

BENEATH THE SURFACE

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. U.S. SOLDIERS' AND AIRMEN'S HOME - NIGHT

Rain pours down and drips off a sign saying "U.S. Soldiers and Airmen's Home, Washington, D.C."

INT. USSAH, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Two nurses walk down the hallway.

1ST NURSE

(stopping at a door)

The next one you're gonna meet is
General Frank Sterling - a touch of
dementia, but very sweet.

She knocks.

FRANK (V.O.)

Come in!

INT. USSAH, FRANK'S ROOM - NIGHT

The door opens.

1ST NURSE

Hi, Frank, how are you?

The walls of the small room are studded with pictures of Frank throughout his military career. Framed medals hang near shelves of model military aircraft and ships.

FRANK, 80 years old, sits at a small table and watches TV.

On the table is a device roughly the size of a reel-to-reel tape recorder. The device looks like some obsolete item from the sixties or seventies - a lot of buttons and switches, and a display with some numbers on it.

FRANK

(turns off the TV)

My sweetheart! Come in, come in!

1ST NURSE

Frank, I brought along my new
colleague - she's just been assigned
to this ward.

2ND NURSE

(smiles)

Hi, Frank.

They shake hands.

FRANK

I guess you've taught her the basic rules by now.

1ST NURSE

Uh-huh. Observe, how you keep this old chap happy.

1st Nurse pulls a chocolate bar out of her pocket and hands it to him.

FRANK

You're a sweetheart.

1ST NURSE

Frank's had a long and glorious military career. Seen a lot of action, and even a taste of some dark covert operations.

FRANK

(mouth full of chocolate)
S'right, long and glorious, long and glorious.

2ND NURSE

Really? What kind?

FRANK

I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you both.

1ST NURSE

Behave yourself Frank - we'll pass.
(turns to 2nd Nurse, low voice)
Ask him about the device.

2ND NURSE

Hey, Frank, what's that thing on your desk?

FRANK

(proud)
This is a very sensitive, high-tech, high precision covert tracking device.

2ND NURSE

What's it tracking?

Frank gets very serious.

FRANK
Marvin, the Martian.

2ND NURSE
Marvin, the who?

FRANK
When this gadget shows the right
combination of numbers, we'll finally
know--

Suddenly the device lights up like a Christmas tree, and
Frank focuses intently on it.

FRANK (CONT'D)
(not looking at them)
Excuse me, Ladies, but you'll have to
leave me alone now.

1ST NURSE
(to 2nd Nurse, head shaking)
It, it does that sometimes - we're
leaving. See you later!

2ND NURSE
Bye now, Frank!

He's too busy writing something on a piece of paper to
respond.

INT. USSAH, HALLWAY - NIGHT.

2ND NURSE
(closing the door)
Funny old guy.

1ST NURSE
Yeah, he's-

SOUND: shouting from Frank's room

Frank bursts out of the room

FRANK
I need to get in contact with agent
Red 2, yes, Red 2, he needs to know,
he needs to know!

1st Nurse grabs his shoulders and tries unsuccessfully to
get eye contact with him.

1ST NURSE
Need to know what, Frank?

FRANK
He needs to know it's been located -
he needs to know where it is.

1ST NURSE
Where what is, Frank?

Frank looks deep into her eyes, and stutters frantically.

FRANK
"Marvin"!

Frank twists himself loose from her grip, and runs toward the exit.

1ST NURSE
Help here! Stat!
(chasing after Frank)
Frank, stop! Please!

EXT. USSAH - NIGHT

A cab, engine running, waits in the rain, while the driver opens the door for an old man. Both of them are almost bowled over by Frank as he races out, leaps into the cab, and pulls away from the curb.

CAB DRIVER
(chasing after his cab)
Hey, where the hell are you going!

1st Nurse runs out, just in time to see Frank drive off.

CAB DRIVER (CONT'D)
Sonofabitch hijacked my fucking cab!

1ST NURSE
(chasing futilely after the
disappearing taxi)
Wait! Frank!

INT. CAB - NIGHT

Frank peers out from behind the whipping windshield wipers, driving erratically through the rain, squealing around corners, and desperately dodging the oncoming traffic.

FRANK
Gotta find Red 2! Where the hell is
he?

Suddenly a big truck comes right at him, beeping its big air horn.

For a moment he seems to come out of his trance. He cranks the wheel hard to the right.

EXT. SMALL BRIDGE - NIGHT

The cab crashes through the metal guard rail and plunges into the water below.

UNDERWATER - NIGHT

The cab sinks with Frank inside. He pounds desperately on the side window as the water rises over his head - then the pounding becomes feeble and all is silence.

EXT. LOWER ATMOSPHERE - DAY

TITLE: Beneath The Surface

We glide from the lower atmosphere and down toward a light cloud cover, passing a BOEING 747, then in a clear blue October sky, out of the clouds toward the Pacific Ocean.

We descend toward the coast of Oregon, where we come to a small fishing town, and a small but busy industrial harbor, then to the idyllic main street where the signs everywhere tell us that we're in PINEWOOD BAY.

We come to the edge of town and follow a boy on a bike, with a schoolbag on his back. It's SIMON HUNT, 12 years old. We pass him and continue toward a house, in through a second floor open window - the bathroom.

INT. SECOND FLOOR BATHROOM - DAY

Hot steamy water runs behind the closed shower curtain.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

MARY HUNT, 34 years old, cuts some vegetables at the kitchen table. A big black Labrador Retriever, SAMSON, lies in his dog basket on the floor. Mary looks up at the ceiling as if she can see through it, and calls.

MARY
 John, honey!
 (pause)
 John!

She accidentally nicks her finger.

MARY (CONT'D)
 Ouch! Goddamn!

Sucks the cut finger for a second, as Samson looks up at her.

MARY (CONT'D)
 (very loud)
 John!

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

JOHN HUNT, 36 years old, shuts off the water and looks out from behind the shower curtain.

JOHN
 What!?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

MARY
 Have you talked to your brother lately!?

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

John goes out and starts to dry himself.

JOHN
 Yeah, yesterday!

MARY (O.S.)
 Is he coming tonight!?

JOHN
 Yes, why!?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The sound of the front door SLAMMING is heard. Samson raises his head: "Who's coming?"

MARY

No reason, it's just been a long time
since I've seen him!

Simon comes into the kitchen and drops his schoolbag right
inside the kitchen door. Mary smiles as she hears that it's
Simon. Samson gets up and runs with a wagging tail to him.

MARY (CONT'D)

Hi, honey.

Simon gets almost pushed over by the happy Samson.

SIMON

Hi, mom. Hi, Samson. Yes, you're a
good boy, yes you are.

Simon grabs an apple from the table by the door.

MARY

How's your project coming?

SIMON

(chomping on the apple)
Almost done. We still have to
program about five hundred lines of
MICP+ - shouldn't take long.

MARY

(doesn't have a clue)
Great!

SIMON

Whatta you doing?

Mary turns toward Simon.

MARY

Grandma asked me to bring some
Brussels sprouts in white sauce.

SIMON

Oh - okay, I gotta go.

He exits.

MARY

(following him)
Where you going!?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Simon heads for the stairs as Mary appears in the doorway behind him.

SIMON

Computer!

He takes off up the stairs.

MARY

Remember, we're going over to grandma and grandpa's in less than an hour!

SIMON

Okay. C'mon, Samson!

INT. SIMON'S ROOM - DAY

Simon works at his computer. John comes in, pulls out a chair, and sits down beside Simon at the desk.

JOHN

Hey, guy, whatta you doing?

SIMON

School project.

JOHN

Oh yeah, the history of-

SIMON

Software programming, yes. This should be right up your alley, dad.

John picks up an old big heavy and very dry book and looks at it. On the cover is written: "MICP+ - Military Instruction Code Programming, By Dr. Jacob Lancaster, 1967."

JOHN

MICP+, damn, it's ancient.

SIMON

Didn't you work with MICP+?

JOHN

No, it was obsolete years before my time.

John waves the thick book.

JOHN (CONT'D)

And I'm glad I didn't have to go through this monster.

SIMON

It's not that hard once you figure out the basic binary codes. Want me to teach you?

JOHN

Thanks -but no thanks. I don't ever wanna have anything to do with programming again.

John takes a PDA out from the inner pocket of his jacket.

JOHN

(hands it to Simon)
Look what I got today.

Simon takes the PDA and turns it on.

SIMON

Wow! It's awesome. Key'll get totally envious when I show it to him.

JOHN

Hey, it's my toy!

Simon examines it and points at a small camera.

SIMON

Can it record video?

JOHN

Yeah, not just record it, but stream it live too. This sucker here can boost a signal to a sat at fifteen gigahertz. I can send you live video from anywhere on this planet. And probably from outer space too!

SIMON

Wow!

JOHN

And even better; go on the net.

Simon opens the browser.

SIMON

And then?

JOHN

Go to www.globalgpsfinder.com.

The page comes up.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Good, then try to click on "GPS finder". Okay, in username: type "johnhunt", no, one word, good, and password: 120493sh.

SIMON

Hey, that's my birthday and my initials!

JOHN

Look.

A map with a blinking red dot comes up on the monitor.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you recognize the area? Look at that dot there.

SIMON

That's Pinewood Bay, and the dot is our house.

JOHN

Besides being a GPS, you can always see where I am, when I'm out sailing.

SIMON

That's so cool dad.

Simon sits and waves his hands in the air, while he's looking at the monitor.

JOHN

Whatta you doing?

SIMON

I wanna see if I could see myself waving.

John playfully slaps Simon lightly in the back of his head.

JOHN

Hey, no kidding around, this is serious advanced technology here!

They're laughing and Mary calls from downstairs.

MARY (O.S.)

Are you ready, boys? We're leaving in five minutes!

SIMON

Coming!

JOHN
Two minutes!

EXT. BOEING 747 - DUSK

To establish (same plane seen earlier)

INT. BOEING 747 - DUSK

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT walks down the rows carrying a bottle of champagne.

She stops at the seats of VICE-PRESIDENT JOHNSON (late 50's) and his wife.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Did you have a pleasant flight, Mr.
and Mrs. Vice-President?

MRS. JOHNSON
Yes, thank you, for once, the food
was magnificent.

MR. JOHNSON
Yeah, I could hardly believe it was a
TV dinner.

Mrs. Johnson gives her husband a nudge.

MRS. JOHNSON
Alfred! Behave yourself.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Would you like some more champagne?

Alfred beckons the Flight Attendant down to him so he can whisper in her ear.

MR. JOHNSON
(loud enough for his wife to
hear)
Couldn't you get me a double Scotch
on the rocks instead? The Missus
won't let me drink, but what she
doesn't know won't hurt me, right?

The Flight Attendant smiles knowingly, and looks at Mrs. Johnson, who rolls her eyes and shakes her head.

INT. BOEING 747, COCKPIT - NIGHT

The door opens and the Flight Attendant comes in.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Do you guys want your dinner now?

CO-PILOT

Yeah, let's have it, the plane seems capable of staying in the air for now.

PILOT

I'm gonna take a leak, can I trust you two to fly the plane without denting it?

CO-PILOT

Nope!

INT. BOEING 747, CABIN - NIGHT

MR. JOHNSON

It's going to be great with fourteen days of relaxation.

MRS. JOHNSON

Yes, my darling, you've earned it. What about the President, doesn't he need some vacation too?

MR. JOHNSON

You know William, the only way you can get him to go is to knock him down with a baseball bat and drag him unconscious to the Bahamas.

MRS. JOHNSON

Poor Louise, she-

Suddenly the plane SHAKES violently and it startles them.

INT. BOEING 747, TOILET - NIGHT

The pilot takes a leak as the plane shakes. The shake makes him pee on the toilet, instead of in it.

PILOT

What the hell?

INT. BOEING 747, COCKPIT - NIGHT

The pilot comes in. The co-pilot fights to hold the plane. The weather outside is bad, forceful winds and hard rain.

PILOT

What's going on? You fly like my old Lady drives after a bottle of Extra Dry Martini!

The pilot sits down and turns some knobs.

CO-PILOT

All the instruments suddenly went nuts. Bad turbulence. She's really fighting me back.

PILOT

Hell, what happened to our clear sky?

INT. BOEING 747, CABIN - NIGHT

The "FASTEN SEATBELT" sign turns on and the passengers are worried. A SECRET SERVICE AGENT, behind the Vice-President couple, leans as far forward as he can.

AGENT

Don't worry, Mrs. Johnson. I'm sure it'll be over soon.

PILOT

(speakers, filtered)

This is your Captain speaking. We're going through some turbulence at the moment. So please stay in your seats with your seatbelts fastened and we will get past this storm front in a moment.

AGENT

See, Mrs. Johnson.

She smiles a quick smile in disbelief, and cramps her fingers down into the armrests.

INT. BOEING 747, COCKPIT - NIGHT

The pilots are in high alert. The nose of the plane turns slightly downwards. The whole plane is thrown up and down.

CO-PILOT

Portland control tower, this is November Nine One Three Alpha Tango, we are in trouble. Do you read me, over?

PILOT

What's our altitude?

CO-PILOT
 (tabs the altimeter)
 Don't know! This Goddamn thing
 doesn't work.

INT. BOEING 747, CABIN - NIGHT

The Cabin Crew have buckled up. An older and more EXPERIENCED FLIGHT ATTENDANT prays for herself. The younger one sits quietly, with tears running down her cheeks.

YOUNGER FLIGHT ATTENDANT
 Have you ever experienced anything
 like this before?

OLDER FLIGHT ATTENDANT
 No, no never, honey.

Suddenly a loud SUCTION sound comes from outside and the plane is pulled hard downwards. Panic spreads all over.

INT. BOEING 747, COCKPIT - NIGHT

CO-PILOT
 Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, this is
 November Nine One Three Alpha Tango,
 we are going down. We are going
 down. Do you read me? Mayday!
 (to pilot)
 Why the hell aren't they responding?

PILOT
 I can't hold her, we're going in!!

Water washes up the windows and the pilots SCREAM.

INT. UNIVERSITY, CLASSROOM - NIGHT

The water from the plane windows transforms into rainwater, which pours down onto the outside of a classroom window. In the classroom is an adult evening class in progress, the theme is: "METEOROLOGICAL ANOMALIES AND OCEANIC DISTURBANCES."

At the blackboard stands DR. LISA ANDERSON, 32 years old, very pretty, but exuding an aura of seriousness because of her tight dark skirt suit, and tightly-coifed hair styling.

She has written some formulas on the blackboard, and has drawn a ship on a water surface with a big bubble coming up towards it, from the sea bottom. She points at the bubble with her chalk.

LISA

So the most, around ninety percent, of the disappearances at the Bermuda triangle can be attributed to huge methane gas blowouts, released from gas hydrates embedded in the seabed sediments. Any questions?

A MAN raises his hand and Lisa points at him.

LISA (CONT'D)

Yes?

MAN

I understand when the methane bubble comes up under a ship, that it loses floatation. But how do you explain the frequency of disappearing aircraft?

LISA

Interesting question. Well, you see-
 (her cell phone rings)
 Excuse me.
 (she answers)
 Hello!

KEVIN

(filtered)
 Lisa, the satellite just caught something in the Pacific. We need you at the institute.

EXT. UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

Lisa runs out from the main entrance onto the street. The rain pours down, and she holds her handbag over her head. She hails a cab and gets in quick.

INT. CAB - NIGHT

CABDRIVER

Evening Miss, terrible weather, huh?

LISA

Tell me about it.

CABDRIVER

Where to, Miss?

LISA

The National Sea and Weather Institute, on Fifth.

CABDRIVER

Yes, Miss.

They drive off and Lisa looks for something in her handbag, but it isn't there.

LISA

Damn! Driver, we need to make a quick stop at Maple Street.

CABDRIVER

Sure.

EXT. MAPLE STREET - NIGHT

Lisa gets out of the cab, runs into a high-rise building.

INT. LISA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lisa flicks on the lights, one by one as she searches for something. Finally in the bathroom together with all her makeup, lies her Security ID pass to the institute. She grabs it and rushes out.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LISA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

She bumps into a man stands beside her doorway and is momentarily startled.

Then she recognizes him, and it isn't a joyful reunion.

LISA

Paul!?

PAUL

Hi, Lisa, how are you?

LISA

What the hell are you doing here?

PAUL

I'd like to talk to you.

Lisa turns and locks her door.

LISA

Why? What's there to talk about?

Lisa starts to walk down the stairway, Paul follows.

INT. STAIRWAY - NIGHT

PAUL

I'd like to apologize. I'd like to know how you are.

LISA

I'm fine, apology accepted. Now go away.

PAUL

I'd like to see you again.

LISA

I'm in a hurry. I have a cab waiting.

PAUL

I brought these for you.

He presents a bunch of red roses and a big smile, but Lisa is cold as ice and shoots him an evil look.

LISA

Shove 'em!

On the half landing, Paul grabs Lisa by the shoulder.

PAUL

Lisa, please!

She spins around and pushes Paul against the wall.

LISA

Who the hell do you think you are? Showing up like this, five years after you dumped me on the steps to the altar! And now you have the gall to presume that I'll melt over a bunch of aphid-infested roses!?

(bitingly sarcastic)

Grow up! Whatever gave you the idea your pathetic attempt at a "flowers and forgive me" would work!

(a beat while she gathers steam)

You *hurt* me, you loser! And you hurt my family, especially my mother. You must be mentally incompetent to think I'd forgive you!

PAUL

Sorry, but I got scared, I-

LISA

Are you deaf as well as insensitive?
I *said* get lost! You're mistaking me
for somebody who gives a shit about
you!

Lisa wheels and stomps down the stairs.

EXT. MAPLE STREET - NIGHT

Lisa exits and runs to the cab. Paul comes out onto the street, too. Lisa stops and turns around to him.

LISA

Paul, you're *history!* You not only
destroyed our *relationship*, you
destroyed my ability to trust *any* man
ever again. So read my lips! Don't-
ever-con-tact-me-again!

She sweeps into the cab and slams the door. As he watches the cab pull away, Paul drops the roses into the gutter.

INT. JOHN'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Modest working-class home, with combined living room and hallway. Portraits of John, Mary, Simon, and another boy, younger than Simon, adorn the walls. Simon sits in front of the flickering TV playing his Game Boy.

John sits at the dinner table with his father, BOB HUNT, 70 years old, having a beer. John's mother, ELIZABETH, 68, delivers a steaming casserole to the table.

ELIZABETH

Well, Peter must be right on his way
now, d'you think?

BOB

Engine on the boat acts up - or at
least that'll be his excuse.

ELIZABETH

Now you listen, Bob. Don't be so
sour; it's no wonder we practically
have to drag him over here.

BOB

I just think-

ELIZABETH

Stop with that before you hurt yourself! We're going to have a pleasant evening, so no more talk about it, okay?

Elizabeth disappears to the kitchen.

EXT. JOHN'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT

A motorcycle pulls up and PETER HUNT, 34 years old, handsome and hard-muscled, dismounts.

INT. JOHN'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Peter comes in.

SIMON

Uncle Peter!

Simon gets up and runs toward him, pretends to hit him in the stomach. Peter throws his helmet down, grabs him and musses up his hair.

PETER

Hey, kiddo - you're not eating your wheaties, are you? You're still as scrawny and weak as you were last time I saw you.

MARY

(exits from the kitchen,
smiling)

Hey, you! Don't torment my son!

Peter comes over to her, and gives her a hug.

PETER

Hi, Mar'. You're looking good.

MARY

Thanks.

Peter shakes hands with John and his father.

PETER

Hi, John.

JOHN

Hey, Peter.

PETER

Hi, dad. Good to see you.

BOB

Yeah.

Elizabeth comes in with the roast. She puts it on the table and gives Peter a hug and a kiss on his cheek.

ELIZABETH

Hello, my darling - it's been a long time since you last visited your old mother, much too long.

PETER

Sorry, mom, but the Aurora keeps me busy.

MARY

Why don't find me a sister-in-law to keep you busy?

ELIZABETH

She's right, Peter.

PETER

Sure, but the best women in Pinewood Bay are all spoken for.

Peter twists off the top of a bottle of beer, and sits.

ELIZABETH

Well - I guess Dinner is served.

John takes a pill from a pill bottle and eats it.

PETER

How's the ulcer?

JOHN

Okay, as long as I keep loading up on these guys. Simon, put down that Game Boy and come and eat. And turn off the TV, will you?

Simon gets up and is about to turn off the TV. He stops and looks at the news. Journalist from NBC news ANGELA TEMPER, 34 years old, a "hot babe", is reporting live from the site of Frank's drowning.

ANGELA

Behind me is the twisted guardrail that marks the spot where last evening, retired General Frank Sterling crashed through the barrier in a stolen taxicab, plunged into this lake, and drowned.

INT. DARK WOODEN CABIN - NIGHT

It's dark and the only light comes from a TV, which shows Angela reporting. A MAN we only see from behind (GEORGE), looks at it.

ANGELA

Authorities have not yet established a cause for the theft of the taxi, but an unnamed source reported that General Sterling appeared mentally unstable and incoherent prior to his departure from the U.S. Soldier's and Airman's Home in the early evening hours yesterday. Angela Temper, reporting live.

MAN

Bye, Frank, you old crackpot. Suicide? Or did they finally get to you, huh, old friend?

He looks at a newspaper and dials a number on the phone.

VOICE

(filtered)

Welcome to the Washington Post, how can I help you?

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C., LAKE - NIGHT

Angela takes her mike down and looks at her cameraman.

ANGELA

It's a wrap?

CAMERAMAN

It's a wrap!

ANGELA

Good, then we can get the hell away from this Godforsaken place. Who the hell cares about a senile old suicidal general, anyhow?

CAMERAMAN

Sterling wasn't just any old goat. He was the prime suspect in a major federal investigation in the early seventies, involving large expensive non-congressional approved covert operations. The only one who supposedly knew about it was Nixon, but then Watergate fell on him like a ton of bricks, so they had to stop the investigation of Sterling.

Angela looks at him like she actually finds his story fascinating, but then her expression changes to total indifference.

ANGELA

Nixon??? As I said, who cares?

The cameraman shrugs and turns away as Angela's assistant JULIE butts in.

JULIE

I'm sorry, Angela, they were out of Diorskin Pure Light, but they suggested a substitute-

ANGELA

I don't want a Goddamn substitute! I want what I ordered! Why the hell am I surrounded by incompetence?!

JULIE

Sorry.

ANGELA

Look at this skin, it's very delicate. Does this look like the type of skin you just-

Another crewmember hands her a cell phone.

CREWMEMBER

It's E.C.

Angela grabs the phone and walks away.

ANGELA (O.S.)

E.C., why the hell are you sending me out to these insignificant wipe-ass stories, don't you think it's time you assigned me to...

JULIE
 (to herself)
 Bitch!

INT. JOHN'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT

They have dinner and Simon feeds Samson under the table with his mother's Brussels sprouts. Mary hands the bowl with Brussels sprouts over to him.

MARY
 More Brussels sprouts, honey?

SIMON
 No thanks, I'm full.

ELIZABETH
 But, darling, you hardly touched your dinner.

MARY
 Saving his appetite for dessert.

Simon smiles. Bob looks at John.

BOB
 I don't get it - why don't you two team up and then you could sell Peter's boat?

PETER
 What!?

JOHN
 As long as there's good money in it-

PETER
 Why would I do that - the quota's terrific these days.

JOHN
 Yeah, that too. There'd be no longtime economic gain in just one boat. Maybe some day, but not right now.

PETER
 Besides that, we'll be all over each other in five minutes. And why does it have to be my boat?

BOB
 It might be that I'm getting old, but when I ran my own fishing boat-

ELIZABETH

Bob, time changes and the boys are doing all right.

SIMON

Daddy even bought a new portable GPS.

PETER

You did? A PDA?

JOHN

Yeah.

PETER

Let me see it.

John hands Peter the PDA.

SIMON

It's a brand new model with up-link, so now I can track him on the Internet.

PETER

Really? That's the end of you fooling around, huh, John?

JOHN

Don't show mom, how to use the net.

PETER

When're you going fishing again?

JOHN

Tomorrow.

BOB

(looks at John)

How many tons have you landed so far this year?

John calculates in his head. Elizabeth turns to Mary.

ELIZABETH

Well my dear, aren't we gonna have that baby soon?

Mary sits still and suddenly tears run down her cheeks. John is about to answer his father's question, as Mary gets up and rushes toward the kitchen.

JOHN

About-

(turns to Elizabeth)

What did you say to her?

ELIZABETH

I, I just asked her about your efforts to have a child.

JOHN

Mom! Sorry, you couldn't know, I tell you later.

John goes to the kitchen.

INT. JOHN'S PARENTS HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

John embraces Mary.

JOHN

Honey, mom couldn't know that-

MARY

(crying)

It isn't your mother. I'm just so sick and tired of not being able to get pregnant again. All those inseminations that end in nothing. And I miss Jonathan so unbelievably much.

Elizabeth stands in the door, John waves her away.

JOHN

I do understand, honey. It's tough. There isn't a single day that goes by that I don't think about him. But it's coming up three years now, so we have to let him go. At least for Simon's sake, okay?

Mary dries her tears away and nods "yes".

INT. WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA - NIGHT

There's a full house tonight and they SING passionately. On one of the balconies sits PRESIDENT WILLIAM K. BOLT, 47 years old. With him is his wife, LOUISE, 45 years old. Behind them three Secret Service agents are situated.

INT. WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Secret Service chief RICK MORTON, 60 years old, walks down the hallway on his way to the President's balcony. Two agents stand by the door; one KNOCKS and opens it for Rick.

RICK
Evening, boys!

AGENTS
Good evening, boss.

INT. WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA, BALCONY - NIGHT

The President looks up at Rick.

PRESIDENT
Rick?

Rick bends down and whispers in the President's ear.

INT. WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA, HALLWAY - LATER

The President and Rick come down the hallway, the First Lady comes ten feet behind them and agents walk around them.

PRESIDENT
No distress signal or anything?

RICK
No, Sir, nothing definitive.

PRESIDENT
And the plane?

RICK
Coastguard helicopters were
dispatched immediately and there are
ships in the area, but no sight of
it.

PRESIDENT
Strange.

RICK
The problem is we don't know exactly
where it went down.

PRESIDENT
Why not?

RICK
According to Portland control tower,
it just went off their radar without
any warning.

PRESIDENT

I don't understand it, Rick. If the plane isn't on the radar, then it crashed, didn't it?

RICK

Yes, but five minutes later there was some static from the radio. Through that came a faint, supposedly Mayday and the numbers, nine, one, three. The plane's number.

INT. JOHN'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Elizabeth and Mary clean up after dinner. Bob goes over to his "Lazy Boy" and turns on the TV. John and Peter get up from the dining table, and John stretches.

JOHN

Nice dinner, mom! I wanna stretch my legs and get some fresh air.

PETER

I'm coming with you.

JOHN

Samson, come here, boy!

Samson looks at John and thinks: "he's an idiot."

JOHN (CONT'D)

Damn mutt, never listens to me.

Simon gets up and puts on his coat.

SIMON

C'mon, Samson!

Samson gets up and runs to Simon who puts a leash on him, and Peter laughs. Simon and Samson are out the door and John and Peter put on their coats. John sees that Peter has a gun in his coat.

JOHN

(low voice)
You're packing?

PETER

I'm on standby.

INT. THE PRESIDENT'S CAR - NIGHT

The President dials his cell phone. He then stares at the

rain on the outside of the car windows.

PRESIDENT

Hello, Alice, it's William. I'm sorry to disturb you, I know you have guests tonight but I have to talk to him.

(pause)

Thanks, Alice.

(pause)

Jack, I need you at the White House.

(pause)

Now, I'm afraid.

(pause)

Alfred's plane went down in the Pacific, and we can't rule out terrorism.

(pause)

Thanks, Jack. Hey, Jack! Contact the Pentagon. Ask them to send a man over.

(pause)

Good, see you.

He hangs up and takes his wife's hand.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

This is bad, honey. But we'll find them. We'll find them.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, HALLWAY - NIGHT

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JACK COLLINS, 56 years old, a small cautious guy and GENERAL THOMAS DUGAN, 62 years old, a big guy with an "EAT SHIT" expression on his face with gray hair and mustache, walk rapidly down the hallway. They hand their wet raincoats to an attendant.

JACK

Please, don't say anything to upset him today.

DUGAN

Now why would I do that, Jack?

JACK

Because you enjoy irritating him.

DUGAN

Why not, I think he's an irresponsible arrogant asshole, and totally off the mark in his decision on the Scott affaire.

JACK

Try talking to him under four eyes,
he might tell you a different story
than the media did.

DUGAN

Just because you're Secretary of
Defense doesn't mean you have to
defend him all the time. But okay,
I'll talk to him, Jack.

An agent opens the door for them.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

In the office are: PRESS SECRETARY SALLY MOORE, 42 years
old, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR DENNIS SCHMIDT, 36 years old,
Rick Morton, agents, military and White House staff.
The President is mad. He's talking to a little chubby bald
man with glasses.

PRESIDENT

We spend three hundred and sixty
billion dollars on defense. We spend
sixty billion dollars on education.
And we even spend a Goddamn fifty
million dollars on transportation a
year. And you tell me we don't have
the technology, or skills, to find
one damn little plane?

The little man nods his head and backs out.

SALLY

Relax, William. Remember your blood
pressure.

JACK

Good evening, Sir.

DUGAN

Good evening, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT

Evening, Gentlemen, glad you could
make it on such short notice.

The President points at the seating area.

PRESIDENT

Please. And can somebody please tell
me where my Chief of Staff is?

They all sit down in the couches.

DENNIS

At the hospital, his daughter is getting her appendix removed.

PRESIDENT

Oh, remind me to send flowers. Please, somebody enlighten me?

SALLY

I can tell you the press doesn't know anything we don't already know.

PRESIDENT

Have we told them anything yet?

SALLY

Just that we don't have anything to tell them yet. But we have to make a brief statement tonight.

PRESIDENT

Okay, Sally, your job. Anything else?

DUGAN

I've just arrived from the Pentagon. There're no indications of a hostile attack.

JACK

The way I see it, it's just a tragic accident.

DENNIS

Accident? It might be an accident, but doesn't it strike you a little odd that it's the Vice-President's plane that disappears without a trace?

RICK

Pure coincidence.

DENNIS

But you don't know that, do you?

RICK

Now listen to me son; let me tell you something. I-

DENNIS

What? Are you gonna tell me the story of how you killed off your first busload of bad guys when I still sucked on my mommy's titties?

PRESIDENT
Gentlemen! Keep focus, please.

RICK
Sorry, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT
As you all could hear from my conversation.

SALLY
(whispers to Dugan)
One-way communication.

PRESIDENT
With the Gentleman from the Coastguard administration before, they haven't found anything, not even any wreckage.

The phone RINGS.

PRESIDENT
Excuse me.

The President picks up the phone.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
Yes?
(pause)
Thanks, Ruth.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
(puts on speakers)
We have Mr. Jonathan Banks from the FBI, and Ms. Paula Williams from the CIA with us on speakers. Good evening!

JONATHAN
(filtered)
Good evening, Mr. President.

PAULA
(filtered)
Good evening, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT
We have all considered the possibility of terrorism. Can you put our minds at rest?

They both try to answer.

PAULA
(filtered)
Sorry, Jonathan, you first.

JONATHAN
(filtered)
Thanks, Paula. We have absolutely no indication of a terrorist attack. There are eighteen persons under surveillance in the country right now. Fifteen of those are accounted for, the last three as we speak.

PRESIDENT
And the CIA, Paula?

PAULA
(filtered)
Mr. President, everything is quiet out in the world. There's no cheering in the Middle East, and no persons or factions have taken responsibility for anything.

DENNIS
Ms. Williams, National Security Adviser Dennis Schmidt here. Are you absolutely sure it isn't a pissed little terrorist who has stolen a rowboat, rowed halfway across the world and shot down the plane with his homemade stinger?

PAULA
(filtered)
No, Mr. Schmidt, we're not sure. However small you make the mesh in the net, there's always a chance that a little shark swims through unnoticed.

JONATHAN
(filtered)
I've just got verification that the last three missing persons have been located. No activity from them either.

PRESIDENT
Thank you both.

PAULA
(filtered)
You're welcome.

JONATHAN
 (filtered)
 My pleasure.

The President hangs up the phone. Jack reflects.

JACK
 In the news they talked about a
 storm? Hurricane? Or a, a tidal
 wave of some sort?

DUGAN
 Tsunami!

JACK
 Yeah, tsunami!

SALLY
 I don't think tsunamis get that big.

DENNIS
 (gets a look from the
 President)
 I'll look into it.

RICK
 Have we heard from the plane crash
 investigators?

DENNIS
 They're on their way, and expect to
 be there at dawn.

RICK
 Mr. President, I'd like permission to
 conduct our own investigation, to
 rule out foul play?

PRESIDENT
 Granted. Has anybody talked to
 Alfred and Connie's daughters?

They all respond with a "no" shake on the head.

PRESIDENT
 Jack, you know the girls well.

JACK
 I'll talk to them as soon as this
 meeting's over.

PRESIDENT
 All we can do now is wait and say a
 little prayer for Alfred and Connie's
 souls.

INT. JOHN'S PARENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Peter, John, Simon and Samson come in through the door. The others sit in the couch and watch the news about the plane on TV. Samson runs in and jumps up in the couch.

JOHN
Samson! Get down!

BOB
Quiet! I want to hear this!

John and Peter stand behind the couch and look at the TV. Simon sits down on a chair and plays his Game Boy. On the TV there's a graphic of the Pacific, with a mark approximately where the plane went down.

NEWSREADER (V.O.)
We have just got confirmation from the White House that the Vice-President and his wife were aboard the Boeing 747, which went down off the coast of Oregon a couple of hours ago.

The image shifts to the newsreader.

NEWSREADER (CONT'D)
We will be back with more information as soon as we know. And now on to the other news of today. It seems that the Scott affaire has weakened President Bolt's approval rating. His popularity...

John stands in the corner and talks in his cell phone.

JOHN
Okay, see you in an hour.

He hangs up and Mary turns to him.

MARY
What's up?

JOHN
Brian's ready to go tonight. We can be at the crash site in the morning.

BOB
What the hell do you wanna be there for?

JOHN
To help search for survivors.

ELIZABETH

But the whole thing could be over
when you get out there.

JOHN

At least we tried then. We're going
out there anyway.

BOB

Leave it to the authorities.

INT. WALTER BRENNER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's a small dark one-room apartment, not much on the walls
or floor. There's a big bed against the side wall and the
only light comes from the open toilet door on the back wall.

WALTER BRENNER, 37 years old, unshaven and good looking
walks naked from the bed and to the toilet to pee. On the
bed lies CECILE, young, blond and not the sharpest knife in
the drawer, naked. A phone RINGS.

WALTER

Cecile! Answer the phone!

CECILE

I can't find it!

WALTER

Look down at the foot end!

CECILE

(searches at the foot end)
It's not here! Wait a minute, it's
here!

CECILE (CONT'D)

(answers)
Hello!
(pause)
Just a moment. Walter, it's for you!

WALTER

Who is it!?

CECILE

Who's calling?
(pause)
It's a guy called John!

WALTER

What does he want!?

CECILE
 Whatta you want?
 (pause)
 He wants you out sailing in an hour!

WALTER
 Tell him okay!

CECILE
 He says okay.
 (pause)
 Bye.

Cecile hangs up and a moment later it appears to her what Walter has agreed to, and she gets a little upset.

CECILE (CONT'D)
 In an hour? What about me, Walter!?

INT. PINEWOOD INN - NIGHT

It's the local smoke-filled bar with the usual bunch. At the counter sits JOHNNY "LONGJOHN" PETERSEN, 36 years old, a very tall skinny man with long hair in a old shirt and blue overalls, and ROBERT FISCHER, 39 years old, a small stocky man with short dark hair, he's a little shy.

They've had some drinks but are not loaded. Longjohn's cell phone RINGS and he answers it quickly without looking at the display.

LONGJOHN
 (excited)
 Donna, I'm sorry, I didn't mean what I said this morning. I don't know what got into me, you have the smallest, most delicious and sexiest ass in town, can you ever forgiv-

JOHN
 (filtered)
 Shut up, Longjohn!

LONGJOHN
 John?

JOHN
 (filtered)
 Be at the boat in an hour, we're sailing tonight. Are you at Pinewood Inn?

LONGJOHN
 Yes.

JOHN
(filtered)
Bring Robert.

They hang up and Longjohn gives Robert a funny look.

LONGJOHN
How the hell did he know you were
here with me?

Robert lifts his shoulders to indicate he doesn't know.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

The only light comes from a small lamp on the office desk. The President and General Dugan sit on each side of the desk drinking whiskey. An almost full bottle is on the desk. They raise their glasses, nod and drink.

PRESIDENT
Ah, nothing beats a good Scotch.

DUGAN
I've heard you like Scots. Even the
criminal ones?

PRESIDENT
Are you by any chance referring to
the Scott, "circus"?

DUGAN
I guess I am.

PRESIDENT
I know a lot of people, including
you, thought that I handled the
situation badly.

DUGAN
Not your finest hour, Sir.

PRESIDENT
But when I pardoned Senator Scott for
the accident that killed a man, not
many people knew what had happened up
to that point.

DUGAN
It looked very much like a favor to a
good friend. It pissed off a lot of
people.

PRESIDENT

He is a good friend, and when he didn't want the public to know that this man held his wife and daughter captive, raped them repeatedly, almost killing his daughter. I granted him his wish.

DUGAN

How in the world could you keep such an incident from the public? From reporters?

PRESIDENT

It was a tough job, but if the President of the United States of America couldn't pull it off, who could?

There is a KNOCK on the door.

PRESIDENT

Yes!

OFFICER

(enters)

Mr. President. General.

PRESIDENT

(gets a document)

Thank you.

The officer exits. The President looks at the document. It's a report from The National Sea and Weather Institute. The President reads aloud. The letter is shown.

PRESIDENT (V.O.) (CONT'D)

"After thorough analysis of the data we were able to attain, we have concluded that the anomaly that occurred earlier today about five hundred miles off the coast of Oregon, was a tornado. It was a very special and powerful sea tornado, called a Sea-Sky."

Segue to Kevin's voice.

KEVIN (V.O.)

"This type of tornado can reach a height of up to twenty thousand to twenty-six thousand feet, and is generated when a Cumulus-Nimbus cloud builds up near the ocean surface. According to our assessment, the tornado could have contributed to the disappearance of flight N913AT. Sincerely, Dr. Lisa Anderson, head of the department of sea and weather phenomena."

INT. NATIONAL SEA AND WEATHER INSTITUTE - NIGHT

KEVIN C. DAVEY, 28 years old, Lisa's assistant, finishes reading a copy of the letter. He sits in a dark laboratory with a lot of screens and computer equipment and big world maps. He looks up at SUSAN SINGLETON, 25 years old, another of Lisa's assistants from England.

KEVIN

Sea-Sky tornado, she's kidding, right? What a load of crap.

SUSAN

She had to write something and we don't know shit about what caused it. The data is simply too unclear. The White House wanted a report tonight.

KEVIN

Yeah, but a Sea-Sky for crying out loud.

Kevin gets up and walks over toward the door, with a despairing look in his eyes.

SUSAN

They don't know what a Sea-Sky is, we can bloody tell them whatever we want to, and they believe it!

KEVIN

But it's the President, for Christ sake, you don't bullshit the President!

Kevin meets Lisa in the door and he shakes his head.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Sea-Sky!

Kevin walks on and Lisa looks at Susan.

LISA
What's his problem?

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

The President and Dugan are still enjoying a whiskey.

DUGAN
We have the Nimitz and Springfield on
exercise, only sixty miles north of
the site. Would you like me to
dispatch them to the area to help
with the search?

PRESIDENT
Thank you. I'd appreciate it.

INT. PITCH BLACK ROOM - NIGHT

JOHN (O.S.)
(outside the room)
I've forgotten something, be right
there!

John comes in and flicks on the light, and opens a closet door, reaching for the top shelf, and pulls down a very dusty gun case. He opens the case and pulls out the gun and looks at it. He can't make up his mind, should he bring it, or not?

MARY (O.S.)
John!

JOHN
Coming!

He puts the gun in his jacket, and grabs some rounds from a box too, and hurries out the room.

EXT. PINWOOD BAY, HARBOR - NIGHT

Lamps light the harbor. The weather is nice and quiet with a full moon.

John, BRIAN and Robert load provisions from a van onto The SEAFLYER. Longjohn is inside the boat, putting the goods away. Walter and Cecile are kissing on the pier.

Mary, and Brian's very pregnant wife, Karen, stand on the pier and talk. Simon and Samson sit in the front of the van. John comes up to Mary.

JOHN
We're almost done, honey.

John takes a crate from the van.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(shouts)
Walter Brenner! Get that sponge
thing out of her mouth, and get your
ass over here if you wanna keep your
job!

WALTER
Sweetie pie, I have to go down and
help the guys, before the boss sacks
me.

CECILE
Be back soon, my brain can't function
when you're not around.

MARY
(to Karen)
I'm afraid it more or less can't
function all the time.

Cecile walks toward Mary and Karen. She stops by them and
looks up at Walter, with big wet puppy eyes.

CECILE
Isn't he just gorgeous? We're
getting married next spring.

She's gone before they can answer her, and they giggle like
a couple of schoolgirls.

MARY
It isn't the weight of her brain that
makes her flat-footed, but Walter
seems to like her very much.

KAREN
And she adores him, so they're a
perfect match.

Mary looks at Karen's stomach and at that time the boat
ENGINE STARTS up.

MARY
You're not afraid the baby will
decide to come while Brian's out
there?

KAREN

When I had Emma, I went eight days past due before I gave birth, so I still have three weeks to go.

MARY

Where is Emma?

KAREN

She's asleep at home. My sister's watching her. You know what?

MARY

What?

KAREN

She's about to drive me nuts.

MARY

What's she doing?

KAREN

She jabbbers, and she jabbbers, and jabbbers, her mouth won't quit for a second. I can't get her to shut up.

MARY

Why don't you buy her one of those toy parrots that repeats every thing she says? Then she'll hear herself and find out how annoying it is.

KAREN

My God no, then I'd have to hear everything twice.

They laugh, John and Brian come over.

JOHN

Everything's packed, we're ready to go. Where's Simon?

MARY

In the van. He's tired.

John walks over and opens the van door.

JOHN

Are you coming out to say goodbye?

SIMON

I'm coming.

Simon gets out of the van and gives his dad a hug.

JOHN

Now you do as your mother tells you.
(kidding)
And I accept no less than an "A" for
your school project.

SIMON

Neither do I, dad. Send me a video-
mail of your adventures, from your
new PDA.

John reaches for it in his pocket, but it isn't there.

JOHN

Damn it, I left it at grandma's.

Simon takes out the PDA of his jacket and gives it to John.

SIMON

Well it's a good thing I'm not as
forgetful as you are.

JOHN

You little rascal. Thanks.

John embraces Mary. Brian and Karen walk down the pier,
toward the gangway.

MARY

Take good care of yourself out there.

JOHN

I have the guys to protect me.

MARY

Is that supposed to comfort me? Got
your pills?

JOHN

(pats his jacket pocket)
Here. I'll be back soon.

She smiles. They all get aboard and the boat sails out.

EXT. PACIFIC, SEAFLYER - DAWN

John and Brian are awake and the rest sleep below. They
stand on the deck and look at the thunderstorm closing in on
them. Brian points at a big black thundercloud.

BRIAN

It's gonna pour.

JOHN

Yeah, I think you're right.

They reflect on things for a second.

BRIAN

You don't miss your old government programming job?

JOHN

No, not at all, Brian. Too stressful. No, I'm glad we moved back from D.C. when Jonathan died.

BRIAN

What is it now, three years?

JOHN

Yeah, this November. But I think about it every day.

BRIAN

John, it wasn't your fault.

JOHN

Well, if I hadn't been so obsessive about work, I might not have been so tired and stressed out. I might have reacted quicker behind the wheel. I might have seen the car coming right at us. Six years old.

Shakes his head sadly.

BRIAN

You shouldn't punish yourself so much, John. You lost a kid. Mary can't get pregnant, and you got a damn ulcer. You suffer enough.

JOHN

Yeah.

BRIAN

But we got you back to Pinewood Bay, and just in time to take over your father's boat when he retired. For that, I'm glad.

John grabs Brian on his shoulder and smiles.

JOHN

You're right, Brian, let's focus on the bright side.

BRIAN

And on a completely different subject, do you know where we are? We must have passed Michelberg's Bank by now?

JOHN

I'm not quite sure, let's go in and get a cup of coffee and check it out.
(yawns)
My guess is we're about an hour from the crash site.

Just as they're about to enter, a large SHIP-HORN sounds and the USS NIMITZ sails up on their side. Soldiers on the deck salute the men on the Seaflyer. Suddenly the USS SPRINGFIELD breaks the water with a big SPLASH, on the other side of the Seaflyer. The commotion wakes the others.

JOHN (CONT'D)

That's God damn impressive! I have to show it to Simon. Let's see how this camera works.

John takes out his PDA, and fumbles around with it.

BRIAN

They'll be long gone before you get that thing working, the way you're fooling around.

John gets the camera on the PDA to work.

JOHN

See, no problem.

The three others come hurrying out on the deck.

WALTER

(looks at Nimitz)
Whoa! Jesus! It's big!

LONGJOHN

(sleepy)
Who the hell do they think they are, waking us up like that?

WALTER

The Navy?

ROBERT

They, they're not going to hit us, are they?

BRIAN

I don't think they intend to scratch
their paint on us.

LONGJOHN

Are we at war?

A couple of jets fly low over them, and they automatically
duck their heads.

JOHN

(laughs)
C'mon guys, let's get some coffee.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY

The First Lady pulls the curtains, and light hits the
sleeping President's face, waking him up. The First Lady is
dressed, and has been up for some time now.

FIRST LADY

Morning, William. Sleep well?

The President sits up in his bed. He has a very heavy head
this morning and he puts his hands on his head.

PRESIDENT

Good morning. Ah. My head! Good
morning, dear.

FIRST LADY

Up late last night?

The President sits on the edge of the bed and reaches out
for a glass of water on his nightstand. The First Lady
comes over and reaches her one hand out in a fist. The
President looks up at her and he reaches out toward her
hand, and she drops two headache pills in his hand.

PRESIDENT

You're a lifesaver. Whatever would I
do without you?

She knows.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY

The President has breakfast and reads the newspaper. Sally
comes in.

SALLY

Morning, William. Late breakfast?

PRESIDENT

Yeah, I had a little trouble getting out of bed this morning.

SALLY

Anything to do with that empty bottle of whisky on your office desk?

Sally walks around the table and steals from the breakfast.

PRESIDENT

No wonder my head is pounding if we managed to drain that bottle.

SALLY

You and?

PRESIDENT

Dugan.

Sally gets some food stuck in her throat and coughs.

SALLY

Oh! That's new, sharing a bottle of whiskey with a man you don't like. Are you getting soft, William?

PRESIDENT

We had a good man to man talk. He's not as arrogant as I thought he was.

SALLY

I told you so, but you wouldn't listen.

PRESIDENT

Damn newspaper, never reports anything useful. Have you got any news on Alfred?

SALLY

No, nothing. You have a meeting at 10:00 am with the executives, and Admiral Pickett.

PRESIDENT

(shoots her a look)

Please tell me, you didn't say Pickett.

SALLY

I did, sorry.

PRESIDENT

That man is a nuisance.

His SECRETARY, RUTH, KNOCKS on the open door.

RUTH
Mr. President!

PRESIDENT
Yes, Ruth?

RUTH
Mr. Tanner is here to see you, Sir.

PRESIDENT
Ah, Bill! Tell him I'll be right there.

RUTH
Yes, Sir.

The President gets up and walks toward the door.

PRESIDENT
Can we ignore the press?

SALLY
I don't think so.

PRESIDENT
Okay, Okay. Press conference at 1:00 p.m.

SALLY
I'm on it.

The President is out the door and Sally is still eating.

PRESIDENT (O.S.)
And Sally!

SALLY
Yes!

PRESIDENT (O.S.)
Stop eating my breakfast!

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, HALLWAY TO PRESSROOM - DAY

The President, Sally, Dennis and Jack walk toward the pressroom. Dennis hands the President a piece of paper with a statement on it.

SALLY
You give a short statement first and then they have ten minutes for questions.

The President goes and reads the statement. They come to the pressroom door. Sally points at the door.

SALLY
Dennis, will you?

DENNIS
Yeah.

Dennis and Jack go into the pressroom. The President and Sally stay in the hallway for a moment.

DENNIS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Good afternoon! The President will present a statement and then you have ten, and only ten minutes for questions.

Sally adjusts the President's tie.

SALLY
I know you don't like to get too emotional, but he's a close personal friend, so it's okay to show you're moved by the situation.

PRESIDENT
I'll try.

SALLY
Good boy.

DENNIS (O.S.)
Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States!

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, PRESSROOM - DAY

The President and Sally come in and he steps onto the podium.

PRESIDENT
Dear countrymen, dear friends. The nation and I are in deep grief. We have lost a good man, a devoted father and husband.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

A giant oilrig is towed by a big towboat. It's windy and rains.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
 A Vice-President we could always
 trust, and count on. With him was
 his ever-loyal wife.

INT. TOWBOAT, STEERING HOUSE - DAY

A SKIPPER, 50 years old, a small dirty man, steers the boat
 together with a colleague. They listen to the radio.

PRESIDENT (V.O.)
 And my deepest compassion goes out to
 the rest of the passengers and crew
 of flight N913AT, and their families.
 At this time nothing points to a
 crime or terrorism.

The skipper looks out the window and suddenly something
 catches his eyes. About a mile further out the ocean rises.

PRESIDENT (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 There are some indications of a
 powerful storm of some sort, which is
 being investigated. And I swear to
 you all, we will not rest a second,
 until we have the full facts.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, PRESSROOM - DAY

PRESIDENT
 Now, I will answer some questions the
 best I can.

The journalists shout overtop of each other. The President
 points at Angela and she gets up.

ANGELA
 Thank you, Mr. President. Angela
 Temper, NBC News. We have received
 an anonymous note, claiming that a
 bizarre water phenomenon of some sort
 occurred where the plane went down
 last night, any comment on that, Sir?

Angela's cell phone vibrates, and she looks at it. Message
 reads: "SOMETHING HAPPENING IN THE WATER ON CRASH SITE RIGHT
 NOW, E.C."

PRESIDENT
 We have absolutely no intelligence of
 such-

ANGELA

(interrupts)

Sorry, Mr. President, but I've just received a message saying that this phenomenon is back out there, as we speak!

PRESIDENT

Excuse me?

DENNIS

What are you talking about, Temper?

An out of breath FEMALE EMPLOYEE comes running into the pressroom.

EMPLOYEE

(panting)

Mr. President, you, you better come see this.

There's some commotion in the room. The President, Sally and Dennis rush out and Jack goes on the podium.

JACK

Ladies and Gentlemen. Ladies and Gentlemen, order please! We're cutting the meeting short now, but we'll be back when we know more.

Jack goes out of the room. Some of the journalists go out, others including Angela, gather around a TV. On the TV, there's an image from a helicopter, filming from the Pacific, where the water is in violent movement.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - DAY

They stand around a TV and Jack comes in.

JACK

What's happening?

No answer. We see the TV where a reporter, BRUCE, aboard the helicopter is reporting.

BRUCE (V.O.)

(excited, speaks loud)

I don't know what's going on, but it's wild. There's now a ring in the water with a diameter of at least a thousand feet, and growing.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

There are ships and helicopters in the area where a giant vortex is developing.

BRUCE (V.O.)

I wonder if there're any scientists on the planet who can explain what's going on out here right now.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, PRESSROOM - DAY

The journalists stand paralyzed and look at the TV.

BRUCE (V.O.)

It's been near gale force winds all day, but the storm is really baring its teeth now, coming at us with tremendous force.

INT. PENTAGON, CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Dugan and five other military guys have a meeting.

DUGAN

The Nimitz found some wreckage in the area - but - from a container ship that disappeared last month.

An OFFICER comes into the room and turns on the TV.

OFFICER

Sorry, Gentlemen, but I thought you ought to see this.

An image of the Pacific from the helicopter comes on.

BRUCE (V.O.)

From where we are in the observation chopper, we can just make out what appears to be a rotating ring on the surface. Much like a giant whirlpool developing right before our eyes, and - I'm just getting a message in my headset now that all marine vessels in the vicinity have been warned to clear out. Certainly if this disturbance keeps it could take down all marine traffic in its path.

INT. NATIONAL SEA AND WEATHER INSTITUTE - DAY

They look at the developing vortex on a big-screen.

BRUCE (V.O.)

As you can see at home, it is a whirlpool, with a funnel at the center about a mile across. This thing goes deep, let me tell you.

EXT. PACIFIC, HELICOPTER - DAY

The camera films the event.

BRUCE (V.O.)

I've just been advised by the pilot, that we're moving to a safer distance away. Apparently, there's an increasing risk of wind-shear if we stay at our current position, and we're experiencing terrific turbulence which is exerting a powerful downward pull on the helicopter. The whirlpool, I can see from here, has grown to about two miles in radius. If you look at the clouds, you can see they're beginning to be sucked down toward the vortex itself. I can't believe my eyes what I'm seeing here, it's a truly unprecedented event.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The people are still gathered and they look at the TV.

BRUCE (V.O.)

We've now moved to a safe vantage point from this huge whirlpool, which has grown to an unbelievably gigantic size - I'd say around three to four miles wide - and it's definitely pulling everything around it down into its belly. Oh my God, several ships are about to be engulfed, even as I speak. We'll try to zoom in and get a better look for you - yes - there's an aircraft carrier ! It's going down!

EXT. PACIFIC, VORTEX - DAY

The fully developed vortex rotates with increasing rapidity. The USS Nimitz, the Seaflyer and the towboat with the oil rig are about to be sucked down.

EXT. PACIFIC, NIMITZ - DAY

The ship struggles to stay away from the vortex.

INT. NIMITZ, BRIDGE - DAY

There's a lot of commotion on the bridge, the CAPTAIN and the SECOND IN COMMAND try to hold on.

CAPTAIN

(shouts)

Hard starboard and hold her. Full speed. Sound the collision alarm; we're going down in this monster. Make sure everyone's wearing their jackets!

FIRST MATE

Helm's full starboard, and engine's on full power, but we're still sliding toward the vortex, Sir!

SECOND IN COMMAND

Can we save some men with the helicopters, Sir?

CAPTAIN

Hardly, Barnes, but if we could, would you choose who's going, and who's not?

SECOND IN COMMAND

No, Sir. We have three fighters and two choppers in the air, what about them?

CAPTAIN

Contact them and tell them to land at Portland, or if they have fuel enough, at Salem.

INT. FIGHTER - DAY

FLIGHT CONTROLLER
(filtered)
...you're instructed to divert to
Salem immediately

PILOT
Roger that.

INT. NIMITZ, BRIDGE - DAY

SECOND IN COMMAND
It's gonna be bad.

CAPTAIN
Send out a Mayday.

EXT. PACIFIC, NIMITZ - DAY

Nimitz slides down into the vortex.

EXT. PACIFIC, TOWBOAT - DAY

The towboat is moving away as fast as it can, but the oilrig
is about to be captured by the vortex.

INT. TOWBOAT, BRIDGE - DAY

The skipper is panicking at the controls and grabs the
intercom.

INT. TOWBOAT, ENGINE ROOM - DAY

The engines are at full power and the lamp on the intercom
blinks. A busy MECHANIC answers it.

MECHANIC
Yes!

SKIPPER
(filtered)
More power, I need more power!

MECHANIC
Sorry, Sir - All engines are red-
lining as it is. They'll burn if I
push them any more!

EXT. TOWBOAT - DAY

A CREWMEMBER stands by the rig that holds the chains to the oilrig. A call comes on his walkie-talkie.

SKIPPER
(filtered)
Jacob!

CREWMEMBER
Yes, Skipper?

SKIPPER
(filtered)
Disengage the chains to the rig, now
Jacob!

CREWMEMBER
Are you sure, Skipper?

SKIPPER
(filtered)
Release 'em now, Goddamn it, or we
all go down that hole! Release 'em!

The crewmember goes to control panel and opens the lid to the emergency button, and pushes it. There's a big JERK in the ship and the chains drop to the water.

INT. TOWBOAT, ENGINE ROOM - DAY

The mechanic has been slammed to the floor. He struggles to his feet and checks the engines, which run a little quieter now.

INT. TOWBOAT, BRIDGE - DAY

The skipper gives a cautious smile as he sees the boat escape from the vortex.

EXT. TOWBOAT - DAY

The towboat gets away, but the oilrig is sucked in.

EXT. SEAFLYER - DAY

The Seaflyer is at the top of the vortex, rotating in it.

INT. SEAFLYER, BRIDGE - DAY

John fights to hold the rudder. The boat shakes violently. Brian and Longjohn are on the bridge with him and the others are down below. Brian hands John a life jacket.

BRIAN
Put this on, John.

John pushes him away.

JOHN
Not now, I can't hold her!

BRIAN
John! It's too late. It's out of our hands now, put the Goddamn jacket on!

LONGJOHN
It's all up to the lord up there. I wonder if he'll meet us down there?

John calms down and puts on the jacket and places a hand on each of their shoulders.

JOHN
Don't worry, guys, we've survived worse things before.

LONGJOHN
We have?

INT. SEA FLYER, RESTROOM - DAY

Robert sits with closed eyes and preys. Walter tries to pour himself a glass of whisky, but spills it all over the place instead. He gets mad and throws the glass and bottle against the wall and puts his hands to his head.

WALTER
Stop that fucking praying. There ain't anybody up there listening anyway.

ROBERT
You can't say that.

WALTER
If there were, I would be sitting by the pool in a giant mansion with a bloody Mary in my hand, and gorgeous women in the pool.

ROBERT

The lord isn't providing you with wealth, Walter. But he stands by you at difficult times.

WALTER

Ahrr, shut up!

EXT. SEAFLYER - DAY

The Seaflyer goes down into the vortex.

EXT. VORTEX - DAY

Nimitz, Seaflyer and the oilrig rotate down in the vortex.

INT. NIMITZ, BRIDGE - DAY

The people on the bridge hold on desperately. The Captain looks out the window and up; it's a long way up.

INT. SEAFLYER - DAY

The men watch, tensely and silently.

EXT. VORTEX - DAY

We go down the funnel and past the ships and rig, and go through the funnel wall and into the sea. Going through the sea and some way in, we meet the USS Springfield.

INT. SPRINGFIELD, CONTROL-, SONAR ROOM - FSY

The CAPTAIN looks at a monitor, as the SONAR OPERATOR calls him over.

SONAR OPERATOR

Captain, Sir!

CAPTAIN

What is it, Jefferson?

SONAR OPERATOR

I have a contact about a mile further ahead, Sir. It sounds funny. Listen to this, Sir.

The sonar operator puts on the speakers. A NOISE comes and it gets louder. The EXEC comes over.

EXEC

What the hell is it?

SONAR OPERATOR

I don't think it's man-made. It's definitely not propeller, Sir.

CAPTAIN

Don't tell me what it isn't. I want some facts!

SONAR OPERATOR

It's in a fixed position, which we're rapidly closing in on. I don't like it, Sir.

EXEC

It sounds like rotating water?

SONAR OPERATOR

Jesus, Captain! It occupies seventy degrees of our channel! We don't have time enough to go around it!

CAPTAIN

Seventy? What the hell?
(to radio operator)
Contact Nimitz, they might know something.

SONAR OPERATOR

Range to contact two thousand feet, and closing!

RADIO OPERATOR

I can't reach the Nimitz, Sir!

NAVIGATOR

Captain! None of the instruments are responding!

SONAR OPERATOR

What happened? Captain, my sonar went dead too!

RADIO OPERATOR

I can't get in contact with anybody, no outgoing communication works, Sir!

The Captain sees a piece of paper in the fax, grabs it and reads. He then looks up and yells.

CAPTAIN

Helm, full back!

HELMSMAN

Full back!

EXEC

What is it, Captain?

CAPTAIN

You were right about the rotating water. We're heading toward a Goddamn giant vortex.

EXEC

God, help us!

All the men are quiet and the sub slowly stops to go backwards. The sound of the VORTEX that closes in gets louder. The vortex is now only a few feet away.

EXT. VORTEX, FUNNEL - DAY

Suddenly the nose of the Springfield BREAKS through the funnel wall. Nimitz heads toward it, but the sub is now backing and it almost gets in again before Nimitz hurls past. Nimitz just barely scratches the sub's nose. No real damage to the sub or Nimitz.

INT. SPRINGFIELD, CONTROL ROOM - FSU

The SCRATCHING sound is amplified by the sub's hull, so it sounds worse than it actually is. The men get uneasy.

HELMSMAN

We're at full back, Sir!

The sound of the VORTEX gets weaker.

CAPTAIN

I want a full damage report, now!

EXT. VORTEX, FUNNEL - DAY

The ships and the rig disappear down in the pitch-black funnel.

EXT. PACIFIC, VORTEX - DAY

The vortex suddenly stops and the sea calms down.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, PRESSROOM - DAY

Jack goes rapidly through the room. Angela stops him and places a hand on his shoulder and plants a small "bug" on him, so she can listen in. Jack knows Angela.

ANGELA

What's going on, Jack?

JACK

I have no comment at this point, Angela. But as soon as I know, you know. Please, excuse me.

Jack goes on and Angela puts a listening device into her ear.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - DAY

There's a lot of activity in the room. There are: the President, Sally, Dennis, Rick and other employees in the room. Jack and Dugan come in and the President starts to speak, everybody else gets quiet.

PRESIDENT

It seems to be over for now, but what the hell just happened out there?

Everybody looks puzzled, and has no answer.

RICK

The head of the department of sea and weather phenomena over at NSWI, Dr. Anderson, should be the best in this field.

DENNIS

What do you suggest?

RICK

We get her over here to tell us what happened.

PRESIDENT

Get her, Rick.

DUGAN

That thing took Nimitz. I want a local HQ near the coast of Oregon, where we can gather all intelligence.

JACK

Do we have any military bases over there?

A military map of Oregon comes on the table.

DUGAN

We have a military airfield a few miles from Salem, but there's only a control tower assigned to it.

DENNIS

A coast town?

SALLY

I know the mayor of Pinewood Bay. He'll lend us the community house.

DUGAN

We need landing space for the choppers?

SALLY

There's a big parking lot outside the house.

PRESIDENT

Okay, let's do it.

Sally sees the "bug" on Jack's shoulder.

SALLY

You have some dirt on your jacket.

She brushes the "bug" off.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, PRESSROOM - DAY

The noise hits Angela's ear and she pulls out the earpiece.

ANGELA

Ahrr! Goddamn it!

INT. NATIONAL SEA AND WEATHER INSTITUTE - DAY

High activity level. Confusion reigns. Kevin and Lisa study the images and graphics of the vortex.

KEVIN

Sweet Jesus, I've never seen a vortex of this magnitude before.

LISA

No one has. Not in the recorded history, anyhow.

KEVIN

What the hell could release such a force? There're no currents meeting there?

LISA

I don't know. A displacement of tectonic plates or massive eruptions of magma could do it. But the seismometers haven't been affected by it at all.

KEVIN

The moon?

Lisa turns to her computer and enters a website.

LISA

Distance: 238.860 miles and
gravitational attraction: 1,253e22
N*m, nothing unusual here.

Susan comes running into the lab.

SUSAN

I've just got off the phone with the White House. We got an hour to get over there, and tell the President what happened.

KEVIN

The President?

LISA

One hour? How the hell can I tell him? I don't know.

A colleague comes in and throws a Washington Post in front of Lisa. She picks it up and reads the headline; "Professor George Lamperts will reveal the circumstances concerning General Frank Sterling's death. Read the exclusive interview tomorrow." Lisa thinks and smiles.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Mary's shopping. She picks up a jar of pickles and looks at it. Her cell phone RINGS and she answers.

MARY

Hello!

(pause)

Hi, Peter, what's up?

The expression on her face changes as Peter tells her what

has happened. She drops the jar and it BREAKS on the floor.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Mary runs to her car and speeds away.

EXT. PINWOOD BAY HARBOR, AURORA - DAY

Simon arrives on his bike and Mary arrives in the car at the same time. Peter and his colleague JAMES, 44, get ready to sail. Simon jumps down into the boat.

SIMON

Have you heard from dad?

Mary gets out of the car and calls Simon.

MARY

Simon, come up here, honey!

Simon gets up to her and she tells him what has happened. While we see them from a distance, Peter and James talk.

PETER

You got the engine running?

JAMES

Yeah, she purrs like a pussycat.

PETER

Good, then we can sail.

Simon and Mary are on the pier and she turns to Peter.

MARY

Any news?

PETER

No, I'm afraid not. But we're sailing out now to search for them.

SIMON

I wanna come with you.

MARY

No way, Simon, it's too dangerous.

SIMON

But, mom, I know how to-

MARY

No! And that's it! End of discussion.

Peter gets on the pier and walks over to Simon.

PETER
Your mom's right, kiddo. But I
promise you I'll find your dad.
Don't you worry, big guy.

Peter gives Simon and Mary a hug and goes back on the boat.

MARY
Do you need a ride home?

SIMON
No, I have my bike.

Mary and Simon drive away. At the same time a big black car pulls up at the docks, and two black dressed government looking guys step out. They walk down to the pier and look down into Peter's boat. The one, an older guy, takes off his sunglasses, and presents a badge we don't see what is.

MIB
Mr. Hunt?

PETER
Yes?

MIB
We need to speak to you.

PETER
Come aboard.

They get aboard and all four go into the wheelhouse.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Rick comes into the office with Lisa, Kevin and Susan.

RICK
Mr. President, may I present Dr. Lisa
Anderson?

PRESIDENT
My pleasure, Dr. Anderson.

LISA
It's a great honor to meet you, Mr.
President.

RICK
Her assistants, Kevin C. Davey and
Susan Singleton.

PRESIDENT

Hello?

KEVIN

Mr. President.

SUSAN

How do you do, Mr. President?

The President makes a gesture to sit down on the couch.

PRESIDENT

Well, Dr. Anderson, let me hear some golden words.

LISA

To be frank, Mr. President, at this point we don't know anything. We have to conduct a lot more studies and calculations, before we can hazard a guess.

DENNIS

If you don't know, who does? And what about the "Sea-Sky" tornado you mentioned in your report?

Lisa ignores him. She shoots Kevin an embarrassed look and he smiles back, gleefully. Lisa turns to the President.

LISA

Mr. President, I would very much like as soon as possible to get out to our research ship on the West Coast.

JACK

D'you have any equipment on board that can help with the search?

LISA

We have radar, sonar, and a microwave scanner on our minisub.

DENNIS

The USS Springfield had that too. They couldn't find jack shit.

LISA

But, Mr..?

DENNIS

Schmidt.

LISA

Mr. Schmidt. Springfield can only go down to sixteen hundred feet, our sub can go down to sixteen *thousand* feet. Nevertheless, our primary objective would be to find out what caused this vortex.

(looks at the President)
Right?

PRESIDENT

Of course, Dr. Anderson. Is there anything we can do to help?

LISA

As a matter of fact there is, Mr. President.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CABIN - DAY

Idyllic cabin in the forest on a mountainside, with smoke rising from the chimney. Suddenly Special Forces agents converge from the forest. They surround the cabin and enter it by force.

INT. MOUNTAIN CABIN - DAY

Only the legs of the Special Forces guys with a prisoner are shown. Out through the door we can see them drag him to a car that pulls up. Under the mountain cabin scene Lisa's voice-over is heard.

LISA (V.O.)

There's a man I'd like you to localize and get a hold on for me. His name is George Lamperts, and he was a Professor at Columbia University until he disappeared on an expedition in the Atlantic, eight years ago. Two years later he showed up on a beach on the West Coast, sound and happy, but exhibiting very peculiar behavior. Nobody has heard a sound from him in six years, until this morning when he made a comment to a newspaper. Based on rumors I'm convinced he knows a lot more about this business than he has revealed so far. His last known whereabouts are in a mountain cabin in the Rockies. But be careful, the last person who tried to contact him, ended up with a butt full of buckshot.

RICK (V.O.)
 Leave it to us, Doctor.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, BRIDGE - DAY

CAPTAIN ALDEN and FIRST MATE SCEVOLA gaze out the windows and drink coffee. A fax comes in and the Captain reads it.

ALDEN
 It's from Anderson. She wants us to go down to the vortex site. She'll join us there.

SCEVOLA
 I just knew she wouldn't let a fat chance like this pass by.

ALDEN
 What chance?

SCEVOLA
 The chance to be the center of a major, major rotating - Thing!

ALDEN
 Yeah, she loves it, doesn't she?

EXT. PINWOOD BAY, HARBOR - DAY

The Aurora sails out in the rain. The black car leaves the docks.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Angela talks on the airplane phone.

ANGELA
 Julie, tell E.C. I've gone to Pinewood Bay.
 (pause)
 No Oregon, stupid.
 (pause)
 What? Tell that asshole it's my story and if he tries to give it to that fruit, David Brown, I'm gonna rip his balls off.
 (pause)
 No, don't call him an asshole. You like your job don't you? And, Julie. Get a hold of a camera crew from our branch in Portland, send them to the community house in Pinewood Bay.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

(pause)

Community house!

(pause)

I don't care if it's not authorized,
just do it, girl!

Angela hangs up and an old Lady gives her a funny look.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

What!?

EXT. PINWOOD BAY - DUSK

The military come into town, and choppers land at the community house. The citizens mill about anxiously as they see their peaceful town being transformed into a military stronghold.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - NIGHT

A Colonel shows the staff where to install all the equipment.

EXT. WASHINGTON MILITARY AIRPORT - NIGHT

A car comes into the airport and stops. Out step Dugan, Lisa, Kevin and Susan. Lisa has changed to more practical clothes and loosened her hair. They walk toward a new experimental five-seater fighter jet. The PILOT stands by the plane, saluting them.

PILOT

Sir!

DUGAN

What's the flight time to Salem?

The pilot thinks.

PILOT

With air fueling, two and a half-hours, Sir.

DUGAN

Theoretically, what's the fastest time you can do it in?

PILOT

One hour and forty-five minutes, theoretically speaking, Sir

DUGAN

Prove it.

PILOT

(smiles)

Yes, Sir.

They go aboard the jet.

INT. JET, IN AIR - NIGHT

Lisa and Susan are pale and a little scared. Dugan and Kevin are enjoying themselves. Kevin glances over at Susan.

KEVIN

You look pale. Are you sure you're getting proper nutrition, and plenty of sex?

She DOESN'T think he's funny. A call comes through.

PILOT

It's for you, Dr. Anderson.

LISA

Anderson here.

RICK

(filtered)

Miss Anderson, Rick Morton here. Your friend Lamperts, we got him. He's meeting you at Salem.

LISA

Great! Thank you, Mr. Morton.

EXT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - NIGHT

It rains. A cab pulls up and Angela comes out and opens her umbrella. There's no camera crew??

ANGELA

(to herself)

No Goddamn crew. Do I have to do everything myself?

She goes toward the door where SOLDIERS stop her.

SOLDIER

Evening Miss, what can we do for you?

ANGELA

Hi, guys, I'm a reporter come all the way from Washington D.C. Could I come in and talk to your boss, please?

SOLDIER

I'm sorry, you can't, Miss. I must ask you to leave the premises.

ANGELA

Please, Mr. GI, let me in, just for a moment.

SOLDIER

Sorry, Miss.

Angela turns around and walks away, sour as a lemon.

EXT. SALEM MILITARY AIRFIELD - NIGHT

It rains. Lisa, Kevin, Susan and Dugan come from the jet towards a chopper. GEORGE LAMPERTS, 66 years old, grumpy with a large gray beard, looking a little savage, meets them.

LISA

Professor Lamperts, I'm so pleased to meet you. My name is-

GEORGE

Dr. Lisa Anderson. I know you very well, Miss Anderson.

She's a little surprised, but happy that he knows her.

LISA

I'm glad you accepted my invitation, Professor.

GEORGE

It's not like I had much of a choice. They were very persistent.

George looks at the two agents who follow him.

LISA

I'm sorry about that, but I really do need your help.

GEORGE

I don't know what it is you think I can bring to this project. I'm afraid I'm going to disappoint you.

DUGAN

We better get going folks.

They go into the chopper.

EXT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - NIGHT

The chopper lands and they come out and go toward the house. It rains and the personnel outside all wear long green raincoats.

Angela is in the area. The personnel take some stuff out of the chopper. Angela spots a spare raincoat, sneaks over and puts it on. She takes a box from the chopper, walks toward the house, and enters without notice.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Angela comes in and puts the box down. She sees some extra military clothes. She takes it and sneaks into a room. COLONEL ANDY SANDERS, 40 years old, comes over to the newcomers.

SANDERS

Welcome to Pinewood Bay. I'm Colonel Sanders.

LISA

Hi, Lisa.

GEORGE

Hello.

SANDERS

Good evening, General.

DUGAN

Evening, Sanders. How's the Missus doing?

SANDERS

She's very well, thank you.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE, COMMANDO ROOM - NIGHT

It's a big room with a lot of electronic equipment and military personnel. Lisa, George, Kevin, Susan, Dugan and Sanders walk in. They stop and talk and Angela listens in from behind a thin office booth wall. She has her personal clothes with her in a plastic bag.

DUGAN
Any news, Sanders?

SANDERS
No, Sir. Nothing at all.

DUGAN
Still no signal from the transmitter?

LISA
Transmitter?

SANDERS
All our ships are equipped with an automatic signal transmitter, which starts if the bridge comes under sea level. But for some reason we can't get a signal from the Nimitz.

KEVIN
Why not, is it "swimming with Harriotta Raleighana"?

SANDERS
Excuse me?

SUSAN
It's a deep-sea fish.
(kicks Kevin on his shin)
He's asking if it's down too deep.

DUGAN
Depth has no effect on the signal.
We don't know why.

MAJOR KURT FRAIZER, 32 years old, typical Special Forces guy, enters.

DUGAN
Ah, Kurt! Welcome.

KURT
Thank you, Sir.

DUGAN
Everybody, meet Major Kurt Fraizer.

Kurt nods and they nod back at him.

DUGAN
Kurt served under me when we took Baghdad. And I would put my life in his hands again in a heartbeat.

SANDERS

Fraizer here is going with you out to the ship, together with a small team of Special Forces guys.

LISA

(angry, looks at Sanders)
Soldiers?

(turns around to Dugan)
Nobody told me this was going to be a military operation.

DUGAN

Easy, easy now, Doctor. Nobody is making a military operation out of anything. You run the show a hundred percent. They're going with you for two reasons. First of all, if you find any military hardware on the bottom, then Kurt has to identify it. Secondly, they're with you for your protection, nobody has any idea of what's out there and I don't wanna lose any more people on that account.

SANDERS

And you're in good hands. He's a trained specialist in martial arts, communications and explosives. Have I forgotten anything?

SUSAN

I'll bet his a fantastic dancer too.

Everybody laughs. Kevin sees a coffee machine and takes a cup of coffee.

KEVIN

Hot coffee!
(waves the pot)
Anyone?

But no answer. A SOLDIER comes in.

SOLDIER

The helicopters are ready to go.

DUGAN

Good, let's get you out there.

Kevin's about to take a sip of his coffee as Susan takes it out of his hand, and puts it on the table.

KEVIN

Hey!?

SUSAN

Come on!

They go out and Angela follows them a few feet behind.

EXT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - NIGHT

They run in the rain over to the choppers. Five Special Forces guys wait in one of them. Angela follows them, but as she's thirty feet away from the house an OFFICER calls her from the door.

OFFICER

Hey, you!

ANGELA

Who? Me?

OFFICER

Yes, you! Get over here, hurry!

Angela goes over to him, she thinks she's busted.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

Private, take this to the helicopter,
double time.

He hands her a portfolio.

ANGELA

Yes, Sir.

She gets aboard one of the choppers. Lisa stands outside the other chopper, and talks to Dugan.

DUGAN

And, Dr. Anderson.

LISA

Yes, Sir?

DUGAN

Contact me immediately, if you find anything. Trust Kurt, he's one of the finest soldiers this country has.

LISA

Okay, Sir.

Lisa gets aboard. Dugan makes eye contact with one of the Special Forces guys, JOHNSON, and he gives a little acknowledging nod toward Dugan. The two choppers leave. Dugan looks at them disappear into the dark and then he goes back in.

INT. AIRFORCE ONE - NIGHT

The President and Sally are having a midnight snack.

SALLY

What time do we arrive at Salem?

PRESIDENT

Around 2:00 am.

SALLY

(yawns)

Okay, time to take a little nap then.

She makes herself comfortable and Dennis joins them.

DENNIS

Any news from Dr. Anderson?

PRESIDENT

They've barely reached the ship.

DENNIS

I can take that as a no, can I?

EXT. SEA EXPLORER - NIGHT

The two choppers land in bad weather and the people run into the ship. Angela sneaks inside too. The choppers take off again.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, HALLWAY - NIGHT

They walk down a hallway and at a point they meet a SAILOR.

LISA

Sailor, will you please tell Captain Alden that we're aboard?

SAILOR

Yes, ma'am.

The sailor leaves and they go on.

LISA

(to herself)

I feel so old when they call me ma'am.

They come to a door and Lisa opens it and looks at the Special Forces agents.

LISA
Your accommodation.

They look in and the room is very small. It's clear that Lisa put them in there just to irritate them. They shoot Kurt a look and he nods at the room, and they go in. The others including Kurt go on. Lisa has a smug smile on.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, LABORATORY - NIGHT

The laboratory is filled with a lot of computers and measurement equipment. In the room sit three scientists, busy at work: JAMES, LIZZY and HARRISON. Lisa, Kevin, Susan, George and Kurt come in. They carry some stuff and Lisa points at a table.

LISA
Put it over there, thanks.

KURT
I'm going down to the guys, call me if you need or find anything.

LISA
Thank you.

SUSAN
He's hot, isn't he?

LISA
Men are the least of my concerns right now.

SUSAN
Okay, I'll take him.

Kevin is already working at a PC. Lisa goes over to the three scientists.

LISA
Hi, guys. What's up?

JAMES
It's quiet, boss.

LIZZY
We haven't run into anything that can raise our systolic pressure over a hundred and twenty.

LISA
Is the minisub ready if we need it tomorrow?

HARRISON

Newly washed and filled up with premium, so go ahead and book it.

LISA

Where's my manners? Let me introduce you to Professor George Lamperts. He's going to help us solve this puzzle. I hope.

GEORGE

Humph!

JAMES

Hi, I'm James.

LIZZY

Hi, George, Lizzy here.

HARRISON

And I'm Harrison. You're the Lamperts who disappeared eight years ago, aren't you?

GEORGE

I suppose so.

HARRISON

What happened? You never would speak to the public.

GEORGE

I still won't.

LIZZY

Too bad, sounded exciting.

SUSAN

(yawns)

Does anybody mind if I go lie down for few hours? I'm bloody tired.

LISA

No, good idea. I think that we should all try to get some sleep. It's going to be a long day tomorrow.

KEVIN

I'll take the first shift. So buzz off and get some zees.

HARRISON

I'm gone.

LIZZY
Me too.

JAMES
Goodnight.

LISA
Goodnight, sleep tight, don't let the
bed-

HARRISON
Yeah, yeah, mom.

SUSAN
'Night, 'night.

LISA
Goodnight, Professor.

GEORGE
G'night.

SUSAN
(to George)
Let me show you to your quarters.

All have left but Lisa and Kevin.

LISA
Man, I'm hungry. I'm going to look
for a sandwich. You want one if I
find anything?

KEVIN
Sounds great.

INT. LABORATORY - LATER

Kevin is at the computer. Lisa sits on a chair with a half-eaten sandwich in her hand and sleeps.

INT. PINWOOD BAY, COMMUNITY HOUSE - NIGHT

There's not much activity here. The sound of a CHOPPER landing outside is heard. A moment later The President and his crew enter. Sanders wakes up and gets up from his chair and greets them.

SANDERS
Mr. President? What a pleasant
surprise. Welcome to Pinewood Bay,
I'm Colonel Sanders.

PRESIDENT

Thank you, Colonel. Is Dugan asleep?

SANDERS

Yes, he is. I'll send for him, Sir.

PRESIDENT

No, no, let him sleep. Is there a chance you can get somebody to show us to the Pinewood Bay Hotel?

SANDERS

Yes, of course, Sir.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, LABORATORY - NIGHT

Lisa wakes up on the chair and stretches herself. She's got a stiff neck from sleeping on the chair.

LISA

Ouch!

KEVIN

Oh, you're awake. What's the matter?

LISA

I've got a damn stiff neck from sleeping on that chair. I'm going out to get some fresh air. Call me if anything comes up.

She takes on a raincoat and picks up a walkie-talkie.

LISA (CONT'D)

See you.

KEVIN

Yeah, don't catch a cold out there.

Lisa goes out and Kevin looks at the monitor. He flicks through satellite images of the vortex. Suddenly a colorful image pops up. In the upper corner of the image is written: "EMP". There's something overwhelming about the data on the image.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Whoa!

EXT. SEA EXPLORER, BOW - NIGHT

It's stopped raining and the wind is down, but a dense fog lies over the ship. Lisa breathes in the fresh sea air.

INT. AURORA, RESTROOM - NIGHT

Peter sleeps in a berth. Suddenly a big BUMP sounds from the bow and the engine stops. Peter wakes, rushes up and gets on his coat and life jacket and runs out on deck.

EXT. AURORA, BOW - NIGHT

It's dark and foggy. Peter comes down and sees that it's a big plastic container they've hit, and nothing has happened. A few moments later James comes down from the wheelhouse.

JAMES

What is it?

PETER

It's a plastic container.

JAMES

Any damage?

PETER

No. Why didn't you steer around it, the radar must have caught it?

JAMES

Hell no, it wasn't there.

EXT. SEA EXPLORER, BOW - NIGHT

Lisa rubs her hands to keep warm. She turns around to go back in as a call comes on her walkie-talkie. It's from the first mate on the bridge.

SCEVOLA

(filtered)

Dr. Anderson, Scevola here. Come in please.

LISA

What can I do for you, Scevola, over?

SCEVOLA

(filtered)

We have some serious problems with our navigation and safety equipment. Among other stuff, our radar has gone dead. Have you any idea, over?

LISA

If it isn't a technical glitch, it could be that we're in an area with a lot of magnetism in the underground. I'll go down to the lab and check it out, over.

SCEVOLA

(filtered)

Thanks. Be aware that I'm going to sound the foghorn in a moment. If we're blind there's a chance that others are too, over and out.

Lisa gets another call, it's Kevin.

KEVIN

(filtered)

Lisa, get down here, nothing works at all!

LISA

I'm on my way.

On her way in she takes quick glance out in the fog. She stops for a moment, is there something out there?? She thinks she sees a small speck in the air. She walks out to the tip of the bow, to get a clearer view.

Suddenly she realizes that the speck is a lamp on a mast. She runs fast back toward the bridge and grabs her walkie-talkie and shouts. At the same time the FOGHORN sounds.

LISA

Bridge, full back, we're going to collide!

INT. SEA EXPLORER, BRIDGE - NIGHT

Scevola couldn't hear what she said.

SCEVOLA

Say again, over!

EXT. AURORA, BOW - NIGHT

Peter and James have heard the foghorn and turned toward the Sea Explorer, which comes right at them from behind. Peter pushes the paralyzed James overboard and jumps into the freezing sea.

The Sea Explorer hits the Aurora with a tremendous force, and the Aurora is torn apart and starts to sink immediately.

EXT. SEA EXPLORER - NIGHT

Lisa is thrown down on the deck by the impact.

INT. SEA EXPLORER - NIGHT

The people wake up from the NOISE and shaking.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, BRIDGE - NIGHT

The first mate sees the whole thing and he stops the engine, and hits the collision ALARM.

SCEVOLA

Shit!

EXT. SEA EXPLORER, BOW - NIGHT

The ship slowly stops. Lisa is up again and looks over the railing and down into the sea. She shouts in the walkie-talkie.

LISA

Man overboard!

Lights are lit all over the ship and people come out on deck. A voice comes out of the speakers.

VOICE

(filtered)

Man overboard, launch the lifeboats!

Two lifeboats are put in the water with Kurt in one of them.

EXT. SEA - NIGHT

Peter floats around in his life jacket. James is nowhere to be seen.

PETER

James! James!

Peter is picked up by Kurt's boat.

PETER (CONT'D)

There's one more man out there.

The other boat comes around.

KURT
 There's one more guy out here. We'll
 take him in.

SAILOR, BOAT#2
 We'll find him.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, RESTROOM - DAWN

Peter sits with a blanket around him and Lisa comes in with
 some hot coffee.

LISA
 Something to warm you up.

PETER
 Thanks.

Peter glance at Lisa; he likes her very much.

LISA
 What were you doing out here?

PETER
 We're out looking for my brother, the
 whirlpool took him.

LISA
 Was he aboard the Nimitz?

PETER
 No, on a fishing boat.
 Have they found my colleague out
 there?

LISA
 I'm sorry, I don't know.

It KNOCKS on the door.

LISA
 Come in!

The Captain enters.

ALDEN
 I'm sorry, but we haven't been able
 to find your shipmate. Did he wear a
 life jacket?

PETER
 No, that idiot, he never wore it. He
 couldn't breathe in it, he said.

ALDEN

(statement)

And you couldn't convince him that a life jacket was easier than water to breathe in. I'm sorry.

LISA

I'm really sorry.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, CABIN - DAY

Peter lies on a bed and stares up into the ceiling. There is a KNOCK on the door.

PETER

Come in!

Lisa opens the door and stands in the doorway, with a gun in her hand.

LISA

We found this in your wet clothes.

Peter sits up on his bed.

LISA (CONT'D)

Please refresh my memory; what does a fisherman need a gun for?

PETER

Come in, shut the door.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, HALLWAY - DAY

Lisa meets up with George, who's all cleaned up, the beard is gone, looking all civilized.

LISA

(smiling)

Excuse me, who are you?

George smiles a wry smile.

LISA (CONT'D)

You got your stuff?

GEORGE

Yeah, I was graciously allowed a clean set of clothes.

They enter-

INT. SEA EXPLORER, CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

-The conference room. The following people are at the table: Kevin, Peter, Susan, Kurt, James, Lizzy and Harrison.

HARRISON

(to James)

It's the friggin Bermuda-triangle.
(hums the theme from Twilight Zone)

JAMES

Bermuda-triangle? This is not the Sargasso Sea.

HARRISON

I know it's not the Sargasso, I didn't mean for you to take it literally, you dork.

Lisa starts the meeting. She points at Peter.

LISA

God morning! Have you all met Peter?

KEVIN

Yeah, we've all "bumped" in to him before, haven't we?

LISA

I've invited Peter to this meeting, because he knows these waters like he knows the back of his hand. James, what do we have so far?

JAMES

Not much. The only remotely exciting thing we have is a "dead zone" of two miles where no electronics work.

HARRISON

And we have absolutely no idea why.

KEVIN

Maybe I can explain it. During the night I studied hundreds of satellite photos of the vortex, and came across an exciting one from the military EMP Warning satellite, which shows an enormous electromagnetic field.

Kevin uses a projector to show them the colorful EMP image.

LISA

Enormous? How enormous?

KEVIN

Imagine we took all the power plants in the entire world, and hooked them up together with a gargantuan cable, and in ten seconds burnt off the energy that they normally burn off in a year. It's a totally incomprehensible amount of energy we're talking about.

HARRISON

That takes some light bulb.

KURT

Shouldn't all electronics in the area have been fried off?

KEVIN

In theory, yes. In my opinion there has to be something, or someone down there controlling the energy.

SUSAN

What could it be? A secret military experiment?

They look at Kurt.

KURT

Don't look at me. If the military really was down there, I haven't got enough stripes to be involved.

HARRISON

Aliens from outer space!

Everybody but George starts to talk. Then George gets tired of listening to them.

GEORGE

If you can all keep quiet, I will tell you what I know!

LISA

Everybody be quiet. Shut up! What do you say, Professor?

At the same time Johnson, knocks on the door.

JOHNSON

Major Fraizer, do you have a second?

KURT

Excuse me.

Kurt goes out into the hallway, a moment later he reenters together with two soldiers and Angela, who has changed back to her personal clothes.

LIZZY

Who's that?

KURT

It seems that we have an uninvited guest here, does anybody know her?

Lisa and Kevin get up from their chairs.

LISA

Who are you?

ANGELA

My name's Angela Temper, I'm a reporter from NBC News.

KURT

Do you have any identification on you?

ANGELA

Sure, here.

Kurt gets her ID and gives it to Johnson.

KURT

Check it out.

JOHNSON

Yes, Sir.

KEVIN

What are you doing out here, and how the hell did you get here?

ANGELA

The story of course and I actually traveled with you all the way out here, Kevin.

Kevin looks surprised that she knows his name.

KEVIN

Hurray for security!

George laughs.

GEORGE

Such boldness is worth rewarding, come and sit down, Miss Temper, and I'll give you some "Emmy" material.

The soldier comes back with her ID.

JOHNSON
She checks out, Sir.

Harrison pulls out a chair and Angela sits down.

ANGELA
(smiles sweet)
Thanks.

They all sit down and are ready to listen.

GEORGE
Eight years ago the research ship I
was on, sank in a fierce storm in the
Atlantic. The sinking was actually-

George is interrupted by the Captain's voice coming out
through the speaker.

ALDEN
(filtered)
Dr. Anderson, you better get up on
deck.

They all get up from their chairs.

EXT. SEA EXPLORER, DECK - DAY

They come out on the bow deck and Lisa looks up to the
bridge windows; there she makes eye contact with Alden who
points out over the sea. They look out over the sea, where
a mile out the water begins to set in motion.

KEVIN
What's that?

SUSAN
I have a bad feeling about this.

They all stare at it for a moment.

LIZZY
Not to be the wet blanket here guys,
but it's getting bigger and we're
heading straight for it.

PETER
Look, it's starting to whirl.

LISA
Jesus, it begins again!

GEORGE
All of you get in, quick!

INT. PINWOOD BAY, COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

The President and his crew come in. Dugan meets them.

DUGAN
Good morning, Mr. President. Slept well?

PRESIDENT
Yes, thank you, and just had a fabulous breakfast.

DUGAN
Yeah, they sure know how to cook there.

SALLY
William, we have to go through the press meeting.

TERRY calls.

TERRY (O.S.)
Sir! Something is happening!

They go round to Terry who sits by a monitor.

DUGAN
What is it, Terry?

TERRY
I think we're in for a new ride, Sir.

He points at the Pacific-image on the monitor, where some weak ripples start to show on the water.

DUGAN
(shouts)
Get all our ships and aircraft out of there, now!

DENNIS
Aren't you being a little hasty right now?

DUGAN
No! Excuse me. Sanders!

He pushes Dennis away and looks for Sanders.

SANDERS

Yes, Sir!?

DUGAN

Where's the Sea Explorer right now!?

Sanders looks at another monitor.

SANDERS

She's right in the middle of it, Sir!

PRESIDENT

Can they get away in time?

SANDERS

I'm not sure, Sir.

Sanders talks to a SOLDIER at the controls.

SANDERS (CONT'D)

Get hold of the Sea Explorer and tell them to get the hell out of there.

SOLDIER

Yes, Sir. Sea Explorer, this is P-Bay control, do you read, over?

ALDEN

(filtered)

Sea Explorer here, over.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, BRIDGE - DAY

The Captain puts down the mike and turns the rudder hard.

EXT. SEA EXPLORER, DECK - DAY

The people on the deck are on their way in as the ship suddenly turns so hard they almost trip, but they get safely inside.

EXT. PACIFIC, SEA EXPLORER - DAY

The Sea Explorer is dangerously close to the vortex.

EXT. PACIFIC - DAY

Military ships, planes and choppers leave the area.

EXT. PACIFIC, SEA EXPLORER - DAY

The Sea Explorer fights to escape the vortex. But it seems to lose this uneven battle.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, BRIDGE - DAY

The Captain tries to hold the ship on course. The first mate comes running with horror in his eyes onto the bridge.

SCEVOLA

Can you get us outta here?

ALDEN

No, the current's too powerful. Turn on the auxiliary engine!

He turns it on, but it doesn't do much.

EXT. SEA EXPLORER - DAY

The shaking from the vortex is now so powerful that the minisub jerks itself loose, and falls into the water and sinks.

EXT. PACIFIC, VORTEX - DAY

The vortex grows bigger and bigger.

INT. PINWOOD BAY, COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

They all look at a satellite image of the now almost fully developed vortex.

DUGAN

Are they going to make it?

TERRY

No, Sir, I don't believe they will.

EXT. PACIFIC, VORTEX - DAY

The Sea Explorer is on its way down into the vortex.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, DIFFERENT CABINS - DAY

The people on the ship cramp together in different cabins, and are very frightened. The ship shakes violently and the NOISE from the vortex is deafening.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, MESS HALL - DAY

The ship glides fairly upright down the vortex. Lisa, Peter, Kevin, Susan, George, Angela, Kurt and his men sit in the mess hall, clinging to the fixed tables. They just look at each other without saying a word.

EXT. SEABED - DAY

The Sea Explorer goes down very fast and hits the seabed at high speed. The bow of the ship bores itself down in the mud at a thirty degree angle, and stops as the ship is one third down in the mud, with the stern raised from the seabed.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, DIFFERENT PLACES - DAY

The people are thrown around in the ship, as it comes to a hold. SCREAMING, SHOUTING and painful CRIES are heard.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, MESS HALL - DAY

They're all bruised up and try dazed to get up. Lisa looks around.

LISA
Everybody all right?

KEVIN
I'm fine.

LISA
George?

GEORGE
I'll survive, for now.

KURT
We're okay.

Peter nods "yes". Angela sits up and places a hand on her head, and a little blood comes through her fingers.

ANGELA
Ohh, my head!

KEVIN
Let me take a look.

Kevin removes slowly her hand.

ANGELA

Careful!

KEVIN

It's just a small cut.

Kevin takes a tablecloth and tears a strip off and binds it around her head.

KEVIN

That should do it.

ANGELA

I better not get a scar!

Lisa rolls her eyes. Suddenly she remembers Susan.

LISA

Susan! Has anybody seen Susan!

They haven't. They look around for her. Suddenly Lisa spots a couple of legs visible from behind a cupboard. And her heart skips a beat, and she takes her hand up to her mouth in fear.

LISA

Susan!
(looks at Kevin)
Kevin!

Kevin sees the legs and rushes behind the cupboard. Lisa slowly steps around the cupboard, and looks down at Kevin who's holding a clearly dead Susan in his arms. Tears spring into Lisa's eyes.

LISA

No.

The others have gathered behind Lisa. Johnson sees in the corner of his eyes something move behind the grating on the one by two feed large air duct on the upper wall. He takes a closer look and wonders what it is.

Suddenly mud comes shooting out from the air ducts and it rapidly fills the room. They hear a big SQUEAL and the ship begins to sink further down into the mud.

KURT

We've got to get outta here now!

Kevin is crying over Susan, but Lisa pulls herself together; they have to act now to survive. She and Peter get down and grab Kevin in his shirt and pull him up.

LISA
Come on, Kevin!

KEVIN
But what about Susan?!

PETER
She's dead, we can't help her now.

He gets up and they all rush toward the door to the hallway.

INT. SEA EXPLORER, HALLWAY OUTSIDE MESS HALL - DAY

George stands by the door and helps the others out into the hallway. The ship is now tilted forty degrees downwards. Lisa comes last out of the door.

GEORGE
Come, Lisa!

She looks down the hallway and it's totally filled with mud that's rising. Lisa realizes that they are at the highest point, and that the people that were nearer to the bow are gone.

LISA
Jesus!
(looks at George)
The others!

George shakes "no", and they fight their way up the hallway, with the mud right on their tail.

As they get farther up the hallway the ship suddenly trembles violently and goes deeper down into the mud. Lisa slips and she glides SCREAMING very fast down the hallway, toward the rising mud.

Peter sees a fire hose storage, opens the door, grabs the fire hose and throws himself down the hallway toward Lisa.

He grabs her just before the mud does.

PETER
Gotcha!

They smile at each other and fight their way back up the hallway. The others pull the hose to help them up.

EXT. SEA EXPLORER, STERN DECK - DAY

They come out onto the stern deck and the sight and sound of the funnel wall is overwhelming. The ship is now buried two

thirds in the mud.

The vortex is one quarter of a mile wide down at the base, and half buried in the mud around them are the Boeing, the Seaflyer, the rig and the Nimitz. There's also another large ship there, but it looks like it has been there the last thirty to forty years.

On the ground in the middle of the vortex is a huge smooth metallic cylinder form coming seven feet up from the mud.

They all look amazed. Suddenly the vortex starts to slow down.

KEVIN

Shit, it's gonna stop!

LISA

Whatta we do?!

(turns to George)

Professor?!

He doesn't know. They're all bewildered.

Suddenly the minibus comes flying out from the funnel wall, and goes straight down toward the crowd on the deck.

KURT

Watch out!

The crowd scatters to the sides and the sub lands on the deck, with a BIG BANG.

The water is about to engulf them, and Lisa and George shoot a look at each other.

GEORGE

Yes!

LISA

Everybody into the sub, now!

They crawl into the sub and just manage to shut the hatch before the water hits them, and washes the sub off the ship.

INT. PINWOOD BAY, COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

The monitor shows how the vortex closes. Terry turns almost apologetically around to Dugan and the others.

TERRY

They're gone, Sir!

DUGAN

Damn!

INT. SUB - DAY

They're thrown around in the sub by the force of the water, and they're cramped so tight together in the small sub, that many of them bang their heads together. Lisa crawls over to the controls and tries to start up the sub. But at first it won't start.

LISA

Come on, you piece of shit!

Angela pushes herself through the crowd.

ANGELA

Excuse me!

She comes up to the control panel and pounds her hand hard down on it.

LISA

Hey!

The sub starts! Angela gets a smug expression on her face, and Lisa nods at her in respect.

ANGELA

Well, that's how we solve the most of our technical problems at the studio.

KEVIN

Lisa, we've got a problem, we're losing O₂, fast!

GEORGE

The tank must have ruptured on impact.

KEVIN

We'll never reach the surface.

GEORGE

Lisa, turn on the searchlight.

George crawls over to the window and points.

GEORGE

Take us to the cylinder.

KEVIN

We got less than two to three minutes!

GEORGE
Look! A hatch!

George points at a hatch on top of the cylinder.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Can you dock with it?

LISA
I'm sure as hell gonna try!

EXT. CYLINDER - DAY

The sub is trying to dock, but it's not easy.

INT. SUB - DAY

Lisa is very concentrated and the people are beginning to feel the effect of the missing O₂. Some of the soldiers are talking together.

GEORGE
(gasping)
Shut up, you're wasting oxygen.

Lisa is sweating hard and starts to shake; it won't dock.

LISA
Damn!

GEORGE
(low voice)
Easy now, you can do it.

Lisa looks despairingly at him. George smiles at her and then passes out from lack of air. Almost everybody is passed out now. Lisa concentrates for one last time and pulls the controls, and a loud CLANK comes, the sub is docked! Lisa smiles and passes out down on the controls.

Peter and Kurt wake up from the CLANK and cooperate to open the sub hatch, and then the hatch on the cylinder. As they open the cylinder hatch, air streams into the sub and everybody gasps the air into their lungs.

INT. PINWOOD BAY, COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

The President looks at a monitor together with Dugan, as Sanders comes over to them.

SANDERS
Mr. President, Sir.

PRESIDENT
Yes, Colonel?

SANDERS
Mrs. Hunt is here to see you, Sir.

PRESIDENT
Mrs. Hunt?

DUGAN
The fisherman's wife, Sir.

PRESIDENT
Yes, right, show her in.

Sanders brings Mary into the room.

MARY
Mr. President.

PRESIDENT
Mrs. Hunt, I'm pleased to meet you,
I'm just sorry about the
circumstances under which we are
meeting.

MARY
Is there any news on the boys, Mr.
President?

PRESIDENT
I'm sorry, no, Mrs. Hunt. And that's
the God's honest truth.

MARY
Thank you!

Mary turns downcast around and walks out.

PRESIDENT
Mrs. Hunt!

Mary turns around.

MARY
Yes, Sir?

PRESIDENT
No matter what happens, we will get
to the bottom of this, so you, we
all, can get clarity.

MARY
That's all I'm asking for Mr.
President, that is all!

Mary smiles at him, and walks out.

EXT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

Mary comes outside to Karen, Cecile and other relatives and friends of the lost crew. There are reporters and camera crews there too. Mary shakes her head "no", and Cecile cracks up. Karen embraces Cecile and tries to comfort her. Mary kicks her way through nosy reporters.

INT. PINWOOD BAY, COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

Dennis comes over to the President.

DENNIS

It's good PR, to care about the people.

PRESIDENT

Shut up, Dennis!

The President walks away clearly moved by the situation.

INT. SUB - DAY

They're all waking slowly up again. Suddenly a light is lit down in the cylinder. Kurt and his guys point their weapons at the hatch opening. They see a shadow approaching. Tension builds.

Then a THUMP comes from the sub window; they turn around and look scared at the window. But it's only an octopus that has sucked itself to the outside window. They all smile relieved and turn around to the hatch opening again, and there is John??

ANGELA

Arghhh!

PETER

John!

JOHN

Hi, guys, glad you could join the party!

INT. CYLINDER, SUBLEVEL 1 - DAY

They come down into the cylinder. Brian is there too and Peter shakes hand with him.

PETER
Nice to see you, Brian.

BRIAN
You too, Peter.

PETER
(looks at John)
The others?

JOHN
Didn't make it. James?

PETER
I lost him.

They all look amazed around. There are stainless pipes and tanks everywhere in this steel construction.

LISA
Where the hell are we?

Kurt sees a sign on a wall, where it says: "E.T.I.E.T.D".

KURT
Jesus, I thought it was just an urban legend!

PETER
What was just an urban legend?

KURT
The Extra Terrestrial Invasion Earth Termination Device!

Angela looks at George.

ANGELA
You know something about this, don't you George. I'll bet this is your "Emmy" story, am I right?

GEORGE
You're right Angela. We're inside "Marvin the Martian."

They all look at him in anticipation.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

You're inside the biggest bomb ever constructed. Back in the late sixties, NASA was convinced that an extra terrestrial invasion was imminent within the next decade. In all secrecy a small team of scientists, engineers and military brains were gathered to evaluate, design, create and execute the last line of defense.

KEVIN

But something went wrong?

GEORGE

No, not at first, Kevin. Their conclusion was that we most likely never would have a chance in hell to fight with, or defend ourselves against a far superior alien race. So they decided that if our planet was invaded, and the human race was annihilated by "Martians", their enjoyment of earth should be a short lasted one. The result of their work was this contraption we're trapped in here.

LISA

Trapped! We're not trapped! We can call for help with the radio on the sub!

Lisa is already on her way up into the sub.

GEORGE

Lisa! Save your strength. Even if the radio still works, the signal won't go anywhere. Remember Kevin's presentation of the electromagnetic area? You're standing on top of a seven hundred and fifty billion volt capacitor. No normal frequencies can penetrate that field.

KEVIN

Seven hundred and fifty? Are you mad?!

GEORGE

Yeah, I probably am.

KURT

What is your connection to all this, Mr. Lamperts?

GEORGE

I was lead chemical engineer on the project. And together with our chief in command, General Frank Sterling, we're the only ones who came out of it alive.

JOHN

What happened?

GEORGE

The day "Marvin" was sunk to the bottom of the ocean, the whole team was assembled in the lab to monitor the process. Sterling and I were caught in traffic, and when we arrived there the lab stood in flames. An explosion had ravaged the place, killing everybody and destroyed the only control we had over "Marvin". From then on it was an uncontrollable preset time-bomb, set to rip the earth apart, thirty two years later. Right about now.

LISA

Jesus, George, you've killed us all!

GEORGE

Well, Lisa, I don't think a sorry would change much now, would it?

LISA

Guess not.

ANGELA

You were right, George. Pure "Emmy"!

GEORGE

About the invasion, well, we all know what happened to that, don't we? So together with Sterling, I have spent the last thirty years of my life searching unsuccessfully for "Marvin", but-

George is interrupted by a voice.

JOHNSON (O.S.)

Agent Red 2?

GEORGE

Yes?

George turns to Kurt. Johnson steps out from behind Kurt and SHOTS George in the heart. George drops to the steel floor.

LISA

George!

Kurt turns around and backs away from the five soldiers, who aim their weapons at the others. Kurt draws his weapon toward the soldiers, and looks surprised.

Peter and John shoot each other a look, and then they each draw their handguns.

PETER

US Secret Service, throw down your weapons, you're under arrest!

Everybody looks in wonder at Peter and John for a second.

JOHNSON

Wrong, buster, you throw 'em down.

They stand there aiming at each other for a moment.

Then Lisa steps ahead, she's been thinking, and now she's mad.

LISA

You assholes, what the hell-

Johnson grabs her and puts his gun to her head.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

This is your last warning agent Hunt!
(looks at Kurt)
Major, I will kill her!

Kurt knows he will. Kurt looks at Peter and John and nods "yes". They throw down their guns.

Johnson "tosses" Lisa over to Peter who grabs her, front to front.

LISA

I'm sorry.

PETER

It's okay.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 2, ROOM - DAY

Peter, John, Lisa, Kevin, Angela, Brian and Kurt are thrown into this room. Two of the soldiers drag George's body in there too, and throw it on the floor.

As the soldiers leave, Kevin tries to be brave and steps toward the soldiers and GROWLS at them.

One of the soldiers, JAMESON, fires a shot over his head to warn him. The bullet ricochets off a pipe, ripping a small hole in it, before it disappears.

JAMESON

Get back!

Kevin steps back. The soldiers get out, close and lock the door.

George opens his eyes.

ANGELA

George?

Peter helps him up to sitting. They all smile in wonder.

BRIAN

What the?

George pats his chest.

GEORGE

Kevlar! Somebody has been trying to sabotage my work for a long time.

George sucks air into his nose, he smells something.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Acid? I smell acid!

They look around in the room, and suddenly Kevin spots the tear in the pipe, and out comes a small droplet of liquid that drips down.

KEVIN

Over here!

They all follow the droplet down and see it hit a tank. The surface on the tank bubbles up, and the acid begins to eat its way through the tank.

They look at the tank that's bolted to the wall, and a label says: "Highly compressed Propane". Panic spreads.

LISA
Find something to stop that acid
with!

They all empty out their pockets to see if they have anything useful. Kurt takes his cell phone and throws it to Lisa.

KURT
Try this!

Lisa puts the phone on the tank, and another drop hits it, and goes directly through the phone and down onto the tank.

LISA
It went right through!

John finds his ulcer pills, and reflects. Then he remembers from school, and he throws the glass to Lisa.

JOHN
Think chemistry?

Lisa catches the glass and looks at it.

LISA
Ulcer medication!?

She looks at George.

GEORGE
It might work!

KURT
(looks at the tank)
One or two more drops, and we're
toast!

Lisa wants to hurry and so opens the glass lid quickly, accidentally spilling the pills all over.

LISA
Shit!

They all get down and pick up the pills again.

GEORGE
Crush 'em.

Lisa starts to crush the pills down into the glass. Another drop falls and Kurt manages to bash it off with one of his shoes.

KURT
Hurry up! It's almost through the
tank!

Lisa runs over to the tank and starts to sprinkle the crushed pills over it, and it seems to neutralize the acid. She then puts the glass onto the tank, and a drop hits down into the bottle. It seems to work, the acid stays in the bottle, neutralized. They're all relieved.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 1 - DAY

The soldiers are working to fix the O₂ in the sub.

JOHNSON
Let's get this sub fixed, so we can
get outta here again, boys!

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 2, ROOM - DAY

LISA
George, when is it exactly going to
go kaboom?

GEORGE
Two hours after it has charged itself
up for the third and last time.

PETER
I'm afraid to ask, the vortexes, are
they?

GEORGE
The charging up, yes.

Kevin calculates.

KEVIN
We got thirty minutes, before the
earth is going to look like Swiss
cheese.

Kevin rushes over and pulls the door.

KEVIN
Damn!

He kicks it and Angela looks at him, and lifts her
shoulders.

ANGELA
Well, Kevin, we're dead anyhow.

LISA

Hell no! George, isn't there anything we can do at all?

GEORGE

There's no way this thing can be stopped from releasing its energy. But, in theory, if we could get to the internal computer, and if we knew how to program it, then we might just be able to reverse the energy inwards, to make the station implode, instead of exploding.

KEVIN

Then the electrons would smack together and destroy each other.

GEORGE

Yes, instead of floating out and destroying every molecule that holds this world together, as originally intended. But I don't know jack about programming.

JOHN

But I do!

They all smile; is there a chance?

KEVIN

But we still need to get outta here!

Peter pulls a bobby pin out of Angela's hair.

ANGELA

Hey!

He then goes over to the acid pipe and takes some acid on the pin. He rushes over and sticks the pin in the door lock. Smoke comes out of the lock, and after a few seconds Peter kicks the lock out, and the door opens. He looks smiling at Lisa and she returns the smile.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 2, HALL - DAY

They come out and Kurt point to the stairs to sublevel 1. They sneak up, with Kurt and Peter in front.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 1 - DAY

They come up, but the soldiers are nowhere to be seen. George sees a layout plan of the cylinder on the wall. He

sneaks over and looks at it, and comes back again.
Suddenly a voice comes from the inside the minibus.

JOHNSON (O.S.)
We're almost done here, go place the
charges.

Movement is heard from the sub.

KURT
(low voice)
Hide!

They all hide, and three soldiers come from the minibus, and continue down the stairs to sublevel 2.

GEORGE
(low voice)
They wanna blow up the station but
they can't, the explosion would just
set off the bomb. All would be lost.
(looks at Kurt and Peter)
You've got to stop them.

They nod, and Peter, Kurt, Lisa and Brian sneak after the soldiers. George looks at the remaining party.

GEORGE
(low voice)
I know where the computer is, follow
me.

As they're on their way down the stairs, Johnson peeks out from the sub hatch, and sees them.

JOHNSON
Hey!

John, who is last down the stairs, shouts.

JOHN
Go!

They rush down to sublevel 3, and Johnson and his fellow soldier follow them, and SHOOT after them.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 3, HALL - DAY

They come to the door, where is says: "Control room".
George opens the door.

GEORGE
Get in!

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 3, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

They run in and George manages to close and lock the door, right before the two soldiers get to them. They SHOUT and kick the door from outside. But then they leave again.

KEVIN

Close call!

John finds the computer, and turns it on. A loud HUMMING sound comes from it, and it slowly boots up.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 6 - DAY

Sublevel 6 is a huge room, with a gigantic one hundred foot high tank in the middle, the capacitor, with pipes and stairs tangled together.

On the top, there's two ways you can go, left or right.

Lisa, Peter, Kurt and Brian come down to this level. Kurt signals that he and Brian will go right, and Lisa and Peter will go left, down the side of the tank.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 3, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The computer is still booting, and John is impatient. Angela looks at him.

ANGELA

So, you're a real living hardcore undercover Secret Service field agent?

JOHN

No, I was never a field agent. I worked computer fraud and programming. But I'm retired now.

ANGELA

What about Peter?

JOHN

Well, my brother is the real deal. He's so deep undercover, that not even our parents know what he's doing. They think he's a fisherman like me.

ANGELA

And you're completely out of it?

JOHN

The only thing I do is to help Peter and his late colleague James keep up their "fishermen" front. Landing a few tons for them, once in a while.

ANGELA

Why did you retire, John?

The computer says BIB! And it's ready. A startup text, tell them what language it is programmed in and it says: "MICP+". Then the computer writes: "Detonation in T-Minus 25 minutes, and counting."

JOHN

(despairingly)

Shit!

GEORGE

What is it, John?

JOHN

It's MICP+. I don't know anything about how it works. Old crap!

KEVIN

We're screwed. Again!

JOHN

If only I could get to Simon.

GEORGE

Simon?

JOHN

Yeah, my son. Hey! Maybe I can get to him!

He reaches for his PDA in his pocket, pulls it out and turns it on.

ANGELA

Have you forgotten? You can't transmit from down here.

JOHN

This baby just might.

John writes on his PDA.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE, SIMON'S ROOM - DAY

Simon lies halfway over his desk and looks at his computer monitor. The monitor shows a dialog box that says: "No

connection to the GPS unit at this moment!" He has a sad expression on his face. Suddenly a map of the pacific with a blinking red dot is shown, and Simon's eyes open widely. Then the computer says: "You've got mail!" Simon opens the e-mail, and as he's reading the mail, his face changes to sheer joy.

SIMON
(very loud)
Mom!

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 6, LEFT - DAY

Lisa and Peter hide themselves, looking at the two of the soldiers placing RC bombs on the big tank.

JAMESON
They're in place. Let's get back to
the sub.

The soldiers walk toward Peter and Lisa. Peter signals Lisa that they should try to ambush them, when they go past. As they go past them, Peter punches Jameson in the face, and Lisa jumps on the back of BROOKS, who drops his weapon. Brooks throws Lisa off his back, so she falls down to the floor and lands on her butt.

Jameson is ready again and strikes back at Peter, who falls to the floor. Jameson takes aim at Peter with his gun, but Peter grabs Brooks' gun and SHOOTs at Jameson, missing him.

The two soldiers run, while Jameson SHOOTs back at Peter and Lisa. Peter returns fire, without effect. Peter and Lisa chase after the soldiers.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 6, RIGHT - DAY

Kurt and Brian have heard the firing and have stopped to look around. Suddenly they spot the other soldier, HANSON, who has stopped too, on a platform higher up.

BRIAN
There!

Hanson sees them and FIRES at them.

KURT
Watch out!

Hanson runs off, Kurt and Brian follow him upwards.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

Dugan is about to take a bite of a burger, when he hears a COMMOTION from outside.

DUGAN

What the?

He puts the burger down and walks out.

EXT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

Outside is a crowd of citizens, DEBATING with a soldier guard. Simon and Mary stand in front of the crowd. Dugan comes out.

DUGAN

What's going on?

SOLDIER

General, Sir. These people-

SIMON

Mister-General-Boss-Sir. They're alive. I know where they are, Sir. General!

DUGAN

Come in, boy. Mrs. Hunt.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

They walk in.

SIMON

But they're in deep trouble. I need a computer with a webcam and a fifteen gigahertz internet sat-link aimed at these coordinates.

Simon hands Dugan a piece of paper with some coordinates on. Dugan calls out.

DUGAN

Sanders!

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 3, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The screen on John's PDA blinks a couple of times, and then suddenly a noisy and fuzzy image appears on it. But we can see that it's Simon's face.

SIMON
 (filtered)
 Dad!

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

They have blown the screen image from Simon's PC up on a big screen, and everybody is watching it. John's face appears through the fuzziness and noise.

JOHN
 (filtered)
 Hi, honey!

Mary sees John and puts her hand up to her mouth.

MARY
 John!

JOHN
 (filtered)
 Hi, sweetheart!

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 3, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Simon, I don't have time to explain,
 but I need your help to re-program
 some lines in MICP+. Do you think
 you can help me out?

SIMON
 (filtered)
 Sure dad, just a moment.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

Simon turns to Mary.

SIMON
 Mom, on my desk at home, there's a
 big book called MICP+. I need that
 book.

Sanders looks at a lieutenant.

SANDERS
 Take Mrs. Hunt home to get that book.
 And, lieutenant, put the pedal to the
 metal.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE - DAY

They're driving FAST and Mary sits pale and quiet.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 4, HALL - DAY

Lisa and Peter come up to this level in their chase for the soldiers. But the soldiers are nowhere to be seen, so they proceed with caution.

Suddenly Brooks comes at them from a door at the side. He surprises Peter, and pulls the weapon out of his hand, and hits him with it. Peter falls down to the floor.

Lisa takes a fire extinguisher from the wall, and throws it at Brooks.

LISA

Hey, asshole!

SMACK, he gets it right in his face, and passes out. Lisa walks over to Peter. On her way she steps over the passed out Brooks, and looks at the bleeding cut on his head.

LISA

Yeah, it can be dangerous to play
with fire -- extinguishers.

Lisa has her back to Brooks on the ground, and helps Peter up standing.

LISA

Up you go!

Peter gets on his feet, but so does Brooks, standing right behind Lisa, with a big knife in his hand. Lisa hasn't seen him, and gets a shock when Peter suddenly throws a fist right past her head, and it hits Brooks.

Brooks tumbles back, but he soon charges against them again, with the knife poised to strike. Peter sees the weapon on the floor and jumps for it. He gets it and FIRES a round at Brooks, just before he reaches Lisa.

Brooks falls down, dead. Peter comes up to Lisa who plants a big kiss, right on his cheek.

LISA

Thanks.

Peter stands there for a moment, with a big smile. The smile disappears quickly though, when suddenly a door clatters. They look at each other, and move toward the door and enter it.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 5, HALL - DAY

Kurt and Brian see Hanson walk into a room on this floor.

KURT
I got him, Brian. Go join the
others.

Kurt walks to the door and Brian toward the stairs.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 5, ROOM - DAY

The room is dark. Kurt finds the light switch and turns on the light. The room is filled with huge metal shelving units.

Kurt proceeds slowly down through the units. Suddenly Hanson comes from behind and grabs Kurt, and puts a gun to his head.

HANSON
Give it up, major!

Kurt does a maneuver and twists the gun from Hanson, and pushes him hard over in a unit. The gun flies over the floor.

Hanson gets up again and gets into a "karate" fight position.

HANSON (CONT'D)
Well, let's see what you're made of,
major!

He attacks Kurt and they engage in a martial arts fight.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

Mary comes rushing into the room with the book, and she hands it to Simon.

SIMON
Thanks, mom.
(turns to the screen)
Dad, I'm ready.

SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

The images shift between Simon and John, who are talking and programming. Once in a while, some frustration is shown. At other times, they're happy when things work. Everybody else in the rooms is following them intensely.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 5, ROOM - DAY

Kurt and Hanson are getting tired and bruised up.

HANSON

(panting)

Is that all you've got, major? I could take you out blindfolded with both arms in cast.

KURT

The cast part; that can be arranged.

Kurt kicks Hanson and he falls to the floor, landing on top of his gun. He grabs the gun and SHOOTs Kurt in his left shoulder. The pain is excruciating, and Kurt drops to his knees.

KURT

Arghhh!

Hanson gets up and goes over to Kurt. He puts his gun to Kurt's head.

HANSON

Give my regards to Elvis, major.

Kurt shoots him a look, while he has his right hand down in his boot. Kurt pulls out a butterfly knife, flips it out and throws it. The knife cuts its way into Hanson's heart. Hanson looks very surprised as he dies.

KURT

I doubt you'll find the "King" on the floor you're getting off at.

Kurt collapses on the floor.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 3, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

John is almost done. The "Low battery" sign on the PDA blinks.

JOHN

Done! How do I compile and execute it?

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

Simon looks in his book when suddenly the connection to his dad disappears. The screen is black and on it is written "Sat-link bandwidth overload".

SIMON

Dad?!

DUGAN

What is going on?

Terry sits by another computer next to Simon.

TERRY

The satellite is overloaded, Sir.

PRESIDENT

Do something! Anything!

TERRY

Anything, Sir?

Terry looks at Dugan who nods "yes". Terry smiles and turns to his computer.

TERRY

Simon, give me the IP to the uplink website.

SIMON

1080:0:0:0:8:800:200C:415A

TERRY

Good, then give me his username and password.

SIMON

Johnhunt, one word, password:
120493sh.

TERRY

Excellent, his GPS id number is
5298456G.

Terry is writing fast on his computer. He then looks at Simon, and presses the return button.

EXT. SPACE - DAY

A very high-tech, stealth and cool looking black satellite, turns on a red light and spins into position.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

John reappears on the screen, but now in an unprecedented high and clear image quality.

SIMON

Dad, listen up!

The president turns to Dugan.

PRESIDENT

What did we do, right now?

DUGAN

(hesitating)

Well, you see, Sir-

TERRY

It's our new five hundred gigahertz
spy satellite, Sir.

PRESIDENT

Why haven't I heard of it?

TERRY

Actually it's not in service yet.
It's very hard to get an FCC approval
on it. Actually it's impossible to
get it approved. Sir!

PRESIDENT

(looks skeptically at them)

Maybe you didn't hear me the first
time, so I'll ask again; why haven't
I heard of it?

They can't tell.

SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

In ordinary households, TV and radio signals disappear.
There's no signal on radio controlled gadgets. People's
cordless phones and mobile phones don't work either.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 3, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

George looks at John.

GEORGE

John, we don't have much time left.

John punches a couple of keys.

JOHN

Almost done. There, I'm done.

The screen writes: "Detonation cycle has been altered.
Detonation in T-Minus 3 minutes, and counting".

The PDA is almost out of power. Angela stands behind John, and listens to his conversation to Simon.

JOHN

Mary, get over to the camera, honey.

On the PDA screen we see Mary coming down to Simon, and holding him while she's looking into the camera too.

JOHN

You do realize how much I love you
two, don't you?

SIMON

(filtered)
Yes, dad, we love you too.

Mary nods "yes". She's got a lump in her throat and tears in her eyes.

JOHN

If I don't make it back, promise me
you'll take good care of mom for me,
will you, honey?

SIMON

(filtered, crying)
Sure, dad. But of course you'll make
it back. I won't be without you.
We're not a real family if you're not
here. You've got to get back!

JOHN

Simon, it's not up to me, but I'll do
what I can. Mary, sweetheart, tell
my parents that I love them, and that
Peter loves them too of course.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

JOHN (CONT'D)

(filtered)
And, Mary.

Mary touches his face on the screen.

MARY

Yes, honey?

JOHN

(filtered)
Tell that dumb dog to stay off the
couch.

MARY
 (smiles through her tears)
 I'll do that.
 (John smiles)
 John, I love-

The image disappears; the PDA is out of power. Mary breaks down. Sally embraces her, to comfort her.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 3, CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Angela stands behind John and cries. She's actually human.

KEVIN
 Are you crying?

ANGELA
 (dries her tears away)
 Hell no I'm not, what's there to cry about!?

GEORGE
 Hey, Angela, don't lose your-

ANGELA
 (smiling)
 Temper! Never heard that one before, George.

A small EXPLOSION shakes the place, and the door is blown open. Johnson steps in and points his gun at the first person in his line of fire, John, and FIRES.

Angela jumps in front of John and takes the bullet.

ANGELA
 Nooo!

GEORGE
 Angela!

Angela falls down with a gunshot to her chest. Johnson points his gun at John again, but is distracted by Brian who comes from the hall, and knocks the other soldier down behind Johnson. Johnson is unfocused for a moment and George bashes the gun out of his hand, and Kevin punches him in his face.

KEVIN
 Ow! My hand!

Johnson grabs Kevin by his neck and lifts him up against the wall, in one hand. Kevin can't breathe.

George rushes over and takes the gun, and points it at Johnson. John rushes down to Angela.

GEORGE

Drop him!
 (quick glance at John and
 Angela)
 How is she!?

Johnson looks at George, but he doesn't let Kevin down.

JOHNSON

Shut up, old man! Why didn't you
 curled up and died when we asked you
 to?

KEVIN

(stutters)
 Shoot him! Shoot him!

GEORGE

According to my calculations, and
 they're seldom wrong if I may add,
 the chance for someone like you to
 use a correct formulated probability
 calculation, in the course of finding
 the right value for Y, if X is my
 ability to survive an assassination
 attempt by self acclaimed nitwits,
 and we assume that the prime number
 used in the vector integral calculus
 is one-thousand and fifty-one; is
 about one-million and twenty-three to
 one.

JOHNSON

What!?

GEORGE

See, you couldn't do it, the right
 value for Y is; FUCK YOU!

Johnson releases his grab on Kevin and rushes toward George. They struggle and the GUN GOES OFF, Johnson slides down dead.

John sits on the floor with the wounded Angela in his lap.

ANGELA

John!

JOHN

Yes, Angela?

ANGELA

Promise me you'll get back to your family. Promise me you'll make it home.

JOHN

I promise you, Angela.

ANGELA

You know, I wish I had a family just like you, but I don't. But then again, I'm too egocentric for anybody to live with me, so it's probably for the best.

(pulls off her headband)

I can't come knock on God's door, with that on my head, can I now?

She looks at John and George and smiles, she then closes her eyes and dies. John kisses her on her forehead.

JOHN

You have a family now, Angela.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 4, ROOM - DAY

Lisa and Peter come to the back of the room, where Jameson stands sweating, nervous and shaking. He has a gun in his one hand and the remote for the bombs in his other.

Peter points his weapon at him.

PETER

Nice and slowly, set your gun and that remote on the ground.

JAMESON

Can't do that, man! I have orders!

PETER

Put it down, now!

JAMESON

(steps a step forward)

You put yours down, or I blow the whole thing now.

He presses the RC trigger gently.

PETER

Okay, okay, it's down.

Peter lays his gun on the ground.

JAMESON
Kick it over here!

Peter kicks it over to him.

LISA
Listen, Jameson. You can't blow this thing up.

JAMESON
But I have to, otherwise it will destroy the earth.

LISA
We're working on a solution as we speak. We'll stop it.

JAMESON
We were ordered by Masterson to blow it up, to save the world, if everything else failed.

LISA
Then Masterson doesn't know what the hell he's talking about. Your explosion will only set the big bomb off.

JAMESON
(shouts)
I don't believe you!

He steps one step further ahead, closes his eyes, and pulls the trigger on the remote. Lisa grabs Peter's hand and closes her eyes; she's convinced they're dead.

But nothing happens?? Jameson looks bewildered and pulls the trigger again, but it doesn't work.

A SHOT is fired and Jameson drops to the floor. Kurt stands wounded behind Peter and Lisa. He leans up against the wall, with a gun in his one hand and the RC receivers for the bombs in the other. He slumps down to the floor, and they rush to him.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 1, SUBHATCH - DAY

George waits by the ladder to the sub, the others are in it. Peter and Lisa come up the stairs with the wounded Kurt between them.

GEORGE
Come on, come on, come on! We've got less than two minutes!

They get up the ladder.

INT. SUB - DAY

They get in and lay Kurt down.

LISA
Careful! Are you all right?

Kurt nods "yes". Lisa rushes over to the controls, and Peter closes the hatches.

PETER
The hatch is closed!

Lisa tries to start up the sub, but it won't start.

LISA
Damn, I hate this bloody thing!

Kevin rushes over and pulls an "Angela" on the controls, and the sub starts. Lisa smiles, and Kevin winks at her.

GEORGE
(a little annoyed)
Cute! We've got thirty seconds!

LISA
Brace yourselves, here we go!

She pulls the controls and the sub releases from the cylinder.

INT. MARVIN, SUBLEVEL 4, ROOM - DAY

Jameson is not quite dead yet, and reaches with his last strength to his pocket, and pulls out another remote. He slowly opens a small lid in front of a button, and the remote lights up. He drops the remote because of fatigue.

INT. SUB - DAY

A loud BIB sound comes from somewhere in the sub. They all look at each other.

LISA
What was that?

Peter finds a military bag and opens it. To everybody's horror, he finds a BOMB, with a red light turned on.

PETER
It's a friggen bomb!

KURT
(looks in pain at Peter.)
Show it to me.

Peter pulls it up from the bag, and shows it to Kurt.

KURT (CONT'D)
TX-234, it can't be disarmed without
the remote.

Lisa grabs in desperation a wrench, and bashes the bomb with it.

ALL OTHER
No!

GEORGE
(twists the wrench outta her
hand)
Stop that lunacy, woman!

SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

Jameson is trying to reach the button on the remote. The computer on Marvin counts down from ten to zero seconds. The people on the sub are anxious. Jameson is about to push the button, but at that moment the timer hits zero, and Marvin IMPLODES.

EXT. PACIFIC, MARVIN - DAY

The implosion sends a huge bubble of air toward the surface, and farther up the bubble strikes the sub.

INT. SUB - DAY

They're thrown around in the sub. And after a moment all settles down, and the sub comes to a halt. Peter sees that the light on the bomb has gone out, and he holds it happily up in the air. They look at each other and CHEER loudly.

After a moment, Kevin shouts.

KEVIN
Those fuckers! You can't trust the
army to fix anything, can you?

PETER
I'm afraid to ask, but-

GEORGE
What is it, Kevin?

KEVIN
The O₂, it's, it's pissing out!

LISA
Shit, what do we do?

KURT
(very low voice)
The radio.

GEORGE
What, Kurt?

KURT
The radio!

LISA
Of course!
(turns on the radio)
S.O.S, Mayday! Triple A? This is
Deep Explorer, does anybody read me?
S.O.S!

VOICE
(filtered)
Deep Explorer, this is USS
Springfield, we read you loud and
clear, over.

LISA
Springfield, we're in deep trouble,
can you help us, over?

VOICE
(filtered)
Deep Explorer, turn on your
searchlight and point it at one
o'clock, over.

Lisa turns on the light and points it up to the right, and they all look out the windows. And only ten feet from them, the light hits a big black sub hull.

KEVIN
Wow!

They all breathe a SIGH of relief.

LISA
Springfield, we see you. Thank you
very much, over.

VOICE
 (filtered)
 You're welcome Deep Explorer, over.

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

Mary sits with her arm around Simon. The President comes over to them.

PRESIDENT
 Mrs. Hunt.

MARY
 Yes?

PRESIDENT
 We have just received a communiqué from one of our submarines, the Springfield. They're aboard, and on their way to Pinewood Bay.

Mary and Simon smile widely, and Mary jumps up and embraces the President.

MARY
 Thank you, thank you so much.

PRESIDENT
 My pleasure, Mrs. Hunt.

He leaves and Mary and Simon embrace.

INT. SPRINGFIELD, CABIN - DAY

Lisa, Peter, George, John, Kevin and Brian talk.

GEORGE
 I don't believe those boys acted on their own.

PETER
 They didn't, they followed orders from somebody called, what was it?

LISA
 Masterson.

PETER
 Masterson, that's right?

GEORGE
 Masterson?!

INT. COMMUNITY HOUSE - DAY

The President comes over to Dugan.

PRESIDENT

Looks like we did it, Dugan.

They shake hands.

DUGAN

Yes, Sir. I'll guess this will be your finest hour, Sir. Will you please excuse me, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT

Of course.

Dugan leaves.

EXT. PINWOOD BAY, HARBOR - DUSK

A boat comes from the sub that lies further out from the coast. Up from the boat come: John, Peter, Lisa, Kevin, George and Brian. Kurt is airlifted from the sub by a chopper.

Mary, Samson, John's parents, Karen, Brian's daughter, local residents and journalists, wait for them on the pier.

The President and his crew come over to them and greet them, as they come up from the boat. A CHEER comes from the crowd, as they come up.

Lisa, George, Kevin and the President are surrounded by a ring of journalists who are asking questions. The rest of the team "sneak" over to their family. John goes over to Mary and Simon, and embraces them.

MARY

Honey! My God, I thought I lost you.
Promise me you'll never do that again.

Samson barks an answer for John and Mary smiles at him and pets him. Peter is with his parents and John, Mary, Simon and Samson come over to them. Peter hugs his father, and Elizabeth hugs John as he comes over.

BOB

I'm very proud of you my son.
(turns to John and Simon)
I'm very proud of all of you.

MARY

Let's go home.

They go toward the cars, but Peter stops and turns around, to see if he can spot Lisa in the middle of the "journalist inferno". He can see that she, with an excited expression on her face, is telling the event to the journalists.

Is this the end of a, not even really begun, romance? He guesses it is and turns gloomily around, and goes toward the cars. Suddenly somebody grabs him on his shoulder, and a sweet VOICE speaks to him from behind.

LISA (O.S.)

Hey! Where do you think you're going, mister?

He turns around and Lisa "jumps" him, and kisses him passionately.

INT. DUGAN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dugan is at a drawer, taking clothes out and putting them in a suitcase. Suddenly somebody speaks to him from behind.

GEORGE (O.S.)

T.D. Masterson! I never knew that T.D. stood for Thomas Dugan.

DUGAN

Well, now you know, Lamperts.

Dugan finds a gun in his drawer.

GEORGE

How come I didn't recognize you?

Dugan turns around and points the gun at George.

DUGAN

The bomb in the lab went off too soon. I got badly burned. They had to reconstruct my entire face.

GEORGE

So you planted the bomb, but why?

DUGAN

Everything was automated. The finding of the right place, the transport out there, the placing of "Marvin" and the sinking of the ship afterwards. It was all done by a computer, so nobody knew where it

was. The only thing that could and eventually would fail here was the people involved. So they had to be eliminated, removed from the equation, so to speak.

GEORGE

But you cut off the only means we had of controlling this thing. That was stupid!

DUGAN

D'you think I enjoyed lying on my back for months and months, being under the knife almost every day? The pain, the pain was excruciating.

GEORGE

Am I supposed to feel sorry for you?

DUGAN

No. Of course I didn't plan it to happen that way. When you and Sterling arrived, I would have sneaked unnoticed out the back door with the portable "emergency brake" we had, and should have been long gone when the bomb went off, but no.

GEORGE

But I still don't understand why, why T.D?

DUGAN

International Security! I got my orders from the highest place.

GEORGE

You're telling me the President ordered us eliminated?

DUGAN

Well, now you're here, Lamperts, I might as well finish the job.

Dugan raises the gun to shoot George.

KURT (O.S.)

I wouldn't do that, Sir!

Dugan stops and looks at Kurt, who stands in the doorway. His left arm is in a sling, and he has a gun in the right hand.

DUGAN

Kurt?

Peter and other Secret Service men enter.

PETER

General Thomas Dugan Masterson, I
have a warrant for your arrest, Sir.

DUGAN

I think not.

Dugan looks George deep in his eyes, and then he takes his
gun to his own head and FIRES.

Kurt walks over and looks at Dugan's body.

KURT

And I would have died for you once.

EXT. PACIFIC, BOAT - DAY

It's a very nice day and on the deck of a brand new fishing
boat stand: John, Mary, Simon, Peter, Lisa, George, Kevin,
Brian, Karen, Cecile, Donna and Kurt.

John and George drop together a wreath with Angela's name on
it into the water. Peter drops one with James's name on.
Simon drops one with Robert's name on. Lisa drops one with
Susan's name on. Donna drops one with Longjohn's name on.
Cecile drops one with Walter's name on. Kevin drops one
with Harrison, Lizzy and James's names on.

They all smile at each other.

Mary whispers something in John's ear. John gets a big
smile on his face and puts his hand on Mary's stomach.

JOHN

Is it true?

She nods "yes" and they embrace and laugh, Simon joins them.

Suddenly Brian gets a horrified look on his face.

BRIAN

My God, it's starting!

ALL

What!

BRIAN

(points at Karen)
Her, her water broke!

They all laugh and John looks at Peter.

JOHN

Will you take your new boat to port,
Captain?

PETER

Certainly, if you wouldn't like to
take your new boat in, Captain?

JOHN

You do the honors.

Peter salutes John, grabs Lisa's hand and they walk to the wheelhouse. The boat sails and on the stern the name is revealed: "Angela".

We go from the boat and up into the blue sky.

FADE OUT:

The End.