

L O G A N ' S R U N

An Original Treatment By
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RUN, RUNNER

A WOMAN is running. She's scared, confused, exhausted.

She slips into an Industrial Nursery and passes dozens of embryos in neo-natal pods. She hides in the Loveroom. An AUTOGOVERNESS finds the woman and comforts her with a cooing program every citizen recognizes from childhood. The woman relaxes. Her clenched fist unfolds and reveals her lifeless palm crystal, black as charcoal. The Autogoverness quietly sounds an alarm.

DS operatives charge into the Nursery. The woman snaps out of her stupor and flees in terror. LOGAN 5 and FRANCIS 6 give chase, taunting her, hunting her like an animal.

The woman is cornered. She claws at a locked door, tearing her fingernails. Francis fires. A scream rips at her throat. Her final moment is one of raw, blinding agony as the HOMER strikes, burns, rips and unravels her.

SAWYER

A shuttle speeds through the city. SAWYER 7, a nervous computer technician, jabbars at anyone who will listen. Logan is irritated.

Sawyer's palm crystal is blinking: red, black, red, black. He's headed for one last romp at the Glasshouse. "They'll do anything for you on Lastday!" After that, he'll do his duty and go straight to a Deep Sleep shop. Clean and nice, or so he's heard. Soft robes, an angelic choir, the hallucinogenic skin spray. Logan can only think of dim-lit rooms lined with rows of steelfoil canisters marked with the names and numbers of the dead.

Sawyer goes on about Runners. Not that he'd ever think of running. He's a good citizen. Besides, Homers are something horrible. Burns out your entire nervous system. Runners get what they deserve. He doesn't defend scum like them. But maybe the Thinker has made a mistake? It seems like yesterday his crystal was blue...

Logan looks at his own palm, the crystal blood red. He clenches his fist shut. Uneasy, Logan gets off the shuttle near Arcade.

REJECT SLEEP!

Logan walks past the Jewel Building, encrusted in a brilliant mosaic of fireglass. It's incomplete. Gaping holes remain where the muralist hadn't finished before accepting Sleep.

A BEARDED YOUTH protests on the street below the building. The sign around his neck says: *REJECT SLEEP! RUN!* Several ANGRY CITIZENS circle and hiss, "Filth! Scum! Coward!" One of them spits on the boy.

A group of rebellious ADOLESCENTS, palm flowers glowing like blue fireflies, scoff at the mob riling their compatriot. They taunt Logan, insulting him, calling him an old man.

Police officers arrive. They drag the protester away and disperse the rowdy youth. Onlooking citizens are concerned. That's the third maniac they've arrested this month! You'd think they were organized! Logan continues on to Arcade.

ARCADE

A vast pleasure palace. A thousand ways to satisfy your every desire. Bright colors and compelling odors mingle with the relentless thumping beat. Holographic spokesmodels pitch the latest trends like digital ghosts. Ceaseless hype fills the space that might otherwise have been squandered on meaningful conversation or individual thought.

Sex shops groan, raves pulse, hallucimills quiver. Young men and women play together, free from commitment or compromise. A GIRL in green mist-silks senses Logan's mood. She offers to make him feel better. "You can't buy happiness," says Logan. "But of course you can," she promises.

Logan turns her down and heads into a hallucimill. He takes a lift. It's a bad trip. Logan's anxiety is amplified by a factor of ten. He can't stop the drug coursing through his bloodstream, driving him mad.

HEADQUARTERS

Hours later, Logan arrives at DS headquarters, completely ripped. He's dressed in the black armored uniform, but his face is papery, his pupils dilated.

Francis greets Logan in the Tracking Room. Francis is never ripped. No time for lifts or glasshouses, Francis is always cool, clearheaded. A friendless, loveless man with a mantis-thin body and black eyes, Francis lives to kill.

DS is tracking Doyle 10. A Runner. Logan's next assignment.

Logan retrieves his gun. It's equipped with six different charges: Tangler, Ripper, Needler, Nitro, Vapor and Homer. Only a DS man can carry a gun.

Logan engages the Thinker and scans the crystal history on Doyle 10. Yellow: industrial nursery, machine-reared, social training, typical. Blue: rebellion, arrests, reconditioning. Red: pair-ups with nine women. One, Jessica 6, suspected of aiding Runners.

He flickers through the man's 30 years: DS photo, crystal pattern, friends, associates, hang-outs, residential unit, job. Doyle was bred for construction. He's strong.

A citizen alarm blinks on the Tracking Board. Ordinary citizens are the best allies when a Runner's loose. Doyle's direction has changed. He's headed East, avoiding platform scanners. This is no ordinary Runner. He's got a destination. He's not making any mistakes.

Logan tunes his sectator into Doyle's crystal pattern and heads out for the hunt.

DOYLE 10

Logan disembarks from a shuttle near Cathedral. He monitors Doyle's progress on the sectator. The blinking dot is near.

DOYLE 10 reaches into a scanner box, casually opens it in the manner of a repairman, and shorts out the unit. Logan makes his move. Citizens cower from the DS man and his gun. Doyle spots a flash of black tunic and panics. Panic will kill him. Panic and a Homer.

There's a heated chase. Doyle moves with the instincts and grace of an antelope. Logan follows his prey. He corners Doyle, aims the gun... and hesitates. Something's wrong.

Doyle takes a young girl hostage. Logan flips the chamber to TANGLER and fires. Doyle throws the girl into the silver webbing and escapes into Cathedral. Logan calls Francis for back-up. He allows Doyle into the festering sore of the city.

The blinking dot has stopped. Logan moves cautiously. Cathedral is infested with juvenile delinquents known as CUBS.

A scream. Logan rounds a corner to find a dozen Cubs ripping Doyle to pieces. They're jacked-up on MUSCLE, a metabolism boosting drug that pushes a man's strength and speed far beyond normal limits. Francis arrives and fires a Vapor charge. Cubs scatter.

Francis and Logan move on their motionless quarry. The Cubs regroup and attack.

Moving impossibly fast, they back the DS men into a dead end. Francis fires a Ripper. A Nitro. The remaining Cubs retreat.

Logan kneels over Doyle, his face a mosaic of blood and fractured bone. He whispers something. Logan leans in. "Sanctuary" escapes Doyle's lips as he expires. Logan finds a punchkey clenched in his dead fist. Francis jams his gun in the dead Runner's stomach and fires a Homer to get credit for the kill.

On the shuttle back to headquarters, Logan keeps his right fist close against his side. He doesn't want Francis to see the crystal in his palm. It's blinking.

LASTDAY

Alone in his unit, Logan considers his blinking palm crystal. Twenty-four hours to live. He picks up Doyle's punchkey. Runners say "Please! Help! Don't!" Doyle said "Sanctuary." What if he, Logan 5, could find Sanctuary and destroy it in the last twenty-four hours of his life? Before turning himself in for Sleep? His existence would be justified. He'd be a hero!

Logan slips the punchkey into the Circuit. A life-size holographic girl answers, palm crystal on blue. She's suspicious. This is the unit of a Sandman. "How did you get my key?" Logan opens his blinking palm. LILITH 4 invites him to a party.

PEEPING

The party is heavy with smoke. The host, TERAN 6, offers Logan a cigarette. He assures Logan there's a police payoff in the building: no tobacco raids tonight. Logan declines.

Teran is an astrophysicist celebrating his last days in the city. He's volunteered to go on the next space launch. Logan is impressed. It's an enlightened citizen who sacrifices his red years for the greater good. But Teran's motives aren't so altruistic. "It won't be long before we find something out there," he assures Logan. "And there's no Sleep on the shuttles." Teran would rather implode in a black hole than lie down to die when the light in his palm blinks. Logan clenches his right fist.

Someone blows smoke in his ear. Logan turns and finds Lilith, bare-hipped in silver snakeskins, smoking a pink cigarette. She offers Logan a drink. He accepts.

It's time for peeping. Lilith takes Logan as her partner. Logan knows the game: a competition to capture the most lurid, outlandish pair-up. Lilith hands Logan a digital camera and hops onto a lift.

From the roof, they climb onto a ledge 300 stories above the street and peer into windows. They discover a naked couple making love. Lilith squeals with delight and captures them in the act.

Logan feels drowsy. Orange music stabs at his eyes. The building's steel ledge ripples away. Lilith drugged him!

Lilith cuffs Logan across the mouth. She grabs his hair and snaps his head back. She wants to know where he got her punchkey. Logan stutters "Ten. Ten. Ten. Doyle 10." Truthtell! Lilith lets go.

Logan stumbles and steps off the ledge. Instinctively, he lashes out and saves himself. Lilith stands on his knuckles. She suspects Logan killed Doyle. Truthtell won't allow Logan to lie. He swears it was the Cubs.

Lilith takes her foot away and helps Logan up. She lights another pink cigarette and tells Logan he needs to make an appointment with Doc.

FRANCIS

Francis reports to DS headquarters. Technicians congratulate him for the kill in Cathedral. Doyle was quite a Runner!

Anxious for his next assignment, Francis scans the Thinker's motherboard and draws up Lastday files. Images of blinkers display on the screen. Logan 5 is among them. Francis checks the gunwall. Logan's gun is missing.

A NEW YOU

Logan arrives at A NEW YOU. The clinic walls are ashen and the air smells used. HOLLY 3, the receptionist, turns him away. No one can get a face job on Lastday. Logan reveals Lilith's punchkey. Holly escorts him inside.

DOC is a Runner sympathizer. He's going to alter Logan's appearance and help him on the path to Sanctuary. Logan is strapped to a table. A tangle of probes, pincers, needles and laser scalpels are suspended overhead. The machine can lengthen bone, alter dental patterns, broaden shoulders, change skin color.

Outside the surgery suite, Holly searches for Logan's gun. She finds it and alerts Doc. He sets the machine to kill.

Metal clamps bite Logan's flesh. A vibrosaw keens. A needle lances his cheek. A laser scalpel slits his chest, shoulder to waist. Logan screams. Blood is siphoned neatly away. More scalpels slice down. One frees Logan's arm.

Doc attacks. They fight as laser scalpels slice wildly over the table. Logan prevails and the machine cuts Doc to ribbons.

Logan exits the surgery suite. Holly is dead. She preferred to drive a blade into her chest rather than reveal anything to a Sandman.

JESSICA

Logan gets dressed and finds JESSICA 6 recovering from surgery in an adjacent room. She thinks Logan is her lover, Doyle 10, who's also had the procedure.

Logan notices her crystal has turned black. His hand automatically drifts toward the pearl handle of his gun. Logan was born to kill Runners, the conditioning is engineered into his DNA. He fights the impulse and conceals his weapon. The girl has information.

Jessica leads Logan through the crowded streets of Arcade. She's been trained to beat the system: close your fist, walk calmly, stay close to the main lifts, blend into the crowds. She dodges and shifts from the scanners, calculating each move. Logan is anxious. He knows they're already being hunted.

GLASSHOUSE

Jessica leads Logan into the Glasshouse, an orgy of flashing strobes, pulsing music and nude lovers. There are brushed, oiled and immaculate men in skinsilks. Dark-skinned beauties, shy maidens, slim exotics, full-figured goddesses. The DNA generator produces a full gamut of attractive options. Toned and trim, soaped and scented, they're all here looking for someone new.

A NUDE WOMAN spots Jessica's charcoal palm crystal and screams. ZZZZZAAAP! Jessica dodges the tracking weapon. ZZZZZAAAP! She grabs Logan and they run.

They're chased by Glasshouse patrons. Automatic weapons fire. Logan weaves through the crowd, ducking behind half-naked citizens. Innocents are killed. Logan and Jessica escape through a back door and head into the bowels of the city.

CATHERDRAL

They escape to Cathedral, a dead zone. The system can't track Runners here. The further they get from the center of the system, the safer they'll be. Jessica is suspicious. How does Doyle know that?

Logan is knocked to the ground. He recovers quickly, on edge. Blurred figures weave around them. They're surrounded by Cubs. Jacked-up on Muscle, the Cubs subdue a feisty Jessica. Logan is caught and slammed against a wall. CHARMING BILLY, the leader, steps up and taunts his prey. He's going to overdose Logan with three hits of Muscle!

Logan has no choice but to use his gun. The NEEDLER charge explodes and scatters thousands of dagger-sharp darts into Charming Billy and three others, shredding them to bits. The Cubs retreat.

Jessica's suspicions are confirmed. Logan isn't Doyle 10. He's a Sandman! No time to argue. DS can track them now that Logan's used the gun. They have to run! Logan scoops up a dose of Muscle and they flee.

CUT TO:

Francis smiles. Logan fired his gun. He notes the coordinates and pinpoints their location.

MOLLY

They reach the edge of the city. A sign posted over a hatch reads: "RENEW. DON'T RUN!" Jessica confronts Logan, hatred burning in her eyes. She's never heard of a Sandman running, ever. Until yesterday, Logan had never heard of Sanctuary. He holds out his blinking palm and asks Jessica for help. He wants to run.

Jessica's smart. She needs all the help she can get. She explains there's an underground network that will get them outside. She opens the air-lock and leads Logan into a trap.

Water fills the corridor. Jessica swims through a network of underwater tunnels. They emerge into the city's Multi-Operational Lower Life Unit.

MOLLY is a self-sustaining system of science and nature, using the pressure of ocean tides to generate power for the city.

Logan is amazed. He took it all for granted. Just like everything else.

GATEKEEPERS

Jessica whistles. Logan is abruptly subdued by WHALE, a giant humanoid with gills and webbed feet, genetically engineered to maintain the underwater system.

Whale leads them to the Gatekeepers in the heart of MOLLY. Their leader, ALTHEA 9, interrogates Logan. Trapped and out of options, he tells the truth: "I'm a Sandman."

Whale tightens his hold. Althea has no sympathy for the DS operative. He thrives on fear and killing. Now it's his turn to taste fear, to taste death first hand.

Logan admits he'd never questioned anything before. But now that his palm is blinking, he's questioning everything. Jessica implores her compatriots to help them. Logan did the job he was born to do. If they kill him, they're no better than the system they're fighting.

The rebels are not dissuaded. They're going to kill Logan, Runner or not.

SANDMAN ATTACK

The wall explodes. A battalion of DS men arrive and mercilessly slaughter the gatekeepers.

A Homer burns into Whale. Logan grabs Jessica and comes face-to-face with Francis. He offers Logan a way out: Do your duty! Kill the Runner!

Logan is torn. Half of him wants to run, escape, live. The other half wants to justify his existence, kill the Runners, crush Sanctuary.

Logan fires the exploding blow of a RIPPER. Francis ducks clear, but Logan was aiming for the buttress behind him. A hairline crack spreads across the dome. MOLLY screams. Steel tears like paper and dozens of bodies mix their atoms with the sea.

Logan and Jessica are swept underwater. Logan shoots the gun's NITRO charge. The grenade lodges into a porthole and blows apart the steel hatch.

They wash onto a platform in the hub of the city's waste disposal system. Refuse shoots through sealed tubes. Jessica finds a loading hatch. They open it, wince, and jump in. They're sucked into the system and carried away from the city.

HELL

Bruised and soiled, Logan and Jessica tumble onto a rotting garbage heap. They are surrounded by a frozen tundra of white on white on white. Part of the city's infrastructure, this sector is a giant heat conductor that cools the air inside. A group of tattered citizens scavenge through piles of waste. They surround Logan and Jessica like a wolf pack. It's clear this isn't Sanctuary.

MASON 4 challenges Logan, his one eye fixed on Jessica. They fight to the death in a blizzard of wind and ice. Jessica lunges to help, but she's held from behind. She outsmarts her assailant, grabs a shard of metal and slashes his face. Logan delivers a fatal blow and Mason crumples at his feet.

Logan takes Mason's warm clothing and drapes a coat over Jessica. She's horrified, her hands stained with blood. They learn the farthest out anyone lives is Box, and that no one has ever walked out of Hell and returned. Logan and Jessica set off into the harsh elements. The others dissect the dead man for food.

BOX

The ice blows harder as they approach the city's massive generators. Logan and Jessica are swallowed by a whiteout. They take shelter in a crevasse, nearly frozen to death.

The cyborg BOX, more machine than man, finds them and helps Logan and Jessica into the relative calm of his icy dwelling. He suggests they have a civilized meal together. Logan is wary, but they're hungry and cold and Box claims to know the way to Sanctuary.

Box serves fresh meat, something Jessica and Logan have never eaten. For decades he harvested protein from the sea and stored it in this giant refrigeration unit. When all the species died out, he began harvesting Runners instead. A piece of half-chewed flesh falls out of Jessica's mouth.

A light flickers and illuminates a long hallway lined with frozen humans. Box intends to add Logan and Jessica to his collection. Logan draws his weapon, but the cyborg is too fast.

Box knocks it away and pummels Logan, ripping his flesh with limbs designed to hunt and kill. Jessica scrambles for the gun. Box intercepts. He throws her to the back of the cave.

Box picks up the gun. It wails and fires a charge of electricity through his half-flesh, half-metal frame. Box convulses in agony. The gun drops. Logan springs to recover it. He drags Jessica to her feet. Box shakes violently and explodes... KA-BOOM!

Logan and Jessica dive into the hallway. Cascading shards of ice crash down and block the entrance.

THE HUNTER

A banged-up Francis sits in front of the tracking board. He hasn't eaten. He hasn't slept. Technicians avoid him, saying nothing. He is violence contained.

The board lights up. An unauthorized person has handled Logan's gun. His location is revealed again, this time outside the city's perimeter. Francis is out the door.

SUNRISE

Logan and Jessica are trapped in liquid darkness. Only the gun's glowing diode lights their way. Jessica was lucky Box knocked her away from the gun. Each weapon is coded to the DS operative's palm crystal and designed to electrocute any other human contact.

They stumble blindly, deeper into the ice. They discover a rivulet of trickling water, a hint of warmth. Groping about, Jessica slips and plummets into a pool. Eyeless fish flit against her skin. She screams. Logan helps her up. They collapse against the cave wall, exhausted.

A splash. Larger fish hunt from a stream feeding the pool. They have eyes. Logan and Jessica jump into the stream and scramble upward, higher and higher. They clear debris from a rusted grate and emerge from underground... outside!

A glowing sun rises over the horizon. It's beautiful. Logan looks at Jessica for the first time in natural light. Behind a mask of fatigue, her face is stunning. She's lived a full life, yet seems so young, so innocent.

They make love, wondering if there was ever a time when this seemed ordinary.

OUTSIDE

Logan and Jessica follow a dry riverbed shrouded by dead trees. The sun beats down on a harsh desert landscape. It hurts their eyes and burns their skin. It seems impossible that people could exist out here.

Their clothing is torn and insufficient. They're hot, tired and dehydrated. Fear takes hold. What if they're the first ones through? What if there is no Sanctuary?

An insect crawls on Jessica and bites! Voracious mutant cockroaches swarm out of a dead tree. Each bug takes a centimeter of flesh. They'll be devoured in minutes!

Logan fires a VAPOR charge. Roaches liquefy and scurry in retreat. Logan and Jessica run for their lives. There's no place that's safe. Everywhere they go there are things waiting to kill them!

CUT TO:

Francis picks through the remains of dead Runners frozen in Box's fallen lair. An alarm pulses on his sectator: Logan has fired his gun. He's on their trail.

SYDNEY

Climbing over a ridge, Logan and Jessica come to the ruins of Sydney, Australia. The city has been flooded by a rising sea. The Harbor Bridge has collapsed. The Opera House is a shattered, empty shell. Odd remnants of a past civilization are strewn about.

Jessica flips through the worn pages of a wedding album. A loving bride and groom and their extended family. Logan has never seen anything like it. Family, grandparents, community... all completely foreign.

GYPSIES

A dart suddenly thunks into Logan's arm. Another lodges in Jessica's thigh. Fighting unconsciousness, Logan and Jessica are subdued by GYPSIES and loaded into the back of a sputtering truck.

They awake to find themselves surrounded by creatures that are barely human. Birth defects ravage their bodies. Some are blind. All are riddled with cancer.

Tumors bulge and discolored flesh rots off their bones. None have palm crystals. They look at Logan and Jessica with hungry eyes.

BALLARD

One man stands apart from the Gypsies, unscathed by disease. He is BALLARD. Logan and Jessica have never seen anyone like him. His hair is white. His skin is loose. He has deep lines in his face and a black palm crystal in his hand.

Years ago, Ballard ran. He escaped the city, climbed to the surface and found a pocket of survivors on the outside. Conceived in the nurseries, he is genetically engineered to resist disease. Ballard stayed and fathered as many offspring as possible to keep this community alive... only to watch his own children die of cancer and debilitating birth defects.

SANCTUARY

"Is this Sanctuary?" asks Jessica. Ballard laughs. As long as you're looking for Sanctuary, you're bound to miss it. Every age has sought a utopia, a legendary paradise. Before the Great War men even tried to colonize Mars. Logan's ears perk.

Indeed, it was this search for perfection that spawned the war that destroyed them all. In 2024, famine and drought plagued the overpopulated planet. A candidate was elected to power on wings of support from religious radicals: men who believed in the divine myth of Armageddon.

Democratic systems were dismantled. Scientists were removed from public office. Opposition groups were considered agents of evil. Evangelism became a weapon of mass destruction. It was the largest extermination of humans in history. All in the name of a world-wide utopia.

But the ravages of nuclear holocaust buried the world in destruction and disease. A majority of the survivors were young and lost faith in the elders who began the war. They rebelled, executing the old and beginning anew, embracing the euthanasia of Deep Sleep. Never again would they place their fate in the hands of an older generation.

They built a refuge from the outside world and placed their trust in technology. Computers were programmed to carry out their vision of utopia: a society free to indulge in living for the moment. A self-sustaining engine was created and the era of government by the Thinker began. A maximum age limit was imposed and the original DS units were formed. By 2070 all the world was young.

But Ballard is no longer interested in the past, or the future. He's content in the present moment. He opens his arms and proclaims, "This is Sanctuary."

ESCAPE

This can't be Sanctuary! Everyone's sick! Breathing noxious air and cowering in shadows, hiding from the relentless sun!

Ballard pities Logan. He doesn't get it. There is no Sanctuary. It's a fabrication, designed by the Thinker to keep complacent citizens trapped in a barbarous system. Runners and Sandmen seek and destroy an illusion. They succeed only in keeping each other distracted from real change.

Logan and Jessica won't listen. But Ballard doesn't care if they don't understand. His dwindling society needs a fresh spring flowing into the gene pool. Logan and Jessica will breed with the Gypsies, forcibly if necessary, to produce a new, viable generation in the outside world.

Jessica's been poisoned. Logan must do as they say to get the antidote. He's escorted into a squalid building where Gypsy females await his seed.

Logan takes the dose of Muscle to turn the tables. As the drug assaults his system, Logan's metabolism soars. He becomes too fast, too strong to be stopped. Logan blurs through the camp, recovers his gun and takes Ballard hostage.

Ballard escorts Logan to Jessica and injects her with the antidote. He fires a TANGLER into the Gypsies. Its spiked webbing bites into their flesh, halting any pursuit. Logan throws Jessica in the truck and speeds off into the desert.

CUT TO:

Francis overlooks the flooded ruins. His sectator pulses. The prey is near. Anticipation mounts. He's close. Very close.

WITHDRAWAL

Miles from the Gypsy camp, the truck runs out of fuel in the endless brown heat of the desert. Logan pushes the vehicle into a ravine and they take refuge beneath.

The Muscle wears off. Logan is overcome by fatigue, his wracked body sore to the bone. He gasps for air. Convulsions twitch through his over-heated flesh.

Logan lashes out at Jessica. His physical collapse is paired with residual psychotic behavior. His flesh crawls with imagined insects.

After hours of withdrawal, Logan finally collapses into Jessica's arms. He's devastated. He'd risked it all, abandoned everything he'd ever known, and failed. He didn't accept Sleep. He didn't find Sanctuary.

Jessica is happy to be alive, to be with Logan. Maybe that's enough. Maybe that's Sanctuary. Logan can't shake his conditioning. He can't exist without a purpose, without a duty to fulfill. He *will* find Sanctuary!

CUT TO:

Francis is playing with them now, circling, watching them. The mice are in the trap.

SANDMAN VS SANDMAN

Spent rocket silos dot the horizon. Workers prepare the next shuttle launch. Logan and Jessica hide and watch. They're determined to be on board.

They run toward the launching pads. Logan pushes on, exhausted. He's a DS man, a hunter. He doesn't tire. It's the Runners who tire, give up, die.

A shout echoes behind them, "Logan! Kill the Runner! Kill her!" Logan's blood goes cold. It's Francis!

Logan tells Francis he's found Sanctuary: a thriving colony on Mars. The girl has led him right to it. Logan asks Francis to join him, to destroy Sanctuary!

Francis accepts Logan's proposal on one condition: Kill the Runner. Logan aims his gun at Jessica. She stares into Logan's eyes, betrayed. Her silence speaks a truth Logan couldn't hear until now. He lowers his gun.

Francis fires a Homer at Jessica without hesitation. It never misses! Logan fires his gun's last charge. The two Homer's explode into one another, igniting a firestorm. The silos are protected by a minefield!

The inferno knocks all of them to the ground. Francis rises, his ears bleeding. His gun is gone. He pounces on Logan, delivering blow after annihilating blow. The Sandmen fight to the death among the hidden mines. Logan strikes Francis with all his strength in a direct crippling kick. Francis takes the impact without flinching.

He traps Logan's leg, dumps him, and strikes his throat and solar plexus with a two devastating blows. Logan falls to the ground, defeated, gasping for air.

Logan pleads with his partner. Dying young is such a waste. He's so tired of killing. Logan's palm falls open and Francis sees the black palm crystal. His eyes flare, responding as predator to prey. Francis strangles the remaining life out of Logan.

A metal rod clangs off Francis's skull. Jessica stands above him. Francis stumbles backwards. KA-BOOM! He's blown apart by a mine. He dies in Logan's arms, ashamed, his duty to kill the Runners unfulfilled.

WILD GUN

Logan recovers his empty gun. He and Jessica navigate the minefield, heading toward Silo 12 where a rocket is being prepared for launch.

As Logan steps inside the city's perimeter, the gun emits an ear piercing wail. A wild gun: what DS fears most.

Engineers and astronauts back away from the renegade Sandman. Logan and Jessica force their way aboard the shuttle. A battalion of DS men charge the rocket silo. There's not much time. Logan starts the launch sequence.

LAUNCH

The engines roar to life and the shuttle rips into the atmosphere. They watch the earth fall away. Logan and Jessica embrace. They're in love.

Maybe Sanctuary is an illusion, a fantasy. Jessica doesn't care. She's happy to be alive, to be with Logan. He looks at Jessica. She's beautiful. Logan understands. Sanctuary *is* real. It's right here, right now.

The End.