

**All pages are protected by
copyright.**

**© Kuros Charney
All rights reserved.**

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

The President, Vice President, and Lemmings, flanked by Secret Service, march down the hall.

LEMMINGS

We're now at Code Red. NSA and Secret Service want you in the Armageddon Suite until further notice. The Joint Chiefs are waiting.

They enter a large steel elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR -- MOMENTS LATER

They wait patiently as it descends. Muzak plays.

INT. ARMAGEDDON SUITE -- MOMENTS LATER

They emerge from the elevator into this huge suite with a plush, penthouse feel. On the wall are portraits of every president who's ever prosecuted a war, along with a number of video screens monitoring various places via spy satellite.

Awaiting our guys are the JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF and a number of INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS. They are greeted by the CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS, a no-nonsense warrior, all business.

CHAIRMAN

Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT

(shaking his hand)

General.

The Chairman leads them on to a raised platform at the center of the room. On it sits a massive computer system with a large screen, mildly resembling a video game.

CHAIRMAN

This is the X-10,000 CyberFortress. It controls all our weapons systems by remote. In the event of a cataclysm, you'll be able to wage war single-handedly from this room. Here's your control pad.

There are two seats, each in front of its own control panel.

THE PRESIDENT

What's the other one for?

CHAIRMAN

If the Vice President or one of your Cabinet wishes to join you. There are two settings: one to fight as a team, and one to combat each other.

THE PRESIDENT
Why would we want to fight each other?

CHAIRMAN
Times of crisis often lead to insubordination. If one of your staff attempts to stage a coup, it can be resolved on this system.

THE PRESIDENT
(fiddling with it)
So how do I practice?

He presses a button, and the machine makes an ominous beep.

THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
What just happened?

CHAIRMAN
You just fired a nuclear missile from a submarine in the Aegean Sea. It's headed for Istanbul.

THE PRESIDENT
I didn't mean to do that.

CHAIRMAN
Would you like it shot down, sir?

THE PRESIDENT
Please.

The Chairman picks up the comm.

CHAIRMAN
(into the comm)
ICBM #25732 has been launched. We'd like it destroyed. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT
Is our missile defense up and running?

CHAIRMAN
This is our first test.

The others look nervous.

THE PRESIDENT
Well, how complicated is the design?

CHAIRMAN
Detailed, but delicate. It requires 300 million lines of computer code to function.

THE PRESIDENT

You mean—what? If a single comma's
in the wrong place, it won't work?

CHAIRMAN

Technically speaking.

They all stand in silence, awaiting the inevitable.

The comm beeps.

CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)

(picks up the comm)

General Packard, here.

(to the others)

The missile's been hit. It exploded
in the mesosphere. Fallout should
be minimal.

The others breathe a sigh of relief.

THE PRESIDENT

I'm not trained to use this.

CHAIRMAN

No problem, Mr. President. Just
flip this switch to simulator, and
you can practice all you want.

THE PRESIDENT

Thank you, General.

CHAIRMAN

My pleasure, sir.

INT. ARMAGEDDON SUITE -- LATER

The President is playing a battle simulation on the X-10,000
CyberFortress. Lemmings hurries in.

LEMMINGS

Mr. President, we have news from the
Pentagon.

THE PRESIDENT

Not now, Lemmings. Can't you see I'm
busy?

Lemmings looks at the video screen.

THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Look, I've downed three MiG-29s and
liquidated a Hezbollah stronghold.

LEMMINGS

Congratulations, sir, that's very
impressive...