

Terran 20K Script

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Page 1

Panel 1: WIDE SHOT - It is evening was we are getting a wide shot of the city of Pannotia, one of the two cities left on Earth, and built on the South Pole. It is a massive, multi-level, city built around a massive central space elevator leading up to orbital spaceports.

1. CHLOE: Are we ready?
2. KORY: Del said the engine flare ups have been taken care of. Now it's up to us to win.

Panel 2: We are now taken to the roof of one of the taller buildings on the second level of the city. Our protagonists, Kory, and Chloe are sitting on the edge of the rooftop looking out over the cityscape.

3. CHLOE: Just don't drive us off a cliff.
4. KORY: Hey, that only happened once.

Panel 3: We get a closer look at our duo, and especially Chloe. She looks upbeat but also tired, with slight bags under her eyes. Her life has been a struggle and she's clearly seen things better left unseen.

5. CHLOE: What'll you do with your half?
6. KORY: Book a ticket off this rock. I have someone I need to see.

Panel 4: Kory stands up and starts pacing around, Chloe is still sitting on the edge of the rooftop as they chat with each other.

7. CHLOE: Kory, do you think we can actually win?
8. KORY: I'm a pretty good driver y'know.
9. CHLOE: Even with our junker?

Panel 5: CLOSE UP – Kory flashes a cocky smile as he responds to Chloe's question about their car.

10. KORY: Well, we've got to give our competition a chance.

Page 2

Panel 1: Chloe, still sitting, turns away from Kory and looks out across the city again. The buildings on this level look just ok, a little run down but not falling apart or ruined like the ones at the very bottom of the city.

1. KORY: Why don't you come with me? We'd make a good team.
2. CHLOE: Sounds tempting but you know I can't. I can help people with the prize money.

Panel 2: Chloe stands up and looks directly at Kory with a look of determination on her face. She's clearly made up her mind about this already.

3. CHLOE: Sorry Kory but I can't just up and leave my friends and family.
4. KORY: Chloe, there's so much more out there beyond this dustbowl!

Panel 3: Kory tries to counter her arguments, but she angrily shuts him down and makes her points bluntly. She looks incredibly frustrated by Kory's seemingly flippant dismissal of her reasons, and she jabs her finger into his chest forcibly.

5. CHLOE: Who helped you out of that wreck, huh? Saved you from the sandstorm?
Helped you get back on your feet 6 months ago?
6. KORY: I...that...
7. CHLOE: That's what I thought so back off!

Panel 4: Chloe's face softens as she calms down and Kory looks like he regrets what he said. Kory has spent most of his life in luxury and is used to people rolling over for him, even with everything he's experienced over the last 6 months, it's hard to shake those habits and expectations quickly.

8. KORY: I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said that.
9. CHLOE: You have your priorities and I have mine.

Panel 5: Chloe stretches and starts walking towards the exit to the roof, Kory trails a little ways behind her.

10. CHLOE: I'm turning in; biggest day of my life tomorrow.

Page 3

Panel 1: We see the start line of the race, in Death Valley, looking the same as it does now. It's clear that the stands and spectators at the start line are being projected in from elsewhere, since Earth is mostly inhospitable apart from the climate-controlled cities at the poles. We see Chloe, Kory and the other racers make their way out to their vehicles.

1. CAPTION: Terran 20K Start Line, Death Valley, 12 Hours Later.

Panel 2: We are looking at the race on a massive projection in a casino. Clearly, this event is enormous and there are a lot of people across the galaxy betting on it. We see are sorts of humans and aliens playing casino games or watching the projection, drinks in hand.

2. ANNOUNCER: Welcome to the 266th Terran 20K! We've got trillions tuning in from across the stars to watch these 50 teams compete for 100 billion, winner take all!

Panel 3: Kory and Chloe begin climbing into their vehicle, which is one of the few on wheels; most of them use repulsors to float off the ground. A few other racers, some human and some not, point at their racer and look on smugly, as though Kory and Chloe are cavemen bringing a horse and cart to an F1 race.

3. RACER 1: Where'd you dig up that relic?
4. RACER 2: I'm embarrassed you even know how to drive it.
5. KORY: Well then you'd better not lose to us. How embarrassing would that be?

Panel 4: The other racers leave in disgust, with the human one flipping off Kory and Chloe. The pair who had insulted them climb into their very advanced racer (one we'll see repeatedly throughout the race) Kory playfully blows a kiss back at them, while Chloe climbs up into her seat.

6. CHLOE: If you're done playing, hop up and help me finish the pre-race checks.

Panel 5: Kory takes his seat and we get a look inside the main cabin of the racer. In front of Kory is the steering wheel, much like ours today and a number of consoles and holographic projections, giving him fuel status, tire condition, engine status and coolant levels. He is sitting on the left side of the cabin and Chloe is to his right, she is out of the panel. There is a window that divides the cabin in two so each are separated from the other.

7. KORY: Weapons?
8. CHLOE: Ready.

Panel 6: Kory activates the engine with one hand and places the other firmly on the wheel. We see Chloe beside him and she is hooked up directly into the console in front of her via a small cable so she can use the weapons hands free.

9. ANNOUNCER: Best of luck to all of our teams!

Page 4

Panel 1: The race begins and everyone shoots off extremely quickly, for this first panel, all we can see are blurs of vehicles as they blast forward. They also kick up some dust as they accelerate. This race goes all the way across North America, over 20,000 km, hence the name of the race and the whole thing takes about an hour, start to finish.

1. ANNOUNCER: They're off!

Panel 2: We see the racers fly through the ruins of Las Vegas on their way to the Hoover Dam. We can see some racers shooting at each other.

Panel 3: Inside the cabin, Kory is concentrating on the race while Chloe is sitting back in her chair while hooked up to the weapon systems.

2. KORY: Dam's coming up. Take out anyone who tries the shortcut.
3. CHLOE: Got it, stay on the course. You know what happens otherwise.

Panel 4: Kory's racer drifts across the curved ruins of Hoover Dam, with others ahead, behind and directly above them. One of the other racers tries to take the shortcut over the crossing.

4. ANNOUNCER: Looks like someone's trying the jump the gap to get in pole position.

Panel 5: We see Chloe's POV and it looks like the targeting system is projecting directly into her eyes from the cable. She is locking on to the racer, which is now mid-air and about halfway across the canyon.

5. CHLOE: Nice try.

Panel 6: On top of Kory and Chloe's racer is a pair of 360° autocannons, which blast the other racer out of the air in a spectacular fireball mid-jump.

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Panel 1: We at a look inside the announcer's booth, up on a space station orbiting Earth. The announcer is a strange-looking alien with a dozen eyes tracking every shot of the action.

1. ANNOUNCER: We're coming up on our next check in, apparently the humans who lived here called this place New York.

Panel 2: We're back with Kory and Chloe, we can see what Kory sees out of his window. There are holograms projecting warnings on either side of the designated route. This is to show the drivers where the edges of the legal course are. Anyone who is caught off the approved route for more than 10 seconds is vaporized from orbit by a satellite laser. We can also see Kory and Chloe's position in the race, currently 10th.

2. KORY: We gotta pick it up.

Panel 3: This is an exterior shot of the race and we can see a bunch of racers driving across the rocky desert. One of the other racers slams into Kory and Chloe's car, deliberately. This other car seems to be trying to drive them off the road.

Panel 4: Kory and Chloe are jostled around the cabin as they continue to take hits from this racer and are pushed towards the edges of the course.

3. KORY: They're trying to force us off the course!
4. CHLOE: I don't have a shot, you deal with them!

Panel 5: Kory slams his foot down on the breaks for a split second as he yells to Chloe.

5. KORY: Hold on tight!

Panel 6: The racer that was pushing against the car now flies ahead of them. Right into the line of the chain guns on the front of the car, giving Chloe an easy shot.

Panel 1: Chloe fires a burst from the chain guns, which damages the left propulsion engine on the racer, causing it to burst into flames and smoke.

1. ANNOUNCER: Looks like someone's caught fire.

Panel 2: A piece of the other racer tears off and crashes directly into the 360° autocannons on top of Kory and Chloe's car, destroying them.

2. CHLOE: Shit, we lost the top guns.

Panel 3: The racer, having lost control of their steering thanks to the damage, veers off the course and off-roads wildly. They are about to be annihilated by one of the satellite lasers.

Panel 4: An extremely accurate beam of light descends straight down from the sky and vaporizes the racer in a flash. We can see the racer being pulled apart and atomized in the light beam as the other racers keep going.

3. ANNOUNCER: That's why you stick to the approved course, folks!

Panel 5: We cut back to the announcer staring at his screens and his eyes widen as we see an enormous sandstorm, a 50-foot tall wall of sand, complete with massive lightning bolts striking within, on a number of his screens.

4. ANNOUNCER: There's a massive sandstorm blowing in for the last leg. This'll make for a fun finish folks!

Panel 6: Kory sees this massive sandstorm right in front of him and he has a nervous look on his face. This is the most uncomfortable and doubtful we have seen him throughout this whole story.

Panel 1: We have a shot of Kory being propped up by Chloe on foot in the middle of another sandstorm. This is a flash back to when they first met and we get to see what sort of conditions she grew up in and why she doesn't want to leave Earth behind. Chloe is wearing goggles and full gear protecting her from the sand. Kory has one arm draped over her as support and the other attempting to shield his eyes from the flying sand. It looks like they are in the middle of nowhere with the sand blowing around.

1. CAPTION: 6 months earlier.

Panel 2: Chloe and Kory arrive at her home in the base, the bottom of the multi-level city we saw at the beginning of the story. This level is on the actual Earth and is largely blocked from direct sunlight thanks to the levels of city built directly above this one. The buildings around here are very run down, small and are held up with DIY supports. Chloe opens the door of one of these buildings and lets Kory come in.

2. CHLOE: Get in, you can take cover here.
3. KORY: Thanks.

Panel 3: They enter into Chloe's home, which is filled with a dozen kids and a number of parents. It's clear that these people, despite being honest and hard-working (for the most part) are no better off. The place they live in is falling apart, dirty and cramped.

4. KORY: If you hadn't shown up, I'd never have gotten out of my ship.
5. CHLOE: Why are you even out here? Earth is a backwater.

Panel 4: Chloe helps Kory lay down on a small cot and we can now clearly see he has some shrapnel in his leg, which is bleeding a lot. She pokes around under the bed for a first aid kit.

6. KORY: I'm not here on purpose. Crashed running from some people I owe. Do you know where I can find a ship?
7. CHLOE: You're in the wrong place if you're looking for a ship.

Panel 5: CHLOE starts using some medical gel from what looks like a small spray can on the deep cut in Kory's leg. He grimaces in pain as the gel starts to quickly heal his leg and pull the wound closed.

8. CHLOE: None of us are going anywhere until I can make some serious money. Then, hopefully I can give everyone here a home they deserve. My next idea kinda fell through, thanks to my driver flaking on me.

Panel 6: Kory gets that cocky smile on his face again as he looks at Chloe and offers her his services as a driver.

9. KORY: You need a driver? You're in luck, I know a pretty good one.

Panel 1: We are back in the present and the racers are now in the middle of this violent sandstorm. Now they are in the Rocky Mountains and moving south back towards Death Valley, where the finish line is. We see Kory and Chloe's racer now out in front and being closely followed by the racer owned by the human and alien who insulted them at the start line back on page 3.

1. ANNOUNCER: We're in the homestretch folks, through the Rockies. It looks like we have a new leader!

Panel 2: The other racer starts shooting at Chloe and Kory from their blind spot and since the debris from the other racer took out their autocannons, they have no way of firing back. The bullets scratch and start ripping some of the armour off the top and side of their car.

2. CHLOE: They're in our blind spot and I can't hit them without the top guns.
3. KORY: I can keep us going but you need to get them off us!

Panel 3: We see inside the cabin and the bullets from the other racer have cracked the windshield in a few spots. Chloe unhooks herself from the cable that controlled the weapons while Kory struggles to maintain control of the car.

4. CHLOE: Keep her as steady as you can!

Panel 4: Chloe grabs a scoped, anti-materiel rifle from under her seat with one hand and puts on some targeting goggles with the other.

Panel 5: Chloe, opens up her side door, wearing the goggles and a breathing mask so she doesn't inhale any sand and fires at the other racer with her rifle.

Panel 6: We get a look at the announcer, watching one of the view screens of the two racers; he seems really excited and thrilled that the end of the race is this intense.

5. ANNOUNCER: Looks like our leaders are having a shootout as they come down to the finish line!

Panel 1: Chloe fires another shot, which bounces off the side of the racer, doing little damage, while the racer keeps shooting at their car.

1. CHLOE: Kory, I need to get a shot at the driver on the other side!

Panel 2: Kory turns the wheel and starts heading to the left, we can see through his windshield that they are almost at the finish line.

Panel 3: Kory and Chloe's car is now on the other side of the racer and she takes aim with her rifle. They are about 10 seconds away from the finish line at this point.

Panel 4: Chloe takes an incredibly clean shot, which shatters the glass and hits the driver of the other racer right in the head. The gunner in the racer keeps trying to destroy the car as this is happening.

Panel 5: The racer spins out of control and starts to crash, the guns are still firing wildly as it goes down while Kory and Chloe's car pulls away. Although we don't see it in this panel or on this page, Chloe is hit square in the chest by one of the stray bullets.

Panel 6: We see the car cross the finish line in first place; it looks like Chloe is back in her seat although we can't see anything clearly from here.

2. ANNOUNCER: We have our winner! Who knew a ground pounder could take home 100 billion in 2991?

Panel 1: We see Kory with a huge smile on his face as he celebrates the win! He's pumping his fists ecstatically.

1. KORY: We did it Chloe! That 100 billion's ours!

Panel 2: Kory looks over and sees a large blood splatter on the window that obscures Mila from view. He has a look of panic on his face.

2. KORY: Chloe!

Panel 3: He opens up her side door and finds her sitting back in her seat, not moving at all and still wearing her goggles and breathing mask. She has a large bullet wound in her chest, close to her heart from the looks of it.

3. KORY: Holy shit, Chloe! Talk to me!

Panel 4: He tries shaking her but she just slumps down further, completely unresponsive. We can see that Kory is starting to tear up as he realizes that she's dead.

4. KORY: Oh fuck...

Panel 5: Kory takes off her goggles and mask so he can life her out of the car.

5. KORY: I'll make sure that everyone at the base is taken care of, like you wanted. I promise.

Panel 6: Kory starts walking away from the car and towards the rest stop carrying Chloe's body. We can see a few other racers survived and their pilots are disembarking.

6. KORY: Sorry Illa but I can't come find you, not yet. I have to make things right here but I will return soon.