

THE DESTROYER

Sci-Fi

On a hostile, alien world, a fearsome robot warrior picks up an unexpected companion with a powerful secret.

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EXT- OUTSKIRTS- DESTROYED VILLAGE- DAY

A fearsome looking ROBOT stands on a precipice, drawing his weapon as he surveys the BURNING VILLAGE before him. The few buildings left standing look like post-war ruins, surrounded on all sides by LICKING FLAMES and roiling clouds of thick, BLACK SMOKE.

Rifle at the ready, the robot descends the steep embankment, splashing through thick, oily puddles as he makes his way to street level.

CUT TO:

EXT- MAIN ROAD- DESTROYED VILLAGE- MOMENTS LATER

With methodical precision, the mech soldier inspects the remnants of the RUINED BUILDINGS for survivors, supplies, anything that might be useful. CHARRED BODIES litter the streets, skeletons that look more like kiln-dried ebony than human bone.

He spies an ornate talisman on one of the fallen villagers. The robot shoulders his weapon and tugs hard to pull the piece free from the neck of it's former owner.

As he slips the trinket into his leather satchel, a flash of MOVEMENT under a SMOKING WAGON across the street catches his eye. Rifle in hand, the robot crosses the intersection to investigate.

EXT- BURNING WAGON, MAIN INTERSECTION- CONTINUOUS

He grabs the corner of the smoldering cart and flips it over like a toy. He readies his weapon for whatever newly-exposed threat might reveal itself, but to his surprise, it's not a threat at all...

It's A KITTEN. An adorable, frightened, little kitten covered in soot and dirt.

The robot picks up the tiny feline to inspect it. Before he can react, the kitten purrs and rubs it's snout on the robot's faceplate, a classic sign of feline contentment.

Confused by the small, furry animal, he surveys the landscape for any clue as to the creature's origins.

As the robot ponders, the kitten gets comfortable; gives itself a quick bath, yawns and curls up in the robot's metal hand, purring as it falls asleep.

Pleased with the tiny creature's soft, warm fur and strange purrs, the robot decides to keep the little beast as a companion. He gives the kitten a gentle rub on its head as they leave the ruined village behind.

CUT TO:

EXT- ALIEN LANDSCAPE- LATER THAT DAY

The robot and his new passenger make their way across a HOSTILE, UNFORGIVING LANDSCAPE. As the kitten sleeps, the android scans the horizon with high-tech binoculars. He spies a plume of smoke over the next ridge, and moves in to investigate.

CUT TO:

EXT- FARMING VILLAGE- A BIT LATER

The robot and his new friend arrive at a ridge overlooking a THRIVING FARMING VILLAGE. Smiling workers tend their crops, as others mill about the rolling GREEN HILLS that surround the small town. As the robot surveys the scene, the kitten stirs, awakened by the sounds of the village. The tiny critter sits up and stretches... just as the villagers see the robot on the ridge.

The terrified farmers scream and run en masse; scooping up their children and leaving their tools behind as they rush back to their homes. The kitten, startled by the villagers reaction, backs into the robot, who rubs the creature's chin to calm it down. It works like a charm, and the little feline purrs and settles back into the robot's palm for another nap.

The robot decides that perhaps it would be better to just move on, so the pair head away from the farm village, towards a heavily wooded area on the outer edge of the valley.

CUT TO:

EXT- DENSE WOODS- DUSK

Kitten in hand, the robot navigates the DENSE FOREST. A VAST CANYON is revealed at the end of the tree line. There's a heavy ROPE BRIDGE to get to the opposite side, but it's been CUT.

EXT- ROPE BRIDGE- EDGE OF CANYON- CONTINUOUS

As the robot inspects the severed ropes, dozens of ARMED WARRIORS silently emerge from the shadows of the trees on all sides. The fearsome-looking warriors draw their weapons and silently surround the pair.

With his soldiers in place, THE VILLAGE CHIEFTAIN makes his presence known. Surprised and surrounded, the robot turns to face this new adversary. The chieftain's angry face tells the robot everything he needs to know without a word being uttered: he's outgunned and outmanned and facing a determined foe...

They also have him CORNERED on the very edge of a bottomless canyon. He scoops up the kitten and pulls it closer to his chest.

The furious chieftain furrows his brow, grits his teeth and raises a trembling hand to call out his enemy, but it's not the robot at all...

IT'S THE KITTEN.

Shocked and confused, the robot is blinded by BURSTS OF LIGHT emanating from the feline. The little beast, it's cover blown, snarls and hisses as it floats out of the robot's hand. It's yellow eyes crackling with terrible energy.

Before the warriors can react, powerful beams burst from the kitten's eyes and EXPLODE the chieftain into a cloud of ash. One by one, the newly-revealed destroyer unleashes death blasts on the warriors; turning them into piles of burnt, dead leaves.

They scatter, try to run, but it's no use. The kitten's DEATH RAYS consume each and every one, felling trees and scorching the ground in the process. Their blackened, skeletal corpses exactly like the ones from the beginning of the story.

EXT. EDGE OF CANYON - CONTINUOUS

With the war party destroyed, the killer kitten turns it's attention to the robot, backing away towards the edge of the cliff. The furious little beast snarls and growls as he floats towards the android, who's got nowhere left to go.

The robot raises his hands in surrender, but the destroyer advances, hissing as it's little eyes spark with malevolent power. Once it's right up on the robot, the beast's demeanor changes, the CRACKLING LIGHT FADES and it reverts back to an adorable kitten. It purrs as it hovers and once again rubs it's little snout on the robot's faceplate.

The robot's a slave now, and they both know it.

The droid holds out his hands and the purring kitten floats down into his waiting, metal palms. They leave the smoking forest and the litter of charred skeletons behind as they head out for the next village.

End.