

FADE IN:

INT. MAX'S SHELTER - MORNING

In darkness... Voices **echo** in and out...

UNKNOWN OLDER MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Don't listen to them-

UNKNOWN YOUNG FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
Who cares, let em' go-

UNKNOWN YOUNG MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Don't act like you wouldn't do the
same-

UNKNOWN OLDER FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
You give people hope, Max-

UNKNOWN YOUNG MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Max-

UNKNOWN OLDER MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Max-

UNKNOWN YOUNG MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Max-

UNKNOWN OLDER FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
MAX!

MAX SPACE (19), jolts awake, sitting up to the sound of faint arguing. His **mechanical eye** swirls and pulses light, whirring. Max blinks quickly and gets moving.

EXT. STREETS, CLAN HARMON - PACIFIC FRINGE (LOS ANGELES) -
WEST COAST - 2157 - CONTINUOUS

Max exits his shelter, an old metal and wooden shack left behind from **The OldWorld** (the world before **The Fallout**).

The Fallout: Hinted at later, The Fallout is the period of time in which the world ended.

Max's shelter resembles others nearby, some stacked on each other all surrounded by a long wall, encompassing the area.

Max walks, sluggish, closing in on the figures ahead.

UNKNOWN YOUNG MALE VOICE (O.S.)
-And what are you planning to do
about it!?

UNKNOWN OLDER MALE VOICE (O.S.)

-It's complicated **Noah**, why don't
you calm down-

Max makes out NOAH GRAVES (20, **augmented**), a few COUNCIL MEN (40/50s), a COUNCIL WOMAN (30s), and Max's parents, HARMONY CARTER (40s, poised, augmented) and LION CARTER (40s, gruff), all circling Noah.

NOAH

My brother has been missing for 3
weeks while you pieces of filth sit
back and do nothing!

Max approaches close, as does MELODY STRAYDE (21, visible **techno-augments**), pacing to Noah and the council members.

*Techno-Augments: In this world, technological bio-augmentations, are a prevalent aspect of human survivalism after The Fallout. They can include brain chips, bionic arms, bionic eyes, bionic tendons, muscles, bionic spines, or even bionic organs. They vary per every clan and area of **The Wastelands**.*

Harmony steps forward, carefully.

HARMONY

Noah, we're trying our best to find
your brother FAYNE, we just need to-

NOAH

-No. What you guys need, is to let
us listen to the radios once in a
damn while so maybe we could hear
if anyone's actually out there!!

Other Clan Harmon members peek out of their shelters, curious and concerned.

COUNCIL MAN 1

Well maybe if you could've
convinced your brother to keep his
head where it belonged, none of
this would've happened-

Noah snaps, viciously attacking the council man, each adult backs away.

Noah scratches at the council man, who throws kicks and punches, sinking every one.

Max and Melody jump in and grab Noah.

Harmony and Lion do the same for the council man, now bloodied.

NOAH
Fuck you, you Scrap-Heap Fuck!

The Council Men glare down Noah: a seething stare.

Max and Melody hold Noah and stare back, Noah's look: hateful, as blood drips down his face.

INT. MAX'S SHELTER, CLAN HARMON - LATER

Max and Melody sit facing Noah. The room's littered with old superhero comics, dismembered augment prototypes on a nearby workbench, plus Max's gear and personalized artwork.

Noah's bruised up and cut, but cleaned slightly from before.

MAX
Hey, at least they didn't lock you up again.

NOAH
(chuckles)
Fuck this place.

MELODY
(hesitates)
Your brother's alive, I know it.
He's way too stubborn to die.

Silence.

MAX
I can talk to my Mom and Dad, see if they can do something.

NOAH
They won't change anything.

Max and Melody glance at each other, carefully.

Melody scoots closer to Noah. Noah pulls back.

MAX
We *will* find Fayne. I can try sneak some radio transmissions from my Mom-

NOAH
Then what?
(pauses)
(MORE)

NOAH (CONT'D)

Didn't the council de-rank her last week for cover-ups like that?

Max's look turns sour.

MELODY

Noah...

NOAH

...No, seriously. Because the last time I remember anyone trying to actually help us, it was *my* brother.

MAX

Did Fayne tell you where he was going?

Noah turns to Max.

NOAH

He-he said he was going to find,
Interval 9...

Max and Melody light up, exchanging looks.

MAX

(in awe)
Interval 9?

MELODY

Wait, the what, the rumored place no one knows exists? That Interval 9?

Noah stays silent.

Max can barely stay still.

MAX

I knew it...

MELODY

...Hold on, knew what? That place isn't even real. And aren't we forbidden from mentioning it now?

NOAH

God, who cares what The Council says?

Melody shrugs, nods.

MAX

I know Interval 9. It's like an oasis-

Max gets up and picks out a piece of his artwork from a nearby table. It is of an unfinished map of **United States**, where Max points out a **question mark** on the East Coast.

***Max's Map:** This map and its keys include a few labeled sections of the US:

The Pacific Fringe, on the East Coast, with dots spelling where they are now. **The Wastelands**, a larger overarching text labeling the entire US from West to East. **The Divide**, spelling out the midwest. "???" is labeled along the Midwest to East until reaching, **The Dead Dust**. The North, above The Dead Dust, is labeled **Arcland**. Then lastly, there are "???" labeled on the East Coast.*

MAX (CONT'D)

-Look. I've heard the rumors a while back. It could be real.

NOAH

And you've never brought this up with us before?

MAX

I've shown Fayne, that's how it came up.

Noah looks down.

Church bells ring, Max, Melody, and Noah look alert.

NOAH

(to himself)
Christ...

MELODY

You guys wanna show up for that?

NOAH

The Council doesn't deserve my attendance.

MAX

(A beat)
Did Fayne say why he left?

NOAH

He used to say that we're unsafe here or something, and how the Council refused to act, so he did.

MAX
I'll check with my parents, see
what they say.

NOAH
No point. Even as Council heads I
don't think they'll say shit.

MELODY
Well, this is Harmony we're talking
about.

Max smiles at Melody, who smiles back.

MAX
Look who's got my back.

MELODY
Ha. I'm on your moms side, not
yours. I'm in love with that woman.

MAX
(playful)
Hands off her.

Melody gives a devious smirk.

Noah sits silently stuck in thought.

INT. MAX'S PARENTS' SHELTER, CLAN HARMON - LATER

Harmony and Lion quickly search through their notes, papers,
maps, and boards with strategies and plans, which lay about
their room and on the walls.

Their shelter looks polished, richer and larger than Max's.

Max sits and watches in waiting.

MAX
Mom, Dad, what's going on?

Harmony rushes through layered maps.

HARMONY
Nothing sweetheart, don't worry
about it.

Lion plots dots on a strategy board with other clans labeled
on each part.

***Lion's dart board:** Though hinted at later, on the board, we can see a number of clans across the US, such as The Sicliac, Kravyl, and Solari clans, with lines drawn from them to Clan Harmon.*

MAX

Dad. What's happening? You guys are freaking out. I mean, I was just about to ask you about-

LION

-It's nothing, Max, don't worry okay? We've got everything under control.

MAX

What? Okay, what about Fayne then?

Harmony and Lion ignore Max and continue in their chaos.

MAX (CONT'D)

Are we safe here?

Harmony stops.

HARMONY

Aidan-

Max looks hurt by that name.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

-Max... Baby. Sorry. Look. Your father and I are trying our best here, okay? Just bear with us for a second-

MAX

-Then tell me what's really going on.

LION

It's not that simple Max.

Max gets up closer to them, looking at all of their scrabbled maps.

MAX

You guys don't have to hide things from me, you never-

Max stops short, staring at map on the table.

They all exchange looks.

MAX (CONT'D)
-Interval 9...

Max eyes the unfinished Map, marking Interval 9 on the East Coast.

LION
...Max, town dining is in a few minutes. Let's just talk after, or maybe tomorrow bud, let's just-

HARMONY
-No, stop.
(pauses)
How do you know about Interval 9, Max?

MAX
So, it is real...

LION
No, kid, it's not. Can we all please just take a step back from this?

Lion sweats in his discomfort.

HARMONY
Max, we-

Lion shoots Harmony a gross look.

Harmony stares back, unfazed.

HARMONY (CONT'D)
We are not safe... The Sicliac and Kravyl clans have been threatening an attack ever since our head trader quit after Fayne left us.

Max listens intently.

Lion looks pressed.

HARMONY (CONT'D)
And, we've been in contact with Noah's brother ever since his voyage.

MAX
What??

Harmony turns to the radio.

HARMONY

We lost his signal a few days ago
but we've been mapping where he
should be.

(pauses)

There might come a time when we
have to follow his tracks all the
way through.

MAX

To Interval 9...

Dead, unnatural silence.

MAX (CONT'D)

So, what do we do?

LION

We don't *do* anything. Everything is
under control, right Harmony?

Harmony looks cautiously at both of them.

HARMONY

Right. We should be fine. Our head
Councilmen are already negotiating
with each clan, and we shouldn't
feel the ration shortage tonight,
so *you*, Max, should be fine. We've
got this, okay? Be strong, my son.

Max nods.

The radio perks up, a familiar signal; it's the Council.

Lion and Harmony exchange looks.

Harmony hugs Max and caresses his face with a hand of cold
augmented metal.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

We love you, Max.

Max nods.

MAX

Yeah, I love you guys, too.

Lion smiles and urges Harmony to move.

Harmony and Lion grab most of their materials, maps, notes,
boards, and so on.

LION

And stay out of trouble. We can't keep bailing you guys out, you got that?

Max nods, and Harmony and Lion run out.

Max stays behind and walks over to a map they left behind.

***Harmony and Lion's map:** Similar to Max's, but with newer locations, including: A traced path to Fayne's last known location, **The Dwellings** and **Techno-Infected Lands**. Then, in the mid-Midwest, **The Soulless**. After and below the Midwest regions, (including The Dead Dust), **The Southern Boarder**, with skulls around it. Then, Arcland up north, before the East Coast. Finally, there's **The Eastern Wall**, with "Interval 9??" labeled underneath it, on the East Coast.*

Max pockets the map and heads out.

INT. FOOD HOUSE, CLAN HARMON - NIGHT

Max walks into the food hall. Dozens of people walk and sit about with their trays of food.

Max spots Melody and Noah at a table in the corner, away from everyone else.

Melody waves him over.

Max nods and heads to get his food.

As he walks by, citizens wave at him and smile. He smiles back.

On the walls around, posters of super-heroes and other art pieces familiar to Max's style lie about.

Those who know him, give kind welcoming looks when he orders his food.

INT. FOOD HOUSE - CORNER TABLE

Max sits down eating with Melody and Noah.

MELODY

I can't believe how much of your stuff they hang around here. The glaze is insane.

MAX

I know, it's like people know I'm cool and awesome or something.

NOAH

In you dreams council-kid.

They laugh together.

MELODY

(A beat)

Okay. So. What'd Harmony say? You talked to her right?

MAX

You know my Dad *exists* right?

NOAH

He wouldn't say a word even at gun point.

Melody chuckles. Max nods: he knows Noah's right.

MAX

Fair.

(A beat)

They think they know where Fayne is.

Noah perks up, shoving away his food.

NOAH

What? How? Where is he?

Max flashes the map he stole.

MELODY

Oh, shit, is that your map?

MAX

No, it's their's. They have new locations on it.

Max slips it back.

NOAH

Dude, why'd you put it away? Take it back out.

MELODY

We're in *the* public place of public places, are you crazy?

Noah scoffs.

MELODY (CONT'D)
Anything else?

MAX
(hesitating)
They, uh... They said that our clan
is...

NOAH
...Is what?

MAX
...We might be in danger-

Now Melody pushes her food to the side.

MELODY
-What? By who? Where?

MAX
The Sicliac Clan-

NOAH
...Fuckin' *Rusties*.

MAX
And the Kravyl Clan-

NOAH
God, after everything we've done
for them??

MAX
I know...

NOAH
Our God damned rations are low
because of them and now what, we
pay!?

Some food hall goers glance over.

MELODY
(to Noah)
Voice down.

Noah nods, annoyed.

MELODY (CONT'D)
Okay, so what's the plan?

MAX
Plan?

MELODY

Yeah.

(hinting to Noah)

This guy wants to go after Fayne
anyways, so...

MAX

What?!

NOAH

Max, you have a whole, complete map
now. We could go after him.

MAX

Going out there's a death sentence.

NOAH

Who told you that? Lion? He would.

MAX

Excuse me?

MELODY

It's not a death sentence,
necessarily, but, is staying here
much safer anymore?

MAX

I don't know.

NOAH

So, let's weigh it out. Think.
Fayne's out there, we have a steady
shot to him now, and we've been out
there already. We could handle it.

MAX

You think we could handle it? You
know how dangerous it is out there?
Nothing good's ever come out of it!

NOAH

Uh huh, and where do you think
these are from?

Noah flashes his fingers and arms, coded by metal augments,
lining his tendons and muscles.

MAX

(points at his eye)

Exactly my point. One mission, and
now we have Augs! Melody, you used
to live out there. Why would you
want to go back?

Melody seems disturbed by the comment.

NOAH

It may be our only option soon,
considering the news you brought
us.

The group pauses for a second.

NOAH (CONT'D)

(mocking Max)

Ooo, what if there's *Techno-Infected*!

MAX

You've never heard of a Techno-Infected before.

NOAH

Yeah. And you haven't either.

MAX

Okay, and?

NOAH

And, we've been on, like, four missions! On *not one* have we seen them. As a matter of fact, Melody used to live out there and she's never mentioned a singular Techno-Infected before-

MELODY

-Can we not?

MAX

Yeah, sorry, Mel.

NOAH

Sorry-Mel.

MAX (CONT'D)

Okay, well, there are actual, real threats out there, Noah.

NOAH

Like? Let me guess, you're afraid of Rival Clans, Mutants, Radial Storms, all that shit, huh?

MAX

Those could all be very real threats.

(pauses)

Maybe not Mutants though... I don't think I know a single story about one.

NOAH
True, me neither.

MELODY
Guys...

Max and Noah glance at Melody, who points at her head.
She moves her hair to show augmented wiring and plating.

MELODY (CONT'D)
Uhhhh, hello? Augments here, *from*
Mutants? That's literally the *one*
thing we'd need to worry about.

NOAH
Okay whatever, but guess what? I
have Fayne's old gun. *And*, I have
weapons training. We'll be fine.

MELODY
We all do, Noah...

NOAH
See!

Max pauses, awkwardly.

MAX
I uh-I don't.

MELODY
Oh. Looks like we're all dead then.

They laugh, then take a pause.

Max stares down, processing it all.

INT. MAX'S PARENTS' SHELTER, CLAN HARMON - LATER

Max sits with his parents.

Lion combs through war plans.

Harmony fiddles with the radio.

MAX
Is it possible we could go out to
get him?

HARMONY
Get who, Max?

A beat.

HARMONY (CONT'D)
Look... It's too dangerous to-

MAX
-You always say that. Both of you
always say that.

Lion looks back at Max.

LION
Because it's true. Do you think we
share these augments as a sign of
strength? Aid- Max... We're human.
We're strong humans. We are who we
are *not* from throwing ourselves
into uncertain danger, but by
exercising caution.

MAX
Yeah, that sure made Fayne wanna
stay, huh?

HARMONY
Max-
(pause)
-Fayne made a stupid mistake by
sneaking out in the middle of the
night to go to a location no one
truly knows exists.

MAX
You know it exists-

HARMONY
-No, Max... What we know, is it
could. And if it really is one of
the last safe havens left we-

Lion looks at her, rigidly.

HARMONY (CONT'D)
-Our chances of reaching it are
slim to none, as we don't know much
about it. Nor does any other clan.
Let's leave it alone, okay? We have
more important things to worry
about than this right now-

BOOM... A faint **explosion** rings out from afar.

Lion and Harmony lock eyes. Max looks at them in
anticipation.

MAX

Uhhh wha-

HARMONY

Shhh! Quiet!

Harmony rushes to the door.

Lion looks to the radio, then back to Max.

Max's about to run out.

LION

Max...

Max sprints out.

EXT. MAX'S PARENTS' SHELTER, OUTSIDE - CLAN HARMON -
CONTINUOUS

Harmony spots a shelter on fire in the distance. Another explosion rings out, shocking Max and Harmony. Faint screams follow.

HARMONY

Shit...

A quiet whistle begins to howl. Louder. **Louder.**

Harmony looks to the skies and sees the silhouette of bombshell dropping down...

HARMONY (CONT'D)

MAX!!

Harmony shoves Max forward as the shell falls above the shelter.

Max trips back, blinks once and their shelter blows to pieces.

He savagely flies backward and everything cuts to black.

EXT. BURNING STREETS, CLAN HARMON - MOMENTS LATER

Max slowly wakes up, coughing from the smoke all around.

He pushes debris off him and gets up, wincing in pain. His leg is hurt and bleeding.

The shelter is decimated. Max stands there, devastated.

He looks around: Clan Harmon is burning....

People run through the streets, some on fire, some carrying dead bodies, some alone, crying.

One runs towards Max, screaming for help until he's gunned down by a plasma beam in the distance.

Max sprints away, his leg trailing along.

Deeper into the streets he spots Melody frantically pacing with her gear.

MAX

Melody!

Melody turns quick and runs to Max. They embrace, rapidly checking each other for injuries.

MELODY

You hurt?

MAX

My leg, it's-

MELODY

-Have you seen Noah?

MAX

Shit-

Max and Melody take off.

EXT. NOAH'S SHELTER - CONTINUOUS

Max and Melody watch as Noah's shelter burns down in front of them.

Max hyperventilates, and Melody tries to hold her tears.

MELODY

(to herself)

He's not dead...

(aloud)

NOAH!!

Melody rushes closer to Noah's burning shelter. It looks emptied out through the flames.

The fire brushes past her face and she recoils back to Max.

MAX

Is he-

MELODY

-He's not there. Let's go!

EXT. BURNING STREETS, CLAN HARMON

The two sprint back to the streets and try to weave behind shelters to avoid RIVAL CLAN GUNMEN (wearing full helmets with painted body armor and augmented gear).

Max and Melody turn corners, Max's sprint devolving to a rushed limp.

NOAH

(in the distance)

Melody! Max!

The two turn to see Noah outside Max's shelter, one of the few left standing.

They run after him as violent explosions go off all around.

INT. MAX'S SHELTER - CONTINUOUS

Noah, with most of his gear, shows them a battered and injured Harmony.

Max desperately hugs his mother. She winces a bit and hugs back.

MAX

Mom! Where's Dad?

HARMONY

I-I don't know. I swear saw him but-

MELODY

-Everyone, we need to go!

Explosions scream out, getting closer.

Max grabs as much of his gear and personal stuff as he can.

Noah helps Harmony stand up properly, and she spits out some blood.

Noah backs away.

HARMONY

(to Noah and Melody)

You two, there's a secret exit
behind this shelter....

(MORE)

HARMONY (CONT'D)

Fayne used it to escape before, but
it's blocked off. Remove the
barriers.

Noah immediately runs out through the back.

Melody hesitates.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

Go, now!

Melody rushes out after Noah.

Max, with all his gear, rushes to his mother who falls back
down.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

Listen to me, Max-
(coughs hard)
I know you have the map... You have
to lead them. Take them to Interval
9... Find Fayne, he'll be there...

MAX

Wa-wa-wait, what-what about you?
I'm not gonna leave you!

HARMONY

Max, there's no other choice. I'm
going back for your father. You
need to get the hell out of here.
Now.

Max steps back as Harmony gets up.

She limps to the workbench nearby, opens it up to a secret
compartment, and pieces together a plasma rifle.

Max watches as she cocks and readies the gun.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

When you get to Interval 9, I'll
know...

Max holds his tears and runs out through the back.

EXT. SECRET EXIT - CONTINUOUS

Max meets Melody and Noah, who've managed to remove most of
the barricades.

The three tear down the rest as gunfire, explosions, and
screams rain down from every angle.

They rush through and run out behind the clan's walls.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF CLAN HARMON

Max looks back, on the move.

Clan Harmon has fallen...