

EXT - COUNTRY FIELD - MORNING

A paved path between rolling country fields. There are no trees or bushes nearby but wild grass and weeds on either side. There are storm clouds all around, dark and gray, but no thunder or lightning.

Occasional sounds of FLAPPING of wings can be heard.

PROFESSOR CHRISTINA BAUER, 35, female, and PROFESSOR NATHAN MORROW, 33, male, are walking along the path. They are both loaded with packs and bags of equipment with UNESCO markings on them.

CHRISTINA

Well, almost there.

NATHAN

Yes, you know, after 8 months of requests, applications, research papers, and guidelines it's hard to believe tonight is finally here.

CHRISTINA

Eight months for you, 12 years for me.

NATHAN

That's quite a quest. They wanted so much I'm surprised they didn't ask for urine samples.

CHRISTINA

Speak for yourself.

(winks)

You know, honestly, sometimes I'm surprised we're actually going to make it.

Over the hill they are approaching sits something very large.

NATHAN

I just hope we find something.

CHRISTINA

It's the most detailed recording of the site ever. Even more detailed than Johnson in 2008. If there's something there we'll find it.

NATHAN

I can't deny I've occasionally had doubts of finding something new here.

CHRISTINA

Professor Floyd would roll over in his grave if he heard you say that.

NATHAN

I know. We don't know what we don't know. Famous words from Floyd.

CHRISTINA

Last words, first words, every word in between. Still sounds like a contradiction.

NATHAN

I know, but after 10,000 years it's hard to imagine there's anything new here.

CHRISTINA

Even after 10,000 years, I don't think we've even begun to find the secrets this place has.

A black crow flies nearby. They watch it soar and circle before landing on one of the monuments at Stonehenge. They unhook the guide ropes on the paved path and continue into the site.

EXT. STONEHENGE - MORNING

Some time has passed. Christina and Nathan are in the inner circle. Each of them has a moment looking at the ancient stones around them. Looking closely into the forms, shapes, and crevices on the faces.

There is almost no movement or sounds except for the FLAPPING of wings from the black crows around the site.

EXT. STONEHENGE - AFTERNOON

There have been several sensors of various types set up amongst the stones.

Nathan is at stone 6 mounting a sensor. He pauses and realizes he's standing beneath a stone arch. He steps back for a moment, away from the arch, then looks them up and down in awe.

NATHAN

Some people believe you were a religious shrine. Some people came here to heal, some came through you to die. I wonder how many souls have passed through these arches since the beginning. How many will pass before your end?

Christina is at stone 25. A single monolith leaning heavily outward.

CHRISTINA

It may have taken a thousand years to build. Thirty-three generations born and died building this, who knows how many to design you. No computers, no sensors, scanners, laser eyes. Just pure mathematics and manpower. So much technology has come and gone since you began. The things you've seen, the things, the secrets you've learned, the secrets you've kept.

A mid-size tent has been put up just inside the center circle of the stones.

Christina is near a stone taking microscopic measurements. She is using swabs to take material off the surface.

She hears the FLAPPING of wings and looks up to see a black crow landing on the lintel above her. She looks back at the stone, it pecks something off the surface and then flies away.

Nathan is looking at the grooves on the face of one of the standing stones. Christina joins him.

CHRISTINA

I've got samples of the material on the ground, dirt, moisture, in the analyzer. I'd say another 20 minutes to have it all recorded.

NATHAN

Sounds good.

CHRISTINA

Nothing unusual so far. You got anything?

NATHAN

Just the regular wear and tear from nature. One sixtieth of a centimeter off the southern face of the silcrete from this sarsen since the last measurement in '08.

CHRISTINA

One sixtieth? That's increased a bit.

NATHAN

Yes, that's perfectly natural with the slow increase in climate change.

(pulls out a small pad and checks the screen)

I thought you had the face sensors on 6 mounted.

CHRISTINA

I did.

NATHAN

But they aren't reading anything.

CHRISTINA

(checks pad)

That's odd. They started up  
okay when I initiated the recordings.

NATHAN

I'll check it out.

Nathan walks across the inner circle to stone 6. It is an extremely large and off-center sarsen leaning to one side. He examines several scanners mounted on the face and follows the cables to a connection box. The main cable to the box is loose and not completely connecting.

Nathan shakes his head and kneels over for a closer look. Puzzled, he checks the edge of the relay and sees marks on it as if it had been pinched and pulled loose at some point.

He connects the relay, makes sure it's tight, then reads the screen on the pad. Various measurements and readings start to scroll onto the screen.

He takes a deep breath and exits.

There is a distant FLAPPING of wings.

INT. TENT - LATE EVENING

The sun is setting causing light and shadows against one wall of the tent. The stones outside are leaving ominous shadows. Occasionally the shadows of the crows flying by skitter along the tent.

Cramped inside the tent Christina is looking at several pads. Each has a stream of various types of information on its screen. There are lots of things being measured and recorded.

One of the pads goes blank. Christina tries resetting, restarting it, then finally shakes it before it comes back on.

CHRISTINA

6? What is it with you?

(MORE)

Nathan comes into the tent and sits down on his sleeping bag.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Were you just at 6?

NATHAN

About 20 minutes ago. Sensor 7B was out of position. I resecured it in grid C7.

CHRISTINA

Out of position? How the hell did that happen?

NATHAN

The contacts were loose.

CHRISTINA

All those contacts are brand new. None of this equipment has been used before to prevent any contamination.

NATHAN

I know. Everything is clean from the second we started keeping track.

The sun is going down and the shadows from outside are getting dim.

CHRISTINA

Could there be something we missed?

NATHAN

I can't imagine what. All the contractors with UNESCO agree on the conditions of the part they ship for research. No reused or refurbished parts in any way. It's all first use.

More shadows of birds. This time they are on the ground just outside the tent.

CHRISTINA

I don't get it. We've never had this many breakdowns before.

NATHAN

Yeah, I can't figure out why.

CHRISTINA

Well, it seems everything is okay, now. It's all hooked up and running. Before sunrise we'll start scraping samples off of 25, 19 and 6.

NATHAN

Yeah, I checked and the vacuum seals are all good. We won't have any contamination between here and the labs.

CHRISTINA

Some of the stone fragments will look good in the university exhibits. Try and get some sleep.

Nathan lays down on his sleeping bag.

NATHAN

(shifts several times)

I was never good at sleeping outdoors. Even as a kid I never liked spending the nights in tents.

CHRISTINA

Too much noise? It should be okay, there's almost nothing out here.

EXT - THE TENT - NIGHT

The shadows of Nathan and Christina are highlighted from the light inside the tent.

Just outside the tent dozens of black crows are on the ground. They stay quiet and barely move. It's as if they are waiting on something.

NATHAN (Off)

No, it's just the uneven ground is really uncomfortable. I can't deny the fact we're collecting samples of Stonehenge is pretty amazing too. How could anyone sleep knowing what's happening tomorrow?

EXT - STONEHENGE - NIGHT

It's cloudy and there is lightning in the distance but no thunder.

FLAPPING of wings.

There is RUSTLING from inside the tent, a flashlight swings back and forth, finally they move to the tent exit. The zipper is jammed, and they release it and exit after several tries.

As soon as he stands something large and black flies extremely close to Nathan.

NATHAN

Jeez!

CHRISTINA

What?

NATHAN

What the hell was that? An owl?

CHRISTINA

Not sure. I just saw a blur. A bat?

NATHAN

I don't think so. Too damn big.

CHRISTINA

Wait a minute. Hush.

They stand in silence for a moment as they search the surrounding darkness with their flashlights.

The cloudy, dark sky is only broken by distant lightning. During the brief flashes there are signs of something big, or lots of small somethings, moving in the sky.



NATHAN

There's something out there.

CHRISTINA

Hush.

They wait a moment but hear or see nothing.

NATHAN

(whispers)

Whatever it was is gone.

CHRISTINA

Okay, maybe just some random encounter.

NATHAN

It has to be. A one in a million chance.

CHRISTINA

(deep breath)

Ok, let's get to work.

They gather their wits and start to head for a stone. They stop when they hear a FLAPPING of wings but when nothing happens, they continue.

They approach stone 25 by flashlight carefully looking around them as they go.

Nathan uses a cloth to collect moisture off the stone and seals it in a plastic bag.

Christina pulls out a plastic bag and a small file. She scrapes samples off the surface of the stone into the bag. FLAPPING of bird wings close.

They start to turn away when Nathan sees something off.

NATHAN

What the hell?

CHRISTINA

What is it?

Nathan bends on his knees and examines a sensor near the bottom of the stone. One of the dials is cracked.

NATHAN

Look at this.

(she looks closely)

Looks like it was punctured.

Someone did this.

CHRISTINA

Some vandals out here? Why?

NATHAN

I don't know but look at it.

CHRISTINA

It looks like it's still working.

NATHAN

Yes, whatever punctured it didn't get in so deep.

CHRISTINA

OK, let's check the bluestones before sunrise.

They hurry to the bluestones in the center of the circle. Christina uses the file to scrape the surface of the stones and also seals it in a bag. Nathan wipes off moisture with a cloth and seals it in a bag.

FLAPPING of wings in the distance.

They come to a stop when they see the equipment. The smaller items are broken, the wires are torn.

CHRISTINA

This is not a coincidence.

NATHAN

(scanning the country)

Where are you? Who's out there?

CHRISTINA

Let's get what we need and get into the tent at least.

They run to stone 6. As they come around the face, they stop in their tracks to find a mass of black crows waiting for them. The electronics that had been mounted on the stone are torn apart and scattered on the ground.

One black crow, larger than the others, squawks at them.

Christina and Nathan take a half step back, moving slowly. They raise their hands in defense and Christina reveals the plastic bag with the samples she scraped off.

The large black crow squawks and attacks her. She screams and struggles to stand, Nathan grabs her and punches at the crow as others in the flock attack. She drops the sample bags and stumbles away.

Christina and Nathan stumble away while the flock attacks them.

One crow lands on the sample bag and starts poking at it to tear it open.

Cristina and Nathan scramble for cover. There are scratches on their arms and faces and they are dripping blood.

They stumble over uneven ground. Nathan falls and they both hit the ground hard. He desperately reaches for anything and his hand contacts the tent spikes.

NATHAN

Here!

CHRISTINA

(in pain)

Where?

NATHAN

The tent.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Fighting and kicking at the birds they manage to get into the tent and zip it closed. They are both scared and badly cut.

CHRISTINA

What? How? This is insane!!!

NATHAN

It's unnatural. What the hell  
are they doing?

CHRISTINA

Hush.

(MORE)

They listen and hear FLAPPING of wings just outside the tent.  
There are a few SQUAWKS. The tent shudders as crows land on the  
tent.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Don't move. Just stay quiet.

Slowly, deliberately, Nathan stuffs the sample bags in his  
pocket.

NATHAN

(whispers)

Under. We need to cover.

She nods and, moving slowly, they pick up Nathan's sleeping bag  
to reveal a crow angrily flapping its wings and squawking at  
them.

Sacred and angry Nathan covers the crow with his slipping back.  
He struggles to control it. Cristina grabs a food cooler and  
bashes on the crow under the bag. After several hits it stops  
struggling.

They pause for a moment, silence, then the tent starts shaking  
with SQUAWKING and FLAPPING coming from outside. They start  
hitting at the spots on the tent where the crows are trying to  
tear apart the canvas with their beaks. They are quickly  
losing ground and the tent is getting torn apart. One end of it  
completely collapses.

CHRISTINA

We have to get moving.

NATHAN

Visitors center!

They start to unzip the tent. They get it about halfway open and  
several crows burst inside. They desperately try to knock them

away but know they will soon be completely trapped. Nathan sees a tear in the tent wall and completely rips it open.

EXT. STONEHENGE - NIGHT

Almost pitch black from the clouds but there is lightning overhead.

Christina and Nathan tear their way out of the tent. They crawl several feet, but the crows are turning on them.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

A crow inside the tent looks at what's left. It sees a sealed plastic bag with a small stone inside and starts to tear it open with its beak and claws.

EXT. STONEHENGE - NIGHT

Using a standing stone Christina and Nathan get to their feet.

A crow attacks Christina digging its claws into a coat pocket. She screams and Nathan grabs at tearing the cow and the coat pocket away. The full sample bag falls the ground as he brutally throws the crow towards a stone. The crow orients itself in mid flight and heads up the stone and into the lightning filled sky.

Scrapped and dripping blood they head out.

The crows flock after them squawking and clawing at them.

They stumble, fighting the birds, as they clear the stones. The first few yards are good, but they get tangled in the guide ropes along the post on the walkway.

The remaining sample bags drop from Christina.

The crows focus on Nathan. He tears one of the guide ropes free and tries to use it as a whip against his attackers. A few of the crows are injured and fall away. Others grab the rope and there is a brief tug of war for control.

CHRISTINA

Let it go!  
(Nathan desperately  
continues to struggle)  
They're using it! Let it go.

The crows are starting to take their end of the rope and circle Nathan. He sees what they are doing and let's go of his end.

Lightning and now thunder.

They run through the long grass trying to dodge the crows' attacks. They make it to the paved path and start sprinting.

As they run Nathan loses a sample bag on the path. A crow lands on it and examines it.

EXT. - VISITOR'S CENTER - NIGHT

Just outside the center the only thing in the parking lot is a UNESCO van. There are still a few crows attacking them as they get to the van, fight off a few, then open the doors and get in. As they slam the door behind them one crow is crushed and killed.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

They huddle, bloodied, and try and cover thro the crows SQUAWKING and SCRAPING at the van exterior. Nathan is badly injured with his hands on his face as Christina tries to protect him and pulls him close.

EXT. STONEHENGE - NIGHT

The stones with crows around them and thunder and lightning.

One of the stones, either by nature or design, has a face worn into it. Made ominous by the lightning strikes.

EXT. STONEHENGE - DAY

Normal visitors viewing the stones from the walkway on a calm and peaceful day. A few crows nesting nearby.

There is a small group of people walking along the paved path the point its closest to the stones. Three are students, male

and female, in their early 20s. Christina is leading the group guiding Nathan who is blind by hand.

NATHAN  
(to Christina)  
I can hear them. The birds.

CHRISTINA  
There are a few but they are  
keeping their distance.

NATHAN  
(nods)  
They know.  
(MORE)

Without a word they open the guide ropes and lead Nathan to the stones. He gently puts a hand on the surface while Christina holds him.

NATHAN  
(whispers to the stone)  
Eternity will weep when you  
are gone.

He pulls a sample bag full of small stones from his pocket, opens it, then gently lays them on the ground at the base of the stone.

They turn and peacefully walk away from the stones.

A crow peacefully lands on the stone and looks down at him. It squawks lightly.