

WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND

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WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND — PRODUCER PITCH PACKET

Logline

Seven years after a genetically human refugee civilization arrives on Earth, Navy SEAL Ben Sumner enters their virtual world to hunt a hidden serial killer and uncovers a secret linking both peoples to a coming threat that could erase them.

One Sheet

The World

In 2052, Earth is reshaped by the arrival of the Hussqa, a refugee civilization almost genetically identical to humans. They bring life-extension science and advanced quantum technology, but they also carry the trauma of a home world destroyed by an unknown enemy. Their presence accelerates medicine, culture, and global politics while creating a fragile peace built on trust that could break at any moment.

The Protagonists

Ben Sumner is a Navy SEAL liaison with a strong, weather-beaten face defined by the quiet grief of losing his wife. He becomes the first human allowed inside the Hussqa digital architecture.

Alys is the century-old leader of the Hussqa Council, outwardly youthful with bright green eyes and fiercely protective of her people's secrets. She must decide how much truth humanity is ready to hear.

The Core Conflict

A terrorist bombing at UCLA kills a leading Hussqa scientist and threatens to fracture the alliance. To find the culprit, Ben enters the Hive, a vast virtual world where millions of Hussqa live after death. Using human intuition, he discovers a millennia-old predator, Bel Riose (Viridian), hiding in a shielded realm the system cannot see and a conspiracy that aims to keep humanity short-lived and expendable. Their investigation reveals a deeper truth: both civilisations are tied to a coming force that sees them as resources, not lives.

Synopsis

In 2042, Navy SEAL Ben Sumner loses his wife to a terminal illness, leaving him adrift. Three years later, the Hussqa arrive on Earth. They are refugees with near-human DNA and technology that feels like magic. By 2052, as the two cultures cautiously integrate, Ben is assigned to protect Mila, a Hussqa geneticist sharing life-extension breakthroughs with humanity.

When a bombing destroys the UCLA research center and kills Mila, Ben becomes the first human permitted to enter the Hive, a digital world where Hussqa consciousnesses live on after death. Inside, he discovers Mila survived as a preserved consciousness. Guided by her and Alys, leader of the Hussqa Council, Ben hunts Riose, an ancient killer who has been hiding inside the Hive for millennia.

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The investigation uncovers the Octarian Gathering, a radical Hussqa faction behind the bombing. They believe humans must remain short-lived so their vast population can serve as a sacrificial shield against the enemy that destroyed the Hussqa home world. As Ben and Alys close in on Riose, they uncover the truth: the approaching threat is not alien but a militarized branch of humanity taken from Earth thousands of years ago and shaped into a conquering empire.

The Octarians fall, Riose is reset and imprisoned. Humanity and the Hussqa begin preparing for the threat they now know is coming. Alys then receives the signal she has feared: the enemy has found Earth.

World and Technology

The Hussqa

A genetically human civilization seeded on another world thousands of years ago. Their arrival forces Earth to confront a shared origin and a shared future.

The Augment

A rice-grain-sized quantum device implanted at birth that enables instant communication, sensory overlays, and automatic consciousness preservation.

The Hive

A vast digital reality where millions of Hussqa live after their physical bodies fail. It is a paradise, a city, and a prison. It is also where the killer hides.

The Core

The hardware beneath the Hive, built from billions of merged consciousnesses. It is the Hussqa's greatest achievement and their greatest vulnerability.

Characters

Ben Sumner

Mid-forties. A disciplined Navy SEAL carrying the weight of personal loss. He rejects digital immortality and fights to protect the physical world he still believes in.

Alys

Leader of the Hussqa Council. Outwardly young, inwardly ancient. She balances duty, secrecy, and a growing connection to Ben as the truth unfolds.

Mila

A brilliant geneticist whose consciousness survives the bombing. She becomes Ben's guide inside the Hive and a bridge between the living and the digital.

Bel Riose (Viridian)

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A millennia-old predator who treats the Hive as his hunting ground. Brilliant, patient, and driven by a philosophy that sees death as art.

Tone and Comparables

What We Leave Behind blends grounded science fiction with intimate emotional stakes. It pairs a techno-thriller investigation with a story about identity, grief, and the long arc of human history. The tone is thoughtful and human, even as the scale expands toward an interstellar threat.

The series sits alongside **Foundation** for its sense of deep history, **Altered Carbon** and **The Matrix** for their exploration of digital consciousness, and **Childhood's End** for the arrival of a civilization whose technology reshapes humanity. It also carries the slow-building dread of **The Three-Body Problem** and the virtual-world pursuit found in **Virtuosity**.

Why Now

As AI, longevity science, and digital identity accelerate, **What We Leave Behind** explores the human cost of these breakthroughs. It reflects current anxieties about extinction-level threats and the need for unity in a fractured world. It is a first-contact story rooted not in aliens, but in shared biology.

Potential and Format

What We Leave Behind can be produced as a limited series, a multi-season drama, or a feature-length film.

As a **limited or multi-season series**, Season 1 follows the bombing investigation, Ben's entry into the Hive, and the Octarian conspiracy. Future seasons can expand into Earth's defence build-up, the merging of the two civilisations, and the approach of the invading force. The world supports long-form storytelling without feeling open-ended.

As a **feature-length film**, the story compresses cleanly into a single, high-intensity narrative. The bombing, the investigation, the virtual-world pursuit of Riose, and the reveal of the approaching invaders form a complete cinematic arc with a strong emotional spine. Ben's grief, Alys's conflict, and the discovery that the "aliens" are human land with clarity inside a two-hour structure. The final deep-space transmission provides a natural, powerful endpoint.

The project delivers a contained, satisfying story as a film while offering a larger franchise world if expanded for streaming.