

## XSELF

### 1.1 and 1.2

wide establishing shot (spanning two normal panels). A dimly lit apartment. The floor is littered, the whole place seems not to have been tidied up for quite a while.

**FRANCIS**, a middle-aged man in undershirt sits in his armchair, crouched, holding a whiskey glass. Facial features are in the dark. Across the low table (featuring a half-empty whiskey bottle) sits a **MILITARY OFFICER** on the couch, erect and proper, his hat on his lap.

FRANCIS: “So, I'd just push a few buttons or what?”

### 1.3

#### M.O. Close-up

M.O.: “Much more than that, Francis. We need you as a soldier again. The army is not a welfare organization. We chose you for your excellent test results from before your unfortunate accident...”

### 1.4

FRANCIS Close-up, sipping on his whiskey. His face can be seen, now. The cheek and nose shows many scars and deformed tissue. The eyes are both destroyed and hollow.

FRANCIS: “I figured you needed a guinea pig...”

### 1.5

close-up of FRANCIS's hand reaching for the bottle.

M.O.: “You should rather consider yourself a test-pilot.”

FRANCIS: “A blind test-pilot...”

M.O.: “I understand that will not be a problem.”

1.6

M.O. Close-up

FRANCIS (off): “What do I have to do?”

M.O.: “We will tell you, but principally you need to be silent. If the test run is successful you will be fully rehabilitated and part of a top secret anti-terror programme. If it fails, it fails. In both cases we would have to permanently cut you off from all social contacts.”

1.7

Francis, contemplating his empty glass.

M.O. (off): “If you decide to join this programme, you will cease to exist for the rest of the world.”

FRANCIS: “I already did.”

1.8

M.O. standing while FRANCIS remains seated.

**NEXT PAGE**

2.1

An elderly thin man in white coat and glasses enters a spartan-looking cell, talking to FRANCIS who sits on a plank bed.

**SCIENTIST**: “We got the results of your verification testings. They are amazingly good, considering...”

2.2

Reverse shot to FRANCIS.

FRANCIS: “...that I am a cripple?”

SCIENTIST (off): “Considering you were two steps shy from becoming an alcoholic.”

### 2.3

Scientist sits down on a chair by the plank bed.

SCIENTIST: “Addictions of any kind have counter-productive effects, I am afraid.”

FRANCIS (excited): “I am clean, now!”

SCIENTIST: “We know – it shows in your test results. We are basically ready to go.”

### 2.4

Close-Up of Scientist who takes off his glasses, eyes-closed.

SCIENTIST: “We just need your approval of a few minor operations...”

FRANCIS(off): “Operations?”

SCIENTIST: “Just a few interface implants. Little circuit boards, neuronal interlinks... your outward appearance will not be affected.”

### 2.5

Close-up of FRANCIS, following his scars with his hand.

FRANCIS: “Too bad.”

### 2.6

Scientist, standing again, seemingly checking his glasses against the light.

SCIENTIST: “These interfaces are the heart and the bones of the system. Each of them is actually nanotechnology-sized. You will have a few hundred of them implanted.”

### 2.7

Extreme Close-Up of FRANCIS narrowing what is left of his eyes.

FRANCIS: “A few hundred? That's...”

2.8

Long shot of the room from the side. SCIENTIST with his glasses on and hands in his pocket. Francis staring straight into the room.

SCIENTIST: “Rest assured there will not be any impairments to your health. Quite the contrary. Believe me: You won't recognise yourself!”

**NEXT PAGE**

3.1 and 3.2

Long shot over two panels of surgery room, surgeons bending over FRANCIS, whose arm can be seen sticking out between the bodies.

3.3

Blackness. Only text balloons appear.

“Take a seat, Francis. I think you will like this – you need to adapt to it, though.”

3.4

A whirl of pixellated light and dark spots.

“Aahh! STOP!”

3.5

Blackness.

“Hang on. That was just a calibration run. Rebooting with the new data.”

3.6

Through a fading beam a room can be seen. FRANCIS on a low chair beside the SCIENTIST sitting at a desk with scientific computer gadgetry, holographic displays, crane like devices hanging from the ceiling.

SCIENTIST: "Look left."

3.7

Same shot, but with FRANCIS looking into the "camera".

3.8

same shot, FRANCIS pointing into the "camera".

FRANCIS: "That is me!"

#### **NEXT PAGE**

4.1

FRANCIS struggling to keep his balance while trying to approach the camera.

4.2

Medium shot. SCIENTIST supporting FRANCIS who fails to keep balance on his own.

SCIENTIST: "Hold your horses! we're not through calibrating yet."

4.3

Medium shot. FRANCIS on the low chair feeling for his temples while the Scientist configures software.

SCIENTIST: "You won't find any plugs. All the interfaces work on a wireless broadband connection with amazing bandwidth."

4.4

Close-Up of FRANCISEs face.

FRANCIS: “How do I close my eyes?”

4.4a

intermediate panel, connecting 4.4 and 4.5, showing the SCIENTIST's hand fumbling on a keyboard.

4.5

diagonally split panel between blackness and FRANCIS in close-up

SCIENTIST: “You can wink with your eyes, now. You can change between permanently opened eyes and wink mode.”

4.6

Shot over FRANCISEs shoulder to a rack with devices among which “the” camera can be seen.

SCIENTIST: “There's quite a few toggles like this one in the system. Until you learn how to mentally control them...”

4.7

FRANCIS turning round to the SCIENTIST.

FRANCIS: “Mentally control them!?”

4.8

Close-up of SCIENTIST's face behind the holographic display, lit from below by its light.

SCIENTIST: “I suggest we try the thermal camera and night vision layers for now...”

## NEXT PAGE

The voice of the GENERAL is heard throughout the presentation of the system which spans panels 5.1 to 5.4. The text and a close-up frontal face view are framed by the presentation's images.

GENERAL: "This is the XSELF, a remote controlled, powerful anti-terror unit, accessible via satellite at any point on earth. This superior one-man-tank features intelligence devices, a variety of automotive aggregates and lethal as well as non-lethal projectiles. The XSELF's motions are being scaled down in impact and fed back into the kinetic suit the pilot wears."

### 5.1

Medium Shot of a running, fierce humanoid robot against a dim background. The silhouette of a satellite blends in with the image. Slim horizontal lines suggest some kind of display on panels 5.1-5.4.

### 5.2

a human figure and the XSELF unit line up in synchronous poses, striking down an enemy car.

### 5.3

The XSELF, holding a great weight, is being pushed on its knees, the human figure is on its knees, too.

### 5.4

The XSELF being pushed into the air by rockets at its heels, maintaining balance with its arms, while the human figure keeps the same pose.

5.5

Medium shot of The GENERAL at a round table with scientists and military and FRANCIS at the center of which the last images of a holographic presentation flickers.

GENERAL: “You learned how to control the XSELF unit.”

5.6

Medium shot of FRANCIS (from a low point of view) who is wearing a headset with a pair of cameras. He sits straight and erect, his posture seems to have changed.

FRANCIS: “Yes, sir.”

5.7

Close-up of general

GENERAL: “Are you ready for the test run?”

5.8

Close-up of FRANCIS with his weird goggles

FRANCIS: “Yes, sir, I am.”

**NEXT PAGE**

6.1 and 6.2 (spanning two normal panels)

FRANCIS, face down, on his control area fades into a panoramic landscape shot, showing the XSELF (partly) in the foreground, and a roomily facility in the background. An instructor's voice explains things by radio.

INSTRUCTOR: “The XSELF is stationed in about 2 miles distance from the building. The armed target person you are to neutralize is guarded somewhere in the building. As soon as you can see it on any of the vision layers it will be marked. All weapon systems issue non-lethal projectiles only. This is a test run. Go!”

6.3

Close-up frontal shot of FRANCIS looking up, so does the XSELF, booting up (light in the eyes).

6.4

The facility in night vision (grainy texture, green color), horizontal lines, GPS data on the display.

6.5

The XSELF leaps into a dynamic run.

6.6

The XSELF reaches (motion blur) a fence of barbed wire which it tears to pieces in one fell swoop and continues.

6.7

The XSELF hides behind a rock or a tree nearby the facility.

6.8

Thermal camera view (false colors and jagged fuzzy edges of people silhouettes) of a broad entrance/door (several feet wide) with an armed guard outside the door and the dim heat silhouettes of more guards inside the building. Horizontal lines, display shows additional data.

FRANCIS: "I should get at this one silently."

**NEXT PAGE**

7.1

XSELF dashes forward and shoots.

7.2a (two thirds of normal size of panel)  
guard looks up alarmed

7.2b (one third of normal size of panel)  
guard gets hit by projectile which issues some kind of electric spark.

7.3

XSELF in the foreground watching the guard fall back against the door which makes a clunky noise.

FRANCIS/XSELF: “Shit!”

7.4

The door slides open and four more guards issue forth.

7.5

Medium shot from the side as the guards stop in an all-out braking and stare at the XSELF, bewildered.

7.6

Close-up of XSELF lowering its head.

FRANCIS/XSELF: “They have not been told who the attacker would be... or rather *what* the attacker would be. Deflectors!”

7.7

Deflectors extend from the forearms.

7.8

The guards open fire, two of them are kneeling. The XSELF takes the bullets with its deflectors on the forearms, while rushing forward.

**NEXT PAGE**

8.1 and 8.2 (spanning two normal panels)

The XSELF finishes the guards off, Kung-Fu style. One guard is knocked out already, two are mid-air.

8.3

Medium shot. The XSELF turns around in a cloud of dust to the last guard.

8.4

The guard drops its rifle and runs for it.

8.5

The XSELF runs along a tunnel leading downward into the facility.

8.6

First-Person perspective in the tunnel displaying an alarm window of the XSELF system which says “EXPLOSIVE CHARGE DETECTED!”

FRANCIS/XSELF: “Damn, I must have...”

8.7

Medium shot. Explosion right behind the XSELF which hits the robot like a steam hammer.

8.8

Medium shot. FRANCIS gets knocked down on the ground by the kinetic suit in a slightly softer manner.

**NEXT PAGE**

9.1

Darkness. FRANCIS and the XSELF overlap as they get up.

FRANCIS/XSELF: “Switching to full power low-light amplification.”

9.2

Long shot. The XSELF reaches a cliff like structure. At the base there seems to be a pond of water.

9.3

The XSELF leaps into the air.

FRANCIS/XSELF: “Submarine mode!”

9.4

The XSELF dives through a dark pond, headlights on.

9.5

The XSELF reaches the edge of the pond and gets out of the water. It turns its head to a stomp sound on its left hand side.

9.6

Blazing light fills the room. The XSELF pulls its hands up in attempt to shade the cameras which does not work. The stomp can be heard still.

FRANCIS/XSELF: “Argh! My eyes.”

9.7

FRANCIS is abruptly pulled down by the kinetic suit.

FRANCIS: “Uh! what the hell...”

9.8

The kinetic suit pulls FRANCIS over on the side with a sudden blow.

FRANCIS: “Fuck!”

**NEXT PAGE**

10.1

Close-Up of FRANCIS, face in agony and sweat. He is trying to figure things out.

FRANCIS: “Think, Francis! Think! You are being knocked out. Who can do this to you? You are a fucking killer machine. Who can... Oh my god!”

10.2

The XSELF pulls itself up and backs off while a SECOND XSELF hits the place where it was lying with full force.

FRANCIS/XSELF: “It's another candidate. They set us on each other to keep the winner.”

10.3

The XSELF emits a pulse which hits the SECOND XSELF in the back.

10.4

The SECOND XSELF is wrapped in sparks and flashes, but lies lifeless on the ground. The XSELF towers over its defeated counterpart.

FRANCIS/XSELF: “You saw me first, but I remembered the EMP first, you pile of junk.”

10.5

Close-Up. The XSELF turns around.

FRANCIS/XSELF: “The fool can't even hear me anymore, I should... hey!”

10.6

Through the wall the dim silhouettes of two humans show. A marker points at the head of the right one with a label saying “TARGET PERSON!”

FRANCIS: “Gotcha!”

10.7

The XSELF uses an explosive projectile and, while blasting the wall into pieces, leaps through the hole.

10.8

Close-up. Even while firing, the XSELF topples over backwards, defeated.

**NEXT PAGE**

11.1

A hospital bed from above, FRANCIS with a headband bandage. Horizontal lines suggest a display.

SCIENTIST: "I think he's awake, now."

11.2

Medium shot. FRANCIS in his bed turns to the GENERAL who is standing beside his bed.

FRANCIS: "I do apologize, sir."

GENERAL: "What for?"

FRANCIS: "I failed. The target person..."

11.3

Close-up of GENERAL, calm face.

GENERAL: "...was neutralized."

11.4

Medium shot of SCIENTIST and GENERAL

SCIENTIST: "He thinks he has been shot."

GENERAL: "Well, that's what happened."

SCIENTIST: "Yes, but to his mind this refers to the XSELF..."

11.5

The SCIENTIST sits down on the bed beside FRANCIS.

SCIENTIST: "Francis, the pain on your forehead..."

FRANCIS: "From the fall?"

SCIENTIST: "No, that's from the rubber bullet."

11.6

Close-up of FRANCIS

FRANCIS: “I shot myself? I was the target person!”

11.7

Medium shot. The GENERAL approaches FRANCIS.

GENERAL: “We achieved full identification. We are very proud of you.”

11.8

Close-up of eager face of GENERAL

GENERAL: “You are now ready for the next step.”

THE END