
DEGENESIS
REBIRTH

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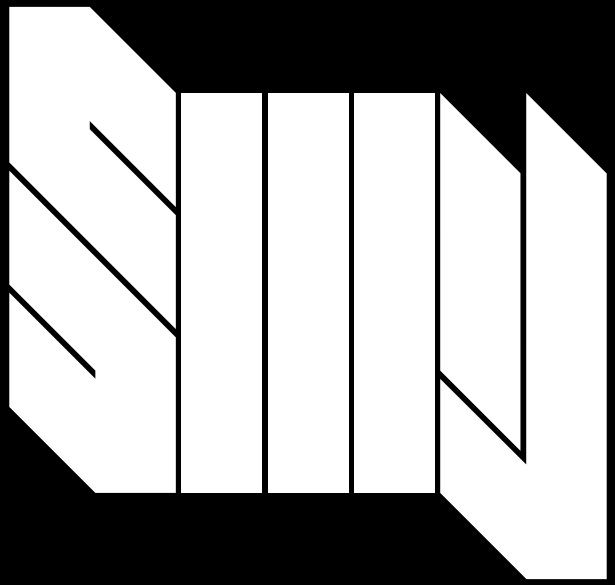
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THE PACK

**THE YEAR 2595. EARTH HAS CHANGED FOREVER.
ITS GLORIOUS DAYS ARE HIDDEN IN A DISTANT AND FORGOTTEN PAST.
ENTER A DAMP AND GLOOMY FOREST.**

Falberg (12y), his Father Eirik (Mid 30s) and his sister Reka (10y) are hunting in the forest.

The trails are fresh, wild deer were grazing here. We see the interaction between father and children, and the trust between brother and sister. Their relationships are intertwined; they care for each other and look out for each others' backs. Their tools and weapons are primitive and handmade, but effective. Their clothing shows that they are people who live off the forest – simple and sturdy fur coats and hoods.

They spot strange tracks mixed with the deer tracks. They know it means danger. Gendos (A species evolved from wild dogs) have followed them. Surrounded them

The Gendos attack. The battle is grim. Eirik has to save his children several times and receives a fatal wound in turn. Before the Gendo alpha can kill Eirik, Falberg rescues him by shooting the beast with his father's old revolver.

Falberg and Reka help their father up, but he is weakened from the bite and claw wounds. Gangrene grips his body and shakes him with fever. They must get him back to their homestead.

Reka runs off ahead to get help.



II

DEATH AT THE DOORSTEP

A FEW NIGHTS LATER. EIRIKS HOMESTEAD.
A SMALL HUT IN A MURKY VILLAGE.

Eirik lies dying. Reka has brought the Spitalians (Short form of HOSpitalians, a cult of doctors, medics and scientists) from a nearby village to look at the wounds. The doctor by Eirik's bed recites the symptoms he sees. His diagnosis; spreading bacteria is causing necrosis in Eirik's body. He speaks with words and medical language that are foreign to everyone else in the room.

In the corner, sitting in the shadow of the hearth's fire, Eirik's wife Agatha (mid 30s) cowers with her children Reka, Corvin (son 6y) and Falberg. They watch the traumatic scene unfold as Eirik begs the doctors to save him and not leave him to die. He needs to be there to protect the family. The Spitallians, however, remain unmoved and ice cold. They look around for anything of value to trade for their work, but they see nothing in the homestead worth their time. They tell Eirik they cannot heal him if he has no way to pay them. He answers that he doesn't own anything that they would want or need. They look at Falberg, then back to Eirik and say:
"Your eldest."

Falberg's heart races. He doesn't want to leave his parents and siblings behind.
An emotional dialogue ensues, the dying father begging for his son's forgiveness, asking him to go with the Spitalians so they will treat the father in turn and allow him to take care of the rest of the family. Falberg is terrified. The Spitalians loom over him. They explain to Falberg that if they don't heal Eirik, he will die. And if he dies, the Gendos that did this will come back for the rest of them. Or perhaps even something worse... Agatha and Falberg's siblings are shattered by the Spitalians' request. One man's life for another. That's their offer.

Reka clings to Falberg and cries in fear. They have to watch their beloved son and brother depart into an uncertain future.

They know they will never see him again.
While the Spitalians depart with Falberg, we see a Mollusk(Small strip of muscle in a glass tube, twitches in presence of Spores) inside a Splayer(Tall mechanical spear) convulse for a split second. The Famulancer(Spitalian soldier) carrying the staff holds still for a moment, taking a second glance back at the family, but decides that he must have imagined the movement inside the glass container.
On Falberg's younger brother Corvin's back we see black marks dotting his spine.
The first sign of infection...


RISE.
FIGHT.
LIBERATE.

III

THE RECRUITMENT

THE SPITAL. HEADQUARTERS OF THE SPITALIANS.

A large industrial complex, with hospitals, power plants, crematoriums, barracks, large protective walls, parade boulevards and mechanized defenses. This is the last bastion of mankind.

Time lapse. We see impressions of Falberg's recruitment. His head is being shaved. He is disinfected in the showers with the other Recruits. He dons his first uniform.. Fast cuts. Falberg studies in class with other Spitalian Recruits. The light is bright and white and washes out the contours of the lecturer. They are being taught the tools of survival. Of hygiene. Of warfare.

They are being taught what it means to be a Spitalian. They are Humanity's last line of defense. They learn lessons about the state the world is in, the destruction caused by the Spore Infestation, the Spore Fields, and mankind's greatest enemy: Homo Degenesis.

Falberg grows older with each cut. A repetitive shot shows him getting his head shaven over and over again, his face becoming progressively older, and the lessons become more focused on combat. Commands are barked by the lecturers.
He also manages to make his first comrades and friends among the recruits: Hannah and Victor. Both were taken as children, just like him.
Falberg is 20 now. He is being sent off to his first raid...







IV

THE FIRST MISSION

A DARK WAREHOUSE IN THE WASTELAND.

A flock of Apocalyptics has smuggled Burn (A potent drug derived from the Spores when a field is in full bloom) and are loading shipments for couriers to nearby cities. Their leaders are a grim sight, shady, tattooed from head to toe, and dressed in strange foreign clothes.
They look like hell.

Nearby, Falberg and the other Recruits have been slowly approaching the area. They know that the fight will be their first test. Hannah and Victor are with him.
The Corps consists of 10-12 armed Spitalian Recruits, Famulancers and a Field Medic. While they try to encircle the encampment, an Apocalyptic spots them and sets off the alarm. They have to storm the warehouse now, to maintain their momentum.

They charge into the battle, rampaging through several levels of the building, with steel beams collapsing and fighting happening on all sides.
Hannah and Falberg are cut off from their Corps and have to confront Devon, the Raven(leader of the Apocalyptic flock) alone.

Devon is a fearsome opponent, cutting and slashing through the two inexperienced Spitalians. In the heat of the moment Falberg gets cornered. Hannah rushes in to rescue him, but instead gets stabbed by Devon's push dagger and dies. Falberg takes advantage of the split second where Devon's attention is diverted to grasp his Splayer and tear through Devon, committing his first kill.
As the Spitalians burn down the warehouse and regroup, Falberg carries the dead Hannah back to his horse to bring her body back to the Spital.



V

THE FUNERAL

BACK AT THE SPITAL.

Hannah's dead body is stripped of her uniform. She is cleaned and then incinerated with the other dead comrades. Falberg and Victor watch her as she is set ablaze. They ponder the nature of this war, and of dying for a higher cause. Victor starts to doubt the idea of being a Spitalian. He is troubled by the thought that a future raid could easily kill him off as well.

The scene ends with the inauguration of Falberg and Victor as Famulancers. They receive new uniforms and participate in the parade, while the crematorium in the background spews the ashes of their comrades into the low gray sky.

VI

HOMELAND

YEARS LATER.
DARK FOREST IN CLOSE RANGE TO A NEARBY VILLAGE IN A DESOLATE LANDSCAPE.

Falberg and Victor are full Spitalians now and are part of a large raid. A village has been located that is infested by a Spore Field. It is said that the entire village has been infected with the Spore seed. Some Spitalians are taking probes from the ground. The troops have gathered in a nearby forest. There are dozens of Spitalians and support troops from the Anabaptists(a powerful and religious Cult that works closely with the Spitalians). Together, they start to surround the village. The Mollusks inside the Splayers are convulsing rhythmically.

The Spitalians have sent a squad of Preservists (Spitalian Elite Combat Forces) to join the Famulancers. Falberg makes eye contact with the tall pale man leading the Preservists. The blank and compassionless look on the leaders face forebodes a looming danger. This is the infamous Kranzler, the leader of the Preservists.

The Spitalians put on their gas masks, the time for battle has come.
As the raiding party approaches the Village, Falberg recognises that this place is his home, even though he hasn't returned since childhood. What has happened here?

Falberg's fears become reality when one of the infected villagers spots the raiding party entering the village and fires a flare pistol into the air. Infected humans rush out to confront the Spitalians from all sides. A large battle erupts. Parts of the soil crumble and swallow cottages, revealing a full grown Spore Field underneath the village. The confrontation is ghastly, the villagers fighting with all will they have left to survive. In the chaos, Victor is ambushed by a group of Infested and clubbed to death. Falberg pushes forward to rescue him, but is attacked from the side by one of the Infested and both slam into a nearby barn.

A gruesome fight breaks out between the hooded figure and Falberg, his mask bearing the brunt of punches aimed at his face. Within the death lock, Falberg realizes he is fighting his own father.
The two recognize each other and cease their fighting, as a fully spawned Mandala (the sign of a full grown Infestation) is revealed on his father's infected chest.
Eirik screams at Falberg: "Why are you killing us, why didn't you come to heal us?" He grabs a nearby axe and swings it at Falberg. Falberg dodges the blow but is pursued by Eirik, who has fully succumbed to the Infestation. In a moment of desperation, Falberg turns his Splayer around and kills his own father. He collapses besides the dying body, shaken from the terror of having to kill the man he loved so much.

Outside, the battle continues. The scene is drowned in screams and explosions as en-

campments are set ablaze. The Spitalians are hunting down the Infested.
Falberg makes it out of the barn, and runs across the village toward his homestead. Inside, he finds his mother dying in her bed. Her nose and mouth are teeming with Spores, flakes rustling with every cough. He asks her for the whereabouts of Reka and Corvin but she is unable to speak. He tries to help her breathe by pushing fingers into her mouth to dig out Spores so that she can catch air. Tears run down his cheeks as he desperately tries to save her.

A dark figure appears behind Falberg. Kranzler. He cocks his pistol and shoots Falberg's mother Agatha, putting her out of her misery. Falberg catapults around and immediately starts attacking Kranzler, who easily dodges the blows and pushes Falberg against the wall, choking him into submission.

Kranzler explains that this is the only way:
"Humanity has to come first! Individual life doesn't matter for a higher goal!
There is no cure but to fight back against the Infestation! Only good men like you can keep up the fight! I need men like you, if humanity wants to stand a chance…"
…In that moment a hidden door opens. It is Reka, Falberg's sister, who was hiding from the Spitalian attack. She is desperate. She wants to flee and points an old and rusted revolver toward them. She recognizes Falberg, Falberg recognizes her. Time freezes. She cannot make the choice of whether she will shoot or not. Kranzler hurls himself around Falberg, grabs the gun and breaks her arm. He slams her into the ground, pins her and quickly checks her mouth and nose for infection. Falberg is frozen. Kranzler lets go of Reka and whispers: "Clean".

Kranzler strides away from the homestead, Falberg and Reka follow. Bloody and wounded Spitalians and Anabaptists stand among the corpses. They have herded together a group of people who seem to be clean and show no signs of Infestation. Falberg whispers to Reka: "Where is Corvin?" Reka answers with an empty stare: "Like you. Gone." Reka is grabbed by one of the Anabaptists and pushed toward the other survivors. Falberg screams at Kranzler: "What will happen to her?" Kranzler stops his walk, and exhales: "They will save her."

In the final shot we see Kranzler, Falberg and other surviving Spitalians regrouping on a nearby hill overlooking the village. The Anabaptists move with the surviving villagers in another direction. Falberg and Reka's eyes meet once more across the hill.
Kranzler orders his troopers to burn it all.

VII

NEW BEGINNINGS

THE FORTRESS, HEADQUARTERS OF THE PRESERVISTS.

Falberg arrives in a massive fortress that Kranzler has revamped into a training facility for the best Spitalians to join the elite troops of the Preservists. The facility houses a barracks and an arsenal. Falberg discovers equipment and enhancements that he couldn't even imagine. He is trained by Kranzler. His skills become more refined, he learns to make the most of his strengths and rises quickly amongst the ranks. He dives deeper into the knowledge of the world. He learns about the Spore Fields, about Homo Degenesis and their weaknesses, and how the Primer (The Virus responsible for the Spore Infestation) spreads its seed.

Kranzler shows Falberg how the Primer Virus mutates living organisms. How it encloses the existing DNA strands in a human embryo and exchanges strands, replacing them with viral copies, thus creating Homo Degenesis.
Falberg cannot fathom the Primers powers and asks: "What is this?"
Kranzler replies: "God."

They continue training and Falberg learns both how to track Psychonauts (Common for Homo Degenesis) and how to fight them.

Kranzler keeps teaching him, bestowing him with techniques to help him overcome fear, to command his will, and to use medical enhancements that enable him to become more perceptive and skillful in full melee combat.

Time Lapse:
Falberg uncovers powers in his training that he wasn't aware of. He sees spectral patterns in the air. He sees how insects form complex patterns and mandalas.
He experiences sounds he has never heard and unlocks a strength that he didn't have before. (Unbeknownst to Falberg, Kranzler keeps drugging him with Spores. He tries to push Falberg's human limits, willingly contaminating him in order to transform him into something that could possibly match the Psychonauts. We will reveal this later but it's an important insert).
Falberg finishes his training by besting Kranzler in a sword fight. It is time for him to leave the Fortress and serve as a Preservist. A protector of humanity.



VIII

THE LONG JOURNEY

**TIMELAPSE OF RUINED EUROPE.
SEVERAL LOCATIONS: ALPS, PLAINS, THE REAPER'S BLOW,
THE MOLTEN LANDSCAPES OF POLLEN AND SO FORTH.**

Falberg and his steed travel east toward Pandora, the crater where the infestation began. We show his long and lonesome ride. Falberg's powers become more evident in every scene. It seems like he understands nature. He can instinctively find sources of water and food, as if he's seeing invisible markers. Insects and animals send signals to him that he reads on his way. It seems like something on his journey is pulling him in a certain direction. Seasons pass – rain, snow, drought. The sheer vastness of mankind's future is unspooled for Falberg to see.

IX

A FAMILIAR FACE

POLLEN.
ANABAPTIST TRAVELING WAR CAMP.
AT THE EDGE OF A FRACTAL FOREST.

Falberg arrives at an Anabaptist war camp. The men and women are worn out. They are here on a crusade toward Pandora. The war band is fierce and faithful, it burns with fervor. These people are like the Spitalians, banding together to rid the world of the Psychonauts, but their motives are grounded in religion instead of science. They fight with swords, spades and fire from their flamethrowers.

The Emissary of the Anabaptists wishes to speak to Falberg in her tent. When Falberg enters, he cannot believe his own eyes. His sister Reka has joined the Anabaptists as their leader. She is disgusted with Falberg and the Spitalians. She tells him how she joined the Anabaptists after they took her from the village. How she had to make the best of what she was given in life: either join the Cult, or be left to die in the Wasteland. Falberg's hands are drenched in blood but there was nothing he could have done to save Reka from her destiny.

He asks Reka what happened to their brother Corvin.

She reveals to him that he bore the Infestation first and showed signs of transformation when he was becoming a young adult.
He fled the village and she has been trying to track him down ever since. It was his doing that brought destruction over all of her and Falberg's people. His trail brought her here. She kept dreaming of him, of the place he would be hiding. She believes that there must be a cure for his ailment. That if she just finds him, she will be able to rescue him.

Falberg tells her that it is impossible. However, she doesn't believe him, instead she confronts him about his life as a henchman of the Spitalians. How he keeps on killing innocent sick people in the name of the Spitalian Cross and moralistic goals of saving mankind, instead of looking to contain the source of the infectious spread and cure it. She offers him redemption if he joins her in her efforts to find and save Corvin.

In that moment the camp is besieged by Spore Beasts and Infested from the forests…

TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

INSIDE THE FRACTAL FOREST.

The defense of the camp fails, turning the tide for the war band. There is no choice but to make a desperate retreat.
Falberg finds his sister Reka and together they rush toward the enemy, charging into the Fractal Forest in an attempt to locate the source of the creatures.
Inside, the tension is amplified, as the Forest has its own rules of reality. Meat sacs between the roots swallow warriors. Anomalies split the group. Centipedes and armies of spiders rush from crevices and attack the fleeing men. The forest is under the control of a Psychonaut, and the reach of his powers become more visible with every step.
Reka prays to her God to stand by her in this battle. Falberg mobilizes and injects himself with the medicine that Kranzler provided.

Falberg and Reka continue their pursuit, pushing forward through the forest. They manage to escape the encroaching dangers and make it into a large open space in the forest's heart.

XI

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

THE MOTHER SPORE FIELD.

A Mother Spore Field has grown in the heart of the forest.
Dead bodies and skulls litter the tree barks. Men have lost their lives here.
Reka and Falberg have entered the sanctuary of a Psychonaut.
A snarl forebodes the danger. This is the lair of a Biokinetic, and nature is at his whim. He approaches from between the trees, almost like an illusion.
The Biokinetic is a force of nature; the raw power of evolution pulses through his veins. He changes and shapeshifts body parts. His skin rips, revealing muscular growth underneath. The crack of bones split the tense silence as his body rearranges itself, becoming more agile and growing armored plates.
He rushes in to attack Falberg and Reka who are left with no choice but to desperately fight back. They know this is their brother Corvin, but he cannot relate to them in his new form. Corvin is now a fully developed Homo Degenesis, a Biokinetic at the height of his power and the epitome of evolutionary survival. Falberg and Reka fight with their full force against him, only marginally gaining ground. At the height of the battle Reka is severely wounded. Corvin's clawed arm pierces her shoulder and throws her back into the trees. Enraged Falberg proceeds to savagely attack Corvin, using a combination of sword blows and gun shots to keep the Psychonaut at bay. By now, Falberg has lost everyone from his family to the Spores. He won't let his sister Reka die, even if the only way to save her is to kill his brother.

In one swift move Corvin pushes forward and rips through Falberg's suit and mask, revealing the same Mandala on Falberg's chest that had been visible on his father's chest years before.

It becomes evident that Falberg has been Infested himself. Kranzler had given him Spores in medical form to make him a match for his own brother – it was the Infestation that guided Falberg to his brother, linking them both through the communication of the Spores and their shared DNA.
Corvin is thrown out of focus by the sight of the Mandala, and Falberg uses the confusion to drive his Splayer into Corvin's chest, piercing the bone plates and unleashing the blades to tear the Biokinetic's chest apart.

Corvin collapses next to Falberg, mortally wounded but not dead yet...

XII

SACRIFICE EVERYTHING

THE MOTHER SPORE FIELD.

Reka, severely maimed, makes it back to her brothers.
Corvin lies dying, and Falbergs chest is exposed.
Reka screams at him: “What have they done to you?”
Falberg’s and Reka’s eyes meet, she now understands what has happened to Falberg, how he was used by the Spital to become the warrior he is.
Meanwhile, Corvin’s powers wane, his faceplate collapses, revealing parts of his former self that aren’t fully transformed.
He remembers Falberg.
In a crude voice and limited vocabulary, he brings forth a sentence:
“This world is not yours anymore, you cannot fight the end of your race. My seed is in the forest. There will be others just like me.”
Falberg lifts himself up and pushes Reka away. He commands her to leave.
“You are not infected yet!”
Then he pulls a phosphor grenade from his belt, pulls the trigger and pleads with Reka again to escape.
He looks back at Corvin, who is bleeding out, and says:
“No. We’ll burn it all.”
A huge explosion engulfs them both.
Fire springs over to the trees, setting the Forest ablaze.



XIII

DARK DAYS AHEAD

AT THE EDGE OF THE FRACTAL FOREST.

Reka gallops out of the burning forest on Falberg's steed. Behind her the fire drowns the sky in black smog. She breathes heavily as she rides away.

She whispers: "We will never win."

