

The Terminator

Chapter 1, The Arrival

The story begins in Los Angeles, California, in 2029 A.D. It is **nighttime** and the landscape is littered with the remains of a seemingly long-lost civilization. It appears lifeless and **desolate**. Suddenly, there is the sound of laser fire and a strong wind sweeping up dirt from the ground as some kind of aircraft flies overhead and hovers **ominously** over the ground, looking for something or someone on the ground. Giant armored vehicles with **tank treads** are driving over a patch of ground **awash in** human skulls. The weight of the giant machine crushes the skulls as if they were eggshells. Spotlights are scanning the landscape, hunting... Suddenly, there is movement on the ground. A man in body armor is running along the ground **dodging** the laser fire. Text appears on the screen that tells of “the machines” rising from the ashes of some nuclear war intent on **exterminating** the human race. This **genocidal** struggle has been going on for decades. The text ends by stating that the final battle of this war will not be fought in this time – in 2029 – but will instead be fought in our present...tonight.

The movie begins in present-day Los Angeles at nighttime. An old black guy chewing on a cigar is operating a **dumpster-emptying sanitation truck** on the **nightshift**. Out of the blue, bolts of electricity begin **arcing** all around him. His truck loses all power and goes dead. He panics and runs, so he doesn't see what happens next. Once the electrical storm passes and the smoke clears, in the center of the **commotion** **stoops** a naked man. His **physique** is flawless, muscular. He is unsmiling, confident, and seems to feel no discomfort at all. He slowly stands up, **surveys** his surroundings, sees the city of Los Angeles in the distance, and begins purposely **striding** away. He approaches three nearby **punks**, street **hoodlums** wearing spiked hairdos, tattoos, and leather jackets. As they see the naked man approaching them, they sneer and laugh at him.

The naked man stops when he gets to them. Initially, he just **mimics** what they say as they **taunt** him cruelly. They laugh and **guffaw** at his idiot-like behavior. After slowly **assessing** all of them, he looks at one punk who is about his physical size, and calmly orders the punk to give him his clothes. The laughing stops, the **switchblades** come out, and two of the punks attack the naked man. The naked man effortlessly **flings** one punk against some metal bars and knocks him unconscious. He then punches the second punk hard in the chest, withdrawing a bloody hand with the punk's bloody, still-beating heart in it. The punk falls to the ground, dead. The naked man slowly walks toward the third guy, who is literally shaking in his boots with fear. Then he makes a snap decision and quickly begins stripping off all his clothes....

At about the same time in a dark **alleyway** in downtown Los Angeles, another small electrical storm begins and quickly ends, out of sight from the people on the street, except for a homeless, drunken bum lying in the alley. After the storm passes and the smoke clears, another naked man appears – a few feet above the ground – and falls **ignominiously** onto the ground, knocking the wind out of him. This man is smaller than the first man, lean, **scarred**, and in pain – not nearly as fierce-looking as the first traveler. Once he gets his bearings, he surveys the area, sees the nearby bum, and **unceremoniously** steals the bum's pants just as a police car is making the rounds. The old man screams for help, and the police give chase to the shirtless, shoeless stranger. The stranger runs down the alley, **dodging** down other dark alleys. He manages to **ambush** a policeman and take his gun, demanding the policeman to tell him what day it is. Confused, the stunned policeman tells him it's May 12. The strange man shout, “What year!?” The policeman just stares at him.