

## **THE RISING – Synopsis**

In THE RISING we follow the story of clone LE-E-003976 (LE-E). On a research mission in the toxic woods of a destroyed environment, he incidentally gets caught in the middle of an upcoming rebellion and thus learns about the dreadful truth of his destiny.

At the beginning of the film, we watch LE-E's everyday struggle for survival in the inclementally cold and hostile forests he scours. Laboriously, LE-E drags his handcart packed with technical equipment along behind himself. The drugs he continuously takes only momentarily facilitate his breathing in the contaminated atmosphere. Gradually, his stocks of food-granule decline. Luckily, the freshly melted snow leaves behind puddles from which he can drink.

Every 4 hours, LE-E has to report to the subterranean central bunker by radio-code. From that bunker he had been sent out on his mission by the scientists. He has been collecting samples of and data on the toxic environment on the earth's surface since. LE-E knows nothing but this mission – and the instinctual will to survive.

Just as LE-E is about to collect a sample of a rare fungus, from the corner of his eye, he makes out the outlines of a being. For LE-E, this is the first contact with another being since his mission had started many weeks before. But as quick as it had appeared, the being vanishes in the thicket of the woods.

This is when LE-E makes a momentous decision. He leaves his handcart behind and tracks the stranger. A hunch is unfolding within LE-E, making him forget about anything else: He might not be alone.

LE-E doesn't think about the consequences of him missing to report to the central bunker in time. Whilst he cautiously searches the forests' forbidden zones for the stranger, a heavily armed search party – all wearing breathing masks – has already set out for heading him off.

On a clearing, LE-E eventually spots the stranger. Hidden behind bushes, LE-E now clearly sees that the stranger is the spitting image of himself. But in this very moment, the search party reaches the clearing as well. LE-E must observe his match being shot. Shattered, he flees back into the woods. But the search party detects him. A merciless hounding begins.

Being seized with panic, LE-E runs towards the forest edge – and tumbles. Opening his eyes, he realizes that he had almost fallen into a mass grave. Shot dead and scantily hidden under plastic sheets, several of his spitting images are scattered on the ground. Still, LE-E is not able to fully comprehend that all clones are being disposed in such a way after having finished their outdoor missions.

With the last of his strength, LE-E braces up and runs on. When he tumbles again – with the search party directly behind him – there does seem no way out anymore. Suddenly, from the forests' depth, three armed clones appear. Over LE-E's head, they are having a shoot-out with the mercenaries, eventually killing them.

Only little by little, the great pictures confides in LE-E. Slowly he realizes that he got caught in the midst of an unfolding rebellion. For the first time in his existence, he can freely decide about his path. LE-E – following his brothers – decides against solitude.