

Days Gone By

By

Adam C. Fisk

FADE IN TO A QUOTE WRITTEN IN WHITE LETTERING AGAINST A BLACK BACKGROUND:

"Time is at once the most valuable and the most perishable of all our possessions."

-John Randolph

FADE OUT.

FADE IN

INT. - A NIGHT TIME PARTY OF MOSTLY COLLEGE STUDENTS AT THE INDOOR POOL OF A LARGE MASSACHUSETTS HOTEL.

Following a caption that says, "Spring, 1999," one of the partyers, a young man around eighteen years old named, "Carter Boyd," stands by one of the pool's decorative waterfalls, looking to the other side of the pool. Just then, three of his friends walk up beside him, one of them, Ray Bowman, handing him a drink.

RAY

Hey, man.

CARTER

(Still looking toward the other side of the pool as he takes the drink)

Hey.

RAY

What are you so wrapped up with?

CARTER

I'm looking for something.

RAY

Something or someone?

CARTER

(Still looking, distracted as he answers Ray)

Something. (Correcting himself)
Someone. Someone.

RAY

Well which one is it?

CARTER

(Still distracted)

Huh?

(CONTINUED)

RAY
(Growing impatient)
Carter!

CARTER
(Getting annoyed and
responding more clearly, but
still distracted.)
What is it?!

RAY
What are you doing, man?

CARTER
(Paying a little more
attention, but still looking
periodically)
There's a girl over there I'm
trying to see.

Just then, one of Carter's other friends, Mike Watkins,
speaks up.

MIKE
That's all? Here, I thought you
were looking for something
important.

CARTER
She is important, dumbass.

RAY
(Also looking)
Where is she?

CARTER
That's the thing. I saw her once
for a split-second, now I don't see
her there any more. But when I did
see her, all I needed was a
split-second, you know? It was one
of those things.

At that moment, his third friend, Mark McKinney, speaks up.

MARK
Why don't you just go over there
and find her?

CARTER
Unsure, I guess.

(CONTINUED)

RAY
Unsure of who?

MIKE
Her or yourself?

CARTER
Both, I guess. I don't know how she'd respond, but that's if I even get up the nerve to talk to her.

Suddenly, a beautiful young woman named Mattie, who's also around their general age, comes walking up behind the three of them.

MATTIE
You should get up the nerve, trust me. Girls like that.

CARTER
(Obviously just as surprised as his three friends)
Woah; hi.

MATTIE
(Amused, but also appreciating their surprised expressions)
Hi. (She extends her hand to Carter) Mattie Lynch.

CARTER
(Shaking her hand)
Carter Boyd.

MATTIE
Nice to meet you, Carter. You have a powerful stare. I thought I should probably come over here and introduce myself before you went blind.

CARTER
(Shaking his head and smiling as Mattie's friends can be seen looking over, laughing, and chattering amongst themselves from across the pool)
Thanks; I'm glad you did. (He motions toward his three comrades) This is Ray, Mike and Mark.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

Good to meet you all. So what brings you here? Just looking for a weekend party?

CARTER

Spring break, actually.

MATTIE

Seriously?

CARTER

Yeah. We're heading to South Beach this summer for two weeks, so we decided to stay fairly local this week and see what was going on up here for a couple of days.

MATTIE

That's cool. Where're you guys from?

CARTER

Around the southern New York area. We all go to NYU. What about you?

MATTIE

We're all from different parts of the country, but we go to Yale. I'm the only one of us actually from New Haven, just a couple of miles from the new alternative fuels plant that just opened.

CARTER

Okay, yeah. I heard something about that place on the news. You here on spring break also?

MATTIE

No. Our spring break isn't until next week. This is just a girls' weekend for us.

RAY

Sounds like fun.

MATTIE

It's been a blast. We didn't even know this little get-together here was happening until this afternoon.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Neither did we. It was all word-of-mouth.

MATTIE

Well, in either case, it seems fortunate that we all showed up.

CARTER

I agree.

MARK

Indeed - and on that subject, do you think your friends would mind if the rest of us made our way in their direction while you and Carter continue getting to know each other?

MATTIE

(Glancing over at her friends, then back over to Mark with a smile)

There's only one way to find out.

MIKE

(Extending his hand to Mattie as he, Mark and Ray prepare to head across the pool)

Mattie, it's been a pleasure.

MATTIE

(Shaking hands with Mike)

That it has. I'm sure we'll all be seeing each other again.

MIKE

(Glancing over at Carter with a brief grin)

I hope so.

MATTIE

(As the three of them briefly make their parting gestures with Carter)

You guys enjoy the rest of the evening.

RAY

(As they walk away)

You too.

After a brief pause as the two of them are left alone, Mattie turns back to Carter.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

Your friends seem pretty nice.

CARTER

I don't know what I'd do without them.

MATTIE

Have you guys known each other long?

CARTER

We all met at school within the past year, but we're practically inseparable. How about your friends?

MATTIE

We're all pretty close.

CARTER

That's good. Close friends are the best kind.

MATTIE

The only kind, as far as I'm concerned. If you can't trust your friends enough to be close to them, they aren't your friends.

For another couple of moments, the two of them just look at each other, sharing a pleasant smile and enjoying the gentle excitement of the situation.

CUT.

EXT. - NIGHT TIME - THE OUTSIDE OF THE HOTEL

Later on that evening, as Carter and Mattie walk together along the shoreline of the lake in back of the hotel, the two of them enjoy a pleasant conversation that's complimented by a warm, gentle breeze which glides over the shimmering water.

CARTER

...But even though they hadn't known each other for that long, we knew they were right for each other. You could just see it, you know?

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

That's great. I love stories like that. And what's your brother's name again?

CARTER

Pat.

MATTIE

And his girlfriend's name is Maryann...

CARTER

That's right.

MATTIE

It sounds like they're really happy together.

CARTER

They are. (He thinks for a second) I would love to have that kind of a relationship, you know? With that level of happiness.

MATTIE

Why couldn't you?

CARTER

I'm sure I could. I guess I just haven't found the right person yet.

MATTIE

It'll happen sooner or later.

CARTER

That's what Pat's always telling me. He says I'll "find my Maryann" eventually.

MATTIE

He's probably right.

CARTER

(Changing the focus of the conversation)

Well, what about you, though? I still cannot believe that a girl like you is single.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

Why?

CARTER

Well because, if you don't mind me pointing this out, you seem like the entire package.

MATTIE

(Laughing)

The entire package?

CARTER

Yeah. You're beautiful, talented, smart, confident...it just seems like a girl of your qualities would easily have someone.

MATTIE

Thank you but, just because I could doesn't mean I automatically would. I guess I just haven't found the right person yet either. Just like you, and you seem kinda like the complete package yourself.

CARTER

(Laughing)

No way, not me. I'm boring.

MATTIE

(Also laughing again)

You're not boring.

CARTER

Oh, come on. My passion is all finance. It is something I really want to do, but I know most other people find that stuff boring.

MATTIE

Who cares if they do or not? If it's a passion to you, that makes it exciting. Besides, you seem very confident about opening this business of yours, not to mention that finance can be a very noble and exciting profession if you do it right. That alone makes me want to see you succeed.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

It's true, I am pretty determined. I mean, I know I'm gonna have to be a loan officer at some bank or something for a while, but I just see it as good, real-world experience while I'm saving to work independently.

MATTIE

That's also true.

CARTER

I just really wanna be out there, making the decisions about who I go into business with by feeling the same passion for whatever it is they're doing as they do, even if their track record is less than perfect. You never know what honest reasons people might have for things that happened in their pasts; or the great things they might do in the future. I want their vision to be my vision, too.

MATTIE

(Smiling)

You seem very idealistic.

CARTER

(Laughing)

I try to be. Pat's got the same ideals and ambitions I do. Or, I should say, I'm like him. He's older.

MATTIE

Idealistic and ambitious. That's a good combination.

CARTER

Hey, I might be both of those things in one form or another, but I'm still nothing compared to you. You're gonna conquer the world.

MATTIE

(Laughing with a sense of sarcasm)

I'm sure.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Are you kidding? Just hearing you talk about your art inspires me.

MATTIE

(Smiling while looking at the ground as they continue walking)

Come on.

CARTER

I'm gonna be stuck in some office crunching numbers and you're gonna be traveling the world, doing all kinds of commissions and special projects...you're gonna be great.

MATTIE

(Laughing gently)

I'm gonna be a starving artist, begging for funding from people like you.

Just then, the two of them slowly stop walking and look at each other.

CARTER

You wouldn't have to beg. I'd give you whatever you wanted just to sit in a room with me.

At that moment, the two of them share a soft, mutual kiss that's as warm as the breeze around them. Suddenly however, Mattie stops and pulls away for just a moment, placing her hands on Carter's chest.

MATTIE

Before this goes a second further, I just have to know, Carter...is this something we're both gonna forget about as soon as we leave here tomorrow, or are we actually gonna try and see where it goes?

CARTER

You're gonna be amazing at whatever you do, Mattie - and I'd be a fool not to want to be there to see it.

With that, the two young lovers continue their kiss, feeling in that moment as if time has stopped and they have every second on Earth right there between them.

CUT.

EXT. - NIGHT TIME - THE OUTSIDE OF THE COMMONWEALTH PLAZA,
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Following a caption that reads, "12:07 AM, June 27, 2014," Carter stands at the driveway to the plaza and stares quietly for a moment, then gently places a bouquet of flowers on the edge of the grass next to the driveway, not really noticing as another car pulls into the lot and and parks right next to his. Thinking briefly on that hot summer night, Carter can't believe it's been exactly fifteen years since Mattie disappeared, but although he doesn't talk much about it, not a day goes by that he doesn't think about her. Quite often, he wonders what it would've been like if she were there, making her incredible artwork that would nearly take his breath away whenever he would see it. He's never regretted the absence of a wedding ring on his finger simply because he knew that if he were to be with anyone else, he would only be trying to fill a place that no other woman could truly fill. Instead, he just focuses on his work and whatever social life he has time for, which usually isn't much as the duties of a bank manager tend to dictate. Just then, Carter's thoughts are interrupted by the sound of someone walking up behind him. Immediately turning, he sees Mattie's sister Michaela approaching, also with flowers in her hand.

MICHAELA

Hey stranger.

CARTER

(Giving her a warm hug)

Hey, sis. I figured you'd show up here. How are you?

MICHAELA

Doing okay. What about you?

CARTER

(Glancing at her for a moment then responding while trying to avoid conveying too much emotion)

Pretty much the same as I always am every year at this time.

MICHAELA

(Placing her flowers next to Carter's)

I know. It's been really difficult for all of us. (She thinks for a moment and looks around) I'll never forget that night. I was asleep already, and the blast woke

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MICHAELA (cont'd)

me up. Woke my parents, too. It felt like an earthquake. We ran outside and the whole neighborhood was already out there. It took a minute for my parents to realize what time it was, and that Mattie wasn't home yet.

CARTER

I remember. You called to see if I had heard from her.

MICHAELA

I know. And when you said you hadn't, we just hoped and prayed that she had maybe fallen asleep working on her project at school or something. (She pauses to think again) We stayed up all night, waiting for her to come home. None of us could sleep, you know? We just knew something was wrong. (She looks over at the aforementioned alternative fuels plant that actually sits on the other side of the highway about two hundred feet from the plaza) In the morning, when we heard about the explosion and that they found Mattie's car in the middle of it all, our hearts just dropped. (She takes a moment to wipe her eyes, then looks at the highway and the plaza behind them.) It's amazing how much they've rebuilt this area in fifteen years. Almost like it never happened. (Pause) Almost. (Pause) I still can't believe it's been that long.

CARTER

(With a solemn tone)

Neither can I. (He just sort of, looks off into the distance for a moment, then changes the subject) So what time's your show again?

MICHAELA

Seven. You're gonna be there, right?

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Of course. I wouldn't miss it. (He thinks for a moment) I know your sister would be there for sure if she were still with us. She was always incredibly proud of you.

MICHAELA

No more than I was of her. I could never get over how amazing an artist she was. Even when my voice was at it's absolute best, I still felt almost inferior to her talent.

CARTER

She was truly gifted. But you've never had anything to feel inferior about. Your voice is like her artwork through sound.

MICHAELA

Thank you, Carter. That's a very kind thing for you to say.

CARTER

It's true. I've always felt that way.

MICHAELA

I just hope people start agreeing agree with you. I'm on my third album and I do have a bit of a fan base, but none of the record companies are biting yet.

CARTER

They will. Just keep at it; it'll happen. You're too talented for it not to.

MICHAELA

I don't know. I mean, I have been trying, but I just haven't really felt that sense of unlimited motivation since losing Mattie. It's almost as if I don't really want things to happen without her.

CARTER

I can understand how you feel, believe me. I've felt that way in

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
much of my own career. But you know that if Mattie could, she'd tell us both to not let up until we succeeded, whether she was around for it not.

MICHAELA
I know. It's just hard. (Thinks for a moment.) You've always been so good to us, Carter. Mom and Dad and I. Especially since Mattie disappeared. We appreciate it, you know.

CARTER
We share a common bond.

MICHAELA
(Putting her arm in Carter's)
Yeah, we do...even if it is an unfortunate one.

CARTER
(Thinking again)
You know, I'm always here, just after midnight, every June 27th and it's always the same, every year. It goes through my mind, over and over. All the what-if's. (He pauses to think for another moment, then begins again.) There were never any traces of her found. Not a thing. That is so strange. How the hell can someone just disappear like that? There's got to be some other explanation. That's why I've always continued to hope I guess but, after all this time, you'd think I would've gotten over it already.

MICHAELA
No, I wouldn't think that at all. (They look at each other) I've never gotten over it. Neither have my parents. So why would you? Especially with what happened to your brother, what, not even three years later? We all went through hell at that time, but I think you did

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MICHAELA (cont'd)
especially. So I don't see any
reason why you shouldn't cling to
some kind of hope.

CARTER
(Thinking briefly again)
I guess. (Pause) It was pretty
bad.

MICHAELA
(Looking ahead)
Bad enough to where it's still
affecting us now. (After the two
of them just look at the spot where
Mattie disappeared for a moment,
Michaela then turns and looks back
at Carter) So, tonight at
seven. And invite your parents and
the guys, okay? I always love
seeing you all in the first
row. You've been a rock for me
when I play in this area.

CARTER
You know we're always here,
Michaela. And we always will
be. (After a momentary pause, he
looks at his watch) I should get
moving though. I have to get up at
six for work and I still have to
drive all the way back to
Tarrytown.

MICHAELA
Yeah, I have a long drive too, and
I have a rehearsal at the club
later this morning, so I should
also get back. (She gives him a
hug) But you drive safely, okay?

CARTER
(Returning the hug)
I will. You too. I'll see you
tonight for sure.

MICHAELA
For sure.

Moments later, after Michaela gets into her rental and
drives away, Carter gets into his car. Just before starting
the engine however, his phone rings.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(Answering the phone as he prepares to start the car)
Hello? (Pause) Hey mom, what are you still doing up? (Pause) Oh, okay. Well thanks. I really appreciate that. (Pause) Hard, but that's the way it usually is. This time was a little easier, though. Michaela's in town for a show tonight, so she showed up while I was here. She invited all of us to come see her like we usually do when she's in town. (Pause) Yeah, I think so too; it'll be nice. How's dad? (Pause) Good. Oh, before I forget, tell him I'll be over to watch the game tomorrow night. (Pause) Yeah. Well, he asked me to come over and watch with him, and I told him I had to let him know because I didn't know how much work I'd have over the weekend, but I managed to get enough done this week to actually be able to take the weekend off, so I'll be there. (Pause) Yeah, that will be nice. A good distraction. (Pause) Okay. (Pause) Yeah, I have to get going here too. Thanks again. (Pause) Love you too. (Pause) Bye.

Hangs up.

After getting off the phone, Carter just sits there thinking for a moment, glancing down at his bottle of anti-anxiety meds that's sitting on the passenger seat next to him before starting the car and pulling out of the parking lot. Looking around, he tries to enjoy the ride without letting things get to him too much. Suddenly however, just as he starts up the highway, a blast from a large wooded area next to the alternative fuels plant blows the leaves and a number of branches off the trees and sends Carter's Nissan careening off the road. Slamming on the brakes and skidding across the grass, he immediately jumps out and looks in the direction of the blast. For a minute or so, he notices that there doesn't seem to be anyone at the plant, nor does there seem to be any kind of fire or other signs of an explosion. As he begins to walk toward the wooded area however, he does notice that there's a strange and powerful sort of a breeze that's blowing against him. After another

(CONTINUED)

minute, he notices that the breeze is apparently blowing out of a spot that's almost directly across the highway from the plaza he was just at. Looking up, Carter notices that the spot reaches at least as high as the trees, with the breeze blowing consistently out, almost as if there was an invisible cave or a hole there. Before going any further however, he hears something moving in the trees about twenty feet to his right.

CARTER

(Slowly walking toward the trees)

Hello? Is anyone there?

He walks a little closer.

CARTER

Hello?

Carefully making his way toward the trees, he can see that someone's there, trying to get up off the ground. The person appears to be very weak and is having trouble standing on their own. After carefully approaching another few feet, his entire world is suddenly rocked as the person stumbles through the branches and speaks - with a voice he knows all too well.

MATTIE

Help me...please...

CARTER

(Shocked and feeling as if he's in a dream while rapid memories of his time with Mattie instantly flash through his mind)

This can't be real...

MATTIE

(Disoriented and in tears as her knees buckle and she starts to fall again)

Help me...

Immediately, Carter catches Mattie before she hits the ground and rushes her to his car. Quickly opening the door, Carter brings her in and places her in the passenger seat. Noticing that she's slightly injured and still disoriented, it's only then that he notices something else he can't explain - the fact that she looks exactly the same as she did when he last saw her fifteen years ago! She hasn't aged one day! Moments later, she shows a slight return of strength by starting to look around with an

(CONTINUED)

increasing sense of awareness as Carter grabs a bottle of water and some napkins and and begins to clean her wounds.

MATTIE

Where am I?

After a moment, she notices Carter, who's kneeling next to her with tears streaming down the sides of his face.

CARTER

How is this possible?

MATTIE

(Still somewhat out of breath)
How is what possible? (Suddenly, she regains her awareness, looking around momentarily) Wait a minute; Carter? What are you doing here?

CARTER

(Chuckles ironically, while still trying to accept that he isn't dreaming)
I think I should be asking you that...

MATTIE

(Confused)
What are you talking about? (Looks him over) And why do you look so different?

CARTER

(Confused)
Why do I look different? Mattie, you look exactly the same as you did the last time I saw you!

MATTIE

(Still confused)
People don't change that much in a day, Carter. (She looks him over again) Well, they usually don't, anyway.

CARTER

A day? (Pauses to think for a moment) Mattie, what year is it?

MATTIE

(Confused by Carter's question)
What?

CARTER

The year. This year. What is it?

MATTIE

Are you kidding me?

CARTER

No, I'm not. Seriously.

MATTIE

(Still confused)

1999. Same as it's been since
January.

CARTER

(Surprised at her answer)

1999? Mattie, what do you
remember?

MATTIE

About what?

CARTER

Anything recent.

MATTIE

I stayed late at school after my
last class. I wanted to finish
that 3-D project. Then, I guess it
was a little while ago, I was
driving through here when I heard a
bang. I woke up in the woods a few
minutes later. (She suddenly
starts looking around again) And
where's my car?

CARTER

That's all you remember?

MATTIE

Yeah. That's it. Where is my car?

CARTER

(Completely baffled)

Mattie, it's 2014. There was an
explosion under the plant that
destroyed this whole area right as
you were driving through
here. Some kind of industrial
accident, they said. Your car was
destroyed, but the authorities
never found any trace of you
anywhere. It was almost like the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
explosion went off and you
just...vanished. You've been gone
for fifteen years.

MATTIE
(In a disbelieving whisper)
What?

CARTER
Your parents had a memorial service
for you after about six months, but
I don't think any of us ever truly
believed you were gone. Still,
what could we do? We moved on with
our lives, the best we could. Your
parents and Michaela sold the house
and moved south a couple of years
later, and I graduated and started
working for a bank. What I don't
understand though, is why you have
no memory of the past fifteen
years, or where you've been, and
why you haven't aged at all. I
mean, I cannot believe this is
happening. It's like a dream come
true, but a really strange
dream. It doesn't make any sense.

MATTIE
(After thinking for a moment)
Has it really been that long?

CARTER
It's been agony. Like an eternity.

MATTIE
(Lying her head back and
looking ahead for a moment,
then back at Carter)
So what are we gonna do then?

CARTER
I don't know, Mattie...but I do
know it's great to see you again.

With that, Carter lowers his head and kisses the woman he
loves - something he's longed to do with everything in him
for the past fifteen years. After a moment however, as the
kiss ends, Mattie happens to look behind Carter and sees,
about a hundred feet away, some kind of disturbance in the
space near the spot where the breeze is coming from.

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MATTIE

(Leaning forward and looking over at the disturbance as Carter turns and looks as well)

What is that?

CARTER

(Also looking)

What's wrong?

MATTIE

(Still looking)

You see it? There's something moving by the trees...

CARTER

(Trying to see it as well)

What, you mean in the woods?

MATTIE

(Pointing)

No...in the space in front of the trees...

CARTER

(Starting to notice now...and also seeing that there are more than one, all fading into appearance in a menacing fashion that covers an increasing amount of space)

Wait...yeah, I see it. What is it?

MATTIE

I don't know.

Just then, Carter and Mattie both notice that the objects, which now look like transparent, humanoid shapes fading into sight from the waist up, seem to be facing their direction.

MATTIE

(Starting to get nervous)

I think we should get out of here, Carter.

CARTER

(Still looking at the figures)

I think you're right.

At that moment, Carter stands up, closes Mattie's door and starts to head around to the driver's side. As he reaches the other side while Mattie fastens her seat belt, all the

(CONTINUED)

while continuing to look out the window at the figures, more and more of them appear in a wide radius around the area, every one looking in Carter and Mattie's direction. Just then, as Carter quickly gets in, shuts the door and fastens his seat belt, the entire area flashes twice, then once again, with a brilliant light that seems to be emulated simultaneously from the eye sockets of the figures, almost like it's somehow marking the two of them. Suddenly, Mattie notices that the figures, while still transparent, are now in full view - and they resemble her!

MATTIE
(Screaming)
GET US OUTTA HERE!

Immediately, Carter starts the car, shifts into gear and takes off onto the highway as the figures begin to charge, moving with terrifying speed while rapidly gathering from around their individual profiles, light-based protrusions in space that swarm the entire area, firing through their glowing eye sockets and exploding on everything they hit. Flooring the accelerator, Carter hits top speed on the highway as the projectiles that are being fired at them hit other vehicles on the road, causing some to crash, some to explode and some to veer off the road in clouds of sparks and smoke. Swerving to avoid hitting the other vehicles, Carter reaches over and forces Mattie to duck below the dashboard as she screams when one of the explosions goes off close to her side of the car.

CARTER
GET DOWN!

MATTIE
(Turning her head to talk to
Carter while still ducking
below the dashboard)
Carter, what is this?!

CARTER
(Ducking as much as he can
while still watching the road,
with projectile explosions
going off all around him)
I don't know! Stay down!

For another minute or so, the two of them continue speeding up the highway, trying as hard as possible to avoid being hit. Just as the figures move almost close enough to hit them at point-blank range however, a barrage of weapons fire comes in against the figures from behind Carter and Mattie that's similar to the projectiles that the figures are firing, de-materializing a number of them while the rest turn and start firing back.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(Still ducking as much as possible while watching the road)

What the hell is going on out there?!

MATTIE

(Turning her head slightly to look back out the window while staying in her cover position)

I can't really see much from here!

Just then, Carter sees an unusual-looking helicopter fly in low from behind. It looks military, but more like covert ops - definitely not like one he's ever seen before, especially because it's moving at an incredible speed that seems to actually be matching the speed of the figures.

MATTIE

(Hearing the strange roar of the helicopter)

What is that?!

CARTER

I think it's a helicopter! It looks like it's chasing those things that were shooting at us!

MATTIE

Well get us out of here before they start shooting again!

With that, Carter punches the accelerator again, moving at top speed up the highway. Looking in the rear view mirror, he can see the helicopter continuing to fight the figures that were shooting at them as two more helicopters suddenly descend from over the tree line to the west, joining the one that's already fighting.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHT TIME - CARTER'S CAR - INTERSTATE 95 WEST, JUST OUTSIDE BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

After driving for a while, Carter notices that Mattie's very quiet.

CARTER

Hey. You okay?

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

No. I don't think I've ever been this confused in my life.

CARTER

I don't blame you. I'm pretty confused myself. Seriously, what the hell was that all about back there?

MATTIE

I don't know, but we should probably discuss what to do next.

CARTER

I know. I've been trying to come up with ideas.

MATTIE

And?

CARTER

Well, we should probably go to the authorities.

MATTIE

You think they'd believe us?

CARTER

I don't know. I'm not even sure what we'd tell them.

MATTIE

If I've been missing for fifteen years, they'll probably have some questions about that, and why I haven't aged. (She looks out the window again) Not to mention that attack before, which I'm sure had something to do with me.

CARTER

How do you know that?

MATTIE

(Looking back at Carter)
It was too strange not to.

CARTER

(Thinking about Mattie's point)
Yeah. You're probably right.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

So then, should we look for the nearest police station?

CARTER

Not for something like this. We should go to the F.B.I.

MATTIE

Where's the nearest F.B.I. office?

CARTER

There is one where we just were in New Haven, but I don't think you'd want to go back in that direction right now.

MATTIE

No, not really.

CARTER

I think the next closest office is in Manhattan.

MATTIE

Okay. So let's go there.

CARTER

Okay.

After another minute of silence, Carter can tell that something else is on Mattie's mind.

CARTER

So what are you thinking about?

MATTIE

I was just wondering...when do you think we should we get in touch with my parents?

CARTER

I don't know. I do know they'll be shocked to see you though.

MATTIE

They might not believe it's me at first.

CARTER

They'll get over that pretty quickly. They love you. They've really missed you all these years.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

You still talk to them?

CARTER

Yeah, I do. Quite often, actually.

MATTIE

How have they been?

CARTER

Pretty good, considering. They've never been the same since you disappeared, but they have stayed well as far as their physical health goes. And Michaela's on her way to becoming a rock star.

MATTIE

(With a satisfied smile)

I think everyone could see that coming. She's loved performing since she was three years old.

CARTER

She still misses her big sister though. In fact, she dedicated her first concert to you. And she has another one in the City tonight, actually. I ran into her before when I was putting flowers down near the spot where you disappeared.

MATTIE

(Visibly moved by the fact that Carter was doing that)

Do you do that a lot?

CARTER

Every year, same night and time. Until now (He smiles gently and gives her a momentary glance as she returns the smile.)

MATTIE

So what was Michaela doing there?

CARTER

Same thing I was doing. I guess, being in the area on this date, she figured she'd commemorate it as well.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

She's always been a great girl. I can't wait to see them all again.

CARTER

(After another minute of silence)

What is it?

MATTIE

It's just strange, sitting here talking about everyone like this but yet, I feel like I just saw them all less than 24 hours ago. (She looks over at him) It's almost as if I just kinda, jumped ahead fifteen years and stayed the same while everyone else changed.

CARTER

I know; it must be really weird.

MATTIE

Incredibly. That's why I'm hoping the F.B.I. might be able to come up with some answers. Because right now, I have no idea what to think.

As Mattie continues to try and process everything, Carter drives steadily up the interstate, trying as hard as possible to clear his head and get past the surrealism of the situation.

CUT.

INT.- NIGHT TIME - THE NEWSROOM AT METRO LIVE NEWS, MANHATTAN, NY

As reporter Karena Phillips sits at her computer, going over reports and cell phone images sent to her program's website, her producer, Brody Jackson, approaches.

JACKSON

What's going on, Karena? What are you so wrapped up with there?

PHILLIPS

There was some kind of incident in New Haven a little while ago that involved a mysterious blast followed by apparent gunfire.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON
Seriously? What was it,
gang-related?

PHILLIPS
(Continuing to go through
images and reports)
No, definitely not. Bigger than
that. Although, it's hard to make
out exactly where the shots are
coming from.

Just then, Jackson notices her looking at something a little
closer.

PHILLIPS
No way...

JACKSON
What is it?

PHILLIPS
(Quickly typing something into
the computer)
Do you remember a missing person's
case about fifteen years ago in the
New Haven area?

JACKSON
What, Mattie Lynch?

PHILLIPS
Yes! (She brings up a group of
images of Mattie, primarily missing
persons images, on Google) Look at
these pictures of her.

JACKSON
(Looking)
Okay...

PHILLIPS
(Clicking on the first window
she's been looking at)
Now, look at this still of one of
the videos from tonight's incident.

As Jackson looks at the image, he can see it too.

JACKSON
(Looking at an image of Mattie
in the passenger seat of
Carter's car as they speed
away from the figures)

(CONTINUED)

Is this for real?

PHILLIPS

You cannot tell me that's not
Mattie Lynch. And I know this
isn't the greatest quality image
but, is it just me, or does she
look exactly the same as she did
when she went missing?

JACKSON

No, you're right. She doesn't look
any different.

PHILLIPS

(Sitting back with a look of
satisfaction on her face)
Well, I think we've got one hell of
a story here.

JACKSON

Damn right. So when do you want to
leave?

PHILLIPS

Yesterday.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHT TIME - CARTER'S CAR - INTERSTATE 95 WEST, JUST
OUTSIDE PORT CHESTER, NY

A few hours into their drive, as Carter and Mattie continue
down the highway, Mattie happens to look up and sees a trio
of strange-looking helicopters traveling at a high level.

MATTIE

(Still looking at the
helicopter)
Hey, you remember that helicopter
you were talking about before?

CARTER

What, the one that showed up in New
Haven?

MATTIE

Yeah.

CARTER

What about it?

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

It looks like three of them are following us.

CARTER

(Trying to look at the sky in glances while still watching the road)

What?! Where?

MATTIE

(Still looking)

Above and just behind us...

Suddenly, there's another blast from the direction in which they just came, similar to the one that Carter first encountered when he found Mattie. However, this one seems to be larger, with a wave that spreads out between the ground and the sky like ripples on a lake, and once again, causing the ground to shake, obviously spooking the other drivers on the highway, causing some of them to slow down or even pull over to the side of the road. As this happens, Mattie suddenly gets slammed against the dashboard of Carter's car, then jerked against the ceiling, almost as if to be under the control of some powerful, invisible force.

CARTER

(Trying not to drive off the road as he also tries to help Mattie)

Mattie! Honey, you okay?! What's wrong?!

MATTIE

(Settling down as her incident was only momentary, then feeling blood on her mouth and nose)

What the hell was that?!

CARTER

(Still driving as he glances over at Mattie)

I don't know...you all right?!

MATTIE

Yeah, I think so.

CARTER

You want me to pull over?

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

No, it's okay. I could use something to clean my face with though.

CARTER

Of course. There are napkins in the glove compartment. You sure you're okay?

MATTIE

(Taking a couple of napkins from the glove compartment and starting to clean her face)
Yeah, I'm sure. I wish I knew what that was all about though. It was weird. It was almost like something really strong grabbed every part of me and started handling me like I was a rag doll.

CARTER

This is just too weird. The sooner we get to the F.B.I., the better. I mean, they might not come up with all the answers either, but at least they'll be able to investigate things a little more closely.

Just then, Mattie notices that the helicopters are rapidly descending in their direction.

MATTIE

(Obviously concerned)
Carter, we have company...

CARTER

(Looking back and seeing the helicopters again; this time, coming in very low toward them)
Shit. Okay, hold on!

As Mattie grabs onto the armrests of her seat, Carter floors the accelerator and speeds up the highway, passing every vehicle in front of them as they rapidly weave in and out of traffic. Just then, Mattie looks in her side mirror.

MATTIE

Damn! Carter, more company!

As Carter looks, a group of sleek, black armored vehicles comes speeding up in back of them as the three helicopters

(CONTINUED)

stay just above them, obviously trying to keep them in sight.

CARTER
(Becoming frustrated)
Who the hell are these people?!

At that moment however, Carter's cell phone gets a call from a private number as one of the armored vehicles pulls up next to him, with one of the passengers, a black-clad agent in specially-equipped gear, looks at him while holding a phone up to his ear, obviously waiting for him to answer.

CARTER
(Cautiously answering)
Hello?

AGENT
Carter! Listen to me! You have to trust me...we're the good guys! Those things that were shooting at you in New Haven are gonna be here any second! If you want to live, do exactly what I say!

CARTER
(Looking around and starting to see the disturbances in space that he and Mattie saw in New Haven)
Okay...what do you want us to do?!

AGENT
Pull over to the side of the road right now! As you and Mattie get out, you are to run, not walk, run to the helicopter that's gonna land just long enough to pick you up. We'll cover you! Do you understand me?!

CARTER
(Still confused and cautious)
Yeah...I understand!

AGENT
Okay, do it now!

Immediately, Carter jerks the wheel to the right and pulls over to the side of the road, then stops.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE
(Totally confused)
Carter, what are you doing?!

CARTER
(Turning and looking Mattie
right in the eyes)
Baby, do you trust me?!

MATTIE
Yes...

CARTER
Do you honestly trust that I'd
never let anything bad happen to
you?!

MATTIE
(Becoming even more confused)
Carter...

CARTER
Mattie, please...

MATTIE
I trust you!

Immediately, Carter opens his door and runs out, in front of
the car and over to Mattie's side.

MATTIE
(Panicking)
Carter! What are you doing?!

CARTER
(Quickly opening Mattie's door
as one of the helicopters
lands and the armored vehicles
pull in around them)
COME ON!

MATTIE
WHAT?!

CARTER
(Physically pulling her out
and putting his arm over her)
LET'S GO!

As the two of them, with Carter covering Mattie, run from
the car to the helicopter, Mattie looks up and sees the
transparent figures fading into sight around the area again.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

Carter! Look!

CARTER

(Looking briefly as they
continue to run)

I know! Keep running!

Suddenly, three flashes mark Carter and Mattie again as the figures begin to charge just as they did in New Haven. Immediately, the agents in the armored vehicles get out, heavily armed with almost futuristic-looking weapons, and begin firing the same projectiles at the figures as the helicopters did in New Haven, de-materializing many of them and giving Carter and Mattie just enough time to get to their helicopter before the figures start firing back. In seconds however, the whole area becomes a battleground as the figures do start firing, just like before, with more civilian vehicles on the highway being hit by the figures' projectiles, but this time, with some agents going down as well. Inside the helicopter that Carter and Mattie just boarded, the crew rapidly works to secure them.

MAIN HELICOPTER AGENT

(As he and his personnel
secure Carter and Mattie)

Are you guys okay?!

MATTIE

Ask me when we're out of here!

Just then, the agent turns and signals to the pilot who immediately lifts off with an escort by the other helicopters, quickly leaving the area while the agents on the ground continue to fire at the transparent figures, destroying the last of them before getting back into their vehicles and heading southwest, the same direction as the helicopters are heading in. After a few moments, once things have settled down, the lead helicopter agent turns to Carter and Mattie again.

LEAD HELICOPTER AGENT

(Generally looking over them)

Are you two okay? Any injuries?

CARTER

(Still trying to catch his
breath)

No.

MATTIE

(Also trying to catch her
breath)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE (cont'd)
We're okay, thank God. What is
this all about?

CARTER
Who are you guys? The F.B.I.?

LEAD HELICOPTER AGENT
(As he sits down and buckles
in, facing Carter and Mattie)
No, we're not the the F.B.I.

CARTER
The military? Some kind of special
forces unit?

LEAD HELICOPTER AGENT
No, nothing like that.

CARTER
Well then who are you? And how do
you know who we are? It would be
nice to know, or at least to know
where we're going.

LEAD HELICOPTER AGENT
You'll find out soon enough. But
for now, just take comfort in the
fact that you're safe.

With that, Carter and Mattie look at each other with
expressions of uncertainty before doing the only thing they
can do right now - settling into the ride.

CUT.

INT. - NIGHT TIME - A LARGE, SECURE BUILDING ON THE EAST
SIDE OF MANHATTAN

Later on, as the helicopter that Carter and Mattie are in
lands on a helipad that sits on the roof of a skyscraper in
Midtown Manhattan, agents from the building itself open the
side door and assist Carter and Mattie in getting out of the
helicopter and heading into the building. Once inside, the
agents lead them to a large room that's filled with more
agents as well as people who look like scientists, all
working on what seems to be one big operation. Just then,
one of the main agents, a middle-aged man named Houser,
walks up to them and introduces himself and his partner, a
woman who accompanies him in greeting Carter and Mattie.

(CONTINUED)

AGENT HOUSER

(Extending his hand to shake
as his partner does the same,
with Carter and Mattie
obliging them)

Hi, my name is Agent Bill Houser
and this is my partner, Agent
Theresa Reasons. We apologize for
the dramatics in picking you up but
obviously, we had to get you here
as soon as possible.

CARTER

(Looking around)
Where is here?

AGENT HOUSER

You are at the New York office of
Zero Hour. We are a private
research organization, although we
do tend to work pretty closely with
the government.

CARTER

(After thinking for another
moment)
Okay. But, with all due respect,
what does that have to do with us?

AGENT HOUSER

It actually pertains directly to
Mattie's situation.

MATTIE

How?

AGENT HOUSER

That's not for me to say, but you
will be given a thorough
explanation by one of our chief
engineers, Dr. Jonas Tolson.

CARTER

Good. Can we see him?

AGENT HOUSER

You will, soon. But for right now,
you can follow Agent Reasons and I
to your quarters. You'll be safe
here while we sort this all out. I
promise.

At that moment, Carter and Mattie proceed to follow the
agents to another part of the building.

CUT.

INT. - EARLY MORNING - CARTER AND MATTIE'S QUARTERS AT THE ZERO HOUR BUILDING IN MANHATTAN

Not long after, Carter and Mattie are led to the room that is to be their quarters during their stay with Zero Hour. Entering the room, they run into another agent, Carl Tackett, who's on his way out. Immediately, Houser stops him.

AGENT HOUSER
Everything okay?

TACKETT
Yeah, fine. Just double-checking to make sure the room was ready for our two guests.

AGENT HOUSER
(After glancing at Reasons, as they're both a little confused by Tackett's response)
Okay. Wasn't that done before?

TACKETT
Yeah, but the Prep Team is an in-house department. I just thought the perspective of a field agent might be a good security measure as well. You know; just in case Prep missed anything.

AGENT HOUSER
Well, Prep doesn't usually miss anything, but thanks for your concern.

TACKETT
(With a suspiciously pleasant smile as he walks away)
No problem.

AGENT HOUSER
(Turning to Reasons)
That was weird.

AGENT REASONS
Yeah, it was.

Moments later, As the group enters the room, Houser inconspicuously turns to Reasons.

(CONTINUED)

AGENT HOUSER

Hey, do me a favor, okay?
Just...have a look around.

Moments later, as Carter and Mattie look around and try different things out, Reasons walks up to Houser.

AGENT REASONS

Nothing seems out of place.

AGENT HOUSER

Okay. Well, just keep your eyes peeled anyway. You never know.

At that moment, Agents Houser and Reasons begin to explain to Carter and Mattie the purpose of their stay.

AGENT HOUSER

So as you can see, we've made every effort to be sure that your stay here is a comfortable one. You can have anything to eat that you like; just dial "3" on your cell phone and room service with answer. They're open and operational 24/7, as is the main information line, for which you dial "0." You can also dial "0" in case of any type of emergency. Now, because of the nature of the situation, even though you can use your phone in here, your contact from this building to the outside world has been blocked. Any calls you make on your phone are restricted to this building.

MATTIE

Why is that?

AGENT REASONS

Because our friends outside, the ones who've been chasing you since you found each other again, can tap into any form of communication that goes on anywhere in the world.

CARTER

So then, what's to stop them from tapping into your network?

(CONTINUED)

AGENT HOUSER

Our network has been designed to keep them from infringing on any of our communications. We've learned how they work over the years, so as you've seen, we've created special defenses against them. That's why you're safe here.

MATTIE

But...what are they? Why do they look like me? And why are they after us?

AGENT HOUSER

That will all be explained to you shortly.

MATTIE

(After thinking for a moment)
Okay so, if these things can't get to us here; if we're so safe in this building; then what about our families and friends? What's to stop these...whatever they are, from going after our loved ones to try getting to us?

AGENT REASONS

Your families and friends will be here shortly. They're being brought into protective custody just as you are.

Just then, Mattie feels an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

MATTIE

Thank you. Really, thank you for thinking of them.

AGENT HOUSER

(Visibly appreciative of Mattie's gratitude)
No need to thank us, Mattie. It's all part of our jobs. (Just then, he looks at his watch) Okay well, we have to get going. Everyone has an important part of this situation here, including us. (As he and Reasons head toward the door) But remember, if you need anything, help is just a phone call away.

(CONTINUED)

With that, Houser and Reasons leave the room, with Carter and Mattie starting, for the first time all day, to feel like things are finally a little less stressful - at least, for now.

CUT.

EXT. - EARLY MORNING - THE HIGHWAY OUTSIDE THE COMMONWEALTH PLAZA, NEW HAVEN

As federal authorities and "Unidentified" officials work together with special military personnel and local first responders at the scene of the first battle with the mysterious figures in New Haven, one of the officials, Dr. Jonas Tolson, walks up to Dan Fisher, who is the head federal agent on the scene.

TOLSON

Well, there is some good news after all. I just got word from the office that the main person of interest in this situation has been brought into protective custody.

FISHER

That is good news. Any info on them?

TOLSON

(Looking at his phone)
Yeah. They're safe. (He looks across the street where the powerful breeze is still blowing out of the woods as various officials use a variety of instruments to examine the area) Although to be honest, I'd much rather discuss the specifics once we get there, instead of out in the open like this. Especially being this close to the Point of Origin.

FISHER

Fair enough. Did you want to head up there now?

TOLSON

Shortly. I just want to gather a little more info here first.

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly, Fisher happens to look over to the police line that's being used to cordon off the scene where a crowd is watching from the parking lot of the plaza. Right away, he notices Karena Phillips standing with her cameraman, who's trying to get some footage with a hand-held camera.

FISHER

(Approaching the crowd without noticing that the cameraman is actually a decoy. Karena's producer Jackson is actually capturing the footage with a small camcorder that he's holding inconspicuously in the crowd a few feet away from them)

Dammit Karena, you know we ordered a media blackout here!

PHILLIPS

Agent Fisher, is it true that this situation is somehow connected to Mattie Lynch, the college student who mysteriously disappeared following an explosion at this very spot fifteen years ago?

FISHER

(Stopping right in front of her)

No comment. Now, a media blackout means a media blackout. (He looks at the cameraman) Shut the camera off and give me the footage before I arrest both of you.

KARENA

But why all the secrecy, Agent Fisher? Don't people have the right to know when something of this magnitude happens in their community? And what's with that breeze coming out of the woods? What's back there?

FISHER

I said no comment. Now give me the footage. I'm warning you.

Finally, as Karena and her cameraman comply, then start heading toward their van, Jackson subtly joins them moments later.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

(Getting into the van)
At least we got some video
here. Even if it's hidden.

PHILLIPS

We're gonna get a hell of a lot
more than that.

JACKSON

What do you mean?

PHILLIPS

(As they start driving away)
Let's just say I have many
connections. We're gonna get the
exclusive on this story, make no
mistake about it.

CUT.

INT. - EARLY MORNING - CARTER AND MATTIE'S QUARTERS AT THE
ZERO HOUR BUILDING IN MANHATTAN

Later that night, Carter and Mattie sit together on the
couch in their quarters, talking and watching TV.

MATTIE

So we have an African-American
president now?

CARTER

Yeah. First time in history.

MATTIE

How's he doing?

CARTER

Some people say good, others
complain. You know how politics
goes.

MATTIE

Yeah, I know. (Just then, she
notices a book of 21st Century
events sitting among a number of
other books on a shelf across the
room. Immediately, she gets up and
grabs it, then sits back down on
the couch next to Carter) So, has
anything else of interest happened
since I've been away?

(CONTINUED)

CARTER
Um...yeah. A few things.

MATTIE
Like what?

CARTER
Well, the Giants beat the Patriots
twice in the Super Bowl.

MATTIE
(Frustrated)
Are you serious?!

CARTER
(Laughing)
Yeah. 2007 and 2011. Oh, and in
2007, the Patriots were 18-0 going
into the Super Bowl, too.

MATTIE
(Annoyed)
You're kidding...

CARTER
Nope. No kidding. I actually
thought during those games about
what it would've been like if you
were there to see them.

MATTIE
(Rolling her eyes)
Thanks.

CARTER
It's funny, too. The Pats won in
2001, 2003 and 2004. But when they
played the Giants a few years
later, they just couldn't get it
done.

MATTIE
Well, that's one thing I'm glad I
wasn't here to see.

CARTER
(Laughing again)
Oh, come on, you mean you wouldn't
have even wanted to watch it with
me?

MATTIE

(Lightly pushing his shoulder)
I ESPECIALLY wouldn't have wanted
to watch it with you.

Carter laughs one more time.

MATTIE

(Changing the subject, she
opens the 21st Century events
book and starts flipping
through the pages)
Anything else?

CARTER

(Thinking for a moment)
Yeah, actually. Something
unfortunate, to say the least. And
very big. Bigger than a Super
Bowl.

MATTIE

(As Carter takes the book from
her and turns a few pages)
What?

CARTER

(Passing the book over to her
and pointing at the section
it's opened to)
9/11.

MATTIE

(Seeing the terrifying
pictures as she takes the book
from Carter)
What is that? (She reads through
an excerpt of the section) "On
September 11th, 2001, almost one
year after bombing the U.S. Navy
destroyer, "USS Cole," as it
refueled at the Yemeni port,
"Aden," killing 17 sailors and
injuring 39, the al Qaeda terrorist
network, operating out of
Afghanistan under the leadership of
the radical sheik Osama bin Laden,
and with the support of the Taliban
government, hijacked four airliners
and flew two of them into the twin
towers in New York City and one
into the Pentagon in Washington,
D.C." (She turns to Carter with a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE (cont'd)
look of disbelief on her face) Did
this really happen?

CARTER
I wish it didn't, believe me. They
hijacked the fourth airliner with
the intent of flying it into the
Capitol Building in D.C., but the
passengers fought back and forced
the plane down in a field in
Pennsylvania.

MATTIE
(Looking back at the section
in the book)
How many people died?

CARTER
Too many. Thousands in the
buildings and on the planes, plus a
few hundred first responders here
when the towers collapsed.

MATTIE
(Visibly upset)
Did we retaliate?

CARTER
Yeah, we went into Afghanistan a
short time later, fought a long war
against al Queda and the Taliban,
and finally killed bin Laden in
2011. We also invaded Iraq in 2003
and fought another long and
supposedly related war against
Saddam Hussein's regime there, but
there's been a lot of controversy
as to whether or not we actually
did have enough reason to go in and
do that. Again, politics.

MATTIE
(In disbelief as she continues
to look at the graphic images
in the book, with tears
streaming down the sides of
her face)
This is unbelievable.

CARTER
(Looking at the pictures with
her)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
Unbelievable is an understatement.

MATTIE
(Looking over at Carter and
noticing that something's
wrong)
What is it?

CARTER
(Putting his arm around Mattie
and giving her a smile as she
moves in closer to him)
Nothing.

MATTIE
Carter, you're lying to me.

CARTER
You already have more than enough
on your plate.

MATTIE
(Becoming concerned and
pulling away from him so she
can look him in the eyes)
So do you, Carter, and you know I
can always tell when something
serious is on your mind. Now
please don't make me ask again.

CARTER
(After a momentary pause)
You remember I told you how your
parents moved down south a few
years after you disappeared?

MATTIE
Yeah.

CARTER
Well, some time after your
disappearance, Pat and I decided
that, given our similar career
ambitions, we should probably take
your advice and try starting the
business together, instead of just
me doing it. You remember we had
that conversation?

MATTIE
Yeah, I remember that.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

And it did make sense, you know? So, we started working on it, and things really began to look like they were gonna come together. (Pauses) This one day, Pat and I had a meeting scheduled in the City. A really big meeting, actually. We were still in school, but we were also both working very hard on at least securing the start-up capital. We wanted to be ready when the time was right.

MATTIE

Okay...

CARTER

The meeting was with this investor named Ashworth whose' office was at the World Trade Center. He was idealistic, like us, and was really looking to encourage other investors and moneylenders to approach the industry with a similar mentality. And he was loaded, but not at all cheap. He wanted to get in on the ground floor with us and develop something really lucrative. I'm talking regional, possibly even national. Like a chain. I guess our shared potential intrigued him, and he wanted to believe that we could truly make something happen together.

He pauses and looks over at her, then continues.

CARTER

Interestingly enough, that was the same day your family was leaving. I had to be there to help, you know? And to kinda see them off. After everything we had been through together, it just wouldn't have been right for me not to go. (He looks at the 21st Century events book, then back at Mattie) That was on September 11th, 2001. I didn't make it to the meeting that day. But Pat did. (He thinks for a moment) The

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
meeting was on one of the floors in the North Tower that was hit by the first plane. I don't think anyone in that office even had a chance to realize what was happening.

MATTIE
Carter, I'm so sorry. Are you okay? I know this is thirteen years later and all, but something like that...

CARTER
Yeah. I have been living my life, obviously. But it's been hard. Between missing you and Pat, there were some days I didn't know what to do, how to think, how to feel. Thank God I have you back though.

MATTIE
But still...I'm not Pat.

CARTER
I know. You are you, though. And I've really missed having you in my life.

Mattie smiles, then continues the conversation.

MATTIE
How are your parents taking it?

CARTER
They're okay now, but they've never really been the same. It's almost like a piece of them died that day.

MATTIE
I would imagine it did. What about Maryann? How'd she handle it?

CARTER
She was put on medication as a result of the emotional trauma and moved out west in 2002. We haven't really spoken to her much since then. I just figure she's been trying to distance herself from anything reminding her of Pat. (After a momentary pause, he

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
changes the subject and starts
thumbing through the book) There
have been a number of other things,
positive and negative, that have
happened here and around the world
as well. You'll probably find a
lot of them in this book-

MATTIE
(Interrupting as she gently
pushes his hand away and shuts
the book, placing it on the
coffee table in front of them)
-I don't think I want to know any
more right now, to tell you the
truth.

CARTER
Okay.

MATTIE
Maybe later.

CARTER
I understand. (He shakes
head) There are some things you
just wish you could make un-happen.

MATTIE
Yeah.

There is another momentary pause between them.

CARTER
You okay?

MATTIE
(Bothered by learning about
Pat and 9/11 in general)
Yeah. Just a little stunned. I
don't think I would've been able to
handle seeing that attack. I can't
even imagine how you and rest of
the victims' families must feel.

CARTER
This world can be such a disaster
sometimes.

MATTIE
I agree. (She thinks for a
moment) So you said before that
you work for a bank?

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Yeah. Regional Trust and Savings in Tarrytown. I've been there since right after I finished college. They put me on as a loan officer in the beginning, but then, despite a global financial crisis that went on from the mid-2000's to around 2012, I used my ideals to make some pretty effective decisions, so the bank just kept moving me up. Now I'm the branch manager.

MATTIE

Well that's good. Very good, actually. I'm really proud of you.

CARTER

(Giving a momentary smile)
Thanks. It is good and I do enjoy it for the most part.

MATTIE

(Noticing a bit of discouragement in his expression)
But it's not what you really want to do.

CARTER

No. (He thinks for a moment) I don't know; I guess losing you, then Pat, just really took away a lot of my steam. Michaela and I were actually talking about this just before you showed up. She's been going through something similar since you disappeared.

MATTIE

Well for what it's worth, I am sorry.

CARTER

Sorry for what?

MATTIE

Everything I put you through because of my disappearance.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Mattie, you didn't put me through anything, so you have nothing to apologize for. And besides, your reappearance is one of the greatest things that's ever happened to me.

After a brief pause and a tender moment, the two of them lean in to kiss - until their moment is interrupted by a commotion at the entrance to their room. Looking over to see what's going on, they're both overjoyed to see those closest to them - including Mattie's family - being brought into the room by federal agents and Zero Hour personnel.

MATTIE

(Standing up right away as she sees her parents and sister, nervously addressing them as she doesn't know how they're going to react)

Hi guys.

Immediately her father, Frank, steps forward as her mother and sister stand there looking at her, stunned.

FRANK

Mattie?

MATTIE

Yeah, dad. It's me.

FRANK

(Confused, trying to think of how to respond)

They told us you had been found alive, but that you hadn't aged. I think they expected us to ask why, but we didn't care. Not until after we saw you for ourselves. Then we'd start asking questions. But now that you're right here in front of us, the only question I have is, whether or not this is a dream.

MATTIE

(Smiling, with tears streaming down the sides of her face as Carter and everyone else in the room look on)

This isn't a dream, dad. I'm right here.

(CONTINUED)

Just then, her father wraps his arms around her. After a moment, Mattie's mother, Joanne, comes up, followed by Michaela, both joining the embrace.

JOANNE

I can't believe this day is here. (She looks at Mattie) I don't know how it's possible, but I've dreamed about it for the past fifteen years. Let me look at you. It's like I still have to convince myself that you're real.

MATTIE

(Smiling)

I'm definitely real, mom. I probably have just as many questions as you do, but I am real.

Joanne, Frank and Michaela continue to embrace Mattie.

JOANNE

Thank you, God, for giving me my baby back.

After a moment, Mattie looks at Michaela.

MATTIE

Didn't you have a concert tonight or something?

MICHAELA

(Laughing)

Are you serious?!

As Mattie laughs as well, and at the same time as her family reunion is going on, Carter's parents, as well as his best friends Mark, Ray and Mike all walk up to Carter, all stunned at the current events. Immediately, Carter's father, Neil, speaks up.

NEIL

(Giving Carter a hug)

How are you, son?

CARTER

(Returning the hug as he signals a relieved greeting to his mother and friends, who are also clearly relieved to see him)

Good question, dad. (He smiles ironically) I'm...I'm not really

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
sure. I'm...ecstatic and
exhausted; confused, overjoyed,
terrified...you name it.

NEIL
That's understandable. (He looks
at Mattie and her family, as well
as around the room) We're a bit
confused about all this as well. I
mean, they haven't really told us
much of anything except that
Mattie's been found alive, and that
we're being brought into some kind
of protective custody, which we
thought was a little strange.

CARTER
Yeah, this whole night's been
pretty strange, actually.

NEIL
Well, maybe so, but seeing that
you're both okay is the most
important thing.

Just then, Carter's mother, Diane, walks up and gives Carter
a hug.

DIANE
You're sure you're not hurt?

CARTER
Yeah, mom. I'm okay. Just...like
I was telling dad...just rattled.

MARK
(Looking around at everything
that's going on)
I don't blame you. This is enough
to rattle anybody.

CARTER
Trust me, man...you don't know the
half of it.

JOANNE
(Overhearing Carter's comment)
Yeah, they haven't told us much
either, but they did say that you
guys have had a rough night. (She
pulls out a backpack) Mattie, I
hope you don't mind, but I grabbed
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOANNE (cont'd)
your old backpack when they came and got us. I never threw any of your things away, you know? We've just always believed you were still out there somewhere. (She and Mattie exchange a pleasant, momentary smile) I didn't know if you and Carter needed anything, so I threw some food and hygienic stuff, and some light first aid in your pack. You know, just in case.

MATTIE
(Smiling and giving her mother a hug as she takes the pack)
Thanks, mom. You always take such good care of us.

Just then, Agent Houser speaks up to everyone in the room.

AGENT HOUSER
Um, not to interrupt, but we should get everything out on the table now because there's actually a lot to do. (Everyone turns their attention to him) Okay, for those of you who don't already know, I am Agent Bill Houser, (He motions toward another official who appears to be in his early-to-mid forties and is standing with the group of personnel) and this is Professor Jonas Tolson, physicist and Chief Engineer on this particular section of our current operation. So, if everyone will please find a comfortable spot and take a seat, we'll get started.

After everyone takes a moment to get settled, Dr. Tolson steps up and begins to address the room.

TOLSON
All right everyone, I know that you're all pretty confused about exactly what's going on here so first, before I begin to explain, I would like to ask that you be willing to open your minds to what I'm about to say, because this isn't something you hear about all the time. (Just then, he uses a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOLSON (cont'd)
remote to shut off the lights in the room, then turns on what appears to be a holographic display of a large, three-dimensional structure.) Okay, before explaining anything else, I'm gonna get right to the point. The reason why, Mattie, you've been gone for fifteen years but haven't aged and don't have any recollection of anything that's happened since your accident is because the explosion you were in tore a hole in the space-time continuum, instantly projecting you fifteen years into the future.

Upon hearing this, the people in the room begin to murmur to each other with surprise and confusion. After looking over at Mattie who's also looking back with a shocked and bewildered expression, Carter looks back at Professor Tolson.

CARTER
How is that possible?

TOLSON
(Using the hologram as a visual aid)
The fabric of space-time is a physical material. And just like any other fabric, with the right amount of force in the right spot, it can be pulled or even ripped.

CARTER
Okay...

TOLSON
Now, let's just say that the forward progress of our existence, which is really all that time is a measurement of, is actually not one straight line, but an infinite series of routes that are relative to each and every moment in this existence...

He uses the remote to show a close up of the holographic image as he continues to explain.

(CONTINUED)

TOLSON

Now, let's say that every choice we make leads us down a different route, which would make for the existence of countless past, present and future moments - even alternate moments. Basically, moments that exist as each possible outcome of every choice we have the option of making.

CARTER

So what, you're saying that every choice we have throughout our lives is pre-set?

TOLSON

In a manner of speaking, yes. What we experience in our lives are the physical results of whatever choices we make - every route we choose to follow. (He focuses on the overall image of the structure) This is possible because we exist within a structure that seems to match with the theory of the multiverse. That's the idea that we're actually surrounded by multiple universes. The explanation I'm offering is on the idea that each moment of our existence is a different universe. Still with me?

MATTIE

Yes...

TOLSON

So in other words, if we were to have this conversation, then travel back to re-live the past ten minutes, choosing not to have the conversation this time, we'd be living those ten minutes differently; but because that's a physically different route through the space-time continuum, or a physically different universe, the original conversation would still exist. And because it would exist in a different universe, we'd still have the memories of it - and we'd also remember whatever we'd do differently in the new ten minutes.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

Okay. Well, if what you're saying is true, then how does what happened to me fit in?

PROFESSOR TOLSON

What happened to you is a phenomenon known as a "Time Intrusion." In this case, it seems that you were ejected from your car during the explosion and sent through the hole that the explosion tore in the fabric of space-time, landing in this present time - almost like going from one room to another by getting blown clear through the wall. This is why to us, fifteen years have passed but to you...going from 1999 to now literally took just a few moments. With the fact that time is set up as an infinite series of routes, the best way to explain it is that you were violently projected from one route to another.

As Carter, Mattie and their loved ones sit there, none of them are sure how to take what they're hearing. After a few moments, Mattie speaks up again.

MATTIE

What about these figures that are chasing me? And why do they look like me?

PROFESSOR TOLSON

You notice how they only appear immediately following those blasts?

MATTIE

(Thinking about it for a moment)
Yeah, actually.

TOLSON

Have you ever heard of an Einstein-Rosen Bridge?

MATTIE

Yeah. That's a wormhole, right?

(CONTINUED)

TOLSON

That's right. Shortcuts through space-time across the multiverse. Their possibility of existence was just theoretical up until some relatively recent discoveries.

MATTIE

Okay...

TOLSON

Well, your coming here the way you did created a sort-of, "rogue wormhole" between 1999 and now. The blasts you've been experiencing are called, "Timequakes." They're basically the colliding of the rogue wormhole's molecules with the molecular structure of this present time. That's also why you experience physical jolts during the blasts. Because you're connected to the wormhole on a molecular level. See, it's not like you traveled here through designated means, like in a time machine or something, where you'd be moving through wormholes that were constructed specifically for that purpose. You were projected here through a damaged area, creating a wormhole that's not made to connect with this time. It's almost like, you're a part of 1999, intruding on 2014. And these figures are the response. (Just then, the holographic structure disappears and another hologram appears, showing a life-sized image of one of the figures, reflecting a general human form) They're entities in the fabric of space-time that we call, "Tracers," so named because of the fact that they form transparent reflections of whatever their target is. We think it's some kind of marking technique. Projecting your image seems to be their way of collectively tracking down your molecular structure. Then, just

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOLSON (cont'd)
before they move in, they fire off
three lights that we call, "The
Tracer Flash:" Inspecting,
identifying and confirming your
molecular structure. Making sure
it is you.

CARTER
Entities...as in, living things?

TOLSON
Yes. As hard as it may be to
believe, yes. Living entities.

CARTER
So, like...aliens?

TOLSON
Basically, yeah. Alien lifeforms
that exist within the fabric of the
space-time continuum.

CARTER
(As he looks at Mattie, then
back at their families and
friends, who all look just as
stunned as Carter, then back
at Tolson)
This is unbelievable...

MATTIE
(Frustrated)
But...why are they targeting me?!

TOLSON
Because you are the molecular
completion of the 1999 wormhole in
this time. Without you, the
wormhole would have no connecting
point here that matches its'
molecular structure, so it would
totally collapse, creating a black
hole that would just keep growing,
like a gravitational vacuum. And
we've noticed that the Tracers seem
to live off the energy that's
generated whenever a black hole
grows. That's why they only appear
in the trail of Timequakes.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(Beginning to
understand more)

...Because the Timequakes are
caused by the growing instability
of the wormhole...

TOLSON

Exactly. (He shuts off the
hologram and turns the lights on,
then looks back at Mattie) The
Tracers are attracted whenever a
black hole gets the chance to be
created, like opportunistic hunters
in quantum space-time. And in this
case, their opportunity is you,
intruding here from 1999.

MATTIE

(Totally blown away by what
she's hearing)

So then, how do we stop this?

TOLSON

As you've seen, our understanding
of the Tracers has allowed us to
develop weapons that can hold them
off for a while, because as we
established before, they can only
manifest out of the ripples from
the instability of space-time in a
Timequake. Once the ripples
dissipate, the Tracers won't show
up again until the next quake. So
they only have short-lived
opportunities. But eventually,
they will catch up because as time
progresses, the wormhole will
become more unstable, so the
Timequakes will be more frequent -
until they're frequent enough for
the Tracers to overwhelm you and
anyone who tries to defend you. So
the best thing is for us to get you
back to 1999 as soon as possible.

MATTIE

And how do we do that?

TOLSON

By getting you back through your
Point of Origin in this time - the
place where you came through

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOLSON (cont'd)
at. Once we do that, the rogue wormhole you're attached to will be eliminated, the damage to that part of space-time will repair itself and the progress of your existence will be on a designated path again.

MATTIE
(After thinking about everything for a moment)
Okay. So when do we go?

TOLSON
Right away. Your loved ones will stay here, in the safety of this building, while you're flown under cover by helicopter to the Point of Origin.

Suddenly, another blast is heard from the east, toward New Haven. Moments later, the entire room begins to shake. Just then, Mattie looks over at Carter, who immediately grabs onto her in an attempt to keep her as secure as possible. Unfortunately however, the power of her molecular connection to the rogue wormhole is too great and Carter is thrown off of her as she's rapidly lifted backward, slamming into the ceiling, then dropped with just as much force, hitting the floor so hard that she cracks the surface of it. After a moment, as things settle down, Carter and Mattie's loved ones, as well as Zero Hour personnel and federal agents, rush over to help the two of them; especially Mattie, who's clearly more injured this time than she was during the previous blast that hit while they were in Carter's car. After another moment, Carter starts focusing on Mattie.

CARTER
(To the people who are assisting him as he slowly gets up off the floor)
I'm okay; I'm okay! Help Mattie!

Just then, he regains his footing and heads over to Tolson, who's also trying to assist as Mattie's being gently lifted off the floor and brought over to one of the couches.

TOLSON
(Turning from Mattie to some of the personnel just as Carter reaches him)
Call medical! Tell them to get in here right away!

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Is she okay?

TOLSON

She's banged up pretty good, but I think she'll be all right. I just want to make sure she doesn't have a concussion or any internal injuries. This quake was stronger than that last one; the one that hit just before we picked you guys up.

CARTER

I know. I'm not sure how many more of these things she can take.

TOLSON

That's another reason why we have to get her to the Point of Origin as soon as possible. Because if another one hits and she really slams her head or her neck is broken...that could be it.

After another moment, Carter walks over to Mattie and kneels down next to her.

CARTER

Incredible. Even when you're battered and bruised, you're still beautiful.

MATTIE

(Smiling while trying to deal with the pain of her injuries)
Well, you know what they say...pain is beauty.

CARTER

(Smiling at her response)
If that's the case, then we need to get you back to 1999 before you become a supermodel.

Just then, the medical team comes in and begins giving Mattie a quick examination. As Carter backs off to let them do their jobs, he starts looking around the room, thinking about how just 24 hours earlier, things were so incredibly different. Suddenly however, his thoughts are interrupted by his buddy Mike, who notices something peculiar going on in the air about thirty feet outside the window.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE

(Looking out the window)

Hey...what is that?

Immediately, Carter, Dr. Tolson and others turn and look as the rest of the room follows moments later.

CARTER

(To Dr. Tolson)

I thought you said they wouldn't know she was here!

TOLSON

Normally, they don't. (He goes to the wall and hits a switch that activates an alarm system throughout the building, then gets on an intercom as the personnel in the room scrambles to get everyone to safety) Attention all personnel! We have an external breach outside Room Twelve on Level 82! This is not an exercise! Report in full gear and use extreme caution! I say again, this is not an exercise!

As the entire building responds to Dr. Tolson's announcement, Carter is already helping Mattie get to safety along with everyone else. Before they can all do so however, the Tracers outside reach full manifestation and use their flash, opening fire moments later on the reinforced windows to the room. With their lines of projectiles only taking a few seconds to shatter the glass, the room turns into a wind tunnel because of its' location high up in the building as everyone trying to enter or exit the room dives for cover. As the Tracers proceed to fire on the building, heavily-armed federal and Zero Hour agents do everything they can to fire back. Unfortunately though, because of the element of surprise, the Tracers are clearly winning the battle. Meanwhile, as Carter uses himself as a human shield to cover Mattie, he looks around and sees more and more agents go down. Finally, he yells to Mattie over the constant sounds of explosions and weapons fire.

CARTER

Mattie!

MATTIE

What?!

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

We have to get out of here!

MATTIE

I know!

CARTER

No, I mean us! You and I! The longer we stay here, the more chance there is of you being hit!

MATTIE

But what about everyone else?!

CARTER

Mattie, the most important thing is for you not to get hit!

AGENT HOUSER

(Overhearing their conversation as he ducks next to them)

He's right, Mattie! We have to get you out of here!

CARTER

(Looking through the open doorway to the room, where he can see an elevator in the hallway)

Is there a staircase or something we can take?! Using the elevator would be too risky right now!

AGENT HOUSER

Yeah, on the other side of the hall, behind the elevator!

CARTER

(Looking at the chaos around them)

Damn...this is gonna be fun.

Immediately, Mattie sees the 21st Century events book lying on the floor and grabs it, along with her backpack, as Carter pulls her in the direction of the staircase. Ducking the entire way to avoid the Tracers' barrage of fire as Houser and Reasons take off as well, covering Carter and Mattie with return fire, they finally make it out of the room, across the hall and to the staircase. Immediately opening the door and heading downstairs, they proceed rapidly toward the bottom of the building. Suddenly however, there's an explosion that rocks the entire building, followed by silence.

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

(Stopping and looking up the stairs toward the 82nd floor)
What was that?!

CARTER

Mattie honey, we have to keep going...

MATTIE

(Starting to panic)
But what was that?! Why is everything so quiet all of a sudden?!

CARTER

(Gently trying to lead her down the stairs)
Mattie, come on...

Hesitantly, Mattie proceeds down the stairs with Carter, Houser and Reasons. After a few minutes however, about halfway down the stairwell, Carter notices a trail of blood leading down the stairs and ending in a pool on the floor near them.

CARTER

(Looking frantically)
What the...somebody was hit - whose' blood is that?!

REASONS

(Sitting on the stairs, unable to even stand anymore)
That would be mine.

AGENT HOUSER

(Immediately noticing that Reasons has a serious chest wound and running to her side)
THERESA! (He looks at her wound) It looks like you took some debris from one of the blasts in that firefight; we need a medic down here!

REASONS

(Weakly)
No we don't.

AGENT HOUSER

Are you crazy?! You need help!

(CONTINUED)

REASONS

I've already lost so much blood that by the time someone got in here...(She hands her pistol to Carter) The technology only seems tricky but it's actually not, so you should get the hang of it pretty fast. Now get Mattie out of here. Get her back to her own time, before it's too late.

At that moment, Reasons dies. Houser immediately gets on his radio.

AGENT HOUSER

(In a somber tone)

Agent down, it's Reasons. East stairwell, 73d floor. This is Houser. Don't bother with any medical treatment. Just call the coroner.

MATTIE

I'm really sorry, Agent Houser.

AGENT HOUSER

So am I. She's the only partner I've ever had. We go back a very long way.

MATTIE

I can't help but feel that this is my fault.

AGENT HOUSER

(As he, Carter and Mattie proceed away from Reasons and down the stairs)

Well don't, because it's not your fault. Reasons was my friend, but she was also an agent; and a good one. She knew this was a possibility when she took the job. Now let's get you out of here.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - THE OUTSIDE OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE ZERO HOUR BUILDING IN MANHATTAN

A short while later, Carter, Mattie and Agent Houser reach the main entrance, exiting the building as quickly as possible. As soon as they get outside however, federal and emergency personnel are already sealing off the area and rushing into the building. Just then, as the three of them try to make their way through the chaos, Mattie notices what seems to be burning debris scattered up and down the street. Looking up, she sees smoke billowing from the upper floors of the Zero Hour building.

MATTIE

(Stopping as she glances at Carter, then looks up again)
Carter...

CARTER

(Also stopping to look up, then looking over at Mattie and speaking in a somber tone)
Honey...(Mattie turns and looks with tears in her eyes, seeing that Carter's also fighting back tears) We have to get moving. The sooner we can get you back, the sooner everything will go back to the way it should be.

MATTIE

(Nodding as she tries as hard as possible not to break down)
Okay.

Just then, Mattie hears someone call her name. Turning around, she sees Karena Phillips standing in a crowd of spectators and other reporters, calling her from behind a barricade, with Karena's cameraman pointing his camera in her direction.

KARENA

Miss Lynch, is there any connection between your reappearance and the events here, plus the mysterious blast in New Haven last night?!

Immediately, Houser responds to Karena.

HOUSER

No comment! (He turns to Carter and Mattie) Let's get out of here before they start asking more questions.

(CONTINUED)

Moments later, as more reporters and spectators begin to take notice, Carter, Mattie and Houser head over to the building's parking lot and get into Agent Houser's Dodge Avenger, hoping to get out of the City and toward New Haven as quickly as possible.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - AGENT HOUSER'S CAR ON INTERSTATE 95 EAST TOWARD CONNECTICUT

Later on, as Carter, Mattie and Houser proceed down the highway, trying to get Mattie back to New Haven, Houser's doing whatever he can to keep his mind off the fact that his only partner has fallen.

AGENT HOUSER

(To Carter, as Mattie sleeps)
So how'd you two meet, if you don't mind me asking?

CARTER

I don't mind. We met at a party.

AGENT HOUSER

A party, huh?

CARTER

Yeah. We were in college. Mike, Ray, Mark and I decided to stay fairly local for spring break '99 because we were saving to go to South Beach that summer, so we ended up at this small resort about two hours away where a bunch of the locals had rented a few rooms in the hotel and were having an indoor pool party.

AGENT HOUSER

And that's where you guys first met?

CARTER

Yeah. (He looks at Mattie as she sleeps, using her backpack as a pillow with part of the 21st Century events book clearly sticking out of it) I'll never forget the first time I noticed her. She was standing with her friends across the pool. As soon

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
as I saw her, something changed in
me. (He looks back at
Houser) I've never been the same
since.

AGENT HOUSER
It sounds like you really love her.

CARTER
I would easily trade my life for
hers. Honestly...my day begins and
ends with thoughts of her. It
always has, every day, for the past
fifteen years.

AGENT HOUSER
It sure seems like you've found
your soulmate there.

CARTER
Beyond a shadow of a doubt. (He
looks at her one more time) I'd
only be half alive if I didn't
spend the rest of my life with her.

For one more moment, Carter just watches Mattie sleep, thinking about how empty his life would be without her. Suddenly however, Houser stops the car as another Timequake rips through the entire area. Immediately Carter lies across Mattie and wraps his arms around her. Just as she wakes up, the quake jolts her again, up and down violently, but Carter takes the majority of the force. After a few moments, the quake settles.

MATTIE
(Sitting up as Carter also
sits up, clearly sore from the
jolts)
Carter! Are you all right?!

CARTER
(As Mattie and Houser both
look him over, making sure
he's not injured)
Yeah, I'm okay. Just sore, but
that'll pass.

Just then, Houser looks around and sees the manifestations starting again.

(CONTINUED)

AGENT HOUSER

You two have something really special there - something worth living for. (He hands Carter his pistol then looks at both of them with a stone sincerity) Run!

As Carter grabs Mattie with all his might and pulls her out of the car, the two of them clear it with just enough time to see the Tracers materialize and flash, then immediately lose their first twenty or so before they can even fire a shot as Houser pulls out some kind of detonator, pressing it and destroying himself, his car and the Tracers in a strange and spectacular explosion. As Houser sacrifices himself, Mark, Ray, Mike and Michaela quickly pull up in Mark's Chrysler 300. Immediately, Mark calls to Carter and Mattie.

MARK

Get in! Quick!

CARTER

(As Mike, who was sitting in the back with Michaela, jumps up front with Mark and Ray and Carter gets in the back with Mattie and her sister)

You guys are alive!

MICHAELA

(As Mark takes off at top speed with the remaining Tracers immediately starting to pursue them, firing as they move)

Just barely! As soon as you guys left the room, the Tracers started moving in after you, so dad told that professor and his people to get us all out and protect you; then he stole a grenade or whatever it was from one of the agents and our four crazy parents attacked the Tracers to distract them from the rest of us as dad set the grenade off.

At that moment, Mattie breaks down, with Michaela embracing her, while also trying to control her emotions at the same time.

CARTER

(Also trying to control his emotions)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
Girls, it'll be okay. Seriously,
our parents, the agents that have
been killed; everyone will be okay,
as long as we get Mattie back to
1999.

Just then, Mark sees the Tracers gaining fast and speaks up
to Carter.

MARK
Hey man, those Tracer things are
just about on our asses! What do
you suggest we do?!

CARTER
Where's that professor and the
other Zero Hour people?! I thought
they got out too?!

MARK
They did, but then we all got
separated by debris when the room
exploded!

CARTER
What, so you mean they're all
dead?!

MARK
I don't know!

CARTER
(Looking back at the Tracers
as they continue to gain)
Well, it looks like we might be on
our own...

MARK
(Finally losing patience as
the Tracers are just about on
them)
Okay then. Let's do this!

At that moment, the Tracers descend over them, firing at
Mark's car as Mark swerves like a stunt driver to avoid the
projectiles, with other vehicles on the highway taking hits
as their drivers try desperately to get out of the
way. Just then, as the Tracers fire heavily at the driver's
side of Mark's vehicle, the front and rear windows on that
side both shatter. Suddenly, in a moment of complete fury,
Carter sits up, reaches out the rear driver's side window,
pulls out Houser and Reason's guns and begins to fire

(CONTINUED)

mercilessly at the Tracers, successfully taking out at least seven or eight of them before having to duck to avoid being hit by return fire from the others. Taking the opportunity, the Tracers head around to the passenger side, knowing that the only return fire they've experienced so far was from Carter on the other side of the car.

MIKE

(Looking back out his window)
We've got trouble!

Immediately, Mark jams on the brake as hard as possible without losing control of his car. Seeing that they've momentarily fallen behind the Tracers, Carter jumps up and opens fire taking out another two or three. Responding on a dime however, the Tracers return fire again, this time hitting Carter in the shoulder and causing him to fall back into the car as Mark speeds up and roars past the Tracers, who continue to fire as Mark continues to swerve between the projectiles, with more vehicles around them taking hits and crashing all over the highway.

MARK

(Trying to speed up as the
Tracers continue to gain)
Shit...okay, this isn't good!

Suddenly, Mattie decides she's had enough and grabs the guns, tossing one to her sister and reaching over Carter as Michaela opens her window and the two girls just about completely unload on the bastards, taking out a good number of them before receiving some very welcome assistance.

RAY

(Watching as five Zero Hour
helicopters come roaring in
and just open up on the
Tracers while state police
helicopters fly low and direct
the other drivers on the
highway to pull off the road
and take cover)
YES! HELL YEAH!

Taking advantage of the opportunity, Mark hits the gas as Mattie and Michaela sit back in their seats, speeding away as the Tracers attempt to catch up but are continuously slowed down by the helicopters. Just then, Mark notices something up ahead.

MARK

(Looking forward)
What the hell is that?!

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(Also looking ahead)

Is that a roadblock?!

Indeed it is, a Zero Hour roadblock, also with assistance by the state police. However, as they look closer, the occupants of Mark's vehicle realize that the authorities have a single lane open between their cars and are furiously waving Mark through. Meanwhile, the Tracers are slowly starting to gain again, still considerably behind, but managing to cut the distance between themselves and Mark's car despite the consistent fire they're receiving from the helicopters.

MIKE

Dude, might you be able to go a little faster?!

MARK

This is a luxury car, man! Not a Corvette!

CARTER

(Noticing that the Tracers are still beginning to gain)

Dammit, come on!

Suddenly, Ray notices that there are National Guard troops and vehicles at the roadblock as well, and they seem to be rushing to do something.

RAY

What the hell are they doing?!

MIKE

(Looking at the roadblock)

Who?!

RAY

Those guards!

As everyone in the car looks closer, they can see that a small group of soldiers are preparing a line of Javelin missile launchers with special attachments that look similar to the weapons Zero Hour uses.

MIKE

Are those what I think they are?!

CARTER

I think so! Mark, get us the hell past that roadblock!

(CONTINUED)

Seeing the Tracers slowly gaining still as they creep up in the rear-view mirror, Mark punches it one more time, steadily pulling away from the Tracers as the helicopters intensify their fire for one last push in helping Mark and his passengers get past the roadblock. Finally, as Mark's car tears in between the two main cars in the roadblock, one of the guardsmen pulls a Humvee in between to fill the lane. Just then, two groups of additional guardsmen rush to the front of the roadblock and raise the Javelins, firing one by one and destroying most of the remaining Tracers. At that moment, the last few - coming apart as they move - pick up speed and ram into the roadblock as the authorities there run for cover, causing a terrific explosion. Moments later, the authorities come back from their cover positions to what's left of their vehicles, watching in the distance as Mark and his passengers continue speeding away while the Zero Hour helicopters move toward them to act as escorts.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - MARK'S CAR

A short time later, as everyone sits, trying to gain some sense of relief following the harrowing chase they just endured, Mattie and Michaela tend to Carter's shoulder injury while Mark continues moving down the surprisingly empty highway at a reasonable speed.

CARTER

I still can't believe the risk you both took grabbing those guns like that.

MATTIE

What were we supposed to do, let you get back into the fight with your shoulder like this?

CARTER

Still, you both could've been killed. And if something had happened to you, Mattie...that would've been it. Game over.

MATTIE

I know. But I just couldn't sit back and do nothing. Not when you were hurt and we were still in trouble.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Well, you guys both did great anyway.

MICHAELA

(As Mattie returns Carter's compliment with a smile)

Thanks.

MIKE

Great? That was better than great. Two hot sisters jumping into battle from a speeding car against a swarm of time aliens, or whatever the hell they are? That was one of the sexiest things I've ever seen.

CARTER

(As everyone in the car gets a kick out of Mike's comment)

Okay, I'll admit. It was pretty sexy.

MATTIE

Pretty sexy?

CARTER

(Laughing)

Okay, it was really sexy.

MATTIE

(With a satisfied smile)

Thank you.

Carter just shakes his head, smiling as he looks at Mattie. For the moment, she smiles back - until she remembers the uncertainty of the situation. Immediately, Carter notices that something's on her mind.

CARTER

You okay, baby?

MATTIE

(With a melancholy response as Michaela looks on with concern)

Yeah. Just a little worried.

CARTER

About what?

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

That this isn't gonna work.

CARTER

(Taking her hand and kissing
it)

Believe me, Mattie. You have
nothing to worry about. This is
going to work. I don't care what I
have to do; it is going to happen.

MARK

(Looking at Carter and Mattie
in the rear-view mirror)

He's right, Mattie. We'll get you
home. Don't you worry.

MATTIE

I know, Mark. I trust you
guys. And that was quite a bit of
driving you did back there.

MARK

(Smiling)

It was all for you.

Mattie gives a friendly smile back, then closes her eyes and
cuddles into Carter as he looks out the open window, feeling
the wind blow through his hair, and praying to God that they
succeed at getting Mattie home safe. Just then, his
thoughts are interrupted by the ringing of his cell. On the
other end is Agent Fisher, calling from one of the Zero Hour
helicopters that's escorting them to New Haven.

CARTER

(Answering the phone)

Hello?

AGENT FISHER

Hello, Carter? This is agent Dan
Fisher, the main federal agent on
Mattie's case. I was among the
personnel in the room with you back
at the Zero Hour building.

CARTER

Hello, Agent Fisher.

AGENT FISHER

I'm just calling from one of the
helicopters above you to let you
know that Professor Tolson and his
unit have a field command center

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AGENT FISHER (cont'd)
set up near the area of Mattie's
Point of Origin.

CARTER
Okay. So they did make it
out. That's good. Thanks for
letting us know.

AGENT FISHER
Not a problem. How is everyone
there?

CARTER
We're all good, amazingly. Mark's
car has suffered some cosmetic
damage, and I took a mild hit to
the shoulder, but other than that,
everything's okay.

AGENT FISHER
That's good to hear.

CARTER
How's is everyone at that
roadblock? We saw the Tracers ram
through it pretty good. Is
everybody okay?

AGENT FISHER
Yeah, everyone's fine. They were
able to take cover pretty quickly.

CARTER
Good.

AGENT FISHER
We heard about Agents Houser and
Reasons. I'm sorry.

CARTER
So are we. They sacrificed their
lives to get Mattie home.

AGENT FISHER
They were both good agents. But
their sacrifice won't be in
vain. We're gonna make sure Mattie
gets back to 1999. We've even
closed down this highway across
most of southern Connecticut.

Just then, Agent Fisher becomes distracted.

(CONTINUED)

AGENT FISHER
One second, Carter...

CARTER
Okay.

A moment later, Agent Fisher comes back on.

AGENT FISHER
Carter, we have a problem.

CARTER
What kind of problem?

MATTIE
What is it?

Carter looks at her.

MATTIE
What's the matter?

MIKE
(Looking at his cell following
a notification he received
from his YouTube account)
Oh, shit. Carter, you guys might
want to look at this.

Just then, Mike holds his phone up and everyone in the car sees that the surveillance video of Professor Tolson's explanation of Mattie's case back at the Zero Hour building is being aired on Karena Phillips' program at Metro Live.

MATTIE
(Watching the broadcast as the
atmosphere in the car becomes
very somber)
Oh, no...(She turns to Carter with
a terrified expression) If people
start to panic...

Just then, Carter takes hold of Mattie's hand.

MIKE
So what are we gonna do now?

CARTER
(Just barely above a whisper)
I don't know.

At that moment, Agent Fisher speaks up as Carter is still on the call with him.

(CONTINUED)

AGENT FISHER

Are you seeing the broadcast,
Carter?

CARTER

Yeah. We're watching it.

AGENT FISHER

Somehow, the closed feed of that
video was made public. I'm not
sure how, but-

CARTER

(Interrupting)

-Not to point fingers but, there
was an agent named Tacket coming
out of the room when we first got
there. Houser questioned him, and
he said he just wanted to double
check on things, which Houser and
Reasons both thought was weird.

AGENT FISHER

Yeah, that is weird, especially
considering that Tackett's a Level
One Field Agent and doesn't usually
spend too much time at the
office. So we're gonna have a
conversation with him. But in the
meantime, I promise you, Karena
Phillips' career is over.

CARTER

It doesn't matter now. The damage
is done.

AGENT FISHER

I'm sorry about this, Carter.

CARTER

It's not your fault. We just need
to get Mattie back to her Point of
Origin as soon as possible.

Suddenly, Mattie turns to Carter.

MATTIE

Carter...I have an idea.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME - A GRASSY AREA OFF THE SIDE OF THE HIGHWAY

A short time later, the Zero Hour helicopters that are escorting Mark and his passengers on their way to New Haven patrol the area while on the ground, Mark, Ray, Mike and Michaela watch as Mattie stands in front of Carter who's pointing the camera on his cell in her direction.

CARTER

Okay honey. We have to do this fast before there's another quake.

MATTIE

I know.

CARTER

(Looking at the screen on his cell)

Whenever you're ready.

MATTIE

(Smoothing out any wrinkles in her clothing before standing straight and looking into the camera)

Hi. My name is Mattie Lynch. I'm sure that most of you have heard of me by now, considering the unbelievable situation I'm at the center of and the speed at which news travels these days. The reason I've made this video is to let you know exactly who I am...

Just then, we cut to a shot of Professor Tolson at the field command center that's also populated by Zero Hour agents, scientists, police, federal and military personnel, all watching Mattie on a large central monitor.

MATTIE

(On the video, then back to a shot of her giving the monologue in person, followed by shots of people watching the video at the Metro Live studio where it's being broadcast from, as well as in schools, hospitals, offices, stores and other locations, before finally returning to a live shot of Mattie as she ends her speech)

I am eighteen years old, although in this present time I should be

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE (cont'd)
thirty-three. But as many of you know by now, fifteen years ago, I was in a freak accident that, apparently...tore a hole in the fabric of space and time, sending me here in the process. Now I know that the effects of this have put you all in great danger, and for that, I sincerely apologize. I can understand how scared many of you must be. This is a very scary situation and unfortunately, it has already cost lives, including those of my own parents who I loved very much. Please rest assured though, despite everything that's going on and despite the frightening nature of the situation, we are doing everything possible to get me back to my time before it's too late. So again, I apologize for the trouble, and I thank you very much for your patience. If you believe in God, I ask that you please pray for us.

At Mattie's gesture, Carter stops the video and looks at her.

CARTER
You know, making that video was a very thoughtful thing to do, and it only reinforces why you mean so much to me.

MATTIE
I'm just trying to do what's right.

CARTER
And knowing you, I believe that completely.

MATTIE
Now I just hope that people will understand, you know? So no one panics and makes this situation even worse than it already is.

With that, the two of them proceed to follow Mike, Ray, Michaela and Mark as they get back into the car.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - MARK'S CAR

Later on, as everyone sits in Mark's car, heading toward Mattie's Point of Origin, Mark decides to address a concern he's been thinking about for a while.

MARK

You know, I was just thinking about something.

CARTER

What?

MARK

The explanation that Professor Tolson gave before. About how Mattie got here. What'd you think of it?

CARTER

I don't know. It was what it was, I guess.

MARK

What about you, Mattie? Michaela?

MATTIE

I guess I was thinking the same as Carter.

MICHAELA

Yeah, same here. Why?

MARK

I've just been a little unsure about it, that's all. (He glances as Mike and Ray) What do you guys think?

They look at each other, then Mike answers for both of them.

MIKE

We just took it as he explained it, you know? There are a lot of things out there that most people don't understand.

MARK

Yeah, that is true. But there are also a lot of explosions that happen. I mean, all the time. Everything from rock blasting to nuclear weapons

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARK (cont'd)
testing. But I have never heard of anything like this. Not once in my life. I mean, really. Have you?

CARTER
No, but at the same time, how do we know it hasn't happened before? You know how good the authorities can be at hiding things.

MARK
But look at this. The situation that we're in right now. This hasn't been hidden.

RAY
Yeah, but that's only because of that one agent that Carter mentioned on the phone before, remember?

CARTER
I didn't say he was definitely the one who leaked that video, though. That was only a suggestion.

MARK
Still, if something like this has happened before, you'd think we would've heard something about it.

MATTIE
So, what are you suggesting? That Zero Hour is hiding something?

MARK
I'm not suggesting anything. I'm just saying that even though it's obviously true, it just seems too, "out there," to simply be the result of some industrial accident.

CARTER
Maybe you're right, Mark. I don't know. But what I do know is that Mattie's here now, and we have a chance to fix the way things are and bring them back to the way they should've been in the first place. So that's all I care about.

(CONTINUED)

As the conversation winds down, everyone tries to relax, looking out the windows as they continue heading down the empty highway.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - MARK'S CAR

About a half hour down the highway, everyone continues to sit quietly, trying to enjoy the ride despite the obviously stressful situation. Just then, Mattie notices that something seems to be on Carter's mind.

MATTIE

(Looking up at Carter as he holds her close)

Everything okay?

CARTER

For the moment. (He looks down at her) But I won't be able to truly relax until we've gotten you back to 1999.

MATTIE

If that happens, you won't need to relax. You'll be living a different life. A life where none of this ever happened.

CARTER

That's true. It'll be a much better life, especially because you'll be around this time.

MATTIE

I'm sorry I wasn't here the first time, Carter.

CARTER

You have nothing to apologize for, Mattie. It wasn't your fault. It was an accident, remember?.

MATTIE

Yeah, a fifteen year accident.

CARTER

(Holding her even closer)

It was just an accident.

For a minute or so, the two of them just rest together with their eyes closed. Then Carter speaks up.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER
Mattie...

MATTIE
(Still with her eyes closed)
Yeah?

CARTER
I believe with everything in me
that we're gonna succeed here.

MATTIE
Okay...

CARTER
But just in case, God forbid, we
don't for some reason...

Mattie opens her eyes and looks up at him.

CARTER
There is one regret I want to make
sure I never feel, not even for one
second.

MATTIE
What is that?

Carter gently leans his forehead against Mattie's.

CARTER
(Whispering)
The regret of never asking you to
be my wife.

Mattie smiles and kisses him gently but passionately.

MATTIE
Yes. A million times yes, for a
million years.

CARTER
I love you, Mattie Lynch.

MATTIE
(Correcting him)
Mattie Boyd.

Again, the two of them kiss, feeling the way they did on that first night at the hotel, as if time had stopped and they had every second on Earth right there between them. Mike, Ray and Mark all look at each other, while Michaela looks over at Carter and Mattie, clearly having

(CONTINUED)

overheard their joyful conversation but not wanting to interrupt the moment by offering any congratulations just yet. Suddenly however, Carter's phone rings again.

CARTER

(Answering the phone)

Hello?

AGENT FISHER

Carter. It's Agent Fisher again.

CARTER

Yes, Agent Fisher. Finally, we're just about there. How're things looking from your viewpoint?

AGENT FISHER

So far so good but, I just got some information from my partner, Agent Nichols. He's at the field command center with Professor Tolson.

CARTER

What kind of information?

AGENT FISHER

The area around Mattie's Point of Origin seems to be growing more and more unstable with each Timequake, which means that the next one could be really bad.

CARTER

(Almost exasperated)

Well that's great.

AGENT FISHER

We're prepared to hit the Tracers right at that spot when the next quake hits. But there's also one other thing.

CARTER

What?

AGENT FISHER

Apparently, you guys have quite a reception waiting on both sides of the highway just outside a perimeter we've set up near the Point of Origin.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(Nervously, as Mattie listens
to the conversation)

Oh...um, what kind of reception?

However, before Agent Fisher can give an answer, another Timequake occurs, this time, interrupting some power and communications across the region temporarily as Mark tries desperately to keep the car from veering off the highway. Immediately, Carter and Michaela grab onto Mattie as she starts to react.

CARTER

(Trying as hard as possible to
hold her down)

I can't believe how strong this one
is! I can barely hold on!

MICHAELA

(Also trying very hard to
assist Carter)

Is she gonna be okay?!

Moments later, the quake subsides, and Carter and Michaela release Mattie, who's again bleeding from her nose, but this time, without having slammed into anything.

CARTER

(Looking at Mattie as she
re-composes herself, realizing
that she's bleeding)

You okay?

MATTIE

(As she cleans her face with a
tissue that Michaela gives
her)

I think so. But these quakes are
really getting harder to endure.

MICHAELA

Yeah, we can see that.

MARK

Everybody okay back there?

CARTER

(With an look of obvious
concern for Mattie)

For the moment. (He turns to
Mark) We have to get her to New
Haven before there's another quake.

(CONTINUED)

MARK

We will. I'll make sure of it.

As they continue driving, Carter holds Mattie close to him again, watching her as she rests - and worrying that he might be enjoying their final hours together.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - MARK'S CAR

A bit later on, as the group nears New Haven, Mattie's sitting up, looking out the window at the green Connecticut scenery. Thinking about everything that's going on, she suddenly remembers that Carter was on the phone with Agent Fisher when the last quake hit.

MATTIE

(Turning to Carter)

Hey, what did Agent Fisher say on the phone before? I forgot to ask you.

CARTER

What, before that last quake hit?

MATTIE

Yeah.

CARTER

(A little concerned about telling her out of fear that she'll get worried about what might happen when they reach New Haven)

Um, well, he said that the area around your Point of Origin is pretty unstable thanks to the Timequakes, and that they have a pretty big force ready to fight any Tracer threat that might come out of another quake. But also, I guess there's a reception waiting for us on the main road as we get to that area.

MATTIE

(Nervously)

What kind of reception?

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

I don't know. The phone went out before he could tell me any more.

With that, Mattie sits back nervously, not being able to stop her thoughts from fearing the worst.

CARTER

(Taking Mattie's hand)

You okay?

MATTIE

Yeah. I'm just still worried about what might happen if someone gets panicky and tries to take the situation into their own hands.

CARTER

But you don't have to worry about that, honey. Because like I said before, I promise, I will not let anything happen to you.

MARK

(Overhearing the conversation)

Neither will we.

MICHAELA

(Taking Mattie's other hand and giving her a warm smile)

Neither will I.

MATTIE

Thank you all, really. But I'm more concerned with the bigger picture. You heard what Professor Tolson said. If something were to happen to me, the wormhole would collapse into a black hole. And that could be it for everyone. I'm just afraid that somebody might not realize that and decide to do something rash out of fear. Then we'd have no chance, and neither would the rest of the world.

CARTER

That's why they'd have to get through all of us first. Because as we said...nothing is going to happen to you.

With that, the five of them quietly and steadily drive

(CONTINUED)

toward the New Haven area, trying to be prepared for anything.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - MARK'S CAR

A short time later, as Mark and his passengers approach the outskirts of New Haven, having already gotten off I-95 and started heading southeast toward Mattie's Point of Origin, they can already see from a distance, thousands of people standing on both sides of the road.

MATTIE

Well, they're not blocking us from coming through. Hopefully that's a good sign.

CARTER

(Looking forward)

Yeah...

As they continue their approach, the nerves of everyone in the car stand on edge. Waiting for the worst as they get closer to the crowds, Mattie squeezes Carter's hand. Finally however, as they reach the crowds, something happens that they never expected.

MARK

(As the crowds begin to cheer and clap)

I don't believe it...

MATTIE

(Crying tears of relief as she sees people holding signs with, "We love you, Mattie" and "We're behind you" written on them)

Is this seriously for me?

CARTER

Of course it is. (He looks at her and smiles) You deserve it.

For the next few moments, the group moves slowly down the road as the crowds continue to express their support while reporters from news networks around the world cover the situation as it unfolds. Suddenly, Mark points out the scene up ahead.

(CONTINUED)

MARK

Wow. Look at that.

As the rest of them look, they can see Mattie's Point of Origin, with the fabric of the continuum actually rippling and twisting outside the damaged area that's grown to about three hundred feet in diameter, while a powerful wind blows out from it consistently. As Mark continues to drive his car slowly down the road, police and military personnel who are keeping the crowd in place direct he and his passengers through a blockade that has the streets sealed off, creating a Safety Zone that covers a ten mile radius. Finally, after driving through the Safety Zone for a while, Mike speaks up.

MIKE

(As the Zero Hour helicopters
continue to escort them)

So what do we do now? Just go up
and hope for the best?

MARK

(Motioning ahead as he
continues to drive)

No, look.

On his direction, the others look straight ahead and see the field command center that Agent Fisher was talking about, situated just before the Commonwealth Plaza and across from the alternative fuels plant, with the command center itself made up primarily of military trailers and tents, powerful antennas and telecom equipment and surrounded by Zero Hour, police, federal and military equipment and personnel. Just then, the helicopter that Agent Fisher is in descends from above and behind Mark's car, landing on the street a short distance away from the command center while the others join additional aircraft already patrolling the area. As the group continues down the road, a small police and military escort forms around them from the sides of the road and covers them until they pull up to the command center where Professor Tolson and Agents Fisher and Nichols lead the group of personnel that comes out to meet them. Finally, Mark parks the car and everyone gets out.

PROFESSOR TOLSON

(Shaking hands with Carter as
Mattie throws her backpack
over her shoulder)

Glad to see you all made it. I'm
sorry about what happened to the
two agents and your parents. But I
am happy to see that you're okay.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Thanks professor, but don't congratulate us just yet. (He motions toward Mattie's point of origin) We still have to get Mattie home.

PROFESSOR TOLSON

Yes we do, which is why this whole set-up is here. To make sure you guys have every opportunity possible to get it done.

CARTER

Okay. So how much time do we have?

PROFESSOR TOLSON

Not a lot, believe me. As you can see, Mattie's Point of Origin has been growing as the wormhole becomes more and more unstable. So at this point, it could go at any time.

CARTER

(Feeling like they're facing an almost impossible task)
Wonderful.

PROFESSOR TOLSON

Don't worry. This is gonna work out.

MATTIE

Have you ever been involved in anything like this before, Professor?

PROFESSOR TOLSON

Zero Hour has been involved in a variety of different space-time occurrences. So you never know...

He gives Mattie a reassuring smile and she responds with an uneasy smile herself, slightly suspicious of Tolson's answer but also trying to believe that everything's going to work out.

CARTER

(Noticing her uneasiness)
Believe me, honey, even if I have to give myself up for you, I will. But we are going to get you back to 1999.

(CONTINUED)

PROFESSOR TOLSON

I would trust what he says,
Mattie. Just the way he looks at
you gives away how he feels.

MATTIE

I do trust him. With my life, my
health...my future. I trust him
with everything.

PROFESSOR TOLSON

Good. Now is the time when you
need to trust him the
most. Because Carter, even though
she's gonna be transported to her
Point of Origin in an armored
personnel carrier, if something
happens along the way and she winds
up on foot, she's gonna need
someone there who loves her enough
to be willing to give their life to
protect her without a second
thought, otherwise those Tracers
are gonna eat her alive. At this
point, they're basically at war
with Mattie and anyone trying to
protect her.

CARTER

Well, there's no question that I'll
be right there with her.

Just then, Mark speaks up as he, Michaela, Ray and Mike
stand together, listening to the conversation.

MARK

So will we. You can be sure of
it.

RAY

He's right. You have nothing to
worry about, Mattie. We're all
gonna be there to cover you. With
our lives, if necessary.

MIKE

It's true, Mattie. We know that
even if we give ourselves up, as
long as you make it through,
everything'll go back to the way it
was supposed to be and we'll be
okay. But we also know that if,
God forbid, those Tracers were to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MIKE (cont'd)
get to you, it would be game over
for all of us. Still though, we're
willing to take that risk because
as far as we're concerned, losing
you is just not an option.

Just then, Michaela walks up to Mattie and embraces her
warmly, then looks her right in the eyes.

MICHAELA
You have been my role model since
as far back as I can
remember. We're sisters,
Mattie. Nothing on this earth can
stop me from doing whatever I have
to do to help protect you.

MATTIE
(Clearly moved)
I feel very undeserving of this.

CARTER
You shouldn't. We all love you,
Mattie. And we're all willing to
do what it takes to get you where
you need to be. That's all there
is to it.

PROFESSOR TOLSON
(Respectfully interjecting)
And on that note, we should really
get moving, because time is running
dangerously short.

CUT.

EXT. - NIGHT TIME - THE OUTSIDE OF THE FIELD COMMAND CENTER

Shortly after the sun has gone down, as Carter, Mattie and
the rest of the group stand in front of the specially
designed APC that's going to be transporting them to
Mattie's Point of Origin, Zero Hour and military personnel
provides each of them with body armor and weapons.

PROFESSOR TOLSON
Okay, as you know, we're currently
inside a designated Safety Zone,
plus the whole New Haven area has
been evacuated, so as you head to
the Point of Origin, you'll be
surrounded only by defense forces
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PROFESSOR TOLSON (cont'd)
that'll be covering you on all sides, as well as air support that'll help provide continuous bombardment against any Tracers that might attack following another quake, which, at this point, is very possible. Now, you will see some damaged and disabled vehicles out there from the fight we had against the Tracers after the last quake, but we're still well-equipped to take them on again. However, in the event that the APC is disabled, you're to exit the vehicle and get to the Point of Origin as quickly as possible. Don't worry about the troops that are covering you because as long as they're still standing, they'll make sure to keep up with you. If they've fallen, then Carter, Mark, Ray, Mike and Michaela, you do everything in your power to protect Mattie and make sure she gets to where she needs to be. And Mattie, if, God forbid, you find yourself alone, use the weapon we gave you to engage the Tracers only if you have to. But the main thing is that you don't stop or even slow down for anything. You just get to that Point of Origin. Now, similar to a black hole, your Point of Origin has a point of no return, called an, "Event Horizon." Once you cross it, you'll notice that the breeze which is currently blowing out of the Point of Origin will suddenly change direction, literally pulling you back to 1999, and closing the doorway to this time. Understand?

MATTIE

(Nervously, as she secures her backpack)
Yeah, I understand.

CARTER

(Noticing how nervous Mattie is)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
Mattie, don't worry. You are gonna get there. We'll make sure of it.

MATTIE
I'm actually more worried about you than anything else, Carter. (She looks at the rest of the group) All of you, actually. I still can't believe you're risking your lives for me.

CARTER
Mattie, you are worth the risk. Believe it.

AGENT FISHER
Okay everyone, time to go.

As the group and the military personnel that are accompanying them proceed into the APC, everyone else at the command center prepares for the final push to get Mattie to the Point of Origin. Moments later, inside the APC, Mattie turns to Carter.

MATTIE
I just want you to know Carter, just in case, God forbid, anything were to happen here...I don't regret anything I've done or said or any amount of time I've spent being with you. You've been the greatest thrill of my life.

CARTER
(With a loving smile)
Same here. Without a doubt.

Just then, the commanding officer of the facility gives the order and the operation commences, with the APC rolling toward the Point of Origin in between two rows of heavily-equipped Zero Hour agents and vehicles and specially-modified military equipment and infantry. Inside the APC, everyone sits quietly, just waiting until they reach the Point of Origin, counting the moments until it finally happens. Suddenly however, they hear another blast.

CARTER
Oh, shit. That sounds like-

MATTIE
(Interrupting nervously)
-Another quake!

(CONTINUED)

At that moment, the entire APC is jolted as Mattie gets pulled up and slammed against the ceiling of the vehicle. Immediately, Carter and everyone else rushes to secure her. Outside, the soldiers escorting the APC on foot are thrown in all directions by the immense blast wave as the armored vehicles covering them are also thrown off direction. Back in the command center, Professor Tolson and the other personnel are trying to secure themselves and their operation from the force of the Timequake, while still monitoring the activity in and around the Point of Origin, as well as communicating with everyone in the APC and its' supporting forces. Upon experiencing the most recent Timequake and seeing how the blast wave throws the guards around the APC, he immediately contacts the Zero Hour helicopters and Apaches that are supporting the forces on the ground.

PROFESSOR TOLSON

All aircraft, this quake was the biggest one yet; the ground forces need to regain their footing, so watch for Tracers! If you see even one materialize, light it up!

As the helicopters respond by covering all possible positions and closely watching the Point of Origin, Carter and the rest of the group are still in the APC, watching as a medical officer tends to Mattie following the dissipation of the Timequake.

CARTER

You okay, honey?

MATTIE

(Still trying to fully recover)

I think so. That was really strong.

CARTER

I know. I thought we were gonna lose you that time.

MATTIE

No way. Especially not when we're this close.

MEDIC

(To Mattie, as he finishes looking her over)

Well, I'm amazed you haven't sustained worse injuries from the jolting of those quakes. You seem to be okay.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Thank God.

Suddenly, the group hears gunfire and explosions going off all around them outside the APC.

MATTIE

It sounds like World War III out there...

Outside the APC, helicopters battle the Tracers, who are starting to manifest in larger numbers, as the ground forces quickly regain their footing. Back inside the APC, the group starts to become concerned.

CARTER

(To the driver)

Hey man, are you sure this thing can protect us all effectively?

DRIVER

That's what we're hoping.

MATTIE

What happens if one of those shots takes us out?

DRIVER

This armor is pretty strong, so it'll take a lot for that to happen. But just in case it does, be prepared to run like hell.

Suddenly, the side of the APC is rocked by a giant blast that shakes the entire vehicle - and the nerves of everyone in it.

DRIVER

(Trying to maintain control of the vehicle)

Maybe we spoke a little too soon...

MARK

(Starting to become very concerned)

What's the problem?

DRIVER

Nothing yet...but if we take more hits like that, we're not going anywhere.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Shit. Okay, I have a bad feeling about this. We should prepare to run.

DRIVER

(Listening to the explosions outside and feeling almost constant jolts from the multiple hits they're taking)
He's right, you guys should get ready; they're trying to hit the treads, so I don't know if we're gonna last in here.

Moments later, as everyone prepares to exit the APC, there's another big shot, like the last one - but this time, an explosion follows.

DRIVER

They just took out the treads! We're sitting targets! We've gotta evac, now!

At that moment, Professor Tolson, the F.B.I. agents and the military officers running their part of the operation can immediately see something's wrong from their position in the command center.

TOLSON

(Watching a group of monitors)
Damn - they're in trouble!

AGENT FISHER

They're gonna have to try and make it on foot! (He turns to the nearest military officer, a Guard Major) They need support!

MAJOR

Yeah, they do...(He gets on a radio to the ground forces that have now regained their footing and are assisting the helicopters in engaging the Tracers) All units, be advised, the subjects are gonna be traveling on foot! Provide as much cover as possible!

Meanwhile, inside the APC, the group readies their weapons.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(To Mattie, as they all
prepare to run)
You ready for this, Mattie?

MATTIE

(Looking at the hatch they're
about to open)
No. But lets do it anyway. (She
turns to Carter) I love you.

CARTER

I love you.

DRIVER

Okay everybody, GO!

At that moment, the hatch opens and the group runs out into a cluster of troops while covered in the rear by the driver and the medic, all of whom are already providing intense cover fire. As they take off toward Mattie's Point of Origin, Carter shields Mattie with his entire upper body, directing her with his right arm while he and Mark, Ray, Mike and Michaela, along with the support troops, all fire back at the army of Tracers that are trying desperately to hit Mattie. As the group runs at top speed, the cover forces dwindle rapidly as the Tracers pick them off and continue to move in despite the continuous bombardment they're receiving from the armored vehicles and air support.

MATTIE

(Now on the verge of a nervous
breakdown)
Carter! We're not gonna make it!

CARTER

(Continuing to cover her while
firing back at the Tracers)
Yes we are, baby! We're gonna be
fine! Just keep moving!

Finally, the last of the cover troops goes down, leaving the group exposed as they continue their defense. Just then, one of the helicopters takes a hit and spirals down to the ground, crashing about fifty yards in front of them and taking out a couple of tanks and other vehicles in the process. Immediately, the group runs to the wreckage for cover as the Tracers speed up their advance while the other helicopters continue trying to hold them back as much as possible. Finally, after a few moments of running, the group reaches the wreckage and takes cover behind it, all of them out clearly out of breath.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

I can't believe how fast they took out those cover troops!

MATTIE

I know...and it seems like they're getting closer with every shot!

MIKE

We're never gonna last at this rate. What are we gonna do?

RAY

We have to last. It's not a matter of whether or not we think we can. We don't have any choice.

MICHAELA

(Looking around at the other vehicles and equipment)

Let's just hope the rest of the helicopters also last because I don't think there's much of this ground support left.

MARK

(Looking at the Point of Origin and noticing that the space within and around it seems to be bending and twisting uncontrollably while giving off random electrical charges)

They're doing their part. We just have to make sure we do our part, and we should do it now, because that Point of Origin doesn't look too stable.

Just then, the group notices that more Tracers are getting through and are now increasing in speed despite whatever collective resistance they continue to face.

MARK

Oh, shit!

CARTER

Okay, we've gotta go, now!

Immediately, the group takes off, with the Tracers in pursuit, firing back as they try as quickly as possible to get to Mattie's Point of Origin. Running as quickly as they can, the group can see that their destination is less than

(CONTINUED)

fifty feet away. Suddenly, however, Mike takes a hit and immediately goes down.

MATTIE

(Screaming as Carter grabs her and the two of them, Ray, Mark and Michaela all take cover behind the wreckage of more armored vehicles that have been destroyed by the Tracers)

MIKE! MIKE! NO!

CARTER

(Pulling Mattie down to safety as she tries to run and save Mike)

It's too late, Mattie! Just stay down!

Waiting a few moments as Mattie tries to calm down while the rest are clearly upset but also trying to hold it together, Mark slowly creeps his head around the corner of the wreckage.

RAY

See anything?!

MARK

Yeah, the bastards are still coming! And we can't stop them!

RAY

So then what are we gonna do?

Just then, Carter pulls out his cell.

CARTER

(Dialing, then getting on the call)

Agent Fisher, we have some problems here! We're being ambushed! We already lost Mike!

AGENT FISHER

(At the command center)

Yeah, we can still see you guys! We have some cover fire coming in that'll give you another chance to run!

CARTER

Got it!

He gets off the phone and turns to Mattie.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

Get ready to run. (He looks over at Mark, Ray and Michaela.) We're gonna run in a second! Get ready!

Just then, three specially-modified A-10 Thunderbolt fighter jets come roaring in, opening up on the Tracers and scattering them once again.

CARTER

(Grabbing Mattie)

Okay, RUN!

Immediately, the five of them take off toward the trees where Mattie's Point of Origin is at, with Carter and Mattie running slightly ahead as Mark, Ray and Michaela continue to return fire. As they run, the deafening sounds of explosions and gunfire are enough to drive them crazy. Still, they're getting closer to the trees until an explosion from one of the Tracers projectiles hitting the fuel line of a wrecked Humvee knocks Ray to the ground and sends Mark flying about ten feet away, both of them losing their weapons in the process.

RAY

(Looking over at Mark, who's clearly injured)

MARK!

Carter, Mattie and Michaela take cover again only to turn and see Mark on the ground, alive, but with a serious wound to his side.

RAY

(Running back to assist Mark)

Mark!

MARK

Are you crazy?! Keep going!

MATTIE

Carter-

CARTER

(Interrupting)

-I don't want to leave you-

MATTIE

(Also interrupting)

-I'm safe right now, plus Michaela's here to cover me! Just help them!

(CONTINUED)

As Carter goes to help Mark and Ray however, Mark looks at him from his position.

MARK

Carter, don't even think about it! Your only thought should be getting Mattie home!

Turning around, Ray picks up a rifle he finds nearby, firing heavily in the Tracers' direction. Just then, the three jets come in for another run, also firing heavily on the Tracers, who are trying once again to regroup.

MARK

Ray, get the hell out of here!

RAY

(Still firing)
Not a chance, man!

Just then, as the jets ascend and prepare for another run, one of the Tracers' projectiles blows Ray's rifle apart without actually injuring him. Immediately, Ray grabs Mark, dragging him back behind a nearby wreck, then falls down, leaning against the wreck as Mark still lies on his stomach, bleeding.

MARK

What the hell is wrong with you?

RAY

(Out of breath)
What do you mean, what's wrong with me? Like I really would've just left you there.

MARK

(Annoyed, but thankful for Ray's attempted heroism)
You should've.

RAY

(Still out of breath and shaking his head)
No way. I would've felt too guilty.

Just then, as the jets can be heard coming in again, a small cluster of Tracers converges on Mark and Ray.

RAY

(Looking up at the closest one to him and motioning toward

(CONTINUED)

what's left of his rifle as it
lies on the ground a few feet
away)
I don't know which one of you did
that, but it was a pretty good
shot.

A moment later, Carter, Mattie and Michaela hear two shots
fired locally from the Tracers' weapons, knowing they were
for Ray and Mark.

MATTIE
I'm sorry, Carter.

CARTER
(As more shots and explosions
can be heard in the
background)
They were my best friends. But
just remember, they'll be fine as
long as we get you back home.

MATTIE
I know, and we're almost
there. (Just then, she notices
that something's on Michaela's mind
- something that has her
thinking) You okay?

MICHAELA
(Slightly out of breath and
looking toward the Point of
Origin)
Yeah.

MATTIE
(Continuing to sense that
something's on her mind)
Michaela, what's the matter?

MICHAELA
(Turning to Carter)
Get her home, Carter.

MATTIE
(Very worried)
Michaela...

MICHAELA
(Standing up and looking at
Mattie)
I love you, sis! Bring me back to
life!

MATTIE

Michaela, no!

Immediately, Michaela takes off toward the approaching Tracers, firing everything she has and taking out a number of them until their projectiles overtake her just as the jets come in for another run and once again scatter the Tracers, destroying more of them in the process. At the same time, Carter and Mattie are running as fast as they can toward the Point of Origin, finally making it there moments later, thanks to the time Michaela gave them. Just then, Carter turns to Mattie.

CARTER

(Taking Mattie's hand as the wind blows powerfully out of the Point of Origin and against the both of them)

Okay honey, this is it! Our future is waiting for you just a few feet ahead!

MATTIE

(Scared)

I'm not sure if I can do this, Carter!

CARTER

Of course you can! You've done it once already, remember?!

As Mattie looks over at him, he steps forward and kisses her with all the love he's ever felt for her, and all he ever will. Stepping back moments later, Carter watches as Mattie starts to move toward the Point of Origin. Meanwhile, Professor Tolson and the other personnel watch as alarms suddenly go off on their consoles at the field command center.

TOLSON

(Looking at the consoles)

Shit!

Immediately, he calls Carter's cell.

CARTER

(Answering as he continues to watch Mattie head toward the Point of Origin)

Yeah?!

(CONTINUED)

TOLSON

Carter! The wormhole's about to shift! If that happens, it'll put her right in front of the Tracers! She'll be totally unprotected!

CARTER

(After pausing to think for a moment)

Have those jets come around again and give us some cover!

TOLSON

(Shocked at Carter's request)

Give you cover?!

Immediately, Carter drops the phone and takes off toward Mattie. Just as he does this, an enormous amount of electrical discharge emulates from the Point of Origin as the space around it shakes and ripples so dramatically that it can be seen and felt all the way back to the outside of the Safety Zone, where the gathered crowds are quickly being evacuated by authorities to a fallback position. Up near the Point of Origin, Mattie is suddenly lifted into the air rapidly just as Carter reaches her, jumping up and grabbing onto her as the two of them continue to ascend, over the trees and toward the top of the Point of Origin. As this happens, swarms of Tracers immediately attempt to ambush them in the air, but are suddenly intercepted by the Thunderbolts, whose pilots open up on the Tracers, exchanging fire chaotically and giving Carter and Mattie an open path toward the Point of Origin just before they reach the climax of their ascent. Back in the field command center, Tolson and the others watch their equipment and monitors as the exciting moment unfolds while military chatter can be heard furiously exchanging by radio. Just above the Point of Origin, Carter and Mattie look at each other as their ascent reaches its' climax.

CARTER

I love you, Mattie.

With that, Carter lets go of Mattie as the jets clear and the Tracers begin to regroup.

MATTIE

(As she starts to fall toward the Point of Origin)

CARTER!

Suddenly, Carter pulls out an explosive device similar to the one Agent Houser sacrificed himself with and immediately

(CONTINUED)

detonates it, destroying himself and the converging Tracers, and giving Mattie the forward jolt she needs to enter the Point of Origin and cross the wormhole's Event Horizon, closing the Point of Origin with a spectacular blast.

CUT.

INT. - DAYTIME - THE BOYD RESIDENCE

As Carter sits at his desk in his beautiful, sun-filled home, working on his laptop, he doesn't notice a news report playing on TV in the background.

REPORTER

...Federal authorities today announced more arrests in the continuous operation against Islamic terrorist groups plotting attacks against the United States and other nations around the world. So far, there have been more than three hundred arrests since the anonymously-foiled plots against targets in Yemen, New York and Washington D.C. nearly a decade and a half ago. Despite the arrests, authorities have stated that they have no plans on letting up, claiming that regular cooperation with various allied nations continues to reveal a consistent number of groups with similar plans, and that the operation will go on for as long as the terrorist threat continues to exist...

Stopping to think for a moment about his work, Carter is distracted by something he notices on the 2014 wall calendar that sits just above a bookshelf which contains, among others, a familiar book with the title of "21st Century Events" printed on the binding. Staring at the calendar for a few seconds, Carter gives a thoughtful smile just as thirty-three-year-old Mattie comes downstairs.

MATTIE

Hey. What are you up to?

CARTER

Just entering a few last-minute numbers from the San Francisco office. But come here for a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARTER (cont'd)
second, I want to show you
something.

MATTIE
(Coming over to see him)
What's up?

CARTER
(Taking her hand and gently
pulling her down to sit on his
lap)
Know what today's date is?

MATTIE
(Looking at the calendar for a
moment, then smiling)
Junt 27th.

CARTER
That's right. Isn't that-

MATTIE
(Nodding and smiling)
-Yes it is. The exact date. We've
come full circle.

CARTER
It's too bad I couldn't go and
thank my alternate self for getting
you back to 1999.

MATTIE
(Thinking back)
I'll never forget what it was like
when I saw you sacrifice
yourself. I know it all happened
within seconds but, the combination
of shock and emptiness I felt for
those few seconds was something I
never want to feel again.

CARTER
Well, for what it's worth, I'm
sorry I made you feel that way.

MATTIE
(Looking at him with
adoration)
You don't have to apologize. It
was a temporary sacrifice and it
got me to where I was supposed to
be. It got everything back to the
way it was supposed to be.

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

And now, here we are.

MATTIE

Here we are.

Just then, as the two of them share a tender kiss, their seven-year-old daughter, Hope, comes down the stairs.

HOPE

(Addressing them, though not looking at them, as she heads to the kitchen)

I can see you guys.

MATTIE

(Pulling back from the kiss momentarily to respond, though not looking at Hope, either)

Congratulations.

Just then, as Carter and Mattie go back to their kiss, their two sons, nine-year-old Jack and five-year-old Peter come in from the backyard, each of them holding baseball gloves, while Jack also holds a ball.

PETER

(Noticing their kiss with an exasperated tone as he heads upstairs to put his glove away in his room)

You guys are kissing again?

MATTIE

(As she gets up from Carter's lap and also heads to the kitchen while Carter goes back to work)

You know, you won't mind this sort of thing in a few years.

HOPE

(Putting some bread in the toaster)

We will whenever we see you do it. That's just gross.

MATTIE

(Grabbing Hope from behind and tickling her as she begins to fight and laugh uncontrollably)

Gross, huh? Thanks a lot!

(CONTINUED)

CARTER

(Still working on his laptop but overhearing as Jack turns on his video game console and sits down on the couch to play an MLB game)

We're gonna be leaving soon, Jack.

JACK

(As the game loads)

I know. I just wanna see if I can get in a few innings before we go.

Moments later, the Boyd's receive visitors.

PAT

(Knocking on the door as he, Maryann and their two kids, ten-year-old Taylor and eight-year-old Logan, walk into the house)

Knock, knock!

JACK

(Glancing at the door, then back at the game)

Hey Uncle Pat.

PAT

Hey buddy. How's it going?

JACK

Good. Hey Aunt Maryann.

MARYANN

Hey sweetie.

CARTER

(Immediately looking up from his laptop)

Hey.

MATTIE

(Emerging from the kitchen as Hope follows, holding some toast and going over to see Taylor while Logan sits down next to Jack and watches his game)

Hey, guys. Come on in.

(CONTINUED)

MARYANN

Thanks. You just about ready?

MATTIE

Just about. Carter's just finishing some numbers. So, maybe another five minutes or so. You want anything to drink?

PAT

Thanks, I'm good.

MARYANN

(As Pat heads over to Carter and the two of them proceed to go over the numbers that Carter's entering)

I'll take something, if you don't mind.

MATTIE

(Heading back into the kitchen)

Sure, what would you like?

MARYANN

Just some water would be fine. What time are we meeting everyone?

MATTIE

(Reaching into the refrigerator and grabbing a bottle of spring water, then bringing it to Maryann)

We're meeting our parents at the restaurant at one, and Michaela's rehearsal goes until that time so she'll be a few minutes late. Then later, she has to be back at the Garden for setup so we're gonna head over there early and Mike, Ray and Mark are gonna meet us at the main entrance.

MARYANN

(As Mattie hands her the bottle)

Thanks. Oh, I almost forgot, remember my friend Bianca? From work?

(CONTINUED)

MATTIE

The one who was at my showing last month?

MARYANN

Yeah. Her daughter Emma's a huge fan of your sister's, but they're on vacation in Florida so they couldn't make the show tonight. But they did ask if we could maybe get an autograph or something.

MATTIE

I'm sure Michaela won't have any problems with that.

MARYANN

Great. She'll be thrilled.

Just then, Carter finishes up what he's doing and closes the laptop.

CARTER

(As Pat heads back over to Maryann)

Okay, I'm done here. We all ready?

MATTIE

Yeah. Jack. Time to go. Shut it down. (She turns toward the stairs as everyone else in the room proceeds to get ready) Peter! Time to go!

PETER

(As he comes down the stairs)

Coming!

Just then, Mattie remembers that she forgot a couple of things upstairs.

MATTIE

(Heading toward the stairs)

You guys go ahead outside. I forgot my phone and purse in the bedroom upstairs. I'll meet you outside.

CARTER

(As everyone but Mattie heads out the door)

Okay honey. See you in a minute.

(CONTINUED)

After a few seconds, Mattie's in the house alone. Heading toward the stairs, she begins to make her way up, but then stops for a second and looks around the room, thinking about everything as it was before and how happy she is now. Smiling for a moment, she then proceeds upstairs.

CUT.

EXT. - DAYTIME- THE OUTSIDE OF THE ALTERNATIVE FUELS PLANT,
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

As a black vehicle pulls up outside the main entrance of the plant, a clean-cut man in his forties steps out, walks toward the entrance a few steps and is immediately met by a woman in professional dress. The man is electrical engineer Malcolm Frost and the woman is identified as Agent Serena Daniels.

AGENT DANIELS

(As she hands Frost an ID card
similar to the one she has
around her neck)

Mr. Frost, Serena Daniels. It's a
pleasure to meet you.

FROST

(As vehicle drives away while
the two of them walk up to the
main entrance, scan the codes
on their ID cards and proceed
to enter the building)

Same here, thank you.

AGENT DANIELS

(As they both walk together
down a long corridor that
turns a couple of times)

So, do you know why you're here?

FROST

Not so much, actually. Just some
general knowledge.

AGENT DANIELS

Like what?

FROST

Really just that I'm here to
monitor the flow of power to some
of your equipment.

(CONTINUED)

AGENT DANIELS

Okay. Well, that's true, but there's also a lot more to it.

FROST

Like what?

AGENT DANIELS

To be honest, I'm just in charge of escorting you to the lab, but I was told to see what your level of knowledge was regarding your new position. Your project liaison will fill you in on the actual details.

FROST

What kind of details?

AGENT DANIELS

The classified kind.

FROST

Oh, okay. Hence the security clearance.

AGENT DANIELS

Exactly.

Just then, the two of them come to a secure elevator. As Agent Daniels uses her card to open the elevator doors the same way she and Frost used their cards to enter the building, the doors open and the two of them enter the elevator. As the door closes, they both stand there, waiting for it to move. A moment later, they head down about ten levels, where the elevator comes to a stop. As the doors open, Frost is astonished at what he sees.

FROST

(As he sees countless Zero Hour agents walking the halls in front of him, where a large Zero Hour logo sits on the wall near the elevator)

Wow. What is all this?

AGENT DANIELS

This is where you're gonna be working for a while.

Just then, Frost's liaison walks up.

(CONTINUED)

AGENT DANIELS

This is Professor Tolson. He'll be your liaison.

TOLSON

(Extending to shake Frost's hand)

Mr. Frost. Glad to finally meet you. We've been trying to find someone who would be a perfect fit for what we're trying to do here and from what I've heard, you're pretty much a spot-on match.

FROST

(Shaking Tolson's hand)

I like to believe my abilities are right for every project I'm assigned to.

TOLSON

That's a good attitude.

FROST

Thank you.

Just then, Agents Houser and Reasons come walking up.

TOLSON

(Stopping them momentarily)

Oh; Bill, Theresa. I'd like you to meet Malcolm Frost. He's the electrical engineer we just brought on for the next phase.

AGENT HOUSER

(As he and Agent Reasons each shake hands with Frost)

Nice to meet you. Has Professor Tolson given you the rundown as to exactly what you'll be doing here yet?

FROST

No, not yet.

HOUSER

Well, it's really something. Just one thing you should remember is to keep your mind open. You'll never be able to get it otherwise.

(CONTINUED)

FROST

Thanks. I'll remember that.

Finally, after Agents Houser and Reasons head back down the hallway, Professor Tolson turns to Frost.

TOLSON

Okay, well, if you'll follow me, I'll bring you to the center of the action. (At that moment, they start walking down the hall. As they do, Professor Tolson begins asking Frost questions related to what they're doing) So, while we're walking, let me fill you in a bit on what's going on here.

FROST

(Attentively, as he walks)

Okay...

TOLSON

What do you know about the Philadelphia Experiment?

FROST

Really just the rumors. Navy was trying to figure out different ways to get the advantage in World War II, attempting different techniques including mind-control experiments and bending light to make ships invisible to enemy radar. In the process, they accidentally achieved teleportation, time travel, things like that.

TOLSON

Okay. What about the Montauk Project?

FROST

Same thing. Rumors. Government continued working on the shoulders of the Philadelphia Experiment, started Montauk in the early 1970's. Experiments included using psychologically-based electro-magnetism to create solid objects from nothing and open doors to other times. But then it was shut down in 1983 after some of the people working on the project

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FROST (cont'd)

became very uneasy about what was going on.

TOLSON

Okay. Well, as you would expect, the powers that be have, of course, been denying those rumors all along. But the fact is, they're not rumors. (Just then, the two of them come to a large, electrically-powered door as Tolson pulls out his access card) After the closing of Montauk, it was decided that even though psychologically-based experiments seemed too dangerous, something mechanically-based could be more stable. A time machine, for all intents and purposes. That's when they put this together: The "New Haven Project."

Just then, Tolson scans his card and the door opens, revealing an enormous control center with one large display along with other surrounding monitors showing the structure of the multiverse as it looked in the display when Tolson was explaining everything to Carter, Mattie and their people in New York. On these screens however, the structure is presented in simultaneous angles and shots, with one particular section showing a considerable amount of damage. On smaller screens within the larger display, there's footage of what appear to be various Time Intrusions and confrontations between Zero Hour and the Tracers, including some footage of Mattie's Intrusion in 2014, all shown as being in different universes, though still in relatively close proximity to each other within the damaged section of the multiverse. After a few moments, Tolson continues.

TOLSON

We are a private research firm headquartered in New York that was commissioned by the Government to build this lab and conduct experiments under cover of the alternative fuels plant above us. Despite the fact that we knew an enormous amount of energy would be needed for our system to do this so we planned accordingly, still, we didn't realize exactly how much was needed - even during the first

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOLSON (cont'd)
run. We thought we had more than enough; but, as it turned out, we were wrong. As a result, the first test was able to detect and access a wormhole, but without the proper amount of consistent energy to sustain it, the opening unexpectedly collapsed. This caused an explosion within the continuum that created the damage you see on the display.

FROST
(Looking at the display)
That's quite a bit of damage. Must've been some explosion.

TOLSON
It was. Actually, it's a miracle there wasn't more damage. Since then, we've been trying to reverse the effects of the explosion, which actually helps the continuum to repair and stabilize itself. (He looks back at Frost) The reason we brought you here is because we need someone whose sole job is to monitor the amount of energy needed and used during the initial project because we think the continuum might finally be stable enough for us to start experimenting again.

FROST
(Continuing to look at the display)
Wow. I'll admit, I knew I was being brought in for a top-level project. But this...

TOLSON
I know. Pretty overwhelming.

FROST
(Almost to the point of having to catch his breath)
Yeah. You could say that.

TOLSON
(Reassuring)
Don't worry. You'll settle in pretty quick. Everybody does.

(CONTINUED)

FROST

This is incredible though. I mean...the idea of actually being able to travel through time...

TOLSON

It really gets the imagination going.

FROST

Do you really think you'll actually be able to achieve it?

TOLSON

(Looking over at him confidently)

Look around. We already have.

FROST

Yeah, but I mean...you know...stabilize it.

TOLSON

(As the two of them stand there and continue to look at the scene in front of them)

I suppose only time will tell.

FADE OUT.

END CREDITS.