

Producers:
Iryna Kostyuk,
Oleksandra Lozinska

THE DAM

Genre:
Horror, Sci-Fi,
Action Movie

Running time:
90 min.

Production: 2025
Local release: October 1, 2025



REFERENCES





LOGLINE

After the Kakhovka Dam is blown up (in the course of the current russian-Ukrainian war), a group of Ukrainian soldiers led by a female fighter code-named Mara finds a secret Soviet bunker in the middle of a drained reservoir, where the USSR had conducted experiments on humans during the Cold War. The consequences of these experiments are still there in the bunker, in the form of the half-dead corpses of Soviet soldiers. Now, in order to survive, the Ukrainians must defeat the Soviet zombies, conquer their fears, overcome conflicts within the group, and learn to trust each other.

Watch teaser

A dark, atmospheric image of a Soviet general in a military uniform with a peaked cap and medals, standing in the center of a long, dimly lit tunnel. The tunnel has a vaulted stone ceiling with pipes running along it. On either side of the general are rows of dark wooden lockers. In the background, several zombie-like soldiers in brown uniforms and caps are walking away from the viewer. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright light source at the end of the tunnel creating a strong silhouette effect.

THE CONCEPT

- THE DAM is a horror film in the trendy subgenre of zombie movies. However, the narrative will be freshened up with a folklore component and a current worldwide popular trend: that of showcasing the secret experiments conducted by the totalitarian state that was the USSR. In a ferocious battle, modern-day soldiers will face off against Soviet zombies wearing red stars and the hammer and sickle on their blood-stained overcoats. This image will be recognizable and understandable to a large audience around the world.
- THE DAM is the second film in FILM.UA Group's horror line-up. The first one – THE WITCH. REVENGE – and this film are set in the same universe that we are creating, rather than producing one-off, standalone movies. It will incorporate a range of different characters and stories based on legends, mythology, fantasy, and strong female characters, but all of this is going to be integrated into our modern reality and tightly intertwined with current events.

THE CONCEPT

- In this way, we expect to develop a universe of our own: solo movies as sequels to existing films, and crossovers, where characters from different films will cross paths and join forces in order to face down challenges together. (This will be demonstrated in the final scene of THE DAM.)
- In THE WITCH. REVENGE we illustrated the modern evil represented by the russian occupiers. THE DAM should remind the world of a much larger evil, namely the “prison of nations” that was the USSR and the fact that today’s russia is trying its level best to resurrect this dead monster in order to swallow everyone up and turn them into monsters too.
- In the film, we will give the world a gentle reminder about one of the most large-scale crimes russia has committed in Ukraine — the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam.
- And finally, in Ukraine and throughout the civilized world, we will shape and promote the image of the Ukrainian military serviceman or servicewoman as a brave hero, a professional who can even fight off supernatural enemies and get out of what seem to be hopeless situations, sometimes by willingly sacrificing their own lives.





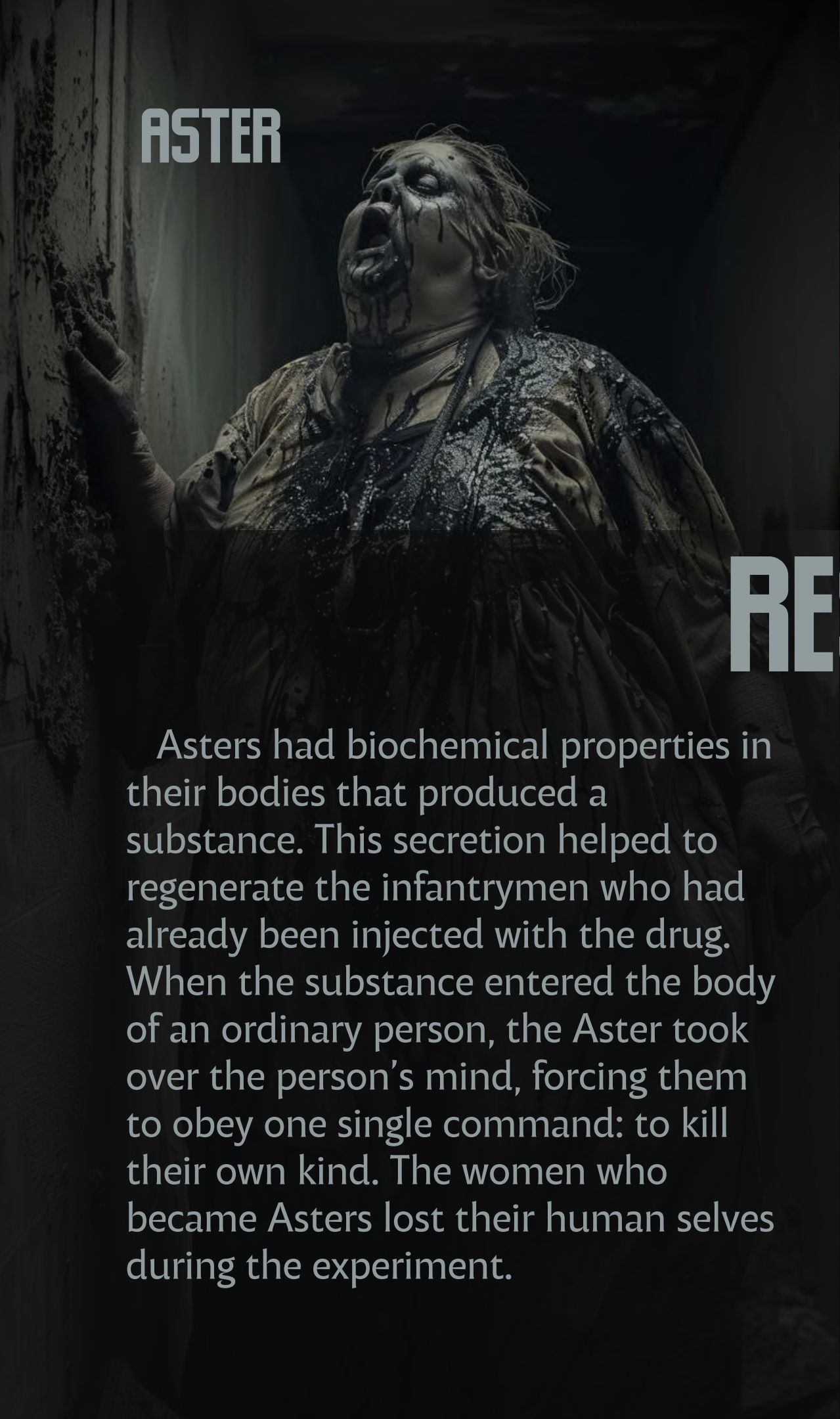
THE EXPERIMENT

In the 1950s, during the Cold War, the USSR conducted experiments on humans in a secret underground laboratory near the city of Kakhovka, trying to create a super soldier in order to win the arms race against their sworn enemy, the United States.

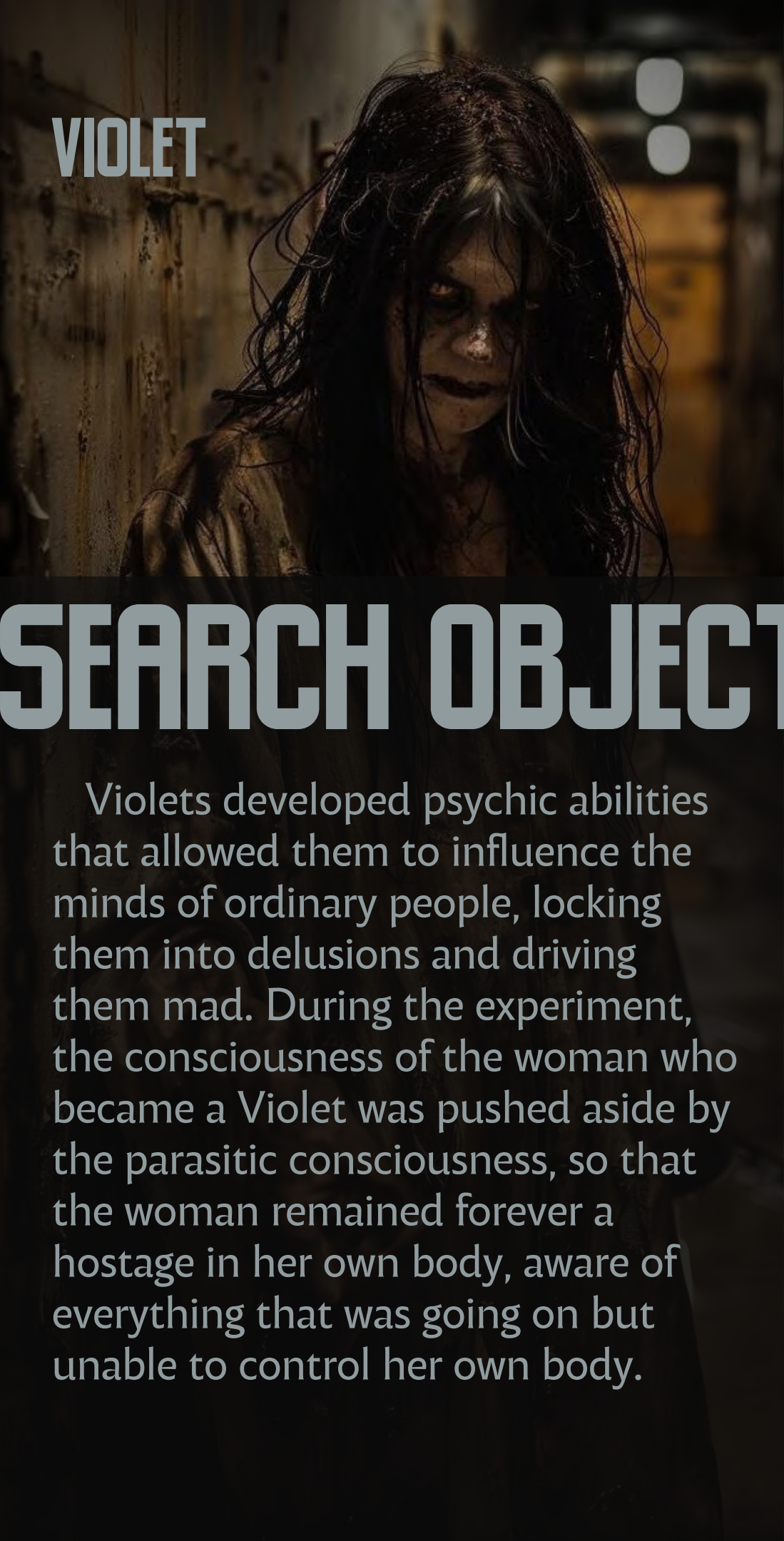
There were two separate areas of study.

1. An immortal, remote-controlled infantryman. To achieve this goal, they used men whom they had secretly taken from Soviet prisons and camps as the subjects of their experiments.
2. A human weapon with psychic SUPERpowers. To achieve this goal, women with a particular blood type were selected. It was not always possible to find them in prisons, so the KGB kidnapped local Ukrainian women, writing them off as the victims of serial killers and psychopaths. Each of them had a collar put around her neck, with a number on it.

The Female Weapon Division was divided into three projects, each named after a flower: “Violet”, “Aster”, and “Ruta.”

A woman with a grotesque, swollen face and dark, dripping liquid from her mouth, looking upwards in a dark, industrial setting.

ASTER

A woman with long, dark, wet hair and pale skin, looking directly at the camera with a haunting expression in a dimly lit room.

VIOLET

A woman with a bloody, open mouth and blood splatters on her face and clothing, looking upwards against a metallic wall.

RUTA

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Asters had biochemical properties in their bodies that produced a substance. This secretion helped to regenerate the infantrymen who had already been injected with the drug. When the substance entered the body of an ordinary person, the Aster took over the person's mind, forcing them to obey one single command: to kill their own kind. The women who became Asters lost their human selves during the experiment.

Violets developed psychic abilities that allowed them to influence the minds of ordinary people, locking them into delusions and driving them mad. During the experiment, the consciousness of the woman who became a Violet was pushed aside by the parasitic consciousness, so that the woman remained forever a hostage in her own body, aware of everything that was going on but unable to control her own body.

Rutas could influence objects and organisms at the molecular level, moving them, deforming them, or destroying the molecular bonds inside them, causing them to explode for no apparent reason. During the experiment, the women who became Rutas retained their human selves (unlike the other two kinds), but their brains could not cope with the increased tension and died within a matter of hours. The Soviet scientists considered the Rutas to be the most desirable result of the experiment because of the deadly potential of their powers, but they never managed to save the life of a single Ruta.

SYNOPSIS

A tough, stern servicewoman with a huge scar on her face, code-named Mara, learns that her younger brother, whom she has been raising ever since their parents died in 2014, has gone missing. He is a soldier too, but he serves in a different unit, and the last time he was seen, he was on a reconnaissance mission to the territory where the Kakhovka Reservoir used to be. Now, however, after the russians blew up the Dam, this area has turned into scrubland, densely overgrown with willow vines.

Mara possesses slightly supernatural powers that she inherited from her grandmother: she senses danger and can even see into the minds of other people by touching them, but these powers did not enable Mara to save her parents, so she refuses to cultivate them and does not always rely on them. Now, however, Mara senses that her brother is alive – in fact, she is sure of it. So, together with a small group of scouts who believe her intuition is right, she sets out for the drained Kakhovka Reservoir in search of her brother and his mates.

Once there, they find out that the russians have also been actively searching for something in the area – they have made a deep crater using guided aerial bombs (FABs). At the bottom of this crater Mara finds an opening that leads to a concrete bunker. Mara and her team go down into the bunker and discover that it is a former secret laboratory from the Cold War era, codenamed “The Kakhovka Facility.”

In the lab, the characters find some dead modern-day russian soldiers: it appears that they, too, entered the facility but were then killed by someone. An old russian scientist named KARLOV (70) is the only survivor. Mara forces him to tell her why he is here and what he is looking for.

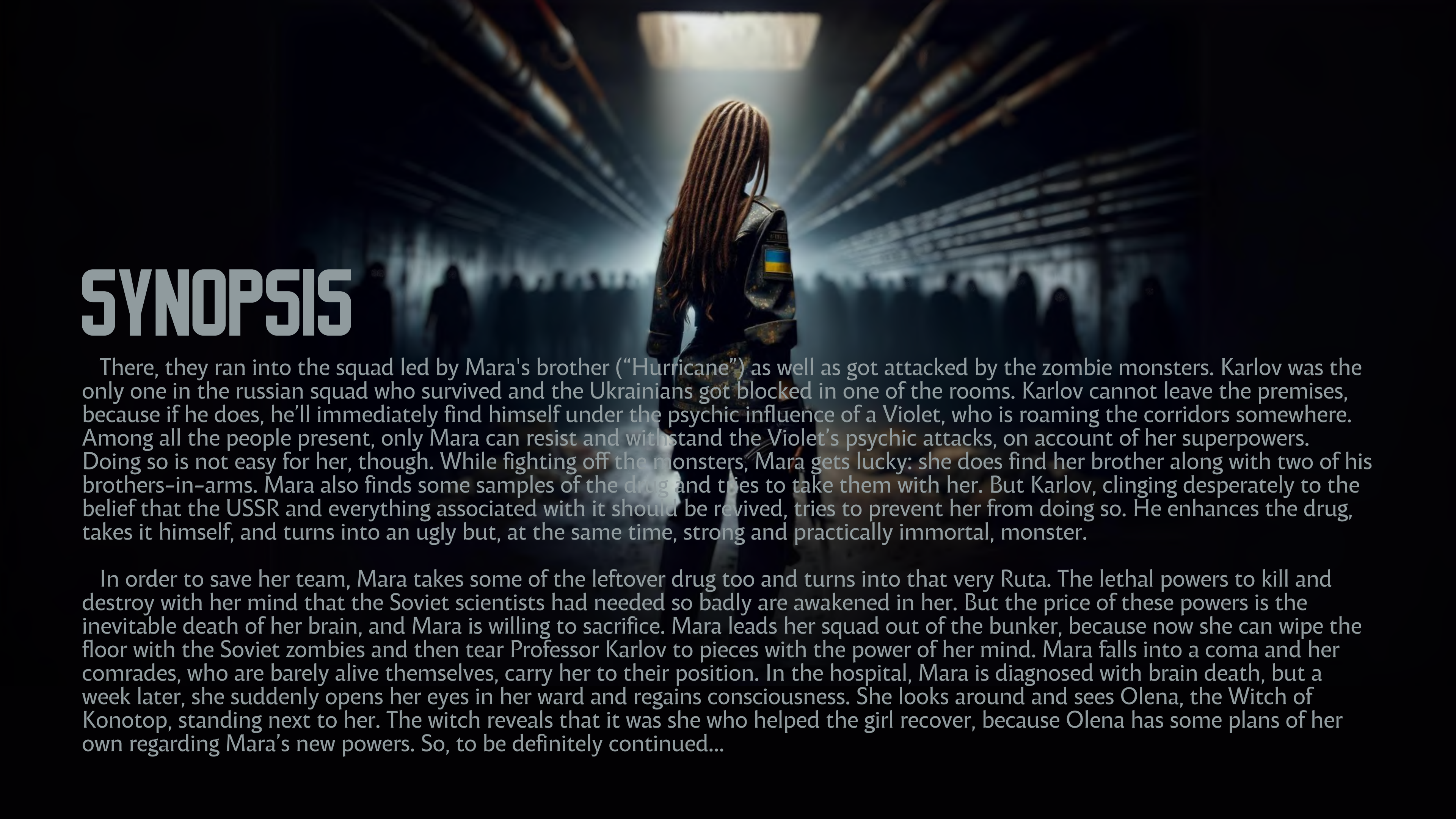


SYNOPSIS



It turns out that Karlov is the son of a scientist who used to work in the laboratory in the 1950s, conducting experiments on humans. The idea behind the experiments was to invent a drug that would turn regular humans into super soldiers. The drug would turn males into immortal, but controllable soldiers, but they would lose their human selves. As for the females involved, they had the potential to develop superpowers. The experiments on them were divided into three categories and named after flowers. The women dubbed “Asters” could secrete a substance that would regenerate the drugged male soldiers and infect the ones who had not been injected with the drug. The women dubbed “Violets” could influence people’s minds remotely, inducing delusions and locking the victim into an illusion. Both the Violets and the Asters would lose their consciousness, but this was not the case with the third type, the Rutas, the most powerful and lethal group of all. The Rutas could control the molecular bonds of objects and organisms with their minds, meaning that they could make any object they saw explode and collapse. However, the Rutas remained conscious, but only for a couple of hours, after which their brains would die due to being overloaded, turning the carrier into a “vegetable”.

Karlov’s father tried to fix this flaw, but, following an unforeseen leakage of the drug, almost everyone in the laboratory turned into a monster, so the laboratory was sealed off. Later, when the Kakhovka Dam was built, it was flooded with water. Ever since that time, Karlov’s father has been training his son and instilling in him a desire to complete the process of creating super soldiers, in order to take revenge on the United States for the Soviet Union's defeat in the Cold War. Karlov continued his father's experiments, but he did not have the original drug, which would have helped him achieve his goal. When he learned that the Kakhovka Dam had been destroyed, he suggested to the Russian military leadership that the experiment could be resumed. The idea was given the green light, and Karlov was sent to the laboratory, accompanied by several Russian soldiers.



SYNOPSIS

There, they ran into the squad led by Mara's brother ("Hurricane") as well as got attacked by the zombie monsters. Karlov was the only one in the Russian squad who survived and the Ukrainians got blocked in one of the rooms. Karlov cannot leave the premises, because if he does, he'll immediately find himself under the psychic influence of a Violet, who is roaming the corridors somewhere. Among all the people present, only Mara can resist and withstand the Violet's psychic attacks, on account of her superpowers. Doing so is not easy for her, though. While fighting off the monsters, Mara gets lucky: she does find her brother along with two of his brothers-in-arms. Mara also finds some samples of the drug and tries to take them with her. But Karlov, clinging desperately to the belief that the USSR and everything associated with it should be revived, tries to prevent her from doing so. He enhances the drug, takes it himself, and turns into an ugly but, at the same time, strong and practically immortal, monster.

In order to save her team, Mara takes some of the leftover drug too and turns into that very Ruta. The lethal powers to kill and destroy with her mind that the Soviet scientists had needed so badly are awakened in her. But the price of these powers is the inevitable death of her brain, and Mara is willing to sacrifice. Mara leads her squad out of the bunker, because now she can wipe the floor with the Soviet zombies and then tear Professor Karlov to pieces with the power of her mind. Mara falls into a coma and her comrades, who are barely alive themselves, carry her to their position. In the hospital, Mara is diagnosed with brain death, but a week later, she suddenly opens her eyes in her ward and regains consciousness. She looks around and sees Olena, the Witch of Konotop, standing next to her. The witch reveals that it was she who helped the girl recover, because Olena has some plans of her own regarding Mara's new powers. So, to be definitely continued...

ACTORS CAST

Maryna
Koshkina



MARA

Dmytro
Pavko



HURRICANE

Volodymyr
Raschuk



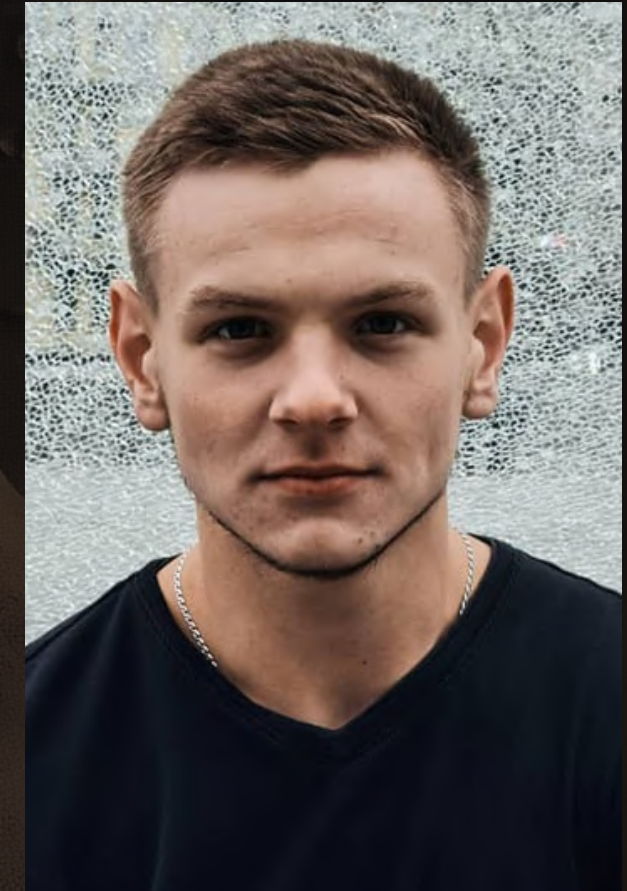
BUMBLEBEE

Oleksandr
Yatsentyuk



MONK

Mykhailo
Dziuba



VAKULA

ACTORS CAST

Andriy
Podlesnii

Orest
Pasichnyk

Iryna
Kudashova

Vlada
Marchevska

Andriy
Zhyla



SHEVA



BOOM



VIOLET



ASTER



KARLOV

MARA (30)

MARYNA KOSHKINA

Mara (30) is a tough, stern female soldier who has been fighting the Russian occupiers since 2014, when they killed her parents and Mara had to rescue her younger brother from the Russians and, eventually, raise him herself. While rescuing her brother, Mara was shot in the face and now has a deep scar across her cheek, which makes her feel ugly. She doesn't even try to make progress in her personal life. Even in her childhood, Mara was an unusual girl: she could sense when danger was near, and was even able to look into the minds of other people just by touching them.

She inherited this gift from her grandmother, who was believed in her village to be either a healer or a witch. And people were afraid of her. However, these powers did not enable Mara to save her parents, so she did not work on them very much. Despite this, her ability to sense threats has repeatedly helped Mara in her military work, saving her and her comrades' lives multiple times. On account of all this, and because of her firmness of will and also her mysteriousness, she was given her codename in honor of the Slavic goddess Mara, the mistress of death and all things dark.





HURRICANE (20)

DMYTRO PAVKO

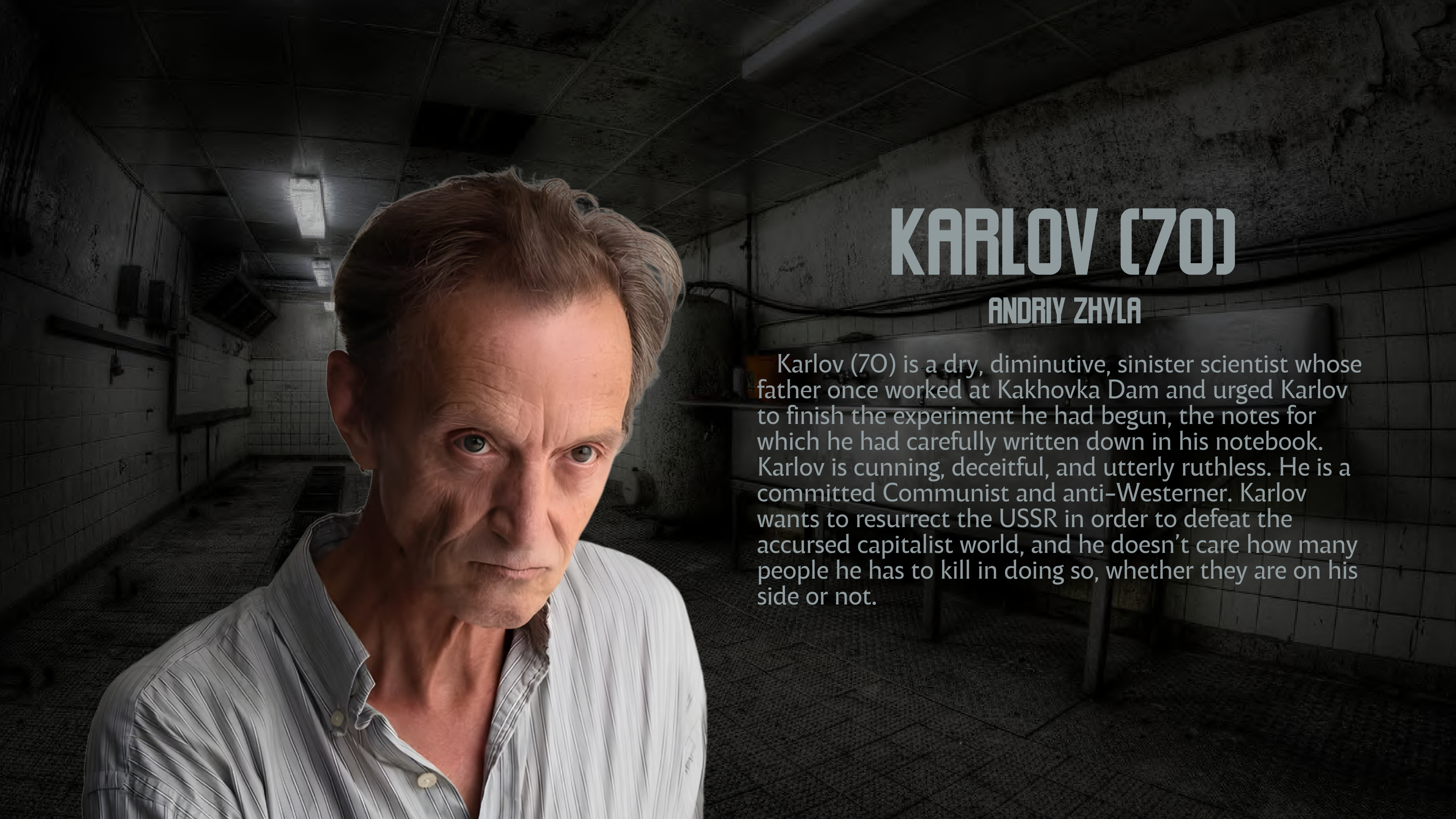
Hurricane (20) is Mara's younger brother. He is a cheerful, direct guy who grew tired of being under Mara's total control, so as soon as he turned 18, he ran away to join the army without asking his sister's consent. And even after the invasion, he didn't want to serve in the same unit as Mara, to avoid having a "mommy" figure around. However, when he got into the lab and had to try to survive while surrounded by zombies, Hurricane was sure that his sister would definitely find him and come to his aid. She always did.

BUMBLEBEE (35)

VOLODYMYR RASCHUK

Bumblebee (35) is a big, strong, burly, bearded special forces officer. He is extremely professional in all military matters and not particularly experienced when it comes to matters of the heart. He likes Mara, despite her scars and her rather cold and unapproachable personality, but he doesn't dare tell her how he feels. But when Mara needs help finding her brother, Bumblebee immediately answers the call and goes with her.



A man with light brown hair, wearing a white lab coat, is shown from the chest up. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a dark, industrial interior with a tiled ceiling and walls, and some equipment visible in the distance.

KARLOV (70)

ANDRIY ZHYLA

Karlov (70) is a dry, diminutive, sinister scientist whose father once worked at Kakhovka Dam and urged Karlov to finish the experiment he had begun, the notes for which he had carefully written down in his notebook. Karlov is cunning, deceitful, and utterly ruthless. He is a committed Communist and anti-Westerner. Karlov wants to resurrect the USSR in order to defeat the accursed capitalist world, and he doesn't care how many people he has to kill in doing so, whether they are on his side or not.

KARLOV THE MONSTER

At a certain point, Karlov realizes that Mara might escape from the lab with the sample of the drug. This is unacceptable for Karlov, though, because he believes that if this were to happen, not only would Ukraine have the sample, but so too would those damn Anglo-Saxons, and that would be far worse. And they will defeat Russia and destroy his dream of bringing back the USSR. Therefore, Karlov himself takes an increased dose of the drug and turns into a monstrous beast that wants only one thing: to kill all living things.



WORK IN PROGRESS



THE TEAM



IMDb

PRODUCER: IRYNA KOSTYUK

Producer of the most successful Ukrainian comedy film franchise CRAZY WEDDING, the highest grossing Ukrainian film ever MAVKA. THE FOREST SONG, and the top national horror hit THE WITCH. REVENGE.



PRODUCER: OLEKSANDRA LOZINSKA

Executive producer of the top national horror hit THE WITCH. REVENGE, comedies BIG PICNIC and CRAZY WEDDING 3 (a part of the most successful Ukrainian comedy film franchise CRAZY WEDDING), etc.



IMDb

SCRITWRITER AND SHOWRUNNER: YAROSLAV VOYTSESHEK

Screenwriter of almost all Ukrainian blockbusters: THE STRONGHOLD, THE RISING HAWK, PULSE, THE STOLLEN PRINCESS, MAVKA. THE FOREST SONG, THE WITCH. REVENGE.



IMDb

ASSISTANT PRODUCER: KSENIA BARANOVA

Promo producer of the highest grossing Ukrainian film ever MAVKA. THE FOREST SONG, assistant producer of the top national horror hit THE WITCH. REVENGE, CRAZY NEIGHBORS – 2 comedy series.

THE TEAM



IMDb

DIRECTOR:
OLEKSII TARANENKO

The director of numerous commercials and feature films. His debut feature film I WORK AT THE CEMETARY won the Munich Film Award for Best Feature Film and was nominated for the Grand Prix at the Molodist Festival.



IMDb

DOP:
VIACHESLAV RAKOVSKIY

Worked as DOP on more than 200 projects, and won the Montelupo Fiorentino IFF award for Best Cinematography for I WORK AT THE CEMETARY.



IMDb

COSTUME DESIGNER:
VOLODYMYR ROMANOV

Costume designer of such film hits as DOVBUSH, BATTLE FOR SEVASTOPOL, and THE STRONGHOLD. Production designer for more hits: THE NOBLE TRAMPS, CENSORED, DO YOU LOVE ME? etc.



MAKE-UP ARTIST
OLENA SEMENETS

Worked on plenty of projects, winner of the world beauty and CFX festival in 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

