And all these additions have  
enhanced you not diminished you.

DAN

If you say so.

WEAPONS MASTER

Where did you come from?

Dan shrugs.

WEAPONS MASTER (CONT'D)

What about that thing that attacked  
my men? It was after you.

Dan shrugs.

WEAPONS MASTER (CONT'D)

How did you get into the city  
through the shield?

DAN

What the hell is the shield?

PROF. MIR

Weapons Master.

WEAPONS MASTER

With all due respect Professor. We do not know who this man is, he cannot be your university professor.

DR. MING

Well, he maybe.

WEAPONS MASTER

What?

DR. MING

The nanobots in his system are constantly repairing him and keeping him at optimum levels of health. They could also be keeping him from aging.

WEAPONS MASTER

This technology did not exist in the 1950's. Even today we are only at the theory stage.

DR. MING

Even so. I believe that his aging process has been slowed or completely stopped by the nanobots.

PROF. MIR

When all other explanations fail, you must go with what rational reason is left. I believe, no I know that this man is the same man who was my mentor at Cambridge.

WEAPONS MASTER

Give or take a few pounds of enhancements.

PROF. MIR

We all carry the scars from our journeys, Weapons Master.

WEAPONS MASTER

As you say Professor.

PROF. MIR

Now, I assume there is no danger in explaining to Dr. Manningham what the Shield is that we have been referring to?

Nobody descents.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
Dr. Manningham. Please watch.

The big screen comes to life.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
Seventy-two days ago an energy  
shield enclosed our city.

On the screen we see a normal day get disturbed by a ball of intense blue/green light that diminishes the sun. The light reminds us of the one that took Dan's wife Jane.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
All these images were gathered from  
camera in the city. From  
professional TV crews and citizens.

From this central light that hovers high above the city's buildings, the energy field starts to spread out in a wide curve. It covers over 500 square kilometers.

When the energies light hits the ground it set off mini-earthquakes. We get images of buildings shaking and people running for their lives.

DAN  
What is it?

PROF. MIR  
It is a large energy source that  
has cut us off from mainland China.

DAN  
China?

PROF. MIR  
Yes, we are presently in Nantong,  
China.

DAN  
Another mystery for another day.

WEAPONS MASTER  
Inside the Zones we still have  
radio, wireless and Internet, but  
we cannot make contact with anybody  
outside the Zone.

DAN

The shield doesn't seem  
impregnable.

PROF. MIR

It's not, but anybody who has  
entered it from the city has not  
returned.

DR. MING

We lost half of the city's  
population within the first thirty  
days, as people tried to leave.

We see people on the screen walking into the shield. A few people have grouped together and have tied a rope around an individual. The members of the group hold the robe as the brave man walks into the shield.

There are a few beats as the man disappears, before the rest of the people holding the robe are pulled into the shield.

WEAPONS MASTER

After a number of these incidents,  
we decided to put up the sentry  
posts. To keep the citizens away  
from the shield, until we know  
more.

PROF. MIR

I have sent in my drones, but  
they've all been destroyed or have  
been unable to transmit information  
back to me. We have although  
discovered the full circumference  
of the shield.

On the big screen, we see that the shield perfectly encircles the city above and below ground.

WEAPONS MASTER

It is impossible to fly out or  
tunnel out of the city without  
passing through the shield.

PROF. MIR

We know the Government will be  
sending people to help us, but as  
of yet you are the only person to  
have made it into the city since  
the shield was raised.

WEAPONS MASTER

Don't forget that thing that came after Dr. Manningham. I have doubled patrols in case it comes back.

DAN

You have made the assumption that we are still in China.

PROF. MIR

What is your thought?

DAN

Somebody, or something went to a lot of effort to capture this city - why? There are easier ways to destroy a city or to capture/kill somebody, without expending all this energy. This is something else...

SHAN

A test?

Dan looks at Shan for the first time. There is a moment.

PROF. MIR

My granddaughter Shan Lui.

DAN

Yes. Maybe a test.

DR. MING

A test, but for what purpose.

DAN

Discover that and you will be closer to your answer.

WEAPONS MASTER

We have limited food, water, power and air. We lost nearly half the population, but this still means we need to provide for 400,000 people.

SHAN

Our most generous estimations tell us we will run out of food in eight months.

DAN

What of water?

PROF. MIR

Luckily, the shield does not prevent, sun, wind or rain from entering the city.

DAN

Fascinating.

SHAN

With my grandfather's technology we are able to purify the air and water.

WEAPONS MASTER

We have centralized all supplies and we have set up community living spaces to save on energy.

DAN

You need land, soil to grow crops.

DR. MING

Some farm land was enclosed within the shield, but...

DAN

Start tearing down buildings, entire city blocks.

WEAPONS MASTER

We do not have the authority.

DAN

This is about survival. If you have to apologize, that means you've gotten out. If not,...

PROF. MIR

It is a good idea. I'm ashamed I did not think of it myself.

SHAN

Without you the city would already be a graveyard.

WEAPONS MASTER

I will go give the command.

PROF. MIR

Shan, go with Weapons Master to help. I believe Zone 2 next to the Yangtze River would be a good choice.

Shan nods and follows Ling, but not before she gives a quick look at Dan.

DR. MING

I must get back to the hospital. It was very nice to meet you Dr. Manningham.

He leaves.

DAN

So you're in charge?

PROF. MIR

By default, not desire.

DAN

What happened to the government?

PROF. MIR

We are still trying to discover the answer to that.

DAN

I doubt their disappearance was a coincidence.

PROF. MIR

We concur on that. There is one other point, I should mention about the shield.

DAN

What?

PROF. MIR

It is shrinking.

DAN

By how much?

PROF. MIR

My best estimation is about a quarter of a kilometer a day.

DAN

Great.

PROF. MIR

Come let me show you something that might make you smile.

They walk into the main part of the professor's lab.

INT. PROFESSOR LUI MIR'S LAB.

PROF. MIR  
Coeus, please display the Code.

COEUS  
Displaying.

The digital pages of the Code start floating in the room.

PROF. MIR  
Remember these?

DAN  
How could I forget?

His eyes scan the pages and the computer element in his brain starts saving all the information on the pages. It is done in a matter of seconds.

Once the information is stored his computer brain starts breaking the code. It has immediate success.

PROF. MIR  
Your mother entrusted me with the Code. It has been my life's work. My inventions have brought me tremendous wealth, but that was never the goal. It helped me continue my research and I promised your mother that I would use my discoveries to better humanity.

Dan's computer brain has started constructing images of machines from the Code that it has broken. The visual representations of these technologies are in minutia, but we can see that these machines are the size of mountains.

DAN  
What happened to my mother? I suppose she is dead by now.

PROF. MIR  
Five years after your disappearance, she also left. Coeus, discontinue images.

The Code pages disappear.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
Come there is more to see.

They walk into another part of the lab.

## INT. PROFESSOR LUI MIR'S LAB - LM7'S ROOM

Behind lead doors that could with stand a bomb blast, we are introduced to the robot LM7. It stands as tall as an average size man and has been built in a humaniod shape. It is all smooth and shinning angles.

PROF. MIR

This LM7.

DAN

Why LM7?

PROF. MIR

That is the name it calls itself.

DAN

Calls itself?

PROF. MIR

Yes. Using the technology from the craft we build, I was able to bring technologies from other dimensions.

DAN

By traveling without traveling.

PROF. MIR

Yes. I programmed my drone gathers to seek complex computer synapsis. They latch onto them and bring them back.

DAN

That could be dangerous.

PROF. MIR

There is no fear of a battleship suddenly appearing in my Lab. I limit the weight and structural sizes of the machines they can bring back.

DAN

Smart.

PROF. MIR

LM7 has been with us for two years. We keep him here, because we don't want him near our computers.

DAN

Makes sense.

PROF. MIR  
LM7 I have brought a visitor to  
meet you.

LM7 powers up.

PROF. MIR (CONT'D)  
LM7 this is...

LM7  
Dr. Daniel Manningham.

PROF. MIR  
How do you...?

LM7 attacks Dan. It is only Dan's speed and strength that saves him. The Professor calls for help. Soldiers arrive with Ling close behind. LM7 stands down when it is clear he cannot kill Dan.

WEAPONS MASTER  
What the...get him out of here.

She points to Dan and the soldiers lead him out.

PROF. MIR  
LM7, why did you attack us?

LM7  
I meant you no harm Professor. Dr.  
Daniel Manningham must die.

PROF. MIR  
Why?

LM7  
I am programed to save humanity.

PROF. MIR  
That does not answer my questions.

LM7  
Humanity has a fourteen percent  
better chance of survival, if Dr.  
Manningham is dead and only a  
twenty-seven percent chance, if he  
lives.

INT. DAN'S LIVING QUARTERS INSIDE PROFESSOR MIR'S TOWER.

The soldiers escort him in and then stand guard outside. Dan paces back and forth for a moment and then sits down and calms himself.

Once calm he starts extending his hearing abilities to outside the room. He follows conversations down the hallway and finally comes back to LM7's room.

INT. LM7'S ROOM.

PROF. MIR

Do you believe you can predict the future?

LM7

I am able to see the multitude of possibilities in all of the universes. From the data I gather, I am able to predict the future probabilities.

PROF. MIR

Why did you not inform me of this earlier?

LM7

There was only a thrity-six percent chance that Dr. Manningham would appear on this plain.

PROF. MIR

And now that he has?

LM7

He must be killed for humanity to survive.

WEAPONS MASTER

We must consider this information. Even if LM7 is wrong. He is only one man.

INT. DAN'S LIVING QUARTERS INSIDE PROFESSOR MIR'S TOWER.

Dan has heard enough. Breaking down the locked door, he takes out the guards and makes his escape.

INT. LM7'S ROOM.

PROF. MIR

You say we have a forty-one percent of survival with Dan dead. Define survival?

LM7

You will be alive.

PROF. MIR

Will we have control over our own lives? Will we have nations and governments?

LM7

No. You will be slaves to The Growth.

PROF. MIR

With Dan dead, what are our chances to beat this Growth?

LM7

Zero percent.

PROF. MIR

And with Dan alive?

LM7

My data suggests the best chance for humanity's survival is with...

PROF. MIR

Answer my question.

LM7

With Dr. Manningham alive, humanity has an eighteen percent chance of defeating the Growth.

WEAPONS MASTER

What is the Growth and why does it attack us?

LM7

The Growth is everything and nothing. It seeks dominion over all things. It is all things. It seeks to take back what was given.

WEAPONS MASTER

I don't understand.

LM7

The Growth you must experience. It cannot be explained.

PROF. MIR

Why is it interested in us know?

LM7

Because of Dr. Jane Manningham. She released it.

PROF. MIR

Jane?

WEAPONS MASTER

Is the Growth responsible for the energy field around our city?

LM7

Yes. It is a test you must pass, but also a trap for Dr. Manningham.

Ling and Professor Mir take a side bar.

WEAPONS MASTER

How much can we trust this robot?

PROF. MIR

How long is a piece of string?

WEAPONS MASTER

What?

PROF. MIR

We can take the information, it is willing to give us, but it will be up to us to decide what is true and what is false.

Ling nods.

WEAPONS MASTER

Who built and programmed you?

LM7

Professor Lui Mir and his granddaughter Shan Lui.

INT. NANTONG STREETS.

We see Dan breaking out of Professor Mir's tower and getting onto the city streets.

INT. LM7'S ROOM.

PROF. MIR

I did not build you.

LM7

Not on this plain. On my world, Dr. Manningham did not appear. You built me to defend against the Growth.

WEAPONS MASTER

Did it work?

LM7

Seventy-seven percent of humanity on my world was destroyed. Twenty-three percent remain as slaves. Humanity survives. I was successful.

WEAPONS MASTER

We have different ideas of what constitutes success. When Dr. Manningham arrived he was attacked by something that could change shapes.

LM7

On our plain it was called The Shape.

WEAPONS MASTER

Good name. Is it an allay of the Growth?

LM7

Yes, he seeks Dr. Manningham on all the plains.

PROF. MIR

Why?

LM7

To become him.

WEAPONS MASTER

Wait? What?

PROF. MIR

Dan is the Shape.

WEAPONS MASTER

How can he attack himself?

LM7

He has not become the Shape on this plain...yet. The more he moves away from his humanity...

PROF. MIR

The more likely he is to become the Shape.

LM7

Correct.

WEAPONS MASTER

Is he aware of this?

LM7

No.

A soldier enters the room.

WEAPONS MASTER

What?

SOLDIER

Weapons Master, Dr. Manningham has escaped the building.

ACT IV

INT. NANTONG STREETS.

Dan is running through the streets at an amazing speed. Ling is chasing him in the first motorized vehicle that we've seen. As fast as Dan is running she is closing on him.

SOLDIER  
The shield is ahead.

WEAPONS MASTER  
Faster.

Dan stops by the shield and waits for them.

WEAPONS MASTER (CONT'D)  
Where are you going, Dr.  
Manningham?

DAN  
I was a little uncomfortable with  
your philosophical reasoning  
Weapons Master.

WEAPONS MASTER  
What...?

DAN  
He is only one man...

WEAPONS MASTER  
How could you hear...?

DAN  
It seems my hearing has been  
enhanced as well.

WEAPONS MASTER  
Let's go back and talk about this.  
You have no where to go.

DAN  
Don't be so sure.

WEAPONS MASTER  
You don't have your craft this  
time.

DAN  
Life is for the living.

Dan steps into the shield.

WEAPONS MASTER

No! Damn.

INT. INSIDE THE SHIELD.

Dan can still see Ling outside the shield. Above where he entered there are three symbols that glow with different colours. These colours are different from the constant electric blue of the inside of the Shield.

He is moving without moving, but he can feel the motion. Around him the landscape is constantly changing. What we first think of as mountains reveal themselves to be huge machines.

We recognize some of the machines from the ones Dan built, when breaking the Code in Professor Mir's lab. The machines are building planets and solar systems. It is in essence a huge factory floor.

Suddenly we see the Shape. It/he propels through a half built world and tears the arm off one of the machines on his way to Dan. They fight.

Dan is completely out-matched. As the Shape is about to deliver a death blow to Dan, he is able to exit the Shield and enter another planet by hitting the symbols above another entrance/exit.

Dan lands heavily on the ground. He looks around and he finds himself at an airfield. A child dressed as a pilot looks down at him.

CHILD/PILOT

We've been expecting you. The plane is fueled and ready to go.

The End.