

"NEBULA"

Jennifer Weber

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FADE IN: EXT. SONORAN DESERT - NIGHT - SUPER: (2011)

Several dozen various sized containers made of thick glass, dot the desert area.

CLOSE ON: Each container holds various wild life indigenous to the area, including reptiles, small mammals, coyotes and desert bats. One container holds dozens of scorpions.

Each container has an intricate circuitry system running through the glass, monitoring the animals vitals.

EXT. AMAZON RIVER - DELTA REGION - SUPER: (PRESENT DAY)

The setting sun casts an orange glow over the river.

EXT. AMAZON RIVER - DELTA REGION - NIGHT - LATER

Along the shoreline that cuts through the dense rain forest, a large clearing is dotted with several dozen of the same glass containers.

CLOSE ON: Several of them contain various frogs, salamanders, large fruit bats and unusual insects. Larger glass containers hold different species of monkeys and other smaller animals indigenous to the area.

EXT. AMAZON RAIN FOREST - NIGHT

Several members of the Zo'e Indian tribe run through the jungle toward the river. Some wear ceremonial lip plugs.

They stop at the clearing. The containers are gone.

The Indians look up and a huge shadow, several hundred feet wide, looms over them. An object flies off at the speed of light, followed by a massive sonic boom and a gust of wind, so strong it sways the trees and makes the still river water choppy.

The Indians hit the ground, covering their heads. A moment later they stand and examine the area, seeing impressions of the containers that were on the ground.

A faint mist falls from the sky covering the Indian's and the river water with a milky residue.

Nearby, a young, crying Indian boy, crawls out of a large cluster of bushes and stops in the clearing near the adults. He looks down at a large impression in the grass and speaks in his native language to an adult, then points up at the star-filled sky.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY - SUPER: OGALLALA NEBRASKA  
(PRESENT DAY)

The play ground is empty. An old woman in a crossing guard uniform sits in a lawn chair across the street. Checking her watch, she stands as the school bell rings. Children bundled up in coats stream out of the classrooms.

A new four-door government sedan drives slowly up the street adjacent to the school and parks.

INT. GOVERNMENT SEDAN

The driver, PRIVATE MILLER, early twenties, is in uniform, wearing mirrored sunglasses. The passenger, NATHAN WAGNER, late-sixties, white hair, tall and husky, wears a suit. Although not military, his eyes reflect years of experience and he possesses a natural aura of authority that commands respect.

The private motions to Nathan.

PRIVATE MILLER

Sir.

Nathan looks over at the crossing guard, who guides a dozen or so children across the street. Four of the 8-10 year old children are ALBINOS. They all wear hats to block the sun. Nathan looks into the school yard. Two very frail Albino children walk out of a classroom.

Nathan writes something in a note book, then picks up a camcorder and films the albino children.

P.O.V: Nathan zooms in on one little Albino girl with pale pupils and films her a moment. He shuts off the camcorder and nods to the private, who starts the car and drives off.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - HILTON HOTEL - SUNRISE

Nathan and the young private exit the hotel. A valet parker drives the sedan up to them.

INT. SEDAN - DAY - LATER

Nathan and the private watch children playing at a Harlem elementary school. It's recess time. Dozens of mostly Black and Hispanic children play in the winter sun.

A section of the building gives off a large patch of shade. Nathan begins filming.

P.O.V: Several Black and Hispanic ALBINO children stand together in the shade and watch the other children play.

EXT. LAS VEGAS - AIRPORT - NIGHT

A commercial jet lands on the runway.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Nathan lies on the bed very exhausted. The open window affords a view of the Las Vegas Strip. His cell phone is charging. Several papers and folders are next to it on the night stand.

INSERT: One of the papers is from the "Clark County School District", with a list of elementary schools in the Las Vegas area.

Nathan strains to sit up. He opens a bottle of medication and washes down two pills with a glass of water. A bible is on the night stand. Nathan picks it up and stares solemnly at it a moment, then puts it in a drawer and dials the hotel operator.

NATHAN

Yes, hello. I'd like a wake up call for five thirty a.m., please.

(Beat)

Thank you. Also, could you dial out a number for me? It's in Washington D.C.

EXT. THORPE INSTITUTE - DAY - SUPER: (WASHINGTON D.C)

INT. THORPE INSTITUTE - MEETING ROOM - DAY

A group of seven men, scientists and army personnel, including Nathan Wagner, are seated at a large mahogany table. A man runs a slide projector. A slide is flashed on-screen. An ARMY OFFICIAL leans in for a better look.

It is an enlarged newspaper article accompanied by a photograph of residents milling about the street they live on. Some are pointing to their cars which have a white residue covering them.

INSERT: A caption and date at the bottom of the photo reads:

"Residents of Westburg Heights, a Houston suburb, woke up this morning to find an unusual airborne residue has destroyed the paint on over two thousand cars."

A time stamp date at the bottom of the slide reads: 6/12/96

NATHAN

We believe this is the first occurrence of what we refer to as "Night Mistings". Over the past twenty or so years we've had at least fifty additional occurrences along the eastern seaboard, several western states and parts of the mid-west.

A new slide with the date: 10/22/18, comes on screen with another photograph of residue covering cars and homes in Las Vegas, Nevada.

ARMY OFFICIAL

Do you believe the influx of Albino births occurred after the first mistings in 96"?

NATHAN

Undoubtedly. The percentages are staggering. Thousands of these births have been documented in every area this has happened.

A new slide dated: 12/7/2014, comes on screen with photographs of Albino children at an elementary school.

NATHAN

(continuing)

The first children born after the initial mistings are in their early twenties now. And like the rest, very sick. Allergic to antibiotics, and some, in varying degrees, to actual sunlight.

(takes drink of water)

MSNBC, Nightline, and 20/20 have already featured stories and interviewed some of these children and their parents.

The door to the room opens. SANDY, Nathan's secretary, pokes her head inside. Nathan turns to the projectionist.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Can you get the light?

The lights come on. Nathan stands.

NATHAN

(continuing)

What is it, Sandy?

SANDY

Sorry to interrupt. You have an overseas phone call. Gus Thorpe is calling from the camp in Ethiopia. Says it's rather urgent.

NATHAN

All right. Thank you. Tell him I'll be right there.

INT. NATHAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Nathan is seated at his desk on his cell phone.

NATHAN

Tell them to pack it in a crate like the others. I'll start tracking down Joshua Seeward and have-

(Beat)

Is that right?

(Beat)

He is? Good. I'll fly down there in the morning.

EXT. BERKELEY UNIVERSITY - CALIFORNIA - DAY

INT. UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL - DAY

Nathan stands at the back of the room. Every seat is taken. The crowd listens as JOSHUA SEEWARD, early thirties, beard, curly brown hair, with an effusive way of speaking, continues his lecture on Paleoarcheology.

Behind Joshua, a large pull-down chart has a diagram of the evolution of ancient man, starting with Hominids, the first bipedal humans, to present day Homo Sapiens. With black marker, someone has drawn a brief case, giving the appearance the Homo Sapien is holding it. A 1950s style hat has been drawn on his head, giving a little added levity to the scientific diagram.

Enlarged photographs of Archaeologist Mary Leaky at an archaeology dig at the Olduvai Gorge outside of Ethiopia, are on display. As are enlarged photographs of the famous Skeletal remains of "Lucy", one of the first Hominids discovered at the Afar region of Ethiopia.

JOSHUA

These "new apes" the Hominids, were essentially the first quasi Human beings. Rather petite in stature and bipedal, meaning, they walked upright, which allowed them to venture, literally, to other continents... And to partake in a certain activity, that before, wasn't physically possible. Frontal mating. What we like to call the "missionary position". Now I know none of you do it any other way...

The audience laughs. Joshua spots Nathan at the back of the room.

INT. UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL - DAY - LATER

Students leave the lecture room. Nathan walks toward the podium where Joshua and a student speak. The student walks away and Joshua hurries up to Nathan and shakes his hand.

JOSHUA

Nate, it's good to see you. What brings you back to the land of natural disasters?

Nathan stares intently at Joshua, then shakes his head "Yes". This simple nod brings a wide smile to Joshua's face.

JOSHUA

(continuing)

Again? I was hoping you'd say that.

INT. BERKELEY UNIVERSITY - DAY - LATER

Several students are in the hallway looking at a bulletin board.

INSERT: A notice states:

"Professor Seeward's Lecture series has been cancelled until further notice."

INT. AIRPORT - DAY - LATER

Nathan and Joshua hurry down a hallway to the interior of a passenger jet.

NATHAN

I've contacted the students who assisted you previously. They're ready to go to work. The remains were found at the dig near Ethiopia.

JOSHUA

Olduvai Gorge?

NATHAN

Yes. We believe it's around one to three million years old. We'll be sure after it's carbon dated. But the damn thing is nearly intact. That, in itself is amazing.

Joshua stops. Several passengers walk around him.

JOSHUA

Was it found with the tools we previously-



NATHAN  
Yes, yes. It was.

JOSHUA  
Figured as much. But I had to ask.  
Music to my ears.

INT. INTERIOR OF JET - NIGHT - LATER

Nathan is asleep in his seat.

INSERT: Joshua has his pull down tray in front of him as he looks through an open folder with 8x10 photographs showing skeletal remains of early humans. Archaeology sites are amongst them.

Joshua examines a photograph of skeletal remains imbedded in dirt that have been placed in a shallow crate.

EXT. BUILDING - SUPER: THORPE INSTITUTE - DAY

INT. THORPE LABORATORY - DAY

Two young women, one a BLONDE STUDENT with a long braid, lay out digging tools and soft brushes on a table. A third STUDENT, a young black man, takes out a set of chisels from a cabinet. Joshua stands nearby in front of a large metal table with a shallow 4x3 foot wooden crate on top. A section of black tarp covers it.

Joshua yanks off the tarp, revealing traces of an ancient skeletal figure imbedded in the hard dirt.

The sides of the crate are insulated with a heavy duty cardboard that almost appears molded to the crate. Thick industrial staples hold it on. The blonde student glances over at Joshua and smiles to herself, obviously a bit smitten with him. She leans over and whispers something to the second female student.

Joshua clicks on a hand-held tape recorder and speaks into it as he examines the remains.

JOSHUA  
... The remains are of a Hominid,  
found near the Olduvai gorge in  
eastern Ethiopia.  
(more)

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

This find is one of several to be unearthed within close proximity of crude hunting tools, once thought to be used solely by Java man, two hundred thousand years ago. This vast time discrepancy makes this and the previous finds, an historic phenomena in paleoanthropology.

The blonde student and the second student applaud and chuckle.

BLONDE STUDENT

You did that without cue cards,  
Professor Seeward.

Joshua smiles, takes a bow, then quickly turns hearing a ripping noise. The third student is using a long chisel to pry cardboard off the side of the crate.

JOSHUA

Oh, hey. You don't have to remove it.  
They're always shipped that way.

STUDENT

My bad.

JOSHUA

You didn't know.

Joshua grips the torn cardboard and notices small block lettering on the side of the crate. Pulling it back he reads:

INSERT: "Project Genesis-Specimen 29".

Joshua pushes the cardboard back in place and grabs a small hammer. Giving it two taps, he forces the staples back into the wood.

EXT. THORPE INSTITUTE - NIGHT - LATER

The three college students walk through the parking lot to their cars. A new Lincoln pulls into a reserved spot near them.

INT. THORPE INSTITUTE LAB - NIGHT

The Hominid remains are covered with the tarp. Joshua sits nearby at his laptop.

INSERT: Joshua types "Project Genesis" into the Google search engine.

Only three results pop up. He clicks on them. One is a rock band for hire. The second site is a new cruise ship taking reservations. The third result is an online bible study course. Joshua yawns and logs off. He stands just as Nathan walks inside.

Nathan's eyes go immediately to the torn cardboard on the crate. His face betrays a momentary concern that Joshua doesn't miss.

JOSHUA

Oh, uh. The new student thought it came off.

Nathan nods and smiles too quickly.

NATHAN

Well, how'd it go?

JOSHUA

Yeah, no. Fine. Just fine. We made a lot of progress today. You can see a trace of its facial features.

NATHAN

Good. Glad to hear that. You know, it's officially the weekend. Thought I'd go out of town a couple days. How'd you like to come along?

JOSHUA

Sure. Where to?

NATHAN

No where special. But I hope you're not afraid of needles. You'll need to get inoculated and the accommodations are lousy.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Nathan and Joshua sit in the back of a small plane flying over the Amazon rain forest. It's a bumpy ride.

CLOSE ON: A thick book detailing the wildlife of the Amazon rain forest, sticks out a large side pocket of Nathan's duffel bag. A red marker is clipped to it.

Joshua grips the seat as the plane suddenly dips.

JOSHUA

Now I wish you meant Amazon.com.

(Lets out breath)

Shit.

The plane levels out. Joshua looks out the window and speaks loudly to be heard over the din of the propellers.

JOSHUA

(continuing)

My God. It is immense, though. Like another world.

(turns to Nathan)

I'm in the wrong business. I can't believe they pay you to go to exotic locales and listen to people with over-active imaginations.

NATHAN

You go to exotic locales. What are you talking about?

JOSHUA

Yeah, right. Where it's a hundred and ten in the shade... You know, I was just thinking, what if this kid saw a helicopter? Maybe a National Geographic team was down there collecting specimens.

NATHAN

He knows what a copter looks like. Most of the missionaries living in his village arrived on one.

Joshua looks out the window, noticing a tiny airstrip cut out of the forest below them, near the Amazon river. A small group of people disembark from a large supply barge docked at the river.

NATHAN

(continuing)

That should be our entourage.

EXT. AIR STRIP - DAY

Two missionaries, Ellen, tall, lean, early thirties, and Kit, early twenties, clean cut, wait to greet the approaching plane. Two adult male Zo'e Indians, and the four year old Indian boy, who weeks earlier, witnessed the animals captured in the glass containers, stand behind Ellen and Kit.

The plane comes to a stop. Nathan and Joshua get out. Ellen shakes their hands.

ELLEN

Better late than never. Hello, I'm Ellen, and this is my fellow Amazonian, Kit.

KIT

Hi.

ELLEN

Good to see you. Knew if I bugged the embassy long enough, they'd finally get sick of me and send someone down here.

Ellen sees the nature book on Amazon wildlife tucked in Joshua's bag.

ELLEN

(continuing)

May I?

Ellen pulls out the book and smiles at the little boy. Joshua notices the beat-up looking supply barge at the dock.

ELLEN

(continuing)

I'll have him go through it when we get back to camp.

(Motions to barge)

Meantime, you can enjoy the four-star accommodations on Cleopatra's barge.

I promise it won't sink.

She hands the book to the boy and several ear piercing screeches fills the air. Joshua flinches.

JOSHUA

Holy shit! Oh, God. I'm Sorry.

ELLEN  
(Amused)  
I'm a missionary, not a prude.

JOSHUA  
What was that?

ELLEN  
Local residents.

JOSHUA  
Indians?

ELLEN  
Howler monkeys. They're all over the  
rain forest. Better get used to it,  
or buy ear plugs.

Ellen takes the little boy's hand and walks toward the barge.  
She glances back at Joshua.

ELLEN  
(continuing)  
I'll tell the captain to keep his eye  
out for a Walgreen's.

EXT. MISSIONARY CAMP - NIGHT - LATER

Several large tents are set up around the village. A small  
makeshift hospital and church are near them.

The young Indian boy quietly walks up to the entrance of a  
tent and peeks in the small window, seeing Nathan and Joshua  
asleep in their cots.

He sets the book and magic marker outside the door and walks  
away.

EXT. RAIN FOREST - DAY

Ellen, Nathan and Joshua walk through the lush forest.

ELLEN  
He claims "sky demons" took all the  
animals trapped in the bubbles. Then,  
I guess some kind of metal arm came  
out of the ship and picked them up.

JOSHUA

How many times have they seen them?

ELLEN

Ten, twelve times, maybe. The Indians are the only one's who'll venture into the forest. I know we're all God's children, but some of them can swallow you whole around here.

Ellen stops and looks up at a cluster of trees soaring a hundred or more feet into the air.

A yellow kerchief is nailed to the trunk of one tree.

ELLEN

(continuing)

Here it is... Several of the men were hunting and it had just gotten dark.

(shields eyes from sun)

They heard a loud whoosh above the trees. Then... They said for a few seconds... It rained blood.

Joshua looks dubiously at Ellen.

ELLEN

(continuing)

I know. But the next day they came back and dozens of scavenger birds were in the trees. Yavi, one of the hunters climbed to the top and saw ten to fifteen human scalps... and a human rib cage, caught in the tree tops. Like they'd fallen from the sky or something.

NATHAN

How many were brought back to the village?

ELLEN

Just one. We came back out, but the rest were gone.

JOSHUA

Where's the scalp?

ELLEN

I buried it.

INT. NATHAN'S TENT. - NIGHT - LATER

Joshua sits on his cot going through the nature book the Indian boy left outside the door.

CLOSE ON: He flips through several pages, each of which, have photos circled in red marker of the same animals that were taken in the glass containers.

Nathan sits at a rickety table going through his briefcase.

NATHAN

Some of these tribes numbered in the thousands a decade ago. Most vanished without a trace. Less than a hundred and fifty remain here.

JOSHUA

Yeah, but, Nate, there's so many factors. It's a given their mortality rate is going to be high.

(Beat)

Body parts falling from the sky? I mean, I don't even think she knew what she was looking at.

Nathan wipes his face with a wet cloth and motions to the book.

NATHAN

Have you noticed a common thread between the different species?

JOSHUA

Yeah, I have. I'm not too sure about the monkeys, but, the salamanders, and, of course the frogs, they either have self-contained defense mechanisms or the ability to metamorphize at will depending on environmental changes.

NATHAN

Right.

JOSHUA

So, why would little green men, if they exist, be swiping earth's most interesting flora and fauna?

Nathan sits on his cot.



NATHAN  
 Don't know. But they have an  
 abundance of it here.

Joshua snaps his finger.

JOSHUA  
 Hey, I take it back.

NATHAN  
 What?

JOSHUA  
 The monkeys. The Howler monkeys, I  
 mean. They use their vocal chords to  
 sound a warning, right?

A loud, anguished scream is heard coming from the other end  
 of the village. Joshua and Nathan stand.

JOSHUA  
 (continuing)  
 Jesus, speak of the Devil.

EXT. INDIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

Nathan and Joshua hurry out of the tent, seeing dozens of  
 Indians gathered around a hut at the other side of the  
 village. A MISSIONARY hurries toward the hut. He stops and  
 calls out to Nathan and Joshua.

MISSIONARY  
 Everything's all right. One of the  
 women is just giving birth. It's kind  
 of a community event.

JOSHUA  
 (To Nathan)  
 Which, the conception or the birth?

EXT. BIRTHING HUT - NIGHT

Nathan and Joshua approach the hut. Kit stands outside  
 holding a flashlight. He turns and casts the light in Nathan  
 and Joshua's faces.

KIT  
 Sorry. Hello, Mr. Wagner... Joshua.

NATHAN

Hi. Is it a boy or girl?

The Indians outside the hut appear to be very upset. The woman inside groans and cries loudly.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Kit, did something happen? Is the baby all right?

KIT

Yes. Yeah, I think so. It... it looks healthy, but... Here, come inside.

Kit, Nathan and Joshua make their way through the small crowd.

INT. BIRTHING HUT

The three men enter. Ellen holds the male, newborn infant. She looks up at Nathan.

ELLEN

I don't think this has ever happened before.

Nathan stares intently at the ALBINO Indian baby.

NATHAN

I'll be damned.

EXT. NATHAN'S TENT - DAY

Nathan wakes up. Joshua's empty cot is empty.

INT. CHURCH TENT - DAY

Nathan enters the make-shift church. Everyone, including Joshua and Ellen, are seated, listening to one of the missionaries give a sermon. Ellen looks back and waves at Nathan. Joshua motions for Nathan to sit.

Nathan points at his watch.

EXT. AMAZON RIVER - NIGHT - LATER

The barge slowly makes its way up the Amazon river, which is illuminated by the full moon. Nathan is seated in a folding chair. Joshua leans back against the railing.

NATHAN

I was rather surprised to see you in church earlier. If you think about it, it's a bit of a dichotomy. An archaeologist in church. Your science disproves their biblical teachings.

(Beat)

Do you believe in God?

JOSHUA

Good question. I shouldn't, but I guess I like to think there's a higher power or what ever. My own mother was a holy roller. It... was tough. But I don't believe in hell or damnation. That's all a bunch of crap. How 'bout you?

NATHAN

I'm an Atheist. But I was a devout Christian at one time. Church every Sunday. Bible study.

JOSHUA

You're kidding? Thought that was an iron-clad contract. What happened?

NATHAN

I became disillusioned.

Nathan is quiet a moment. He stands and looks out over the river.

JOSHUA

Nathan...

Nathan turns to Joshua. In the river, a fresh water albino Sting Ray glides through the water.

Nathan sighs wearily and lowers himself onto the folding chair. Sitting quietly a moment, he looks up.

NATHAN

I'm very ill, Joshua. And it's had a profound effect on me. But not for the obvious reasons... You see, I have a great pension waiting for me when my usefulness runs out. That's why, before, I've rather zealously kept secrets for our government. Now it doesn't matter. I won't live long enough to cash Uncle Sam's checks.

JOSHUA

Jesus. How long do you have?

NATHAN

Maybe a year. Prostate cancer.

JOSHUA

I'm sorry, Nate.

NATHAN

It might interest you to know I've been lying to you... For a very long time. Joshua, we've never found tools with the Hominid remains. That's one of the reasons you weren't allowed to carbon date them yourself.

JOSHUA

That always did piss me off. I wanted to be in on the whole process.

NATHAN

We used you to safely remove the remains, then sent you on your way.

JOSHUA

Why? What is it about them that's so different?

NATHAN

Since nineteen seventy-four, when the Lucy skeleton was found in Ethiopia, we've discovered the remains of an additional twenty-eight Hominids, including the one you're working on.

(Looks intently at  
Joshua)

All of them have high-tech tracking devices implanted in their thigh bones... That still function.

JOSHUA

What? My God, Nathan...

NATHAN

This is by no means a recent occurrence. These remains have been undisturbed, buried in deep sediment for three million years. When the Hominids were alive, roaming the Savanna, they could be found where ever they went.

JOSHUA

By what?

NATHAN

An advanced race... That left one fossil impression in the earth, thirty feet deep. The hull of an enormous space craft. I've seen it. It's on Federally protected land, with no public access.

JOSHUA

Jesus, what's the time span? Did you find implants in Neanderthal Man or Cro-Magnon?

NATHAN

Only in the Hominids. And all of the remains that were carbon dated two million years or less- don't have the tracking system. For some reason, around the two million year point, the implantation of the devices just stopped.

JOSHUA

You have any idea why?

NATHAN

We... aren't sure. But I can tell you all of the remains containing the implants were concentrated only within the African Savanna.

Joshua is in awe.

JOSHUA

Where the man-ape evolutionary split first occurred.

(takes deep breath)

Oh, my God. This is incredible. Nate, whatever they are, they're studying our physiology, right? Animal... And human?

Nathan nods solemnly.

NATHAN

Yes. I'm not so sure that's a good thing.

Joshua sits on a small bench.

JOSHUA

Still. "This". This is what you call a revelation. Everything else pales by comparison. Proof. Goddamn bona fide proof.

(looks up at the night sky)

Finally.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C - AIRPORT - NIGHT

A 747 lands on the runway.

INT. NATHAN'S CAR - SUNRISE - LATER

Nathan drives into the Thorpe Institute with Joshua and parks in his personal space.

INT. THORPE INSTITUTE LAB - SUNRISE

Nathan unlocks a large steel cabinet in the room. He takes out a scanner similar to ones used at airport security checks.

NATHAN

Ready?

Joshua nods. Nathan removes the tarp from the Hominid remains and hands the scanner to Joshua.

JOSHUA

Oh, thank you. Does it have an "on" switch?

NATHAN

Not exactly. Just slowly move it across.

Joshua's hand trembles as he guides the scanner over the lower section of the Hominid's skeletal remains. A loud beep sounds. Joshua gasps.

JOSHUA

Shit... Shit!

He guides the scanner across again and the beep sounds. Joshua stands back, taking in the enormity of it. He paces a moment, then sits in a chair clutching the scanner.

JOSHUA

(continuing)

"Genesis". Clever name. I noticed it on the crate. "In the beginning God created man." Least the prototype.

NATHAN

I think it's a fair assumption I've made your day.

JOSHUA

Oh, yeah.

(Stands and looks at the Hominid remains)

After I've been sent on my merry way, are they leaving the tracking device in or what?

NATHAN

It'll be removed, like the rest. The skeleton will be on display at the Smithsonian for all the kids on field trips to gawk at.

Joshua nods and gently brushes sand off the ancient skeletal face of the Hominid. Nathan's cell phone rings. He checks the display and answers in a voice that already anticipates important news.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Yes?

CALLER (V.O.)  
There's been an incident.

Joshua has heard the caller. Nathan lowers the phone a moment and looks at Joshua.

NATHAN  
Excuse me.

Nathan quickly leaves the room. Joshua listens to Nathan's footsteps down the hallway, then becomes aware of the low rumble of an approaching aircraft. The windows vibrate and Joshua spins around, seeing the bright lights of a helicopter hovering above the almost empty parking lot.

Hurrying to the window, Joshua watches a large MI-26 transport helicopter land a hundred feet from Nathan's car.

JOSHUA  
What the hell...

Nathan re-enters the room. Joshua turns around and motions with his thumb over his shoulder.

JOSHUA  
(continuing)  
I'm assuming that's your Uber. Can I come?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEVADA - INTERSTATE 15 - DAY - LATER

AERIAL SHOT:

On each lane of the desolate stretch of interstate, cars, semi-trucks and motor homes, are backed up for more than five miles in each direction. "Something" is in the middle of the two-lane interstate blocking traffic.

People mill about. Several people are in the road looking up the highway. A SKINNY MAN and an IMPATIENT MAN strain to see the large object on the horizon, which blocks traffic.

SKINNY MAN  
What do you think it is?



## IMPATIENT MAN

Don't know, but I bet a goddamn truck  
jack knifed. And I left early to beat  
the traffic back to L.A. Unreal.

Everyone in the road looks back hearing a car horn. A Highway Patrol car drives toward them. The PATROLMAN talks on his police radio. The people scatter out of his way and the patrol car passes.

## INT. PATROL CAR - DAY

The patrolman looks around at the massive traffic jam. He continues up the highway along the shoulder. Farther ahead, dozens of people are along the road filming with camcorders and cell phones. The patrolman drives closer and abruptly brakes. His mouth hangs open.

Forty feet in front of him, in the middle of the interstate, stands the launching pad to the Apollo 11 lunar module and various objects strewn about that were left behind on the moon decades ago by various astronauts, including the American flag.

The patrolman gets out of his car staring at the enormous launching pad. He speaks to a MAN nearby.

## PATROLMAN

How long has this been here?

The man's voice has an almost dazed tone to it.

## MAN

Not sure. We left Vegas about an hour ago when it was still dark. I might've crashed into that thing, but there was stuff all over the road.

A WOMAN, early fifties, sees the patrolman and sets down her camcorder. She gets something off her car seat and walks over to him.

## WOMAN

Excuse me. I found this on the ground.

The Patrolman takes the object, seeing it's the plaque left on the moon by the the crew of Apollo 17.

INSERT: "Here man completed his first exploration of the moon, December 1972.

May the spirit of peace in which we came, be reflected in the lives of all mankind."

WOMAN  
(continuing)  
Is it real?

The patrolman just shakes his head. Several army helicopters appear over the mountains. The MI-26 transport copter is among them.

INT. MI-26 HELICOPTER - DAY

The cockpit door is closed. Muffled voices from within the cockpit can be heard over the din of the copters engines. Four attached sleeping bunks are along one wall. A new white Chevy Suburban is strapped down near the aft cargo door.

Using binoculars, Joshua gazes out the window at the miles long traffic jam on I-15, and the items from the Apollo missions. He speaks in an awed whisper to himself.

JOSHUA  
I'm not seeing this.  
(Lowers binoculars)  
I am not seeing this.  
(Beat)  
My God. Unbelievable.

Nathan exits the cockpit speaking on his cell phone.

NATHAN  
... Narrow it down to states with temperatures below zero in particular. And marginally populated areas with dense forests. They've never announced an impending arrival in such a conspicuous manner.

Joshua stares up at Nathan hanging onto his every word.

NATHAN  
(continuing)  
But they will need a certain amount of concealment.  
(Beat)  
Yes... Yes. Send the coordinates after you verify some viable locations and we'll go from there.

Nathan ends the call and looks out the window at I-15 below, then sits next to Joshua.

NATHAN  
(continuing)  
I appreciate you coming along... I need to be around someone I trust. All of us have lied so often for so long about all of this... About Project Genesis, that it's become part of our character.

JOSHUA  
They found something, right? Extra Terrestrial?

Nathan nods. Joshua is dumbstruck. He lets out his breath and stares at the floor.

NATHAN  
You may want to sleep. Should be four to five hours before we get to our location... Where ever that is.

EXT. SKY OVER I-15 - DAY

The sky is filled with even more helicopters. The MI-26 makes a wide turn in the sky and flies off in a northerly direction away from the other copters.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROAD - DUSK - LATER - SUPER: (NORTH DAKOTA)

Light snow falls. Another traffic jam congests the two lane rural road. This one caused by a less than remarkable event. A slow moving semi-truck with warning lights and a "Wide Load" sign on the back, carries a large, two foot thick, concrete object that is twenty feet in circumference.

Directly behind the semi-truck, there is an older Jeep Cherokee.

INT. JEEP CHEROKEE - DUSK

The Jeep is being driven by, CHAD, blonde, handsome, early twenties.

His girlfriend, RENEE, African American, early twenties, pretty, sleeps in the passenger seat with her head on a pillow propped against the window.

Chad listens to a call-in radio show.

CALLER (V.O.)

Yeah, but we're fed propaganda by the government every day. Look at the Apollo incident earlier today. They're already saying it's an elaborate hoax. How the hell did it end up on I-15? I think the public should demand the government re-direct the Hubble telescope. Take pictures of the moon's surface. See if all that stuff is really still there.

DJ (V.O.)

Not exactly an easy request, but something to think about. This is KLVS 92.4. We've been talking with our caller, Larry, about alleged government cover-ups and conspiracies. We'll be taking more of your calls after this commercial break.

A loud singing commercial comes on. Chad turns down the radio. Renee wakes up and sees the semi-truck in front of them. She sighs.

RENEE

We're still behind it?

She looks back and sees a very long line of cars behind them.

RENEE

(continuing)

I don't believe this.

CHAD

I know. I can't pass either. I can't see around... what ever the hell it is.

RENEE

Looks like a gigantic sink stopper.

CHAD  
Yeah. So much for first impressions.

RENEE  
What?

CHAD  
Your folks. First time I meet them we're over two hours late. I hate to spread myself so thin, but I guess I'll have to charm the wranglers right off 'em.

Chad winks.

RENEE  
They're not bull riders. They own a farm.

CHAD  
Is your Mom as fine as you?

RENEE  
I don't know... She's perky.

CHAD  
Seriously. Is she, like, a big milk maid or could she be in Playboy? Next issue, Bible Belt housewives with strategically placed crock pots.

RENEE  
You must be trippin'.

CHAD  
You're sure they know I'm a white boy?

Renee shoots him a sly look.

RENEE  
Duh. Lilly white.

The left turn signal flashes on the semi truck as it waits for a chance to turn.

RENEE  
(continuing)  
Oh, thank God. He's turning.

Chad and Renee look to their left as they come upon a nearby crowd of people on the side of the road. A local News Crew and Van are parked nearby.

CHAD  
Check it out.

Chad rolls down his window.

CLOSE ON: The ANCHORWOMAN speaks into her microphone.

ANCHORWOMAN  
... With Cold War fears subsiding in the late eighties, hundreds of missile silos were dismantled, leaving holes, four hundred feet deep, dotting the country side.

The semi-truck turns and the crowd moves aside.

ANCHORWOMAN  
(continuing)  
It's taken years for this particular silo to be topped off. Better late than never applies perfectly here.

RENEE  
It is a gigantic sink stopper. Sort of.

The driver of the car behind Chad's Jeep blares his horn.

CHAD  
Chill, Bub.

Chad guns his Jeep and takes off.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - NORTH DAKOTA - SUNSET - LATER

Chad's Jeep approaches the house. Renee's mother, ALICE, African American, very pretty, early forties, hurries out of the house with Renee's father, tall, late forties and Caucasian. Chad stares at Renee's father a moment, then looks at Renee quizzically.

CHAD  
Who's that?

RENEE

Some white guy my mom picked up.  
 (Gives Chad a look and  
 rolls down window)  
 It's my dad. They're very progressive  
 farmers.

Alice waves enthusiastically as she runs up to Renee.

ALICE

Hi, Baby!  
 (Looks in Jeep)  
 Hey, you must be the new Beau.

CHAD

New and improved.

INT. RENEE'S PARENT'S HOME - NIGHT - LATE

Alice clears plates off the dinner table. Alice's father  
 watches television in the nearby family room.

INT. RENEE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Renee puts her clothes into a dresser drawer. Chad sits on  
 Renee's bed looking around the room, which has a stereo, a  
 television and a Blue Ray DVD player.

CHAD

God, you were spoiled rotten. Wait,  
 don't tell me. You bought all this  
 with baby-sitting money?

RENEE

Maybe.  
 (Closes drawer)  
 Want me to show you where the guest  
 room is?

CHAD

No... Have you ever done it with a  
 boy on this bed? Tell me the truth.

RENEE

No, a girl.

CHAD

What!

RENEE

Please. All the Lesbians around here are still in hiding. Took awhile for the "townfolk" to get used to us.

Renee stops in front of him. Chad lifts her t-shirt and softly kisses her stomach. There's a knock on the door and Renee's mother calls out:

ALICE (O.S.)

Hi you two. Your Uncle's food is ready and I just put fresh sheets in the guest room for Chad.

They listen as she walks away.

CHAD

How the heck did she...

Renee smiles slyly.

RENEE

My chastity belt has a silent alarm.

Chad gets up and opens the bedroom door. He shakes her hand.

CHAD

I wish your parents weren't Amish. Lemme know when you're ready.

EXT. RENEE'S PARENT'S HOME - NIGHT

Chad waits in the idling Jeep. Renee holds several Tupperware containers of food as she and her mother walk up to the Jeep.

RENEE

Mom, what's he supposed to do, heat it up over a camp fire? He doesn't even have electricity.

Renee opens the Jeeps passenger door.

ALICE

He has a generator and it runs his microwave. I know Uncle LeRoy can be a pain, but he's family. I'd go, but I don't have four wheel drive.



EXT. CABIN OF RENEE'S UNCLE - NIGHT - LATER

There is a heavy snowfall. Dense forest surrounds the small cabin. An old truck is out front. A loud generator spews out gray smoke.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Renee's Uncle, LEROY, early fifties, dressed shabbily, dozes off in his recliner. His large dog is asleep at his feet. Outside, there is a tremendous ground shaking thud, as if something massive has hit the earth and is plowing through the forest.

LeRoy bolts upright and stands, only to be knocked to the floor as his cabin shakes violently. All of the windows break. He listens for several seconds as hundreds of trees break in the distance until whatever it is comes to a stop. LeRoy's dog barks excitedly. LeRoy quickly puts on a heavy jacket and hunter's cap. The dog frantically scratches the door to be let out.

LEROY

All right, all right. We'll go see.  
Lemme open the damn door, now. Get  
back.

There is a gun cabinet near the door with several rifles inside. Two large, steel-jaw traps hang next to the guns. LeRoy opens the door and the barking dog runs outside.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT - LATER

LeRoy comes to a small clearing in a dense wooded area. Snow continues to fall. He stops a moment, looking around, and strains to hear a high pitched whirring sound far-off in the distance that abruptly stops. LeRoy's dog runs to the end of the clearing. LeRoy claps loudly.

LEROY

Get back here. Get away from those  
traps! C'mon.

The dog barks and sniffs something caught in them.

LEROY

(continuing)  
Damn dog. Come here!

LeRoy walks toward the dog and stops short, spotting something very unusual caught in the traps. He hurries over to them, noticing several oddly shaped forms, covered in fresh snow.

They are the size of a child, and are obviously not human or animal.

CLOSE ON: LeRoy brushes snow off of one of the forms and rears back. The skin is a greyish black with splotchy white pigmentation. The humanoid type body is covered with short black spikes that protrude from the leathery skin. It has a strange tail resembling a scorpions.

                  LEROY  
                  (continuing)  
                  Jesus H. Christ. Brandy, c'mon. Let's  
                  go, girl.

He steps away from the traps and there is a thunderous vibration in the distance that shakes the ground, almost causing him to lose his footing. More trees are heard breaking.

                  LEROY  
                  (continuing)  
                  Jesus...

LeRoy ventures farther into the woods.

LeRoy's dog runs back to the traps and sniffs the creatures caught in them.

CLOSE ON: The scorpion-like tail of one of the creatures raises and narrowly misses striking the dog, which jumps back and barks.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

LeRoy hurries through the woods and is almost knocked off his feet by the same thunderous rumbling. He looks down and sees the beginnings of where something has hit the ground and skidded along a great distance into the forest.

Trees are broken off on each side of the new "trail", which is over a hundred feet wide. LeRoy's dog yelps loudly.

                  LEROY  
                  Brandy, Brandy!

LeRoy hurries back and looks for his dog.

                  LEROY  
                  (continuing)  
          Bran-

The words stick in his throat. He walks over to something in the snow.

CLOSE ON: It's the hind leg of his dog.

LeRoy hears a loud retching sound from the woods, then the distinct sound of something vomiting, followed by the sound of something running off into the woods. LeRoy hurries through the woods and stops.

CLOSE ON: The rest of his dog is ripped apart in a steaming bloody heap, covered in a slimy coating as something tried to eat it, then threw it up.

The steel traps have been ripped in half and the creatures are gone. LeRoy hears something large running through the woods. Branches break behind him. He looks up and his eyes grow wide. He gasps and is snatched up by something.

EXT. INTERSTATE - NIGHT

Chad's Jeep exits the interstate and turns onto a two lane road with forest on each side. The Jeep passes a sign.

"Filmore 12 miles".

"Lake Seminole 9 miles"

INT. CHAD'S JEEP - NIGHT - LATER

Chad and Renee travel slowly along the two lane road. There is so much snow that it's almost like daylight. Renee rubs her hands in front of the Jeeps heater vent.

                  RENEE  
          I love your heater. You could roast  
          marshmallows in front of it, for real.  
                  (glances out window at  
                  heavy snowfall)  
          Want me to drive awhile?

                  CHAD  
          I'm okay. Just enjoying the scenery.

He snores and pretends to doze off.

RENEE

I know what you mean. Oh, in another couple miles you're gonna have to turn off and go down a dirt road till you get to his cave. I mean, cabin... I hate coming here.

CHAD

Think he sounds interesting.

RENEE

Well, he's not. He totally lives in the dark ages, like he's Davy Crockett or something. He got arrested for using those horrible steel claw traps and my dad bailed his countrified ass out like always.

Chad slows down seeing the tail lights of a car up ahead, stopped right in the road.

RENEE

(continuing)

What are they doing?

Chad travels slowly up the road passing a small object in the road.

RENEE

(continuing)

Think that was a shoe.

Chad stops behind the car a moment, then drives around and stops beside it. Renee softly gasps. The car, a new Cadillac, was apparently stopped in its tracks. The Cadillac's roof has been completely peeled back against the trunk.

The dash board is broken in half and the drivers side seatbelt is still fastened, although no one is in the car. The keys are in the ignition. The radio still plays and several bags of groceries are in the backseat.

RENEE

(continuing)

Oh, God. What happened?

Chad just shakes his head. Renee takes out her cell phone. Chad undoes his seat belt.

RENEE

(continuing)

Wait. What are you doing? Let's just call the police.

(Checks cell)

In town. Shit. We're outta range.

Chad walks over and feels the hood of the car.

CHAD

It's still warm.

Chad looks in the car. The person's other shoe is on the floor next to the gas pedal. Chad walks up the road a short distance and looks around. The thunderous vibration emanates from the forest, this time with a force so massive it shakes the ground and causes the Jeep and Cadillac's tires to move several inches across the road. Renee grips the seat. Chad almost loses his footing.

CHAD

(continuing)

Shit! You feel that? What the fuck was...

He hurries back to the Jeep and looks around. Renee catches her breath and pushes open the driver's door.

RENEE

Chad get in. Let's go!

Chad hops in and drives off. Renee takes a second look back at the ravaged Cadillac.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT - SHORT TIME LATER

The Jeep travels slowly up a street in Filmore. Most of the homes have lights on, but the whole street is deserted. Renee has her cell phone to her ear.

CHAD

How do you call the cops around here, yell 911 through a tin can?

Renee ends the call.

RENEE

Guess so. 9-1-1 is still busy.

EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: Several yards off the road, covered with weeds, is a sealed missile silo.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

There is heavy snowfall now. Chad turns a corner and brakes. They see a double-wide mobile home that looks as if it's been pushed off its blocks. The front door lies broken in half in the yard. Farther ahead on the small two-lane main street, empty cars sit at the one traffic signal.

Chad speeds up and swerves to avoid a mangled blood soaked car seat in the middle of the road. Chad stops near the cars at the traffic signal. All of their headlights are on.

Some of them have driven onto the sidewalk. Others cars sit at the light, some with doors torn off. There are no people anywhere. Chad drives a short distance and stops beside a cafe, where the plate glass window in the front has been broken out. Torn, bloody clothes are caught in the jagged glass.

Chad pulls out his cell phone, puts the Jeep in park and leaves it running.

RENEE

Maybe someone needs help.

Chad nods and hops out of the Jeep, followed by Renee. He films the broken cafe window.

RENEE

(continuing)

Careful.

INT. CAFE

Renee warily enters the cafe with Chad. They observe the carnage. Blood spatters the walls. Shoes, hats and purses are strewn about. A booth has been ripped away from the wall. Food burns on the grill. Chad examines something imbedded in the wall.

CHAD

Look at this...

CLOSE ON: It resembles a large stinger. Course hairs cover the black waxy-like surface.

Renee takes a photo of it. Chad picks up the cafe phone and puts it to his ear.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
It's dead.

RENEE  
(Grimly)  
Where is everyone?

They spin around hearing a popping noise in the distance as power lines are torn down. The electricity goes out in the cafe and the rest of the town. The thunderous noise is heard.

On the main street, the glass in all of the buildings burst out and a large crack breaks the sidewalk and extends across the street, dislodging a light pole, which falls to the ground several feet behind the Jeep. Chad grabs Renee's hand and they rush outside and jump into the Jeep.

INT. JEEP

Chad locks his door.

CHAD  
This is unreal. I cannot imagine what the fuck happened here. Where's the cops?

RENEE  
There is no police station here. It's over in Rexford. Nothing ever happens here. Chad, let's go back and get my uncle. Maybe his phone works... Shit, he doesn't have a phone. He drives into town to call my Dad.

CHAD  
We gotta call someone. Where the hell is Rexford?

RENEE  
Not far. Eight miles.

Chad turns around and drives up the street. He looks back and slams on the brakes.

CHAD  
I just saw someone!

RENEE  
(Looks back)  
What? Where?

Chad puts the Jeep in reverse.

CHAD  
Walking along the road.

Chad rolls down the window, seeing something through the thick snow fall. He calls out.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Hey... Hey... You okay?

They see no one.

RENEE  
Where'd they go?

Chad drives a short distance, then abruptly brakes. They stare at something unusual in the road next to a stop sign.

CLOSE ON: The oddly shaped circular object is six to seven feet in circumference. The entire surface is rutted and black, almost resembling a thick reptilian hide. The top half of the circular form is covered in hundreds of small holes. The lower half looks leathery and is covered in interlocking plates.

CHAD  
What... the fuck is that?

RENEE  
It... it looks like a mine, from,  
like, World War 2 or something. Why  
would...

Chad cracks his door and puts a foot out.

RENEE  
(continuing)  
Wait...

With lightning speed, the "ball" unravels and something now stands to its full height of over seven feet.



Thousands of long razor sharp curved spikes protrude out of its back, and it's on its feet in an instant, lunging at the Jeep. Chad rears back seeing what can only be described as a monstrous alien, coming at him. Renee screams.

The alien lunges at Chad's open window, then suddenly screeches and rears back. Chad speeds off and they stare at each other in total shock.

RENEE

(continuing)

Oh, God! What was that?

CHAD

Fuck. I don't know, I don't know!

Several human-sized aliens are in the road. Chad guns the Jeep and turns around quickly. The Jeep fishtails and spins wildly several times. The aliens lunge at it and are knocked back several feet by the spinning Jeep. Chad straightens it out and steps on the gas.

An alien runs up and rips the tail-gate off the Jeep with its clawed hand and crawls into the back.

RENEE

Chad!

It lunges at Renee and bites off the head rest on Renee's seat, barely missing her. It lunges for Chad.

CLOSE ON: Heat rushes out of the vent into the alien's face.

It emits a high pitched shriek, catapults backwards breaking a side window, then jumps out of the jeep onto the road, where it rolls into a ball a moment before standing upright.

CLOSE ON: Chad pushes the Jeeps heater up to high as he guns the Jeep and speeds off, driving up on the sidewalk a moment. The Jeeps tail lights fade into the darkness.

CLOSE ON: The Jeep's head rest lies in the middle of the road.

Through the heavy snowfall a large dark form is seen. The fallen light pole is picked up and tossed aside like a match stick.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Chad stops in front of a red brick house with shutters. The door is wide open.

CHAD

C'mon!

Chad and Renee jump out of the Jeep.

INT. RED HOUSE HOUSE - NIGHT

Chad and Renee run into the house. A small fire is in the fireplace. Chad pushes furniture against the door, then looks around and finds the home's thermostat.

CLOSE ON: He turns it up to 90, then realizes there's no power.

CHAD

Shit! It's out here, too.

Renee looks out the front window.

RENEE

Oh, God. Oh, God. Chad!

Chad looks out seeing a huge alien over seven feet in height, warily approach the house. Several large, stout, human sized aliens surround it.

RENEE

(continuing)

What are we gonna do?

CHAD

I don't know. Jesus, what the hell is going on? This can't be fucking real!

Chad and Renee move away from the window. Something crashes into the front of the house. They jump back. A moment passes and something crashes against the house again.

The wall falls inward and Chad's Jeep rolls into the house.

EXT. HOUSE

The huge alien rips away a large chunk of the wall and tosses it aside. The group of smaller aliens wait behind the large one.

INT. HOUSE

Chad and Renee rush into the adjoining kitchen and stop near the back door. They watch as the Jeep is pulled back outside, then thrown against the house again. Chad grabs a dish towel.

CHAD

Stay by the door.

Chad runs into the living room. The smaller aliens approach the opening in the house.

RENEE

Chad, Chad. Get back here. Get back here. They're coming inside!

CHAD

I know. Stay where you're at!

Chad puts the dish towel in the fire place. It ignites and he runs over to the gaping hole in the house. Two aliens enter and rear back from the flaming cloth. Chad sets the drapes on fire. He drops the towel and grabs a newspaper off the coffee table, sets it on fire and tosses it on the couch.

The floor to ceiling drapes are a small inferno now.

The aliens shriek in anger and try to get near the opening but are kept back by the flames. Chad runs into the kitchen and takes Renee's hand. Smoke fills the kitchen. They duck down.

CHAD

(continuing)

We gotta wait till the whole fucking house falls around us, then take off through the woods.

Chad opens the back door and they huddle next to it ready to flee. The front interior of the house is an inferno now. Chad and Renee gasp from the thick smoke. Flames approach the kitchen.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Fuck it, c'mon!

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Chad and Renee run out of the burning house and take off through the woods. They look back, seeing the aliens aren't after them. They continue to run as fast and far away as they can get.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - LATER

Chad and Renee continue running through the woods, both gasping for breath.

RENEE  
Wait. I have to stop.

CHAD  
All right. Get down. Stay by the bushes.

RENEE  
Chad... Chad, there's a lake near here. It's frozen over. We can run across it. I know there's big summer homes on the other side of it. We could break in, see if the phones work.

CHAD  
I doubt it, but c'mon. Let's find them. You're the boss.

They take off again through the woods. Renee abruptly stops, keeping her voice low.

RENEE  
Wait... Listen.

They hear something running very fast through the woods, then silence.

RENEE  
(continuing)  
You think it's deer?

CHAD

I don't know. Hope so.

The thunderous sound shakes the ground. They run farther into the woods. Chad stops. Renee holds her side, trying to catch her breath.

Chad picks up a stick and uses it to scoop up a fleshy, bloody object off the ground.

CHAD

(continuing)

What the hell?

(drops stick)

Jesus.

RENEE

Oh, God... Look.

Dozens of human scalps are strewn about the area. Torn clothing is on the ground and in the trees. Chad and Renee continue several yards, then stop, seeing a naked dead man lying on his stomach. His back is extremely hairy, as are his arms and legs. The hair on his head has not been torn off. Renee looks away and sees part of a body hidden by the bushes.

RENEE

(continuing)

Chad... Someone else.

They walk over and see another nude man lying on his back with his neck broke. His chest is extremely hairy and a long slightly curved spike is imbedded in his lower leg. Several feet away, dozens of nude men lie dead in the snow with their necks broken.

All of their bodies to various degrees, are excessively hairy.

Their scalps are intact. Chad sees another three-foot-long spike on the ground and carefully picks it up.

CHAD

Look at this... Feels rough. I can't bend it.

Chad lifts the fleshy, gray hued object slightly above his head and examines the end of the spike.

CLOSE ON: A translucent bulbous sac is attached to the end of the shaft, containing a yellowish liquid.

He lowers the spike and notices the razor sharp tip is hollow, with an opening. Chad turns it sideways and liquid gushes out of the tip. Immediately, Chad and Renee gasp and cough. Their eyes burn and tears roll down their faces. Chad throws down the spike. He and Renee run several feet away.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Fuck!  
(Coughs)  
Must be like venom or something.  
Shit. You okay?

RENEE  
Yeah, yeah...

Chad looks back hearing a noise. He motions for Renee to follow him. They stop near the edge of the lake behind a large cluster of bushes.

RENEE  
(continuing)  
Would they come this far?

They warily move closer to the frozen lake and stop, seeing another huge alien walking across it.

CHAD  
Wonder if that's the one who made a convertible out of that Caddy. Hate to think if we had gotten there a few minutes earlier.

Chad and Renee walk along the thick foliage and crouch down. A clear view of the lake is in front of them. Renee softly gasps at the sight before them. Dozens of naked dead bodies, their hair torn from their heads, lay strewn about the frozen surface of the lake.

Nearby, twenty or so female aliens lie on their backs on the frozen lake surface.

Their thick, black tails are wrapped around each one of their own legs, which are gaped open as they give birth. Three more large aliens, at least eight feet in height, walk amongst the pregnant aliens as if they're overseeing the event. One of the large aliens walks over to the pile of bodies and picks up the body of a smooth-skinned young man with no discernible body hair.

He brings it near the female aliens.

The alien lays the man's body on his stomach, pushes its clawed hand into the lower back of the man and pulls out his spine and rib cage, basically filleting him. The alien tosses the "refuse" aside. Renee looks away and notices Chad's cell phone. She pulls out her cell phone and turns off the volume.

RENEE

(Whispers)

Your phone. Chad, shut it off!

CHAD

Shit.

He quickly yanks out his cell and mashes down on the button to turn it off. One of the aliens lets out a guttural moan. Renee and Chad look up and watch the alien give birth.

CLOSE ON: A large, black, steaming membrane pouch quivers on the ice.

A new alien emerges from it. The "mother" punches a hole in the thick ice and dunks the large infant into the freezing water a moment. The newborn alien quickly devours the deboned human flesh, then abruptly runs off into the woods.

Renee is shaking like a leaf, tears stream down her face.

CHAD

(continuing)

Fuck. They aren't sentimental, are they?

Chad and Renee watch three aliens give birth and go through the same procedure. Their off-spring run off into the woods.

RENEE

There's too many of them. There could be hundreds of them in other....

They become aware of an odd sound above them. Looking up, they observe a Stealth bomber glide low across the night sky above them.

CHAD

Fuck. Look at that. It's one of ours.

Loud, horrible shrieks, similar to a Howler monkey's warning call, emanate from different parts of the forest. The aliens on the frozen lake shriek in turn.

RENEE

What are they doing?

CHAD

I don't know, but we're bringing out the good stuff. Stealth bombers.

RENEE

Are they gonna drop bombs?

CHAD

Oh, shit. You're right. They'll waste the town. We better follow the shoreline for the time being.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

A car exits the interstate and turns left onto the road Chad and Renee were on earlier.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

A MAN and WOMAN see two army M.P's taking caution signs with blinking lights out of an army Hummer. They place two of them across the road. One young, M.P puts up his hand to stop the car. The man rolls down his window.

MAN

Hi, there. What's going on?

M.P

Are you residents of Filmore?

WOMAN

Yes, we are.

M.P

Per orders from the United state army, access to your town has been suspended for a twenty-four hour period. A weather satellite has fallen out of orbit and crashed into the woods twelve miles from here...

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN - NIGHT

At another entrance to Filmore, a local news crew is parked on the side of the road, stopped by M.P's.



A young CREW MEMBER, sitting in the news van, hangs up his cell phone and goes over to the NEWSWOMAN.

CREW MEMBER

You're not gonna believe this. They won't let our copter take off.

NEWSWOMAN

Who won't?

The crew member glances at the M.P.

CREW MEMBER

The army. They just classified the air space over this town a no-fly zone. Restricted to armed forces personnel only. It's a weather satellite for Christ's sake. What's up with that?

NEWSWOMAN

Maybe it landed on somebody important.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - MAIN STREET - NIGHT

An army helicopter lands in front of the ravaged cafe. A rumbling sound is heard. Dozens of tanks and army jeeps enter the town. A mobile home with Government markings and a satellite dish on the roof, follows the convoy of army personnel.

EXT. RED HOUSE - NIGHT - LATER

MAJOR CASPIAN, late fifties, white hair, and two army privates stand near the charred remains of the house Chad set on fire earlier. Behind the men, an army truck is parked on the street. Hundreds of sandbags are on the back.

A young, HISPANIC PRIVATE, is in the truck speaking into a walkie-talkie. Major Caspian and one of the privates, walk to the side of the damaged home.

MAJOR CASPIAN

Whoever lived here caught on quick. Must've figured out heat drives them off. Go on in, see if there's any remains.

The Hispanic private gets out of the truck and walks up to the Major.

MAJOR CASPIAN  
(continuing)  
How are they coming along?

HISPANIC PRIVATE  
The other units are nearly finished,  
sir. Only two homes are left.

EXT. WHITE ONE-STORY HOME - NIGHT

An army Hummer is parked in front of the home. Sandbags are set up around the house.

INT. WHITE ONE-STORY HOME - NIGHT

Two army privates stand in the living room holding flame-throwers. A third, very TALL PRIVATE, walks out of the hallway holding a flame-thrower.

TALL PRIVATE  
All clear.

The tall private walks backwards toward the open doorway. He sprays the living room with flames, then hurries outside, followed by the others.

EXT. YELLOW HOME - NIGHT

Sandbags surround the home. An army Jeep is parked out front.

INT. YELLOW HOME - BEDROOM

A RED-HAIRED PRIVATE, holding a flame-thrower, stands next to the bed staring at a large, gaping hole in the wall made earlier by one of the larger aliens.

RED-HAIRED PRIVATE  
C'mere, take a look at this.

A BLACK PRIVATE, holding a flame-thrower, enters the bedroom and sees the hole.

BLACK PRIVATE  
Jesus.

RED-HAIRED PRIVATE  
Must've yanked them right out of the  
goddamn bed.

BLACK PRIVATE  
What the fuck are these things?

The red-haired private just shakes his head.

RED-HAIRED PRIVATE  
Come on.

EXT. YELLOW HOME

The two privates exit the house through the large hole and walk to the front of the house, where a new car and truck are parked in the driveway. The privates aim their flame-throwers at the house.

BLACK PRIVATE  
Hope they had AllState.

He sprays the new car and truck with flames. The other private sprays the house with flames.

EXT. FILMORE - NIGHT

AERIAL SHOT:

Dozens of strategically set house fires surround the main street of town providing a safety barrier for the command post set up there.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - LATER

Chad and Renee are stopped in a snow-covered field. Chad looks around.

CHAD  
I don't know where the hell we are.  
I'm all turned around. Shit, we could  
be walking in circles. Can you  
remember where the houses are at?

RENEE  
I... I don't know. They might be-...  
I don't know, Chad. I'm sorry.

CHAD  
It's all right. Don't worry.

Chad hugs her tightly.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
We need to keep warm. My hands are  
about frozen.

RENEE  
Mine too.

CHAD  
Look, I don't wanna put a damper on  
our fun, but we're gonna need to find  
shelter pretty quick. If we're lucky  
it won't get below zero tonight.  
(Kisses Renee)  
We're gonna be okay. Let's hit it.

Renee nods and they hurry across the field.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - LATER

Chad and Renee walk in silence. They abruptly stop hearing  
dogs bark in the distance, then silence. They wait anxiously  
for the dog to bark again.

CHAD  
Don't shut up, now. C'mon, c'mon.

The dogs bark several more times. Chad and Renee take off  
running toward the sound.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Renee and Chad come to another clearing. They stop and see a  
lone house in the distance. Smoke is coming out of the  
chimney. Interior lights are on.

CHAD  
They have power. I wonder if anyone's  
bothered to warn them. Keep your  
fingers and toes crossed they have a  
phone.

They walk a short distance, then stop, where a large, circular concrete plug is on the ground, surrounded by large weeds.

RENEE

What's that?

CHAD

A missile silo. Bet this is one of the first ones they dismantled.

They walk past the silo, then stop hearing something behind them. They walk back to the concrete plug and Chad puts his ear to it. There is a loud scraping noise. Chad jumps back.

CHAD

(continuing)

What the hell. Jesus, something's down there.

There is an even louder pounding and scraping noise under the concrete plug.

RENEE

They... they can't be down there. How could they-

The concrete cracks. Renee jumps back.

RENEE

(continuing)

Oh, shit. Chad!

CHAD

No fucking way.

A piece of concrete falls away. They hear hundreds of aliens moving in the silo. Chad grabs Renee's hand.

CHAD

(continuing)

Come on!

They run furiously across the clearing and stop in the yard of the house. Four chained up dogs are in the yard barking at them. Chad sees a pick-up truck with tools and a gas can in the bed. He grabs the half-full gas can and the front door of the house bursts open. The home owner, JACK, husky, early forties, comes out on the porch pointing a rifle at Chad and Renee.

CHAD  
 (continuing)  
 Don't shoot, don't shoot! Does your  
 phone work?

JACK  
 We'll find out, won't we!  
 (to wife)  
 Call the police. They're stealing  
 shit out of my truck. What the hell  
 are you doing on my property?

The man's nervous WIFE appears in the open doorway half-  
 heartedly holding a revolver.

HOME OWNER'S WIFE  
 It doesn't work. There's no dial tone.

JACK  
 Get back in the house.  
 (turns to Chad)  
 How'd you know my phones dead?

CHAD  
 You don't understand. You're in  
 danger. We're all in danger. Goddamn,  
 let us in your house or we're gonna  
 be killed!

Jack looks beyond Chad.

JACK  
 What are you talkin' about? Get the  
 fuck away from here.

CHAD  
 I know why your phone doesn't work.  
 Please, let us inside and I'll tell  
 you.

They hear the concrete plug fall away. Renee tries to see  
 through the trees into the clearing.

JACK  
 What was that? What's going on?

RENEE  
 We don't have time to explain. Let us  
 in. Please, they're coming!

HOME OWNER'S WIFE (O.S.)  
Let them in, Jack!

Jack backs into his house holding the gun on Chad and Renee.

JACK  
C'mon.

INT. HOME OWNER'S HOUSE

Chad and Renee enter. Jack kicks the door closed behind them. Chad sees a gun cabinet near a wood burning stove.

CHAD  
Is that your only source of heat?

JACK  
What? Yeah, why?

CHAD  
You have any space heaters?

JACK  
No. Fuck, no. You better tell me what the hell's going on.

CHAD  
Listen to me. We're not gonna hurt you.

JACK  
I know that!

CHAD  
I can't even explain what's happening. You'll think I'm crazy. But everyone in town is dead.  
(sees car keys on hook  
in kitchen)  
Look, we gotta get out of here. Load up your fireplace. Get it as hot in here as you can. You might have to burn your goddamn house down so we can make it out of here alive.

JACK  
Like hell!

CHAD  
You don't understand.

HOME OWNER'S WIFE  
Listen to them.

From outside, they hear the dogs yelp loudly in pain.

JACK  
What the...

HOME OWNER'S WIFE  
Somethings killing them!

She runs to the window to check on the dogs.

CHAD  
Get away from the window. Don't let  
them see you.

HOME OWNER'S WIFE  
What are you talking about? What is  
it?

The ceiling groans and creaks above them.

EXT. HOUSE

A writhing mass of at least fifty aliens cling to the roof of the house. Several of them curl into a ball, roll off the roof and onto the ground around the house, then stand upright.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Everyone stares transfixed at the ceiling.

CHAD  
Jesus, they're on your roof. I'm  
sorry, but you have got to set your  
house on fire. They're going to kill  
us.

JACK  
What's on the fucken roof? What is it!

HOME OWNER'S WIFE  
Do as he says. Oh, God!

The ceiling groans and creaks louder. It begins to crack. Chad moves near the kitchen and takes the keys to Jack's truck off the hook.



JACK  
Put those down, son. Put em' down.

The home owner's wife puts her gun on the couch and begins stuffing wood into the stove, which nearly snuffs out the fire. She begins to cry. She grabs a pack of matches and tries to light one, but her hands are shaking too badly. The ceiling cracks in another area. The power goes out.

Chad runs over with the gas can.

CHAD  
Move out of the way.

Chad dumps gasoline into the wood burning stove. Flames shoot out and catch the area rug on fire.

JACK  
Stop, you little prick!

He points the rifle at Chad.

RENEE  
No!

The ceiling cracks again. Jack points the rifle up and fires. His wife screams. The ceiling caves in and the aliens hit the floor and shriek loudly from the heat. Several of them literally smash through the walls to get outside.

Two determined aliens rip apart the home owners wife and run out of the house with parts of her body.

Jack fires off another shot at several more aliens. The bullet ricochets off the breast plate of one. An alien tail whips up behind Jack and punches a stinger into his skull.

He falls to the floor, convulses and bleeds out of his eyes as he screams madly. An alien grabs his body and throws it into the fire. Chad holds onto Renee, both of them trapped in a corner, flames at their feet. Aliens lunge at them and rear back. The fire spreads.

Chad grabs a burning blanket off the couch, and yanks Renee through a gaping hole in the wall. Renee's hair catches fire.

EXT. HOUSE

Chad and Renee fall to the ground. Renee screams and Chad heaps snow into her hair extinguishing the fire. A large chunk of her hair is gone.

Several aliens lunge at them. Chad stands and swings the flaming blanket. A new SUV driven by, KAREN, late thirties, red hair, roars into the yard running over an alien. The SUV skids sideways to a stop behind Chad and Renee.

Karen cocks her rifle and fires at several oncoming aliens.

KAREN

Get in. Hurry!

Chad and Renee jump into the front seat of the car.

INT. SUV - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: An alien appears at the passenger window. Renee gasps.

Karen speeds off across the clearing. Dozens more aliens stream out of the missile silo. She runs over several, who rush toward the cars headlights. Karen swerves around the silo and speeds off.

INT. SUV - NIGHT - LATER

Karen, Renee and Chad travel across a snow-covered field.

CLOSE ON: The heater knob is on high.

KAREN

My husband and two of his friends went out deer hunting. We have a C.B radio and I picked up the army's frequency. I thought what they were saying was a joke. Then I heard the ground shake. It's been doing it the past hour. Have you heard it?

CHAD

Oh, yeah. Did they say what it was?

KAREN

I don't know. Something about a ship. They were talking in code. But I understood when they said the town was wiped out. I was driving up to the Crawford's house to see if they were all right.

RENEE

What about your husband and his...

KAREN

I... I don't know. Do you live in town?

CHAD

No. Her parents lives in Langdon.

RENEE

We were running an errand. That's when we saw what was left of the town.

KAREN

Bad night for an errand.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - LATER

The SUV travels slowly up a bumpy dirt road.

INT. SUV

Karen looks around as she drives.

KAREN

I think this is the road my husband told me about. It's just supposed to be for the power company and the Rangers, but the hunters use it as a short cut. It has to lead some where. Maybe a Ranger station.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

The SUV rounds a curve in the road and abruptly stops.

INT. SUV

Karen sees something in the car's high beam.

KAREN

Look at that, in the clearing.  
(points)  
You see it?

CHAD

What?

Karen drives to the edge of the path, which is on ground higher than the clearing. Several yards away, a piece of fluorescent orange material is caught in a bush.

KAREN

Right there. I think it's a hunter's vest.  
(opens car door)  
My husband was wearing one. They all were.

CHAD

Wait. Don't go out there. There's nothing you can do if...

Karen reaches back and gets her rifle.

KAREN

I know, but I can tell if it's my husband's. He bought it at a lodge in Canada. I'll recognize the lining.

RENEE

Don't get out.

KAREN

Honey, it's all right. We haven't seen any of them for miles. Just keep your eyes peeled.

CHAD

No!

Karen gets out. Chad and Renee watch her hurry down the hill.

EXT. CLEARING

Karen rushes over to the vest. She slips on something and falls to the ground. She lifts her foot and a strange look comes across her face.

CLOSE ON: A bloody human scalp is stuck to the bottom of her boot. Karen gasps, shakes it off her boot and looks around helplessly as several human-sized aliens surround her. She tries to get up and the aliens lunge at her.

INT. SUV

Chad holds Renee as they listen to the screeching aliens devour Karen. Chad climbs over Renee and gets in the drivers seat. He presses on the brakes, puts the car in drive and looks into the rear-view mirror.

CHAD

Shit.

In the glow of the brake lights, Chad sees dozens of aliens have been following them for miles, keeping a safe distance behind the warm car, waiting for a chance. Renee looks back at the aliens, who duck into the woods out of view.

RENEE

Oh, God.

Chad looks at the gas gage.

CLOSE ON: The gage is near empty.

CHAD

We're okay. We got plenty of gas.

Chad drives on glancing into the rear-view mirror, keeping tabs on the aliens who continue to follow them several yards back. Renee looks up into the sky.

RENEE

Chad, look at that.

In the distant sky, Chad sees two additional Stealth bombers flying in the same direction they're driving.

CHAD

What the fuck are they waiting for?

The fighter planes vanish into the night sky.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT - LATER

Dozens of army men set up high-tech weapons and flame-throwers. Nearby, there are three large tents and the motor home marked with U.S Army insignia. An M.P spots a lone vehicle coming up the street. He puts his hand up to stop it.

The white Chevy Suburban from the MI-26 transport copter stops at the barrier. Nathan drives. Joshua is in the passenger seat. Nathan shows the M.P his identification.

M.P

Sorry, sir.

The M.P pulls the barrier aside. Nathan parks near a large army tent. Joshua looks around at all of the army vehicles and personnel. Nathan turns to Joshua.

NATHAN

The threat has been contained on our side, but if at any time I feel we're in danger, I'll have us flown out.

JOSHUA

Hell, I could break my neck tripping over a rock at one of my digs. I'll take my chances.

A young man, PRIVATE NEELY, walks up to the Suburban

PRIVATE NEELY

Excuse me... Mr. Wagner.

Nathan and Joshua get out of the vehicle. The private shakes Nathan's hand.

PRIVATE NEELY

(continuing)

Nice to see you again, sir. Major Caspian and Sergeant Penn are waiting for you in the mobile unit.

Private Neely, Nathan and Joshua, walk toward the mobile unit.

PRIVATE NEELY

(continuing)

As of now we have additional National Guard units coming in from Darreyville. But all of our perimeters are covered.

(more)

PRIVATE NEELY (CONT'D)

We've also dispersed a Night Hawk surveillance team over the area to determine the full nature of the threat.

NATHAN

That's something you should never underestimate. This is only a maneuver of deterrence. We can't destroy them. If it's possible, I'd like to take a fly-over myself. See if you can rustle up an extra copter.

They pass an open army tent, where Nathan sees PRIVATE FOWLER, red hair, early twenties, holding a small cross in his hand as he says a silent prayer.

SERGEANT PENN, early sixties, hard case, tall, gray hair, walks out of the mobile unit. Nathan stops and stares at several bombs that are stacked next to a jeep.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Who authorized the use of Napalm?

Sergeant Penn stops in front of Nathan. The two men are not fond of one another.

SERGEANT PENN

I did. On the president's say-so, we plan to pull out and bomb the entire town, including a five hundred square mile area of forest.

NATHAN

You cannot destroy an entire town. They aren't easily swept under the rug. I'd like to know what you plan on telling the public. We already have a damn news crew parked on the side of the road wondering what all the fuss is about.

SERGEANT PENN

It doesn't matter. They won't get anywhere near this place.

(looks at Joshua)

Who is this?

NATHAN

Joshua Seeward.

SERGEANT PENN

Oh, the digger. I've heard about you. We found three that died before they could feed. How'd you like to see one up-close?

INT. ARMY TENT - NIGHT - LATER

An amazed Joshua observes two stout, six foot tall muscular creatures, and a smaller one, lying on metal tables before him. Nathan, Sergeant Penn and three additional army personnel, including MAJOR CASPIAN, early forties, surround the tables.

Several various sized spikes lie at the side of a larger alien, which Sergeant Penn examine.

SERGEANT PENN

If you're a sharp-shooter and they stand still for you, that's fine. Otherwise...

(points at alien's chest)

This one small area is the only spot a bullet can be effective. We've done autopsies on them. Their skull caps and breast plates are impenetrable, and never decompose.

Nathan turns to Joshua.

NATHAN

We've carbon-dated breast plates that pre-date Hominid remains by a hundred thousand years. These life forms possessed similar human traits, including walking upright before we did.

Sergeant Penn gives Nathan an agitated look. Nathan gingerly picks up a two-foot-long spike. Joshua leans in for a better look.

SERGEANT PENN

It's all right. The poisons been removed.



JOSHUA

What it is?

NATHAN

A very effective part of their arsenal... It's a hair. Identical in molecular structure to ours. They've just brought it to a whole new level.

(Points at sac)

Equipped the follicle here with a slow acting poison. The scorpion-like stinger at the end of the tail is only found in the young. It's shed when they reach maturity and contains an entirely different neurotoxin causing immediate death.

SERGEANT PENN

Both of which, will kill them, too... Despite their genetic tinkering, they haven't built up an immunity to it. If they ingest poisoned human flesh, they die just like us. These are only used for self-defense.

NATHAN

Yes, and these beings are continuously evolving. This body is drastically different from the first one I observed in the eighties.

(Examines alien)

They're especially interested in scorpions, which can survive extreme heat and have the slowest metabolism of any invertebrate on earth.

JOSHUA

The Savanna alone has roughly ten different species.

NATHAN

And each scorpion species has a metabolism allowing them to go a year without eating. Whereas, these creatures starve to death in seventy-two hours. But look what they've accomplished under duress. The constant, fanatical search for food hasn't hindered them.

(more)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Now imagine what they'd be capable of  
if their imminent survival was the  
last thing on their minds.

Private Fowler enters the tent. He salutes Major Caspian.

PRIVATE FOWLER

Sir, you're wanted in the mobile  
unit. We have the thermal imaging  
from the Night Hawk surveillance.

INT. MOBILE UNIT - NIGHT

Major Caspian examines the surveillance photographs. Sergeant Penn, Joshua, and Nathan stand nearby. Private Fowler is seated in front of a control panel with a built-in radar screen. A female private and two additional army personnel make calls and help monitor the radar.

MAJOR CASPIAN

The ship has suffered extensive  
damage. At first we thought they were  
attempting to set up a colony. But  
they wouldn't land here on their own.  
It doesn't stay cold long enough.  
Somethings wrong.

Nathan carefully examines the photograph.

NATHAN

They can't bury this particular ship.  
It's incorrectly positioned.

SERGEANT PENN

This ship?

NATHAN

Yes, they have more. And you can be  
sure under these circumstances more  
will arrive.

SERGEANT PENN

What are you talking about? There's  
only one.

(to Major Caspian)

I am right, aren't I?

MAJOR CASPIAN

I'm afraid not.

SERGEANT PENN

(to Nathan)

Why wasn't I informed? I out-rank you.

NATHAN

It's something you brought entirely upon yourself.

SERGEANT PENN

What the hell does that mean?

NATHAN

You called your wife from the base and told her about the first alien landing. Even swore her to secrecy. That's what we demanded from you. Not a breach of security.

SERGEANT PENN

How many times have you communicated with them?

NATHAN

In addition to the first contact you were privy to- Hundreds.

JOSHUA

How? Can they actually speak?

NATHAN

We translate their language through computers using the base two number system.

SERGEANT PENN

Well, I'd say it back-fired.

NATHAN

They never intended to cooperate. They're only biding their time. They've already poisoning the air to create a new generation of weak humans, who can't fight back... For now, this town is the proverbial sacrificial lamb. We have to let them have their way and be gone. If everyone knew the complete truth, they...

Nathan looks back at Private Fowler, who was praying earlier and hesitates. Joshua looks intently at Nathan, imploring him to continue.

JOSHUA

Nate...

An OVER-EAGER PRIVATE stands.

OVER-EAGER PRIVATE

I say bomb the whole area. Just blow them to Kingdom Come. Let them meet their maker.

NATHAN

That's a rather ironic choice of words.

OVER-EAGER PRIVATE

What?

NATHAN

You don't know the half of it.

Sergeant Penn looks uneasily at Nathan, who decides to say his peace.

NATHAN

(continuing)

You're having the dubious privilege of meeting your maker. It's all around you. It's your enemy.

SERGEANT PENN

Nathan... Nathan. You've said to much already.

NATHAN

No, everyone should be told. It will be a shock, but it will also bring down dangerous pre-conceived notions about religion, racism... Finally prove we are all completely equal, whether we like it or not.

Joshua looks at Nathan quizzically. Sergeant Penn pulls out his revolver and points it at Nathan.

MAJOR CASPIAN

Sergeant, what the hell are you doing? Put that away...

SERGEANT PENN

Private Fowler, get the Provost Marshal. I want this man placed under arrest for treason. He is attempting to divulge -

NATHAN

I am going to divulge this information.

SERGEANT PENN

Shut up.

MAJOR CASPIAN

What are you talking about, Nathan?

NATHAN

You were never told because you came on the project just recently. And it has nothing to do with national security or our weaponry.

(glances at Private  
Fowler)

But it will force us to re-think everything we've been taught.

Sergeant Penn cocks the gun.

SERGEANT PENN

Shut your mouth.

JOSHUA

You gonna shoot all of us, asshole? Let him speak. He told me everything.

NATHAN

Not quite.

Nathan calmly reaches up and takes the gun from Sergeant Penn, who is visibly shaken. Sergeant Penn lowers himself into a chair.

NATHAN

(continuing)

You couldn't accept the truth when you learned it. But that shouldn't stop others from hearing it.

PRIVATE FOWLER

What do you mean, sir?

Nathan looks away from the religious private. Deep regret is in his voice.

NATHAN

They...

(Beat)

Those things... Created us. There... There is no God. "Ours" or anyone else's for that matter. Those things are our God. But Creationism is almost true. Adam and Eve were literally created and placed here.

JOSHUA

Jesus, Nathan.

Private Fowler speaks softly.

PRIVATE FOWLER

Sir, where do they come from?

NATHAN

A planet in the Nebula star system... That's kept over-populated for a reason...

FLASH BACK: INT. ALIEN PLANET - NIGHT

NATHAN (V.O.)

... Millions of aliens regarded as a subspecies, were kept for slave labor and food. And while we were still crawling out of the primordial sludge, they had already traveled light years through the solar system looking for a new food source. Three million years ago they came across earth. Expeditions from their ships explored the prehistoric land and found a rich food source, apes. But the wild, prehistoric apes, like modern ones, could be vicious and difficult to catch. They brought several on board and through a series of genetic experiments, the aliens bred a smaller and considerably slower, docile creature... that walked upright and was relatively hairless. A Hominid. An entirely new species of bipedal ape.

(more)

NATHAN (CONT'D; V.O.)

The first ones were kept on board and artificially inseminated until their numbers grew into the hundreds. After this, the aliens tagged them by implanting tracking devices into their thigh bones. The alien ships landed on the African Savanna and the Hominids were released...

INT. MOBILE UNIT - NIGHT

Everyone listens intently as Nathan speaks.

NATHAN

... They reproduced quickly on their own. Several thousand of the Hominids were kept on board, and various ships, with their new food source, would make the eight month trek back to the Nebula...

FLASHBACK: INT: ALIEN PLANET - UNDERGROUND CAVERN - NIGHT

Thousands of terrified Hominids, some carrying babies, are huddled in huge freezing cages. Several large aliens with weapons similar to cattle prods, drive hundreds of the Hominids out of the cages so the aliens can feed on them.

NATHAN (V.O.)

... Their planet is a hundred degrees below zero, and within days the Hominids who hadn't been killed for food died in their cages. The aliens took the corpses to the frozen surface. But not without the Hominids first getting their revenge. They infected the aliens with an earth-born virus. Additional ships left the Nebula and returned to earth infecting the others. The aliens began to die quickly, from what we believe now, was Ebola... And the Hominids left behind on earth evolved into who we are now. While in space entire crews died en route leaving several of these monolithic ships floating in the solar system.

(more)

NATHAN (CONT'D; V.O.)

The aliens who made it back found their so-called society virtually wiped out from the plague. And like earth at the time, were thrust back into the dark ages. The survivors migrated to another land mass and for the next three million years their past was forgotten, until an alien expedition team rediscovered the ice cavern.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERN - NIGHT

Thousands of aliens have set up a new society. Six of the huge ships are being examined and worked on.

NATHAN (V.O.)

It took another hundred years to learn the workings of these ancient ships. And in the early eighties they revisited earth. You can imagine their surprise when they saw our physical changes and progress.

INT. MOBILE UNIT - NIGHT

Sergeant Penn has his head down. Recalling the past is weighing heavily on him. He looks up.

SERGEANT PENN

They landed in the Antarctic and made contact with our government. I was there the first time we made contact.

NATHAN

The aliens wanted back what they created. And for years now, we've accommodated them. Allowing them to abduct people, because we're too afraid to find out what will happen if we don't. In the late eighties, I saw first hand what they were capable of... What we were capable of.

FLASHBACK - EXT. SKY OVER ALASKA - DAY

A 707 jet with no markings flies above the clouds.



INT. 707 JET - DAY

Nearly every seat is filled. Most of the male passengers are convicts being transported to prison. Several guards are seated, or walk the aisles. The seatbelt sign comes on and the plane goes into a noticeable turn. The guards look curiously at one another. One guard sits in his seat and fastens his belt.

He turns to the convict next to him and glances out the window.

GUARD

I know we can't be landing in Anchorage this soon.

EXT. MILITARY BASE - ALASKA - DAY

Several men wearing parkas stand outside a building near the runway. A military bus with blacked-out windows is parked nearby. One of the men points at the sky.

The 707 comes into view.

Nathan walks out of the building. He sees the 707 and looks gravely at the bus.

EXT. MILITARY BASE - DAY

The 707 lands. It taxis a short distance, then stops. Nearby, Nathan and Sergeant Penn argue. Sergeant Penn shakes his head, "no". He pulls away from Nathan and walks toward the bus. Nathan looks over at the jet, where the guards and pilots are quickly exiting.

INT. 707 - DAY

The thirty or so seated convicts remaining on board look out the jets windows and strain to see what's going on through the falling snow outside.

A young SKINNY CONVICT sees two of the army men helping "something" walk toward the jet. He glances at his seat mate.

SKINNY CONVICT

Look at that. What the hell's going on?

Through the thick snowfall, the skinny convict sees additional men helping other "forms" off the bus.

NATHAN (V.O.)

I couldn't believe what was going to happen. Nor could I stop it. The aliens had been in space eight months, and like protocol on all of their ships, food is rationed. Only high-ranking crew members are allowed to feed regularly. The rest are given only enough nourishment to keep them alive until they arrive on earth. By now the lower aliens were near death. So weak, most of them had to be helped onto the jet.

INT. 707 - DAY

The convicts sit in silence as they listen to the door of the jet, nearest the cockpit, open. The convicts hear footsteps. Several of them gasp. The others look up. Sheer terror and bewilderment are on their faces.

The aliens get their second wind and lunge at the defenseless convicts, who scream in agony as the aliens rip them apart and devour them. Blood sprays the windows and overhead compartments.

INT. MOBILE UNIT - NIGHT

Nathan has tears in his eyes. He glances at Sergeant Penn.

NATHAN

We stood by and did nothing. Even continued to cooperate. In the process, I realized just how vulnerable our species is. We aren't meant to be on earth. Humans are basically, fragile, hairless creatures, who can easily freeze to death or die from the heat. Our intelligence has gotten us this far, but we are not indigenous to this planet. We were meant to stay apes.

A YOUNG PRIVATE enters the command station.

YOUNG PRIVATE  
Excuse me... Mr. Wagner.

NATHAN  
Yes?

YOUNG PRIVATE  
The helicopter you requested is ready  
to board.

INT. SUV - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: The red "Low Gas" light blinks on the dashboard. The SUV is out of gas and Chad tries to start it. Renee looks behind them.

CHAD  
This is fucked up.  
(checks watch)  
Great. We only have six hours until  
the goddamn sun comes up.

Chad tries to start the car again. Renee sees sweat on Chad's brow. She realizes she is warm too, and touches the window with the palm of her hand. She rolls it down a few inches and sticks out her fingers.

RENEE  
Chad... Chad. The air... It's almost  
warm. How can that be?  
(looks back)  
I haven't seen them for the last  
couple miles, either. Roll down your  
window. Roll it down.

Chad rolls down the window.

RENEE  
(continuing)  
See.

CHAD  
Fuck. You're right. Look at the  
ground and the trees. The snows  
melting.  
(opens SUV door)  
Hold on. Stay in the car.

Chad warily gets out and walks several feet from the SUV, keeping his eye on the open door, just in case. He looks around.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Where are you muthers?

The thunderous sound is heard. This time, so loud and powerful, Chad falls to the ground.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Shit!

He scrambles up and gets back in the SUV.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
You feel that? Think we're getting closer to whatever it is. Look, I would've already been killed out there. For some reason they got the hell out of Dodge. We can't just sit here till the morning. By now, whatever's making that sound is probably surrounded by the army. Let's find it.

EXT. DIRT PATH - NIGHT - LATER

There isn't a trace of snow. Chad and Renee stop for a rest. Both of them are sweating.

CHAD  
It's actually hot. Are you as thirsty as I am? I'm ready to suck moisture out of a leaf.

Renee smiles and sits on a rock, exhausted. They take off their coats and unbutton their shirts. Renee rolls up her sleeves. They are almost knocked off their feet by another thunderous vibration.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Whoa. You okay?

RENEE  
I'm fine.

Chad walks a short distance to a section of higher ground.

CHAD

Shit. C'mere, take a look at this.

Renee stops beside him. They see something huge, looming at an angle over the tall tree tops, a mile in the distance.

CHAD

(continuing)

Might as well leave our jackets here.

Renee nods and they continue on a short distance and stop, seeing hundreds of broken trees in front of them. They hurry through the area and come upon the new, hundred-foot wide path in front of them. Trees are broken in one direction on each side of it as far as the eye can see.

CHAD

(continuing)

Unbelievable.

(wipes sweat from brow)

Whatever it is made a runway a DC-10 could land on.

EXT. NEW TRAIL - NIGHT - SHORT TIME LATER

Chad and Renee are stopped in the middle of the path looking at something in front of them.

Before them lies what's left of a Ranger station that has been flattened by what ever was in its path. Two mangled Ranger trucks lay upside down on the ground. Chad and Renee continue on.

EXT. NEW TRAIL - NIGHT

Chad and Renee abruptly stop walking. Both of them stare in awe at something before them. They put their hands up, as intense heat emanates toward them.

RENEE

Chad...

CHAD

My God. Would you fucking look at that.

Several hundred feet in front of them is an enormous alien ship, four stories high and the length of a football field. The ship is half-buried in the earth at a sharp angle.

Three massive objects under the hull, resembling huge drill bits, spin in the air. The ship has crash landed and is incorrectly positioned for all of the drills to make contact with the ground, which would have allowed it to quickly bury itself under the earth.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
I don't understand. There's no one here. I expected the Army, Marines and the Air Force. C'mon.

They run several yards toward the ship, then stop, spotting several aliens lying on the ground.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Hold up.

RENEE  
You think they're dead?

The thunderous sound emanates from the alien ship as it burrows a few feet deeper into the ground. Chad and Renee steady themselves.

CHAD  
They didn't move. The heat fried 'em.  
(Kicks one)  
Fuckers.

They walk toward the alien ship.

EXT. ALIEN SHIP - NIGHT - LATER

Chad and Renee are near the ship examining what's left of the the dead aliens.

CHAD  
God, they actually fed on each other.  
(looks up at ship)  
Bet they never thought their mode of transportation would fuck them over. Must've gradually gotten hotter and drove them off.

They walk around looking at the alien ship from different angles.

RENEE

There's no lights... anywhere. It's completely black. You could never see it at night in the sky.

CHAD

I know, I know. If you think about it, a UFO wouldn't want to announce itself, or have something as trivial as porch lights all over it.

Chad walks several feet toward the center of the huge ship.

RENEE

Chad...

Chad looks back and winks at Renee. He steps closer, then rears back as an eighty-foot metallic door opens from the middle and the very top of the ship. Chad walks a few feet closer, then hurries over to the entrance and looks back at Renee.

CHAD

Don't tell me you're not just a little curious. Don't get wimpy on me now.

Renee walks over with trepidation.

INT. ALIEN SHIP

Chad and Renee enter the hot, cavernous interior of the alien ship. It is difficult to stand because the ship is at a severe angle. The metallic floor is littered with dead aliens.

Ten levels of floors surround the entire interior.

Adjacent to the levels, six shafts of light, ten feet in circumference, extend from the floor and continue four hundred feet to the dark, metallic ceiling, where clusters of jagged, ice stalactites, some fifty-feet in length, jut eerily into the air.

On the extreme left side of the ship, the part that is not burrowing underground, the stalactites on the ceiling are melting, and water streams out of each level of the floors.

CHAD  
My, God. Look at this. Think about  
it. Can you believe where we are? Now  
that we're not gonna die, this is  
kick-ass.

Renee gives him a look. They walk over and examine a shaft of  
light on the right side of the ship. Chad puts his hand  
inside and is suddenly pulled into the shaft.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Whoa, what the fuck...

RENEE  
Chad.

He slowly levitates upward a hundred feet and stops at the  
first level.

RENEE  
(continuing)  
You all right?

CHAD  
Yeah, yeah. This is amazing.

RENEE  
(Calls out)  
How you gonna get down?

Chad just shakes his head. He puts his foot out of the light  
and steps onto the first level, then steps completely out of  
the light shaft and holds onto the wall to prevent a fall  
backwards.

CHAD  
The A/C's working up here. It's  
freezing up on these levels. I can  
see my breath. Come on, it's all  
right. Come up.

Renee hesitates, then steps into the light and levitates up  
to Chad. He reaches for her hand.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Careful. It's real slippery.

She steps onto the first level and grabs onto Chad.



RENEE

Oh, God.

Chad looks at the floor, seeing it extends eighty feet down from the sharp angle of the ship. The ship rumbles thunderously and burrows farther into the earth.

CHAD

Hold on!

(rumbling subsides)

Think we should check out the other side. If we fall on our asses and slide down there, we'll never make it back up.

EXT. ALIEN SHIP

The eighty foot door is closing. The ship has burrowed too far down, and the massive door gets wedged against the ground, unable to close.

INT. ALIEN SHIP - FIRST LEVEL

Chad holds onto Renee and grips a section of thick pipes running along the wall. The shaft of light is inches from them.

CHAD

Here, you go first.

Renee looks over the edge at the hundred-foot drop.

RENEE

What if, whatever keeps you up, stops working?

Chad takes out a penny and flicks into the light shaft, where it levitates.

CHAD

There 'ya go. Hold onto my hand, tight. Put your leg inside.

Renee puts her leg into the light and is pulled inside. Chad lets go of her hand and she levitates upward an additional three hundred feet into darkness.

INT. LIGHT SHAFT

RENEE  
Shit... Chad, Chad!

CHAD (O.S.)  
Renee, you okay? Renee!

RENEE  
Yes, yes. I stopped.

Renee looks around and turns to the right. A huge stalactite is in front of her. Renee turns to her left and immediately levitates back down to the first level. Chad looks wide-eyed as she stops in front of him.

RENEE  
(continuing)  
Think I just figured out how to steer the thing.

INT. ALIEN SHIP - SHORT TIME LATER

Chad and Renee are at the opposite left side of the ship walking upwards, at a sharp angle. They reach a light shaft, step inside and levitate upwards.

INT. ALIEN SHIP - SHORT TIME LATER

Chad and Renee walk with difficulty up a wide, long, ramp with black metallic walls, covered with intricate piping and melting ice. Massive clusters of melting stalactites grow from the ceiling as far as the eye can see.

A steady stream of murky water runs down the floor from an area farther up. They become aware of a horrible odor, cover their noses and continue up the ramp at a sharp angle. They stop in front of a huge diagram with life-sized drawings of a human male and female, at various angles.

CLOSE ON: Hieroglyphic-type writing is above the human drawings.

Enlarged pictures of human DNA, and male and female reproductive systems, are on another diagram.

They continue on and come across three massive tanks full of murky liquid. The first tank contains hundreds of fully preserved Hominids from millions of years ago.

Algae-like formations are growing inside each of the glass tanks.

In the second tank, dozens of severely deformed Hominids are on display. Next to this, another tank contains fifty human beings in various forms of dissection.

The thick glass is cracked and liquid gushes out onto the floor mixing with the water from the melting stalactites. Chad looks sick from the smell. He gasps for breath.

CHAD

Let's go back.

They hurry down to where the shafts of light are, step inside and levitate to the second level. They step onto the ramp and see several dead aliens lying farther up this ramp.

A large stalactite falls from the high ceiling, crashing near them.

CHAD

(continuing)

Watch it!

They nearly slip on the watery floor.

CHAD

(continuing)

Shit. You okay?

Renee's nerves are frayed. She's had enough.

RENEE

Oh, yeah. Look, maybe we should get out of here, Go outside and wave down a Stealth bomber.

They hear a low, muffled, gasping moan farther up the ramp.

CHAD

How can any of them possibly be alive? It's hotter than hell up here.

RENEE

Yeah, but how many are alive?

CHAD

Listen, I just wanna go up a little ways more.

(more)

CHAD (CONT'D)

There's dead ones all up the ramp.  
Sounds like the one we heard just  
took it's last breath. You can wait  
in the reception area if you like.

RENEE

Chad, I mean it. Let's get out of  
here.

CHAD

No.

RENEE

You know, this would be a really  
awkward moment to break up.

CHAD

C'mon, I wanna explore every inch of  
this thing. It's not like they're  
gonna give guided tours later.  
They're all dead.

Renee shoots him a look. He takes her hand and looks up the  
ramp.

INT. ALIEN SHIP

Chad and Renee continue up the ramp and stop at the entrance  
of an enormous, semi-dark room.

INT. SEMI-DARK ROOM

Chad and Renee step inside the below freezing room, which is  
filled with mist. They walk toward the back and stop. Renee  
holds herself from the cold.

Two massive glass enclosures are before them. There are four  
levels in each enclosure containing hundreds of various sized  
compartments for adult humans, children and even infants.  
Each compartment has restraints and two metallic cylinders  
with a long curved dual tube that juts downward and stops  
right above the area where a human head would rest.

Chad and Renee walk up to the glass and peer in at the curved  
tube.

CHAD

Fuck... Looks like a feeding tube or something. Bet it goes down the throat and keeps 'em alive till they get to where ever they're going.

(Looks up)

This fucker must hold a thousand people. I just can't understand why army personnel aren't crawling all over this thing.

RENEE

Maybe they're not going anywhere near it for a reason. Ever think of that? And we just wander in like it's a model home.

A loud shriek and moan is heard. Renee flinches. Chad looks through the freezing mist, making out a dozen or so various sized aliens lying on metal tables on the other side of the huge room. Chad and Renee hurry over. Thirty or so dead aliens lie on the floor. The aliens on the tables moan in pain.

RENEE

(continuing)

What's wrong with them?

Chad just shakes his head. A dying smaller alien is on the floor near them.

CLOSE ON: It's heavy body armor and skull plate are intact, but its body is withered and covered with sores.

Chad kneels down next to it. Renee holds herself from the cold.

RENEE

(continuing)

Careful.

CHAD

Look at it... I'm taking it out.

Chad removes his flannel shirt and wraps the alien inside. Despite being sick, the alien still tries to bite him. Chad grabs a section of his shirt and pulls the alien across the floor.

INT. RAMP OUTSIDE SEMI-DARK ROOM

Chad drags the alien out of the freezing room into the warmth, where it convulses and dies. Renee hurries out behind Chad.

INT. ALIEN SHIP - SHORT TIME LATER

Renee follows Chad toward the entrance of the craft. He holds the alien away from his body. The ship vibrates thunderously again, burrowing farther into the earth. Chad and Renee fall to the floor.

They get up and see the eighty-foot door can't close as it remains forced open by the ground. Dirt is piling up around the opening and has fallen into the ship. The opening to get back outside is very small.

Chad ducks under the door and pushes the alien out of the ship, then he and Renee squeeze through the small opening and make it back outside.

EXT. ALIEN SHIP

Chad and Renee take a few steps and see a spotlight shining down from the sky. It sweeps through several areas of forest. The light gets closer and an army helicopter flies over the alien ship. The spotlight flashes down on Renee and Chad.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

Nathan, Joshua and the COPTER PILOT see Chad and Renee waving frantically.

NATHAN

If I weren't seeing this with my own eyes, I wouldn't believe it.

The helicopter lands near Chad and Renee.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT - LATER

The dead alien lies on a cot behind the cockpit partition. Joshua adjusts a strong probe light and places it over the alien's body. Chad and Renee watch nearby. Nathan comes out of the cockpit.

NATHAN

The pilot's notifying the base camp.  
A unit should be on it's way any  
minute to board the ship.

Nathan examines the alien. He turns to Chad.

NATHAN

(continuing)

How many of the sick aliens do you  
recall seeing?

CHAD

Least fifty. Maybe more. The ones  
that died from the heat didn't look  
like this one. Only the ones in that  
room.

NATHAN

Well, this one didn't starve to  
death. I've seen them die at my feet  
from it. This one had something.  
It... literally wasted away. After  
death, it takes an extraordinary  
amount of time for these life forms  
to decompose.

JOSHUA

Wait... I just had a bizarre thought.  
Seven years ago I was with a research  
team surveying land in New Guinea for  
a dig. There were Indians living in  
the rain forests there, that had a  
virus... Where they slowly wasted  
away to nothing. That was the exact  
terminology they used.

NATHAN

You think that-

JOSHUA

I don't know. But this thing... It's  
got a strange name. "Kuru". It  
destroys the brain and devours muscle  
tissue, like Mad Cow disease. A  
scientist eventually pinpointed the  
gene that was responsible and only a  
certain tribe had this virus... And  
they practiced ritualistic  
cannibalism.

(more)

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

In humans it takes years for the virus to manifest. It might be accelerated in the aliens bodies.

NATHAN

That may be why the ship went down.

JOSHUA

Yeah, evolution was smart enough to install this latent gene in all of us, so we couldn't have one another for lunch. Hominids are our ancestors, so it makes sense they could've passed the gene on. Maybe it wasn't Ebola that killed the aliens.

(sits back)

We humans may have our own nasty little defense mechanism after all.

RENEE

Why don't they use animals for food?

NATHAN

Can't. They're only able to digest small amounts of hair and bone. We're ideally suited for them.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Several dozen soldiers holding flame-throwers and wearing combat gear and helmets, walk through a snow-covered area of dense forest.

The UNIT COMMANDER, tall, husky, speaks into a walkie-talkie.

UNIT COMMANDER

Negative. They aren't anywhere in sight. We haven't seen a single one.

A young, BLONDE PRIVATE, breaks away from the unit and hurries away several yards in the other direction. He relieves himself behind a tree, retrieves his weapon and hurries back to catch up with the rest of his men. He stops short and looks around, very puzzled.

The ground is littered with flame-throwers and army clothing, but his entire unit is nowhere in sight. It is deathly silent. He walks around and calls out:



BLONDE PRIVATE

Hey... Hey... What's going on? Where  
is everyone?

Several yards away a combat helmet falls out of a tree. A moment later, six more helmets fall from different trees.

He walks toward the helmets, then abruptly stops as another combat helmet falls out of a tree directly behind him.

Blood stains the snow.

He looks down and gasps. The helmet contains the decapitated head of one of the men in his unit.

BLONDE PRIVATE

(continuing)

Oh, God... Oh, fuck...

He runs toward the other helmets and stops short, seeing decapitated heads under each one. The private hears a rumbling sound. A horde of aliens stream out of the forest toward him.

A branch breaks above him. He looks up into the surrounding trees, where dozens of aliens are feeding on the bodies of the other soldiers. An alien swoops down, snatches up the blonde private and holds him in a vise-like grip.

His arms and rib cage break. The alien opens his mouth revealing hundreds of razor sharp teeth. The private screams and the alien bites off his face, then decapitates the rest of his head with it's clawed hand.

EXT. BASE CAMP - NIGHT

The helicopter with Nathan and the others, lands. Nathan gets out of the helicopter. The soldiers are setting up weapons and flame-throwers. Major Caspian runs up to Nathan.

NATHAN

Get a team assembled. We need an  
autopsy performed. We found out they  
may have a sickness.

MAJOR CASPIAN

It'll have to wait. We are going to  
be under attack.

(more)

MAJOR CASPIAN (CONT'D)

The exact numbers aren't positive,  
but over a hundred of them are  
heading this way. I don't know if we  
have enough fire power to stop them.

INT. HELICOPTER

Chad takes Renee's hand.

RENEE

Maybe we were safer in the ship.

The copter pilot has his hand over his earphone as he listens to a message. Nathan leans in the copter and yells to him over the din of the blades.

NATHAN

Get them out of here, now. Take them  
to the nearest base.

PILOT

(Shakes head)

No one goes in or out of here.  
They've shut down all air travel  
within the United States. I'm  
grounded until further notice.

The thunderous vibration from the burrowing alien ship vibrates the ground. The pilot shuts off the copter. Nathan helps Renee out of the copter.

NATHAN

We'll be okay.

She nods and Chad gets out followed by Joshua.

INT. STEALTH BOMBER - NIGHT

The Stealth bomber pilot sees a large mass of aliens below them running across a field into the woods. The pilot pulls back a lever in the cockpit.

EXT. STEALTH BOMBER

Beneath the jets wings, two bombs are released. They drop to the ground and explode over the aliens.

INT. ARMY HELICOPTER - NIGHT

The HELICOPTER PILOT and HELICOPTER CO-PILOT see the blast from the bombs, which are five miles away. The pilot is on the radio.

HELICOPTER PILOT

That's affirmative. We have at least a hundred more below us.

The co-pilot looks out the cockpit window seeing another swarm of aliens running across a large clearing.

HELICOPTER CO-PILOT

How many of these fuckers are there?

EXT. ARMY HELICOPTER

The helicopter flies low over the aliens and sprays them with machine gun fire. This doesn't deter them. The helicopter rises high into the air, flies over a section of forest, does a wide turn in the sky, then flies back to the previous area.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

The pilot and co-pilot scan the ground. There are no aliens in sight, only several that appear to lay dead on the ground.

HELICOPTER CO-PILOT

What the hell. Only they were hit?  
How the hell can that be? You're sure  
this is where we were just at?

HELICOPTER PILOT

Yes, yes. I know it is.

The pilot flies low over the dead aliens. The co-pilot sees something ahead of them on the ground.

HELICOPTER CO-PILOT

What are those?

The pilot flies several hundred feet ahead and hovers over an area of the ground where there are now a hundred or so fresh mounds of dirt.

EXT. CLEARING

The "dead" aliens get up from the ground and charge toward the helicopter.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

The pilot sees holes are burrowed into the ground next to each mound of dirt.

HELICOPTER PILOT

Christ, we have to notify the base.  
I think they-

The helicopter lurches as the aliens jump onto it.

EXT. HELICOPTER

Two aliens hold onto the side of the helicopter, their claws dug into the metal fuselage. Three more aliens jump onto the helicopter. The whirling blades hit them and knock them to the ground, unhurt.

The helicopter blades are bent.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

The helicopter vibrates and tilts wildly.

HELICOPTER CO-PILOT

Lift up, lift up!

Two aliens burst through the windshield into the cockpit.

EXT. HELICOPTER

The helicopter rises into the air, then tips sideways, falls to the ground and explodes.

EXT. ARMY BASE CAMP - MAIN STREET OF FILMORE - NIGHT

Soldiers set up weapons. Another helicopter lands. Nathan and Joshua are near the mobile unit talking with Major Caspian. Chad and Renee sit in the front seat of Nathan's Suburban. The low rumble of three large trucks is heard.

INT. SUBURBAN - NIGHT

Chad and Renee look up the street and watch as three National Guard convoy trucks, each filled with thirty or so young men, stop nearby. All of the men pile out, armed to the teeth with various weapons.

Chad looks at all of the soldiers, who are his age and even younger.

RENEE

Chad, they're gonna die if-

CHAD

I know, I know. Fuck. They have no idea what they're dealing with.

The young men begin forming lines and checking their various weapons.

CHAD

(continuing)

Oh, man. They may as well have B.B guns. Go back. Go the hell back. Disobey orders.

Chad leans over, starts the vehicle and puts the heater on high.

CHAD

(continuing)

We need to get outta here.

(looks around)

Why don't they just fucken ring the dinner bell? I'm sorry, I should've told 'em to drop us off as far away from here as possible. Fuck!

Renee and Chad see Private Fowler run out of the mobile unit. He yells something to Nathan and Major Caspian. Renee rolls down the window a few inches.

RENEE

What did he say?

EXT. BASE CAMP - NIGHT

Private Fowler stops next to Major Caspian, Nathan and Joshua.

PRIVATE FOWLER

Sir, they've spotted a third ship.

MAJOR CASPIAN

Where?

PRIVATE FOWLER

They estimate ten to fifteen miles from here. Over the interstate.

Major Caspian nods and looks beyond the soldier up the main street of Filmore. Nathan watches a civilian-dressed man walk out of an army tent with a small crate and place it in a Jeep. He goes back into the tent and Sergeant Penn walks out.

Major Caspian calls out to Sergeant Penn.

MAJOR CASPIAN

Where are the other convoys?

SERGEANT PENN

Broken down.

Major Caspian and Nathan walk over to Sergeant Penn, who appears distracted.

MAJOR CASPIAN

Both of them? Well, use this convoy to go back and get the others.

SERGEANT PENN

We don't have time. They're twenty miles back.

Joshua walks over to Nathan. A young GUARDSMAN turns to Major Caspian.

GUARDSMAN

Sir, no. They're only five miles away, at the turn off. My buddy's on one of 'em. He sent me a text. They're not broke down. They were ordered to pull over and wait.

The civilian-dressed man walks out of the tent with another small crate and places it in the back of the Jeep. He gets in and puts it in gear.

NATHAN

Stop the Jeep... Stop!

An exhausted, Nathan walks as quickly as he can up to the Jeep. Major Caspian hurries over followed by Sergeant Penn, who shoots the civilian-dressed man a look. Nathan pulls the top off one of the crates.

NATHAN  
(continuing)  
Jesus.

CLOSE ON: The crate is packed with over fifty hypodermics, each filled with a murky liquid.

MAJOR CASPIAN  
What is this?

SERGEANT PENN  
An approved, direct order.

NATHAN  
A goddamn sacrifice for no good reason. Jesus.  
(Looks around at the men)  
You bastards were going to inject the soldiers with the alien's own neurotoxin. Tell the soldiers it's an inoculation and get them get as close as possible to the alien's before the men's own bodies shut down from organ failure.

SEARGENT PENN  
(Unmoved)  
Yes. And the aliens ingest the poisoned flesh and die. That was the point. Sometimes we have to make terrible choices in order-

NATHAN  
(Directly to Sergeant Penn)  
Goddamn coward. I'm sure in the hopes it would buy you enough time to get out of here.

SERGEANT PENN  
We're at war with a different enemy. Everyone is expendable. This had the potential to kill well over a hundred of those things faster than any assault rifle or grenade.

NATHAN

Go to hell you son-of-a-bitch.

Nearby, a black Private walks past an army Hummer.

CLOSE ON: The ground sinks under his feet.

He looks down a moment, keeps going and stops next to several dozen men who are manning flame-throwers and holding missile launchers pointed at the woods.

They wait tensely for the aliens to appear. Everyone hears a loud cracking noise in the distance.

EXT. CLEARING IN TOWN - NIGHT

At the nearby missile silo, the concrete plug breaks into pieces. Hundreds of aliens stream out toward the town square.

INT. MISSILE SILO

Fifty feet down, there is a gaping hole in the side of the silo, where the aliens have burrowed through the ground, broken through the concrete and entered the silo. Dozens more aliens stream out of the ground into the silo and make their way to the surface.

EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT

A hundred or more aliens run toward the town square. They simultaneously pick up speed and now run at least thirty to forty miles an hour.

All of them lurch forward. Their spikes retract and they roll into balls.

EXT. BASE CAMP - NIGHT

Everyone remains silent, listening to a strange rumbling heading their way. Nathan walks over to Joshua, who sees a hundred or more large black circular objects rolling en mass toward them.

JOSHUA

Oh, my God. What the hell is that?



Cars and anything else in their path are knocked out of the way. The eighty or so soldiers begin firing automatic weapons and hundreds of spikes shoot like projectiles out of the alien's backs into dozens of the soldiers.

In an instant, the aliens abruptly stop, unfurl, stand upright and attack. All hell breaks loose.

The aliens swarm into the area. The remaining soldiers continue firing their weapons. Sergeant Penn rushes into the mobile unit. Major Caspian is killed by an alien.

Nathan grabs Joshua and pulls him to the ground against a tank. Several aliens lurch forward during the attack and hundreds of additional spikes shoot out of their backs, going through soldiers bodies and faces.

Various men are impaled against trucks. The spikes penetrate the skulls of dozens of men.

Several dozen aliens burst out of the ground right under the soldier's feet. Jeeps fly into the air as aliens come out of the ground beneath them.

INT. SUBURBAN - NIGHT

Chad and Renee watch in horror.

CLOSE ON: Chad pushes the lever controlling the vehicles heater.

It won't go any higher.

CHAD

Fuck!

The lever breaks off, but heat continues to rush out. Chad hits the power window button rolling down the driver's and passenger side windows a few inches to let heat out.

A four foot spike slices through the windshield, barely missing Chad, and goes through the front seat, the backseat and through the tail-gate. Dozens of spikes shoot past the suburban.

RENEE

God, what is that!

CHAD

Get on the floor!

Chad pushes Renee to the floorboard. He starts to duck down, then sees Nathan and Joshua crawling on the ground along side the tank toward the Suburban. Chad unlocks the back door.

CHAD  
(continuing)  
Come on... Come on!

Several men shoot flame-throwers at oncoming aliens. Additional aliens run up behind the soldiers and kill them. The aliens rip apart any soldier in their way.

A panic stricken soldier aims a flame-thrower at several oncoming aliens. Flames shoot out engulfing the aliens, cars, Jeeps and various soldiers. Dozens of soldiers, some on fire, are dragged underground to be devoured. Their muffled screams are heard.

The ground vibrates. Two of the huge aliens come out of the woods. A soldier fires a hand held-missile at one blowing off its head. It still keeps coming, then suddenly lurches forward releasing hundreds of spikes into the soldier, impaling him against a tree.

The second huge alien slams its clawed hand into the side of the mobile unit.

INT. MOBILE UNIT

Sergeant Penn and the others fall to the floor. He looks up in horror as the side of the mobile unit is ripped open by the huge alien, which grabs Sergeant Penn and throws him to the ground where several smaller aliens attack him.

The huge alien rips a larger hole in the mobile unit and lunges at the rest of the people trapped inside.

Joshua helps up Nathan and they run to the Suburban. Nathan has a small spike imbedded in his shoulder.

INT. SUBURBAN - NIGHT

Joshua jumps into the backseat pulling Nathan with him. Joshua starts to pull the door shut, an alien reaches inside and the door slams on his arm.

JOSHUA  
Get the hell out of here. Go, go!

Chad stomps on the gas pedal and the Suburban shoots forward dragging the alien. Renee gets up from the floor. Joshua lets go of the door. It flies open and the alien lunges at Nathan and Joshua. It feels the heat, shrieks and jumps out.

Chad turns sharply, the door closes on it's own and Chad speeds away from the base camp through the forest. Chad runs over several oncoming aliens, denting the Suburban. He zig-zags through the woods avoiding trees.

An alien jumps onto the hood of the Suburban, digs its claws into it, then shrieks, feeling the heat from the engine. It jumps off the Suburban taking the hood with it.

EXT. ROAD

The Suburban roars out of the woods onto the road, passing the Cadillac seen earlier by Chad and Renee. Renee sits up and gasps, seeing the spike in Nathan's shoulder.

RENEE

Oh, God...

NATHAN

Don't touch it. I'm okay.

Joshua looks gravely at Nathan, who sweats profusely.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Several M.P's are gathered near the turn-off from the interstate. They stare up at the sky.

Behind them, the Suburban is approaching.

INT. SUBURBAN - NIGHT

Chad, Renee, Nathan and Joshua watch the M.P's curiously. Chad slows down beside them. The M.P's barely notice. Chad and Renee look up, as do Nathan and Joshua.

They see another alien ship hovering above the freeway five miles in the distance.

CHAD

Jesus.

NATHAN

Take the frontage road a few miles  
and pull over.

EXT. FRONTAGE ROAD - NIGHT

The Suburban speeds down the road. It slows down and pulls off to the shoulder.

INT. SUBURBAN

They stare in awe at the massive ship, and at the several hundred cars stopped on the freeway in each direction. People stand on the interstate watching the ship. Several people stand on their car roofs. Nathan and Joshua get out of the Suburban. Nathan winces and pulls out the spike.

The ship tilts as if trying to maintain altitude.

NATHAN

They're dying of starvation as we  
speak. They won't make it out to  
space. What goes up must come down...  
They have to start evacuating those  
people.

Joshua looks up and down the miles-long expanse of the freeway, which is surrounded by a business district and tract homes. A deafening sound emanates from the alien ship.

NATHAN

(continuing)

Jesus, they're preparing a concussion  
blast. Get down. Get on the ground!

(to Chad and Renee)

Get out of the vehicle!

Nathan and Joshua hit the ground. The ship takes off over the freeway, the air concussion blows cars, semi trucks, and parts of the freeway into the air and into the business district.

The roofs of the businesses and tract homes are blown off.

Nathan and Joshua are thrown several feet into the woods. The Suburban flies into the air, spins twice, and comes to a rest on it's roof, against a cluster of small trees and shrubs. Debris rains onto the ground.

The air is still. The area around the Suburban is littered with cars blown off the freeway. A twisted light pole lies nearby. A large section of a freeway overpass with guard rails attached, lies several yards from the Suburban. Two cars are flattened underneath.

INT. SUBURBAN

Renee brushes windshield glass off her blouse.

RENEE

Chad, Chad. You all right? Chad...

CHAD

Yeah, yeah. I'm okay, I'm okay. Shit.  
What happened?

Chad helps Renee out of the Suburban. They look around in complete shock at the carnage before them, and on the nearby interstate.

RENEE

Oh, my God. Where are they?

Renee looks around for Joshua and Nathan.

RENEE

(continuing)

(calls out)

Mr. Wagner... Joshua.

CHAD

(Calls out)

Joshua...

Joshua staggers out of the woods.

JOSHUA

I can't find him.

(looks around at the  
destruction)

Come on. Help me look for him.

EXT. INTERSTATE - NIGHT

Several miles down, at another section of the freeway, the third alien ship abruptly stops and hovers two-thousand feet above the bumper-to-bumper freeway.

The hundreds of people at this new section of freeway get out of their cars and stare up at the gigantic ship, and at the disturbance several miles up the freeway, where a huge dust cloud settles.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Renee searches the area for Nathan. All around her, cars, light poles and chunks of freeway litter the forest. Bodies are caught in tree tops.

RENEE

Mr. Wagner. Can you hear me? Are you all right?

Renee sees two bodies hanging in a tree and looks away.

RENEE

(continuing)

Mr. Wagner...

Renee finds Nathan lying on the ground amongst debris. His breathing is shallow. Blood trickles from his mouth.

RENEE

(continuing)

Over here, over here. I found him!

Joshua and Chad come running from different areas of the woods and stop next to Renee, who holds onto Nathan's hand.

JOSHUA

Nathan.

(drops to his knees  
beside him)

Jesus, can you talk? What can I do?

Nathan grips Joshua's arm.

NATHAN

Nothing... You... you've been a great friend, Joshua.

(forces smile)

Actually, this will save me a lot of trouble and pain in the future. I wanted it to be quick.

JOSHUA

Nate... No, hold on, please. We'll get help.

Nathan shakes his head and gasps for breath.

NATHAN

There is none. You heard them. Just  
get me out of here. Don't let them  
get near me.

Nathan closes his eyes and passes away.

JOSHUA

Nathan... Nathan...

Renee covers her mouth.

CHAD

We better get outta here. There's  
bodies all over. Maybe those things  
can smell them.

EXT. FRONTAGE ROAD - NIGHT

The sun is rising.

Renee follows as Joshua and Chad carry Nathan out of the forest and back to the frontage road. They gently lay him on the ground.

EXT. INTERSTATE - SUNRISE

The second ship continues to hover over the freeway. It suddenly lurches and drops a hundred feet, then gains altitude again and stops. Dozens of people on the freeway run to the side of the interstate.

The ship lurches again, then suddenly drops out of the sky, falling two thousand feet. It hits the ground with such force that freeway overpasses disintegrate upward, with cars, people and nearby buildings hurled upward.

EXT. FRONTAGE ROAD - SUNRISE

Joshua, Renee, and Chad, fall to the ground from the earthquake-like force.

EXT. FREEWAY

The ship lies in ruins across the freeway.

EXT. FRONTAGE ROAD

Joshua, Renee and Chad get to their feet. Several jets fly overhead toward the small town.

INT. FIGHTER JET - SUNRISE

The pilot looks down at the main street of town seeing the destruction. Aliens are dragging the last few people underground.

EXT. FIGHTER JET - SUNRISE

Bombs drop from this jet and several others in the vicinity.

EXT. FRONTAGE ROAD - DAY

Joshua, Chad and Renee, watch as the town is destroyed by Napalm bombs. The distant sky glows from the intense inferno.

An army helicopter flies overhead. The three of them wave and the helicopter lands. Although Nathan is dead, Joshua shields his face from the wind and dust.

INT. ARMY HELICOPTER - DAY - LATER

Everyone is quiet, drained and exhausted. Nathan's body lies on a cot, covered with a blanket. Renee sees her parent's home. The drapes part and Alice looks out the window. Renee smiles.

Tears well in her eyes. She turns to the pilot.

RENEE

There it is. Right there. The white house with green trim.

EXT. RENEE'S PARENT'S HOME - DAY

The army helicopter lands in the huge front yard. A door slides open on the helicopter. Renee and Chad scramble out. Alice and Renee's father hurry out of the house and embrace Renee.



The helicopter rises into the air. Chad waves at Joshua as he solemnly watches the copter fly off.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE

An ancient alien ship, damaged by years of meteorite strikes, floats in space.

INT. ANCIENT ALIEN SHIP

Three million year old alien carcasses, just empty shells, where only breast and skull plates remain, float in the zero gravity air of the ship.

INT. ANCIENT ALIEN SHIP

In the cockpit area, alien carcasses float in the air. The carcass of a large alien, still strapped into a metallic seat, sits in front of a massive dormant control panel.

EXT. ANCIENT ALIEN SHIP

The massive ship floats farther into space, toward earth, which is clearly visible in the distance. Another craft appears on the horizon approaching the alien ship.

A few moments pass and an unmarked Space Shuttle appears over the curvature of the earth. It's dwarfed by the huge alien craft. The shuttle changes course, makes a wide turn in space and flies in a circle around the alien craft.

FADE OUT:

THE END