

# The Veldt

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## EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

It's storming outside. The ground floods with water.

A sleek black car pulls up to a ten-story, high-rise apartment. The face of the building is a collage of colours born from the apartment windows.

A room on the top floor stands out from the rest; the window is illuminated by a flaming purple glow. Curtains flail out from the open window.

Rain drenches the cardboard sign of a despairing HOMELESS MAN situated outside the apartment. Sign reads 'HUNGRY, HOMELESS AND FORGOTTEN. GOD BLESS. 26:41'.

JOHN (mid-60s) is a tall, broad, old man; with an unkept, gray beard. He sports a trench coat with a suit underneath.

He exits from the backseat of his car. Checks his watch: 12:51 AM. Grabs his suitcase and opens his umbrella.

Car door automatically closes. Empty car drives off...

John approaches the apartment.

HOMELESS MAN  
WATCH AND PRAY  
SO THAT YOU WILL  
NOT FALL INTO  
TEMPTATION. THE

SPIRIT IS WILLING  
BUT THE FLESH IS  
WEAK!

Ignores him.

HOMELESS MAN  
THE FLESH IS WEAK!  
THE SPIRIT IS  
WILLING BUT THE  
FLESH! THE FLESH!  
THE FLESH IS WEAK!

Reaches the front door. Doors are stuck on a cycle. Open...  
CLOSE! OPEN... CLOSE! He waits for it to cycle once more.  
Slides through.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The lobby is a small, compact, box of a room. Left wall is  
flooded with overflowing mailboxes. Right side has two  
screens.

An advertisement sits on one screen reading 'Escape To The  
African Veldt Within The Comfort of Your Own Home' with a  
picture of a smiling family. Behind them is a large, glowing,  
African Veldt.

Other screen is a scrolling list of 5-digit numbers.

AI  
Hello, Dr. Johnathon  
Burroughs. You have  
received an emergency  
pin from resident number

19942. His room is now  
accessib-

## CUTS OUT

He enters the elevator. Chooses the floor. Elevator begins to move before the doors close. The walls around him melt into a vast African veldt. The sunset fills the horizon with a bright purple glow.

He can still see the outline of the doors. An advertisement with big white letters emerges from the landscape. 'Escape To The African Veldt Within The Comfort of Your Own Home. A Product of THE HAPPYLIFE COMPANY.'

Elevator returns to normal. DOORS OPEN. He steps out and is lead down the hallway by arrows lighting up the floor.

Approaches a door labelled '19942'. Distorted AI voice greets him.

AI  
Hello Dr. Johnathan  
Burroughs. 19942 is  
relaxing in the veldt right  
now. He requested you  
meet him in there.

Door opens on its own. Enters.

## INT. ROOM 19942 - CONTINUOUS

Apartment is cold and dark. John's breath is visible when he exhales. A singular source of light comes from deep within the hallway. It is a flaming purple glow that leaks through the bottom of the door.

Apartment is filled to the brim with various electronics and boxes. Nothing works. Light fixtures have been TORN OUT. Wires hang in their place. All the kitchen appliances have been RIPPED to shreds. The floor is FLOODED with metal scraps, and wires.

In the living room, there is a TV mounted inside the wall. The screen is SMASHED. The couches are RIPPED apart. On one of the couches the recliner repeatedly opens and closes.

John uses a Polaroid camera to photograph the half destroyed apartment. Shakes Polaroid.

Works his way towards the glowing purple door. Buzzes grow as he approaches.

BUZZZZZZ. BUZZZZZZ.

Reaches the door. Nothing happens.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

JOHN

Hello? This is Dr.  
Burroughs. I received an  
emergency house call  
from tenant 19942, and  
was told that I would  
find them in-

DOOR CREEPS OPEN.

John is BLINDED by a bright purple glow. He covers his face.  
He walks into:

EXT. AFRICAN VELDT - SUNSET

John is teleported into an entirely different land. The horizon is infinite. His peripheral is filled with landscapes unknown to him. Around him is a vast, rural, veldt. Filled with dried out trees, long wavy grass, and brown scrub.

There isn't any water in sight. The air is thick. John suddenly sweats profusely. Wipes his forehead.

He takes in the scenery. His gaze locked onto the horizon. STARES off.

GROAAAAN.

30 feet away sits a chair that faces towards the sunset. There appears to be a skinny body sitting.

GROOOOANNN

John hastily makes his way towards the chair.

JOHN

Excuse me, I'm Dr.  
Burroughs. I believe you  
sent in an emergency  
pin-

GROOOOOOAAAANNNNN

Sweat LEAKS out of John's pores. Wipes forehead.

Approaches the chair. Groans become more rampant.

JOHN

Hell-

Chokes on his words.

In the chair sits a SHRIVELLED black body. The body is CHARRED like an overcooked marshmallow. Beneath the black, BURNT skin, is BLOODY RAW FLESH. Its shoulder tendons poke out. The skin is tight to the bone. Eye sockets PICKED CLEAN. Teeth still perfectly intact. Tongue missing.

JOHN

(tearful)

Oh god, oh god, oh god.

What happen-

GROOOOOOOAAAAN GROOOOOOOAAAAAN  
GROOOOOAAAAANNN

Words burn into the screen.

INSERT: THE VELDT