

HUMAN ERA:

Sometime in the future, we begin with our main character Irene Fielding, and her husband Roland Hooper as they pack luggages in their lavish, high-tech mansion. In the background, on a giant television, there's a news broadcast explaining the current state of the world. One that has limited resources; that what is left will be provided only to those who pay top-dollar to live in fancy towers designed by a corporate politician named Kessler. It is revealed that tonight is the final night that the city has widespread power. Irene's husband informs her that she cannot join him in receiving a military escort to the new towers because of payment issues.

Skip ahead about two years or so. She now lives in an abandoned Chinese restaurant with her new male partner Gil, and scavenges the desolate city for dead bodies and mechanical parts. Irene collects the fat from the human bodies to create candles that she trades for oats and non-perishables. She gives the remains of the bodies to her mute father, who has discovered a gruesome way to turn them into a fuel. Their plan is to trade the fuel for as much food and water as they can in their survival-of-the-fittest environment that the city has turned into.

Inside the tower, Roland, Irene's ex-husband, struggles with the level of security that watches over him and all the other rich folk who live in the tower. He is frustrated by the mundanity of the life he is living and misses his wife greatly. He wants to escape. There are signs that the power supply within the tower are short, like flickering lights and technology failing to work properly.

Outside the tower, Irene trades the fuel, and this new source of power is quickly distributed. The rich people within begin to revolt, questioning why the poor have power. Kessler steps in and discovers the source of the fuel, taking the father. Kessler takes this as his opportunity to look like a hero. He has been trying to develop a new type of fuel himself, but has come up short. So, he adopts the disturbing production of the human-based fuel and declares that all imprisoned criminals, the sick, homeless, and senile elderly must be sacrificed for the benefit of “the rest of us.”

He turns empty buildings into factories to produce the fuel, employing able-bodied workers to grind up the bodies of the weak, sick, and criminal. Kessler truly believes in a perfect society. Irene and Gil both get stuck working in one of the production factories, where she tries to organize a rebellion after hearing that Kessler only wishes to use the fuel to provide for the rich. Kessler gets word of the whispers and murders a bunch of people, including Gil, to set an example. Irene is forced to reluctantly grind his body up in front of everyone.

After some time, the city looks alive. Irene is a few months pregnant. On the television, Kessler announces a new program that will solve the problems of the people. That every baby born within the next two years will be withdrawn from its parents and farmed for fuel production, to keep this ideal society going.