

Portfolio Video Game Cinematic Script - Short Opening

Lesley Donaldson (info@aquhorthies.com)

1915: Race For Humanity

FADE IN

Ext. Wheat field, Belgium, August 1914.

SEBASTIEN, a seven-year-old boy in brown shorts-overalls and a plaid shirt, chases a SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY into long, yellow wheat sheafs. Insects BUZZ as he GIGGLES with delight. The farther he goes, the quieter voices of his MOTHER (35) mother and grandfather (60) become. They speak in French, SUBTITLED:

MOTHER [OS]

Hurry up. We should have left days ago.

GRANDFATHER [OS]

I am too old to hurry.

MOTHER [OS]

The invaders won't care how old you are. The stories Matron Cavell told me of her patients from Ypres are horrible... Wait. Where is Sebastien? Sebastien?

END SUBTITLES

The butterfly stops. Sebastien pauses, his hands about to cup it.

MOTHER [OS]

Sebastien! Run!

GRANDFATHER [OS]

Mon dieu!

Multiple shots of GUNFIRE erupt. Sebastien crouches and looks over his shoulder to where he left his family behind. FOOTSTEPS CRUNCH through the field toward him. His eyes widen with fear. The silhouette of a German soldier crosses his face. Sebastien's mother SCREAMS. GUNFIRE cuts her off. Tears roll down Sebastien's cheeks and his lip trembles.

ZOOM IN

The butterfly flutters its wings. A single gunshot CRACKS.

SLOW MOTION

An ethereal glow lights up the butterfly and the wheat sheaves. The butterfly alights into the air.

END SLOW MOTION and PULL BACK TO REVEAL

The German soldier in front of Sebastien backs away from a GLOWING BLUE-WHITE TOKTIXIAN. The alien darts into the soldier's body, who collapses to the ground, twitching. Pursued by a second alien, Sebastien runs away from the oncoming army.

At the family farmstead, a DAIMLER MARIENFELD TRUCK blocks a horse-drawn cart laden with belongings. Most of the soldiers walk past the bodies of Sebastien's mother and grandfather, bleeding on the ground. A couple of soldiers investigate the wheat field, where they help the alien-infected soldier off the ground. He seems unharmed.

Sebastien and the glowing entity get lost amid the wheat field. The butterfly continues its flight toward the city of BRUSSELS on the horizon, in the same as A7V TANKS that slowly roll on the dirt road past the farmstead. The Belgian landscape transitions from one of late summer bounty to grey, bombed-out devastation.

The skies cloud over and darken.

FADE TO BLACK

Additional narrative design cues:

- o Germans invaded Belgium in August 1914 at the start of the harvest season. Colours on the farm should be warm and homely until the pan-out.
- o The [swallowtail is an endangered butterfly](#) with an eye-catching flash of blue and orange-red circles on the lower part of its wings, which then swoop into a swallow's tail shape.