Audio Drama Fiction.

THE BOMB

Written by John Hood

(SILENCE.AMBIENCE)
1. BOMB: (deep voice; modulated)
Alive! Conceived by Armageddon. A child of chaos sent forth to commit a violent act of retribution. In that act I have no choice. No option to deny my existence and its function.
(INCIDENTAL MUSIC.)

2. DAK: (anxious) Jari? (Pause, voice becomes louder, more earnest) Jari? Oh! God I hope someone else survived this with me. It's so bloody lonely out here (moaning) overwhelming isolation. Damn those Bureaucrats and their...

(THERE IS AN INTERJECTION FROM ANOTHER, UNSEEN, CHARACTER. THIS TRANSPOSES THE PEICE FROM INTERNAL TO EXTERNAL CONFLICT.)

3. VEERS: (coughing. Voice is mildly disorientated and confused) Incoming... Incoming...Help me. I don't want to die.

DAK: (urgent footfalls on debris, enthusiastic voice) Hay! I'm not alone. Comrade, hold on.

5. VEERS: (shaken voice) Don't (pause, sighs), don't hurt me please. (Sobs)

6. DAK: Don't panic I'm not going to hurt you. (Scrambles up embankment) You're the only other survivor I've found. We had better get to some shelter soon. It's not wise to stay in the open for long. Someone could die of exposure out here.

7. VEERS: (voice shivers) So cold, I can't feel my legs!

8. DAK: Looks like part of the entrance to the shelter you were hiding in, has collapsed. I'll try and remove some of the debris.

(FADE IN MUSIC TO CONVEY PASSAGE OF TIME. FADE OUT AS SCENE BEGINS. HOWLING WIND.)

DAK: (relieved voice) There (pause) that's it, that's the last of the wreckage cleared. Can you move back alright?

10. VEERS: I think so. AAGH!

11. DAK: You're in pain! What's the matter?

12. VEERS: I think there’s something broken. It feels like there’s something tearing into my left knee.

13. DAK: Let me look. (Pause) Yes. I think you must have fractured your left leg when the shelter fell. There’s some shrapnel imbedded there also. I can't remove that here, as I haven't got medipak.

1. VEERS: (frustrated voice) Damn. I'm going to slow you down. You'd better leave.

2. DAK: Don't be so melodramatic. I'm not going anywhere unless you're coming with me.

3. VEERS: That's going to be difficult. And it will be night soon. The temperature will fall well below freezing.

4. DAK: It's dangerous I know. But then if I hadn't wanted to be here in the first place, I wouldn't have accepted the mission.

(PAUSE.)

5 SECS

5. BOMB
No choices have I in this mission. My purpose defined for me. The consequences already calculated and their affect projected. No measure for pity in the subsequent affect of this mission. A regretful consciousness, my masters deem that as unnecessary programming. For that is the domain of the fragile and insane.

(PAUSE.)

5 SECS

6. DAK: There you’re free.

7. VEERS: (relieved voice) Thank you.

8. DAK: Don't try to get up without my help. Here, lean on my shoulder. I'll try and take the strain.

9. VEERS: Like I said, this may not be such a good idea. And with night falling.

10. DAK: (voice agitated) I'm going to survive this. And so are you. So stop moaning and think positively.

11. VEERS: I wish I could share in your faith my friend. It was the conflict that brought all this about.

12. DAK: (voice incredulous) Do you think that I'm not aware of that? I'm not naive you know.

13. VEERS: I'm not suggesting that. However it’s difficult to be positive in these conditions.

14. DAK: Come on. Stop philosophizing. There is no time for such luxuries. Let's get moving before we freeze to death out here.

(MUSIC. TIME PASSES)

10 SECS

15. VEERS: Nothing, what did I tell you. This is hopeless.

16. DAK: I'm glad to see that your optimism is as reassuring as ever.

17. VEERS: Hmm, barren wastes all around us. Inhospitable and distinctly unwelcoming.

18. DAK: It's like the gathering storm that is sweeping through the Empire.

21. VEERS: Yes and resisting the new order is futile.

22. DAK: Pull yourself together or your going to get us both killed. Now move. Control isn't far.

23. VEERS: How can you be so sure we are near our destination!

(PAUSE.)

5 SECS

24. BOMB:
My destination destruction and carnage. No warning for the unwary or uncaring. At my demise a chorus of screams will mark the passing of an Angel of vengeance.

(PAUSE)

5 SECS

25. Dak: There, see it?

26. Veers: (voice exhausted) No. You must be imagining things.

27. DAK: Look up, there on the horizon. The communication tower. And below is located control.

INCIDENTAL MUSIC.

28. DAK: What the hell? It's like nothing that I've ever seen!
29. VEERS: Brace yourself for impact.... Incoming...

(VOICES ARE DROWNED OUT BY SURREAL PERCUSSION. THEN ABRUPT SILENCE.)