

FADE IN:

EXT. DEEP SPACE SILENT BLACK

We sweep slowly across an endless tapestry of stars. Finally she comes into view: the U.S.S. AURIGA. A massive research vessel that sits majestically just beyond Pluto's orbit.

We TRACK ALONG the side of the ship, and...

INT. AURIGA

... along the silent, empty corridors, coming at last to a door with two guards standing rigid in front of it. Full armour, powerful shockrifles, expressions empty and cold.

INT. MEDLAB

Along a row of screens, where we see the first signs of life readouts, lights, data - all shifting and collating on the blinking screens.

As we move ALONG them, a figure in a labcoat passes through the frame, then another, leading us along the lab to settle on what looks like a Cryogenic tube, not big enough for a human.

Still TRACKING around it, we glimpse inside some vague, fetal mass encased in a clear, aspic-like gel. Tubes and cables attached to the mass, running out of the machine.

As we still CIRCLE, the shape begins to be more coherent, till we can see what might even be a face. Eyes, shut tight. Sleeping. Dreaming.

ANGLE: WHEAT

A birds eyes view of a field, the soft golden waves filling the screen. Sharp contrast to what we have seen before.

There is a woman wandering through the field. Beside her a girl, seven or eight, in dingey sundress. Both have black, tousled hair.

GIRL'S VOICE

My mom always said there were no
monsters - no real ones - but
there are.

The girl stops, looks around her. The wheat comes all the up to her chest, and nothing else is visible as far as she see.

She looks back at the woman but the woman is already more than fifty yards away.

The girl's expression becomes perplexed.

She slaps a bug on the back of her neck. Pulls it off and is HUGE, wriggling fleshily in her hand. Her expression becomes even more distraught, but she cannot muster forth a shout.

The sound of insects fills the air. Another bug lands on her, another. She looks down in growing horror and sees: Blood. At her feet, rising, filling the field, rising above the wheat, a sea of blood now, dark, thick.

The girl tries again to scream, raises her arms. She is completely covered in insects, a skittering black shroud of them, and when she finally does SCREAM they flood into her mouth.

CUT TO:

INT. LAB

Instruments show a jolt in heart rate, blood pressure. Scientists note it down, look over at the thing in aspic.

We can tell that time has passed because it is much bigger, nearly the size of a man, and in a new case.

The camera moves in on the cardiograph, then moves down, to show a second one. Tracking a smaller, much faster heartbeat.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

Tiny, dark, and we are moving through it at impossible speed turning into another without slowing, up into an air vent, still moving, moving until we reach a chamber, some place where all we can see is a mass of dark, moving, inhuman flee it welcomes us in, envelops us...

ANGLE: RIPLEY

Lying somewhere, maybe the dark chamber - in the dream it keeps shifting. She opens her eyes, but they are dark, whiteless.

She reaches for her chest and begins scratching. Hard. Tearing at it, as blood wells up, spilling over her sides.

CUT TO:

INT. OPERATING CHAMBER

And the cause of this dream becomes apparent:

ANGLE: RIPLEY'S CHEST

Being cut open with a lasersaw.

We see her body still has a layer of the aspic-slime clinging to it. And her skin is unnaturally blue. But as we PAN from her chest to her face her identity is unmistakable.

Around her are several men in operating masks. Cutting her GEDIMAN, a young and enthusiastic scientist. One man, seemingly in charge, stands a bit off, watching. This, by tag on his coat, is DR. WREN.

WREN

Careful... Ready with the amnio...

Gediman finishes cutting. Another man steps in with a clamp. Sets it. Pulls apart the chest.

GEDIMAN

There she is...

He says it like he's found a lost kitten. He reaches in and pulls out a sleeping, fetal but nearly ready to burst ALIEN. Others work at severing umbilical threads that tie it to Ripley's chest.

GEDIMAN

Here we go.

He holds it up and others step in with the amnio, a sort of incubator filled with amniotic fluid. The alien SCREAMS, its tiny mouth full with teeth, and wriggles out of his grasp.

WREN

Watch it!

Everybody panics - but before the thing can get completely away from him, Gediman grabs it and sticks it in the amnio. Someone shuts the top rapidly. Everybody looks at each other for a moment.

GEDIMAN

Well...

WREN

The host?

A surgeon looks at Ripley's readings.

SURGEON

Doing fine.

Gediman looks at Wren, hopefully. Wren nods.

WREN

Sew her back up.

Gediman and the surgeon get to work, as the others carefully remove the alien.

GEDIMAN

Well, that went as well as could
be expected -

Ripley's hand LASHES OUT, GRABS the surgeon's forearm. He yells in pain as her fingers dig into him, the others scramble knocking things over and we HEAR HIS BONE CRACKING.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. RIPLEY'S CELL

Sudden stillness.

Ripley crouches in the middle of a small, dark chamber. She's wide eyed, staring straight ahead in a state of near catatonia. Hair tangled and wild. But at least she's not so blue as before.

The only light on her comes from directly above, from a thick pane of glass in the center of the ceiling.

ANGLE: ABOVE THE CELL

A guard stands on the floor above, looking into the cell through the square of glass in the floor, directly above Ripley.

(We see other panes of glass lining the floor, indicating more cells below.)

ANGLE: RIPLEY

She is still for a long while. Then she lifts her hands, looking at them. Touches her face, her skin.

She fingers her tunic, pulls down the neck. There is a scar running along her chest. She fingers it thoughtfully.

She looks at her forearm. Tattooed near the crook of her elbow is the number 8. She looks up, her face unreadable.

CUT TO:

INT. LAB

Ripley is sitting on a table as Gediman draws blood from her. He deposits it in a test beaker, studies her eyes.

Wren enters, looking at a chart.

WREN

How's our number eight today?

GEDIMAN

Appears to be in good health...

WREN

(noticing his tone)

How good?

GEDIMAN

Extraordinary. As in, completely off our projected charts.

(shows him some photos)

Look at the scar tissue. See the recession?

WREN

This is from -

GEDIMAN

Yesterday!

WREN

This is good. This is very good.

GEDIMAN

I'd like to run some tests: strength, coordination... we're not looking at a normal cloning arc.

WREN

Approved.

Wren goes up to Ripley, studies her face with satisfaction.

WREN

Well, it looks like you're going
to make us all very proud.

She grabs his throat with dazzling speed, applying deadly pressure as she brings his face to hers. Her eyes are burn but lost.

RIPLEY

Why?

GEDIMAN

Oh my god...

He is as wide eyed as WREN, and he isn't having his windpipe crushed.

After a moment the shock wears off and he slams his hand into the alarm.

Klaxons, red light fire up.

A guard rushes in, levels his weapon at Ripley. After a moment of staring him down, she opens her hand. Wren falls to his knees gasping.

The guard FIRES his rifle at her - a powerful electrical charge lashes out and sends her flying back into the corner.

WREN

No! no! I'm all right!

The guards keep their weapons - 'burners', these shockrifles are called - leveled at Ripley. She has recovered from the shock quickly, sits crumpled in the corner, looking at nothing in particular.

RIPLEY

(wearily)

Why...?

CUT TO:

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM

Wren and Gediman watch through a one way mirror as a scientist tests Ripley. With them is General PEREZ, the man in charge this boat. Ramrod straight and about as gruff as you would expect, he stares at Ripley suspiciously.

ANGLE: RIPLEY

The scientist is holding up cards with pictures on them: house, dog, boat. Ripley gives answers we can't hear through the glass, looking pissed off and bored.

WREN

It's unprecedented.

GEDIMAN

Totally! She's operating at a completely adult capacity.

PEREZ

And her memories?

WREN

There are gaps. And there's some degree of cognitive dissonance.

GEDIMAN

She's freaked.

Wren shoots Gediman a stern look at his unscientific parlance.

WREN

"It" has some connective difficulties. A kind of low level emotional autism. Certain reactions....

Perez looks at Ripley through the glass, then exits into the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

The two scientists follow, pace him as he strides down towards a second observation room.

GEDIMAN

But the thing is, we can't terminate her. It.

PEREZ

You haven't told me what you think has caused this. cloned genes don't contain memory cells, not even when they're brought to adult term. I'm right?

GEDIMAN

There's been cases -

PEREZ

Not like this.

WREN

Well, we don't have nearly enough data... But in some cases there is a collective memory passed down generationally. At a genetic level. Like instinct, only more complex structurally.

PEREZ

In some cases. You're talking about the alien.

WREN

Yes.

PEREZ

You promised me there wasn't going to be any crossing.

WREN

It's not like the other ones...

Perez punches code, puts his hand on the scanner and the second observation room door opens... He steps in, the other two right behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM TWO

Darker than the first one, and with two of the heavily armoured guards by the door.

Apart from that, identical. Perez turns to the others.

PEREZ

But there is some genetic mix.

WREN

Yes.

PEREZ

Will there be further mutation?

GEDIMAN

Mutation isn't exactly... I don't think so.

WREN

That's one of the things we need to study.

PEREZ

All right. You can keep it. But secure, under obso, and for God's sake keep it away from here. I don't want any more surprises.

And as he speaks the ALIEN RISES RIGHT BEHIND HIM - it's big, the ridges on its head indicating a young Queen - it hisses and LUNGES at the back of his head.

The reinforced plastic window between them, which we couldn't see, stops it. As it hits, a thin laser grid buzzes to life, sparks crackling on the alien's face.

Its bile trails darkly on the glass as it backs off.

Perez turns to look at it with the others.

PEREZ

It took a hell of a lot to get us here.

GEDIMAN

No shit.

Wren shoots him another look.

PEREZ

How soon before this one's ovulating?

WREN

Days.

PEREZ

Is that normal?

WREN

No way of knowing for sure, but I'd say it's accelerated.

(after a moment)

We're going to need the supplies.

PEREZ
They're coming. Soon.

CUT TO:

INT. MESS HALL

Ripley sits across from Gediman. He is eating at a good pace - Ripley, however, has stopped. She is staring at her fork, her brows furrowed. Turns it over in her hand, in her mind.

GEDIMAN
"Fork".

The memory comes, and she shakes her head wearily.

RIPLEY
(softly)
Fuck...

GEDIMAN
(pretending to
correct her)
"Fork".

Ever so slightly, she smiles. The smile fades, and after a moment:

RIPLEY
How did you...

GEDIMAN
How did we get you? Blood samples
from fiori 16. On ice. Do you
remember that place?

RIPLEY
Does it grow?

GEDIMAN
Does it... Yeah. Rapidly.

RIPLEY
It's a Queen.

GEDIMAN
How did you know that?

RIPLEY
It'll breed. You'll die. Everyone
in the... Fucking...
(searches for the
word, then spits it
out)
... company. Will die.

GEDIMAN
Company?

WREN (O.S.)
Weyland Yutani.

He has entered behind her, comes up to the table.

WREN
Our Ripley's former employers.
Terran growth conglom, had some
defense contracts under the
military. Before your time,
Gediman - they went under decades
ago, bought out by Walmart.
Fortunes of war.
(to Ripley)
You'll find things have changed a
good deal since your time.

RIPLEY
I doubt that.

WREN
We're not flying blind here, you
know. This is united systems
military, not some greedy
corporation. The potential
benefits of this race go way
beyond urban pacification. New
alloys, new vaccines...

She laughs, bitterly.

RIPLEY
Oh, I am.

WREN
And the animal itself is
wondrous. They'll be invaluable
once we've harnessed them.

RIPLEY
It's a cancer. You can't teach it
tricks.

This stops Wren, and he retreats silently. Ripley repeats
word to herself, thinking.

RIPLEY
"them"...

CUT TO:

As Wren is leaving the mess, he is accosted by an ensign.

ENSIGN
Doctor, General Perez is asking
for you. We've been hailed.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEEP SPACE

We see the Auriga far in the distance. Suddenly A SHIP ROARS
INTO FRAME, heading for it.

A small vessel, it is every bit dirty and jerry-rigged as the
Auriga is pristine.

To accentuate the difference, the sudden roar of its engines
is accompanied by HEAVY, THRASHING ROCK MUSIC.

CUT TO:

INT. COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The music is coming from nearby. Piloting the ship toward the
Auriga is HILLARD, a roughskinned woman in her forties, along
with RANE, a slight and quiet fellow.

Behind them stands ELGYN, the leader of the group. He has the
kind of authority that doesn't need to flaunt itself. Maybe
fifty, by the silver in his hair. He speaks into the vidcom:

ELGYN
(good naturedly)
My authorization code is 'fuck
you' son. Now open the goddamn bay
or General Perez is gonna do a
Wichita stomp on your virgin ass.

He switches off.

RANE
Wichita stomp?

ELGYN
I guarantee that boy's never seen
the inside of a woman.
(to Hillard)
Bring us in on three-oh descent,
ride the parallel.

HILLARD
Darlin', it's done.

ELGYN
Don't cut thrust till six hundred
meters. Give 'em a little fright.

He puts his hand on her shoulder, runs it up along her cheek
as he exits.

They're more than friends.

He moves through a hallway, sticks his head in a cubicle.

ELGYN
Christie! St Just! Rise and shine.
We're docking.

He proceeds into:

INT. CARGO BAY - CONTINUOUS

It's the largest space in this boat, two stories high. Taking
up most of the space are two HARVESTERS, big rusty hovering
threshers roughly the size of winnebagos.

As Elgyn enters, we CRANE UP to reveal ANNALEE-CALL working
atop one of them. She's young, tough - at home with this
motley bunch despite her youth and prettiness.

ELGYN
Call! Call!

The music is louder here - it's blasting from a box in the
corner.

Elgyn switches it off.

ELGYN
Call!

CALL

What?

ELGYN

We're docking! Are the cargo trucks secured?

CALL

I checked 'em an hour ago.

ELGYN

I don't want 'em so much as rattled. Any leakage, I take it out of your hide.

CALL

Trust me, boss.

ELGYN

(laughs)

Not my style.

He leans down, looks under the thresher. Lying on a gurneylike steel dolly, working under the machine, is VRIESS, chief mechanic. Late forties, in pretty good shape considering he's got no legs.

ELGYN

How's it looking?

VRIESS

It's never gonna be pretty, but she'll fly. The other one's a total fucking write-off.

ELGYN

You'll make it good.

VRIESS

Don't be so sure.

(calls out)

Call! Adjust the generator plugs!

ELGYN

(straightening up)

They just gotta run, Vriess. They don't gotta run far.

He exits.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

CHRISTIE is up and mostly dressed. He is black, very large, and has distinctly military bearing. He speaks with quiet, don't-fuck-with-me authority.

CHRISTIE
What's our status?

ELGYN
We're coming in. Time to enjoy a little of the General's hospitality.

ST JUST
Oh great. Army food...

ST JUST ("San-Jhoost") is slim, Asian - and the epitome of cool.

Moves quickly and silently, a sly grin playing about lips. He is strapping a contraption to his forearm. It resembles a derringer holder, but a very complex one.

ELGYN
We could use a rest, till the heat's off and Vriess can get those harvesters on their feet. This'll keep us for a couple of days, assuming the natives are friendly.

CHRISTIE
We expecting any trouble?

ELGYN
From Perez? I doubt it. Still, let's be ever vigilant.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO BAY - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE: Vriess working intently, the extremely nasty blades of the thresher inches above his head.

VRIESS
I'm patched in. Check the sequence timer.
(no answer)
Call?

ANGLE: THE CONTROLS

A hand reaches in toward the ON switch.

ANGLE: VRIESS

VRIESS

Call?

The thresher GRINDS TO LIFE - a hundred blades and claws spinning at Vriess's head!

Vriess wheels out from under the machine in a second flat.

VRIESS

Goddammit!

The second he's out he hits a lever and the back of the dolly flies up, transforming it into a wheelchair.

VRIESS

Johner! You son of a whore!

JOHNER jumps down from the machine, laughing. He's thickset, mean and ugly, with ugly scars crisscrossing his ugly bald head.

JOHNER

Thought I'd give you a little haircut there.

VRIESS

You fuck!

Call, who has been over on the other side of the thresher, ably climbs up on it and switches it off.

JOHNER

You should see your face. Vriess, you must have soiled yourself.

VRIESS

One of these days I'm gonna kill you. My hand to God.

JOHNER

Well, you already gave him your feet...

CALL
 (jumping down)
 You're a limp fucking scrotum, you
 know that?

JOHNER
 Either of you want a piece of me,
 I'm less than busy.

VRIESS
 Any time.

CALL
 Vriess. Forget it. He's been
 sucking down too much homebrew.

JOHNER
 Don't push me, little Annalee. You
 hang with us a while, you'll learn
 I'm not the man with whom to fuck.

He exits, full of annoying bravado.

VRIESS
 That inbred cocksucker.

He feels his forehead, comes up with a bit of blood. Realizes
 how close it was...

Call looks up at the thresher.

CALL
 I hate machines.

VRIESS
 Well, now we know it works...

CUT TO:

EXT. AURIGA DOCKING BAY

As it opens to admit the proportionally tiny ship. The bay on
 the bottom of the Auriga - the doors are actually OVER the
 ship, which rises into the airlock.

INT. AIR LOCK

The outer doors close under the ship. Pressurized air shoot
 into the airlock for a few seconds, and then the inner door
 opens. the ship rising into the bay.

INT. BAY

The ship moves slowly along the huge dock to land gently at far end. The top of the ship is nearly level with a grated platform that runs the length of the bay.

Three soldiers in full armour stand rigid on the platform. The hatch atop the ship slowly opens. One by one the crew files out. Seeing them en masse, we get a clearer view of what separates them from this Environment. They're not wearing uniforms. They're an eclectic, fiercely individualist group, their look varied - spots of bright color showing through militarian space gear. Johner's bright turquoise bowling shirt. Elgy's and St Just's floorlength leather dusters. Even Vriess's chair stands out as he wheels down the platform.

What they have in common is the toughness, the wary eyes, leathery skin. The cool readiness to kill. These guys are smugglers. A long while ago, you'd have called them pirates. All eight of them emerge, one by one, looking around them. They file past the silent, uniformed soldiers. The last one suddenly puts a hand on Johner's jacket, stops him.

There is a bulge under it. A green sensor light on the back of the soldier's glove turns red when he touches the bulge.

SOLDIER

No projectile weaponry is allowed
on board the vessel, sir.

Johner opens his jacket, shows what he's packing: a large thermos.

JOHNER

Moonshine. My own. Much more
dangerous.

SOLDIER

Sorry, sir.

ELGYN

(to Perez)

What, do you think we're going to
hijack the vessel? All eight of
us? No, I think one of your
asshole crew is going to get drunk
and put a bullet through the hull.
We are in space, Elgyn.

He enters from the antechamber, motions for the crew to follow him.

Vriess comes abreast of the soldier.

VRIESS
Wanna check the chair?

The soldier makes no response, simply falls in behind Call, the last of them.

CUT TO:

INT. ANTECHAMBER

The long neck that connects the bay to the body of the ship. The group proceeds down it, the crew looking about them at the sterile grandeur.

ST JUST
This place is really clean.

JOHNER
(to a guard)
Hey. You got any whores on this vessel?
(the guard remains stonefaced)
Any loose women with bad eyesight?

PEREZ
I think you'll find our accommodations somewhat spartan. Although the cook sets a good table.

JOHNER
That ain't what I'm hungry for.

VRIESS
(to Call)
What's the matter?

She is looking around her, somewhat tensely.

CALL
I don't like army.

HILLARD
Yeah, join the fucking club.

CUT TO:

ANGLE: MONEY

A stack of bills dropped down on a desk, then another. They're green, and identifiably money. But they're square, about the size of cocktail napkins. The face on them is unfamiliar. Thousand dollar bills.

WIDER ANGLE: INT. PEREZ'S CHAMBERS - LATER

A good sized suite, decorated in a sparse, military fashion. Perez is behind his desk, the money sitting between him and Elgyn.

PEREZ

This wasn't easy to come by.

ELGYN

Neither was our cargo. You're not pleading poverty, are you?

PEREZ

We're well funded. I mean the bills. There's not many that still deal in coin.

ELGYN

Just the ones that don't like their every transaction recorded. The fringe element. I guess that would include you, though, wouldn't it?

PEREZ

Drink?

ELGYN

Constantly. I'm guessing whatever you've got going here wasn't exactly approved by congress.

Perez pours two whiskeys.

PEREZ

(changing the subject)
So where do you go from here?

ELGYN

Out by the handle. We've got a couple of harvesters, we can unload 'em on one of the collectives if Vriess and Call get 'em working.

PEREZ

Call. Where'd you find her?

ELGYN

She is severely fuckable, isn't she? And the very devil with a socket wrench. I think Vriess somewhat pines.

He takes a stack of bill, smells it. He likes the smell.

ELGYN

She is curious about this little transaction. You can hardly blame her. Awfully cloak and dagger...

Perez hands a drink to Elgyn.

PEREZ

This is an army operation.

ELGYN

Most army research labs don't have to operate outside regulated space. And they don't call for the kind of cargo we brought.

PEREZ

Do you want something, Elgyn?

ELGYN

Just bed and board, couple of days worth. If we're not imposing.

PEREZ

Not at all. Keep out of the restricted areas, don't start any fights, and Mi Casa is yours too.

Elgyn drinks to that.

PEREZ

I trust, of course, that you can mind your own business.

ELGYN

(smiles)

I'm famous for it. They drink.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - RESTRICTED AREA

The 'cargo' is rolled down the corridor, armed guards flank it. It is wheeled into:

INT. A CHAMBER

Where Wren and a few others are waiting. Gediman looks a little nervous, not sure this is a good idea.

The cargo is locked into place on the floor and a guard works the electric lock. It springs open and the guard slides off a side panel.

They are stacked one on the other, five of them in all, cryotubes. People sleeping inside. One by one the tubes are hauled to one side of the room as the second unit is wheeled in. By the end there are ten people sleeping side by side in their tubes in the dark chamber.

The scientists meanwhile retire to AN ADJOINING CHAMBER with a long glass window looking at the chamber.

The last of the guards leaves the chamber and we see the door lock behind them.

Wren starts pushing buttons.

The glass tops of the cryotubes slide open. We see temperature and lifesign gauges begin to change...

There is a thick whirring as a part of the ceiling above the tubes lowers, lowers, and rotates slowly.

Stuck to the other side of it are ten alien eggs. The ceiling rotates just enough so that they are aimed at the heads of the sleepers.

For a moment nothing happens.

One of the sleepers eyes flutter slightly. Opens. All ten eggs open simultaneously.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE HALL

A huge room, used for assemblies and events. It has a chain basketball net set up at one end, crude court lines taped to the floor. Ripley stands beneath the net with a ball, dribbling absently.

At the other end are set up tables and folding chairs. The crew of the Betty, sans Elgyn, are filing in to eat here. Johner spies Ripley, smiles.

JOHNER

Ooh.

Johner comes up to Ripley. Her expression makes it clear how much she enjoys having him in her face.

JOHNER

How about a little one on one?

She keeps dribbling, says nothing.

JOHNER

What do you say?

RIPLEY

Get away from me.

JOHNER

Why should I?

RIPLEY

Because pain hurts.

He falters a moment at her quiet threat, then:

JOHNER

Are you gonna hurt me then? I think I might enjoy that.

He smiles his ugly smile. She smiles back.

She hits him solidly in the chest - and he flies back ten feet, landing badly on a group of chairs.

His mates fly into action, Christie grabs a standing ashtray. Hillard jumps Ripley from behind. She throws her off with e - chucks the basketball at her hard enough to pop the air out of it.

Christie swings at her and SMASHES her right in the face.

She arcs back... and right back up, at Christie's throat before he has a chance to react, squeezing, batting away the ashtray just a trickle of blood coming down her nose.

Johner comes at her again and she leaps on him, throws him to the ground, snarling.

She's gonna RIP his throat out with her teeth.

WREN

Ripley.

Ripley looks up and four guards are pointing burners at her. Wren and Gediman behind them.

Call, standing to one side with Vriess, reacts visibly to the name. Everybody is slowly backing off. St Just stands with his hands behind his back, as if concealing something.

Call watches in rapt silence.

WREN

Don't let's have a scene.

Ripley lets go of Johner, stands.

RIPLEY

He... Smells

WREN

I imagine he does.

JOHNER

(barely breathing)

What the fuck are you?

She looks down on him - in both senses of the phrase. Looks around at everyone staring at her.

She wipes the bit of blood from under her nose, flicks it away. Exits.

WREN

(to Gediman, amused)

Social skills, less than a hundred' percent.

ANGLE: RIPLEY'S BLOOD

The few drops she flicked away sizzle on the floor - not eating through, but melting a small patch.

CUT TO:

INT. LABS - LATER

A large metal box is being wheeled next to an observation pen. Soldiers surround it, weapons at the ready. Not one of them at ease.

Wren and Gediman watch intently.

WREN

What's the status on the Queen?

GEDIMAN

We still haven't detected the origin of the reproductive anomalies. But the egg laying stage appears to be over.

WREN

Did we do something wrong?

GEDIMAN

I don't know. I think we covered everything. But these redundancies...

A soldier lifts a panel in the pen and then doors to the cage come open automatically.

Everyone waits.

A full-grown alien suddenly bolts into the pen. The soldier shut it as quickly as humanly possible.

WREN

Father, check security status, observation pen six.

Father, the voice of the ship, replies after a moment in a dulcet, comforting tone.

FATHER

Pen six secure, security systems functional at 100%.

WREN

Good. Now the others.

CUT TO:

INT. SLEEP CHAMBERS - NIGHT

We see VARIOUS ANGLES of people at night:

Rane, in a chamber on the Auriga.

Hillard and Elgyn, in a slightly more lush one.

Perez, in his quarters.

Vriess, rolling about the Aurigals engine room, looking it over.

Christie, St Just, Call and Johner, all playing poker in the mess hall.

CUT TO:

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - RIGHT

A sleep cycle is indicated here by the low lighting and the near emptiness of the room.

Gediman alone is in here, writing observations down in a notebook as he watches the pen.

Inside are three aliens. Two of them seem to be hibernating, curled up in the corner, but the third faces the glass, tilting its head and hissing at it.

Gediman sits right up close to it, his face just inches away from the beast's.

It draws back its lips, opens its mouth. The metallic tongue issues slowly forth, dripping with slime.

GEDIMAN
(softly, fascinated)
Is that a distended Externus
Lingua... or are you just happy to
see me?

The creature hisses, retracts the tongue. Gediman scribbles few notes.

Something moves in the dark behind him. Before he can notice, a hand closes on his shoulder.

It's Ripley. She steps forward, eyes locked on the cage. Gediman seems only mildly surprised.

GEDIMAN
How did you get in here?

RIPLEY
Beautiful, aren't they?

GEDIMAN
Yes. Yes they are. I've been
monitoring their interaction.

He points at a audiograph by the wall, blips and waves interrupting the vibrating line, indicating sound.

He notices that her hand is still on her shoulder.

GEDIMAN

They communicate. Through ultrasonic soundwaves. Sort of like bats.

RIPLEY

I know.

She looks at him.

RIPLEY

I can hear them.

GEDIMAN

(smiling)

Amazing...

She runs her hand through the back of his hair, gently urging him up off his chair.

GEDIMAN

Ripley...

RIPLEY

Shhhhh.

She pulls him close, kisses him. Lightly at first, then deeply - holding his head with both hands. He responds with surprising warmth, the kiss drawing out, pulling slowly apart.

She looks at him, smiles. An alien tongue SHOOTS out of her mouth, burying itself in his face.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. RIPLEY'S CHAMBER

As she suddenly awakes, eyes wide, breathing hard.

She has been sleeping, we see, in the same position she was before: squatting in the middle of the room. She looks about her, recovering from the nightmare... Her breathing slows. With a somewhat fatalistic, she settles back to sleep.

CUT TO:

INTERIOR MESS HALL - NIGHT

Christie, Call, St Just and Johner are still at their all night poker game, stacks of bills, peanuts and liquor scattered the table.

They are in a tense hand, the pot impressively high.

JOHNER

I'm in.

CHRISTIE

All right.

ST JUST

Raise you two hundred.

JOHNER

Oh, fuck you!

CALL

That's it. I'm out. I'm fucked.

She throws down her cards, takes a swig of Johner's patented moonshine. It tastes horrible.

CHRISTIE

That takes me down, too. Johner?

JOHNER

Uh, uh, fuck it. I fold.

(to St Just)

What do you got?

St Just calmly shuffles his cards back into the deck.

ST JUST

You'll always wonder.

JOHNER

You asshole.

CHRISTIE

Johner, your deal.

CALL

Deal me out. It's not my night.

She tries to stand up, takes a spill over her chair. The others laugh.

CALL
 Jesus, Johner, what do you put in
 that shit, battery acid?

JOHNER
 Just for coloring.

ST JUST
 (producing a small
 vial)
 I got something that'll take the
 edge off that.

CALL
 Thanks, I'll walk it off.

She stumbles out of the room. Johner shuffles the deck.

JOHNER
 Bitches should not play with the
 boys, they will get cleaned out.
 (dealing)
 Eight card throwback, fuck your
 sister and the sevens are wild.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL

As soon as she is out of sight, Call straightens up,
 completely sober. She looks around her and takes off toward
 the restricted areas.

She comes to the door and making sure no one is around, star
 punching in code on the keypad.

CUT TO:

INT. CELLBLOCK - MOMENTS LATER

As Call pads silently down it, looking for one cell.

CUT TO:

INT. RIPLEY'S CELL - CONTINUOUS

The cell door opens silently. Call hesitates a moment, then
 slips in, shutting the door behind her.

Ripley is sleeping, still in the squatting position in the
 middle of the room.

Call approaches.

She stares down at Ripley a moment. A shadow passes as a guard walks above them, Call tenses till he is gone. Look's back down at Ripley - still sleeping.

Call extends her hand, flexes her wrist. The meanest looking stiletto you've ever seen extends from out her sleeve. It gotta be a foot long, and sharp enough to shave with.

She lifts back her arm, the better to punch it through Ripley's heart.

Ripley shifts slightly. Call stops.

ANGLE: RIPLEY'S CHEST

Her shirt is open enough to show a good portion of the scar. Call hesitates, staring, realization flooding her face.

RIPLEY

Well?

Call starts, moving back a pace.

RIPLEY

You gonna kill me or what?

CALL

There's no point, is there?

A flick of her wrist and the stiletto whips back up her sleeve. Ripley sits up.

CALL

It's already out of you. Christ...
Is it here? Is it on board?

RIPLEY

(smiling)

You mean my baby?

CALL

I don't understand. If they've got it, why are they keeping you alive?

RIPLEY

Curious. I'm the latest thing...

CALL

Those sick fucks.

She raises her arm, the stiletto gliding out again.

CALL

I can make it stop. The pain...
This nightmare... That's all I can
offer you.

Ripley holds her palm up, presses it against the point of the blade.

RIPLEY

What makes you think I would let
you do that?

Ripley pushes her hand out - the blade goes RIGHT THROUGH HER PALM. She keeps pushing her hand out slowly, a good five inches of the blade sticking out the back of her hand before she stops. Call stares at her.

CALL

What are you?

RIPLEY

Ripley, Ellen, Lieutenant first
class, number 36706.

CALL

Ellen Ripley died two hundred
years ago.

Ripley pulls her hand back suddenly, grimacing at the pain.

RIPLEY

What do you know about it?

CALL

I've read morse - I've read all
the banned histories. She gave her
life to protect us from the beast.
You're not her.

RIPLEY

If I'm not her. What am I?

CALL

You're a thing. A construct. They
grew you in a fucking lab.

RIPLEY

But only god can make a tree.

CALL
And now they've brought the beast
out of you.

RIPLEY
(smiling)
Not all the way out.

CALL
What?

RIPLEY
It's in my head. Behind my eyes.
I can hear it moving. The beast.

The smile is gone, some real vulnerability showing through.
Call softens, trying a different tack.

CALL
Help me. If there's anything human
in you at all, help me stop them
before this thing gets loose.

RIPLEY
It's already loose.

Call's expression changes. Those words terrify her, but she's
not sure if Ripley means what she thinks.

Ripley raises her hand at Call's head - Call flinches but
Ripley stops a few inches away. Then touches her forehead
gently, almost sensually.

RIPLEY
Once the thought... The hope for
it... Grows here... It has found
its way.

It will come, because... man will bring it. Bring it forth.

CALL
You want that.

RIPLEY
I've come to terms with the fact
of it. It's inevitable.

CALL
Not so long as there's breath in
me.

Ripley LASHES OUT and GRABS CALL'S THROAT. Call swings with the blade but Ripley has her arm pinned before she can connect. Ripley squeezes the girl's neck.

Ripley looks at the girl with a world of sadness.

RIPLEY

I can... Make it... Stop...

Call's eyes are pleading, terrified. Ripley finally lets go and she drops to the ground gasping for air.

RIPLEY

Go. They're coming for you.

As soon as she can move, Call scrambles up and heads out.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

Call comes out and before she can move a RIFLE BUT hits her the head. She goes down but not out as two guards grab her. Wren is with them and three more.

WREN

I think you're gonna find that this was ill advised.

(to the men)

Where are her friends?

GUARD

Mess hall, most of them.

WREN

Sound the alarm. I want them rounded up. Now!

CUT TO:

INT. MESS HALL - MOMENTS LATER

ANGLE: THE CARD TABLE

Being kicked over.

Elgyn, Hillard and Rane are pushed into the room, sleepy and confused.

Christie, St Just, and Johner are all being herded in by soldiers.

Call is thrown into the group as well.

ELGYN

What the fuck is going on here?

CHRISTIE

Looks like a doublecross, boss.

WREN

Where's the other one? With the chair?

JOHNER

(to a soldier)

Get your fucking hands off me!

ELGYN

Do you mind telling me what the fuck you're up to?

WREN

Shut up!

(to a guard)

Get the General. Wake him up.

ELGYN

Look, if there's a problem tell me what it is. We can work this out, there is no need to get emotional...

St Just is silent, standing in the same position he was when Ripley attacked Johner. Hands behind his back.

ANGLE: BEHIND ST JUST'S BACK

As Elgyn speaks, two guns slip out of his sleeves and fill his hands.

CALL

They got nothing to do with this, Wren.

ELGYN

(to Call)

To do with what?

WREN

I don't give a fuck. It's way too late for that. You're all looking at a firing squad. You hear me?

ELGYN
I do. St Just?

With lightning precision, St Just raises his hands and blows of the guards away.

He takes out a third to his left without even looking that way. One guard gets off a shot with his burner, frying Rane before Hillard's elbow knocks his teeth well into his throat.

Christie tackles the next as Johner presses a latch on the bottom of his thermos - the top half flies off, revealing handle of a gun inside. He grabs it and another guard runs. Johner doesn't have have time to pull the gun out of the thermos, so he SHOOTs right through it, sending the guard flying...

CUT TO:

INT. ALIEN OBSERVATION LAB - CONTINUOUS

Alarms, flashing red lights. Gediman looking in a video monitor.

GEDIMAN
What the fuck... You three! Go!
Sector two.

All but one of the guards rush out to investigate. Gediman works the surveillance screen, trying to see what's happening.

CUT TO:

INT. MESS HALL - CONTINUOUS

When the smoke clears, There are two guards still standing. They point their weapons ineffectually. St Just has a gun to Wren's head and a gun on the guards, who are also covered by Johner.

ELGYN
Nice and easy, boys...

Call starts to take off.

CALL
I'm gonna finish this.

Elgyn grabs her by the hair, roughly pulls her back.

ELGYN
You're going nowhere, Annalee.

CUT TO:

INT. OBSERVATION LAB - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE: IN THE PEN

The three aliens have picked up the energy, are stalking back and forth like tigers in the dim light of their pen.

ANGLE: THEIR POV

We see Gediman and the guard, their backs to us. The aliens stop pacing. One of them, to the right, looks at the one on the left. Something passes between them. They look back at the humans. At each other.

They SET ON the middle alien, TEARING IT APART. It lets out piercing, insectile SHRIEKS as they tear it limb from limb.

Gediman spins in terror, the guard bringing up his weapon. Gediman hits the lights inside the pen and as they blink to shocking brightness we see:

The remains of the third alien on the ground as a giant pool its blood EATS A HOLE IN THE FLOOR.

GEDIMAN
Oh, God.

He bolts for the failsafe but it's too late as the blood eats all the way through - the two aliens DIVE through the hole. Just as Gediman hits the button - freezing gas fills the chamber but there's nothing to freeze.

GEDIMAN
No no no!

He hits another sequence and the door slides open. He rushes in, kneels by the hole and looks down.

ANGLE: HIS POV

The blood has already eaten through two levels.

GEDIMAN
Christ. They could be anywhere.

He looks up at the guard - and an alien FLIES UP at him through the hole.

It was hanging on the ceiling below and it pulls him through before he can breathe a decent scream.

The guard just stares, shaking.

CUT TO:

INT. MESS HALL

The Mexican standoff is getting even more heated.

CHRISTIE

Who gives a shit! We have to get out of here.

ELGYN

If Call's got something going here I want to know what it is!

WREN

You brought her here.

Two more guards rush in. Johner shoves' his gun in Wren's mouth.

JOHNER

Drop them! I'm not fucking with you!

CHRISTIE

(indicating the dead soldiers)

Boss, we got bodies here. It doesn't matter what Call's up to, we're all fucked now.

CALL

I have to stop him. If I don't we'll all die.

WREN

(pulls his mouth away)

Elgyn, tell me what you know. If she's alone in this...

HILLARD

In what?

Johner puts his gun to Call's temple now.

JOHNER

Does anyone want me to make this simple?

Far away, a SCREAM. Everyone stops. Wren turns slowly in the direction it came from.

WREN

No...

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY BY LABS

A technician RUNS screaming just as an alien LEAPS on him from behind. The CAMERA RUSHES AWAY, frenzied as the scene, to pick up a guard in the next hall firing wildly at the ceiling as an alien disappears up an airvent. There are three bodies lying dead before us.

ANGLE: IN THE PENS

We see that the aliens have been freed. Smoke, dead bodies, the plexiglass partition to one 1 cage is cracked and open.

CUT TO:

INT. RIPLEY'S CELL - CONTINUOUS

Ripley sits in the dark, the noise of Chaos just beginning filter in. And she just can't help herself.

She is LAUGHING.

CUT TO:

INT. PEREZ'S QUARTERS CONTINUOUS

He is mostly dressed, still shaking off sleep. He stands at the command console, bringing up visual. Everything on the screens is smoke and noise.

PEREZ

Ensign! Damage report! Ensign!

Nothing. On one of the screens, an alien is briefly visible. Perez stiffens at the sight of it.

He punches up a different sector. The labs, and here is a badly wounded Lieutenant.

PEREZ

Status!

LIEUTENANT

Containment is impossible, sir...
I think they swept the barracks.

PEREZ

(to himself)

A military strike... Christ
Jesus...

After a beat, he starts punching in the emergency override codes.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

It's worst here - the aliens have taken out a dozen men in their sleep, and everyone awake is screaming. One soldier runs for the weapons cabinet - an alien hits him from behind and SMASHES him into it, falling in a tumble of guns.

Over the chaos, the emergency lighting comes on, floor light like an airplane's indicating the nearest exit. Father's voice is excruciatingly calm:

FATHER

Emergency. Initiate evacuation
procedures immediately. All hands.
This is not a drill.

One soldier gets a bead on an alien with his burner - fries it along with two of his friends.

They're out of commission, but the alien is hurt only momentarily. It bounds forward, takes out his face.

FATHER

Emergency. Initiate evacuation
procedures...

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY BY ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The noise is too far above to be heard down here, but Fathers droning voice and the emergency lighting are on.

Vriess wheels slowly into the hall, concerned. He spins slowly, checking out his surroundings.

ANGLE: DOWN THE HALL

There is nothing... Just the floor lights pulsing in succession towards the exit.

Vriess follows their lead, wheeling out.

CUT TO:

INT. NEXT HALL - CONTINUOUS

Nothing here either. But Vriess's fur is up - he moves slowly, carefully.

And was that a noise? He looks around, up at the ceiling. A drop of alien blood is eating through right above him. It drips down - and he rolls out of the way just in time, back up as the blood plops to the floor, eating casually through.

CUT TO:

INT. LIFEBOAT BAY ONE - CONTINUOUS

Men are rushing into one of the lifeboats. They sit facing each other in the tiny vessel and strap themselves in. Perez is here, hurrying the soldiers in, pushing back the few who try to crowd in after.

PEREZ

Bay three! Go!

The late soldiers make for the next boat as Perez seals the hatch. He hits the eject button and steps back.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE AURIGA - CONTINUOUS

As the lifeboat FIRES out of the side of the giant craft.

CUT TO:

INT. BAY THREE - CONTINUOUS

Men crowd into this one too - it's nearly full and an alien suddenly LEAPS into it... starts feeding on the men strapped down - they are screaming.

Perez runs in as a soldier outside the lifeboat fires his burner, hitting the alien, the men, the controls - a shower of sparks as the alien turns, about to spring on the soldier as he rolls in a grenade. The doors shut and a soldier hits the eject button.

CUT TO:

EXT. AURIGA - CONTINUOUS

The second lifeboat comes shooting out and moments later EXPLODES.

CUT TO:

INT. MESS HALL - CONTINUOUS

The noise of the explosion - and of a few inside as well - is all around the group.

Father's voice still urges evacuation.

WREN

No!

(to Call)

What have you done?

CALL

Nothing. Not a goddam thing. You thought you could control it.

ELGYN

All right. We make for the betty.
Can he walk?

He is pointing at Rane, who nods, standing.

HILLARD

Betty's all the way across the ship! Who knows what's in between?

CALL

(indicating Wren)

He does. One of the soldiers steps forward. DiStephano.

DISTEPHANO

(to Wren)

Sir, we have to go.

(to Elgyn)

Let him go. No quarrel.

ELGYN

You can have him when we're off.
Not before.

They start out, dragging Wren along. Guns still on Call and the soldiers.

ELGYN

What about Vriess?

JOHNER

Fuck Vriess!

CUT TO:

INT. FALL - CONTINUOUS

Vriess enters, looking around. He is getting seriously wiggled.

The lights on the floor still pulse, urging him forward. He obeys.

Something stirs in the rafters. Coiled about the pipes.

Vriess stops, still a good thirty feet from the beast.
Strains to see.

It starts MOVING, climbing at him upside down on the pipes.
FAST.

Vriess starts wheeling himself back away but SLOWLY,
agonizingly slowly compared to the beast.

He turns the corner, spins around.

The hall is fifty feet long. At the far end a few soldiers
running through.

SERGEANT

Seal off that sector!

A soldier runs to obey, working the door controls.

VRIESS

No!

The soldier sees him, but the fear on the boy's face
telegraphs his decision.

Vriess starts pumping toward the door. He's strong, picking
up speed, but the alien rounds the corner and bolts after him.

Vriess can't even look back as the thing gains on him. The door begins to come down, the soldier finishing the sequence and running off.

Vriess rolls, face set - the alien a few feet behind, reaching for him. An EXPLOSION far away ROCKS THE SHIP - the hall tilted momentarily, Vriess gets a boost as he rockets downhill, the beast still on him, the door closing, too low for him to clear. He gets there and and SLAMS a lever, his chair FLATTENS out to a dolly position, his head just CLEARS the closing door as the alien SLAMS into it, Vriess spinning out and flying off the chair it tilts, landing in a heap next to him.

Lying still on the ground, He listens as the beast slams against the door a few more times, then fades off.

VRIESS
Fuck everything...

He reaches up for the chair and from the back of it he pulls out a shotgun.

CUT TO:

INT. LIFEBOAT BAY 5 - CONTINUOUS

Perez is trying to maintain order. He is failing. Grabs a Corporal.

PEREZ
Muster a squad to search for survivors!

CORPORAL
Fuck no! Fuck no! Fuck you!

Perez slams him to the ground with his fist.

An ALIEN LEAPS OUT at him from the ceiling. The soldiers scatter, Perez just leaping out of the way -

PEREZ
Shoot it! Fry it!

A couple of men fire their burners, to little effect.

One soldier runs up to the action. His head is bloodied, his expression vengefully grim.

The soldier whips out a pistol, private issue, he takes a bead on the thing -

PEREZ

No!

And the soldier FIRES - pumps three bullets into the beast sends it flying back toward the window.

Perez is riveted by the sight of:

ANGLE: DROPS OF BLOOD

Big ones, hitting the window. Everything seems to move slowly now - the alien, struggling as the soldier pumps two more bullets into it, the other soldiers, Perez - the monster falls and the BLOOD EATS THROUGH THE WINDOW...

PEREZ

Get out! Everyone! Now!

Soldiers are beginning to get it. The window CRACKS, begins to SHAKE as the blood is almost through it.

Even the soldier who shot the alien has stopped, his face frozen in horror at what he's about to accomplish.

Perez shoves him, herds the rest out, looking back -

PEREZ

Clear the sector!

At the window, the blood is almost through - men are pouring out of the hall - some move down a side hall and SLAM the door shut behind them, but most are making for the main exit anyway.

FATHER

Warning. Potential hullbreach.
Clear sector.

The blood eats a hole in the window - the nearest soldier is sucked back against the window - he SCREAMS as he is sucked through a hole no bigger than his fist.

Still men are falling over each other, Perez herding them out.

A huge CRACKING sound, and Perez shuts his eyes.

The window explodes outward, the air blowing everything into space. Debris, vehicles, men, all tangled and dead as they blown out into the black.

ANGLE: THE SECTOR DOORS

SLAM shut instantly one cutting right through a soldier halfway out.

ANGLE: AIR VENTS

Gates slam down here as well.

ANGLE: ELECTRICAL DUCTS

Foam SHOOTs into them, hardening instantly, sealing the breached sector.

FATHER

Breach contained. Sector five nonfunctional.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

As the crew moves quickly through. They come to a shut door, red lights along it indicating it's locked.

ELGYN

(to DiStephano)

Open it.

DISTEPHANO

I can't.

Johner puts his gun to the soldier's head.

WREN

He can't! The sector's closed. The hull's been breached!

ELGYN

Okay, which way?

WREN

We'll have to go through the holding cells. Here.

ELGYN

All right.

They turn left, entering...

INT. CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

It leads to the holding cells. The room is big, a railing at one end looking over another chamber two flights down.

A shut door separates the chamber from the cells.

ELGYN

Can you get that one open?

It comes from the rafters, dropping down on Elgyn in a heartbeat. He barely has time to scream before it shoots its tongue through the back of his skull.

Hillard has time. She SCREAMS as her lover's brains come out his mouth.

The beast leaps at the group, scattering them like bowling pins as it claws into one of the guards. Everybody else is scrambling for cover.

St Just tries to escape by running past the beast - its tail lashes out, tangling his feet and tripping him up, his head smashing against a pipe.

Another guard hits it with the burner - it shrieks and lands on him. Johner shoots at it, but is far too panicked to hit it.

Call has backed to the far wall - she desperately works the controls to open the door.

It starts to rise.

CALL

Christie! Hillard! Come on!

The door rises fully. Ripley stands behind it.

Call starts back, not sure what the woman will do.

Ripley surveys the scene.

The Alien, burrowing its head into the belly of the guard, stops. Looks up.

Everyone watches as the two creatures sense each other. The alien hisses, rears back.

Ripley looks away, contemplative. We see a gamut of emotions cross her face, but her posture passive, sacrificial. She does not move.

Everyone watches, too afraid to breathe.

The alien LUNGES at her, leaping across the room in two bounds. It's on her - and she SPINS, GRABBING IT, and HURLS IT AWAY. It lands in a tangle but is up again in a microsecond, jumps at her, knocks her back into the room, on her, its claws digging into her skin, piston tongue at her face, inches away.

She locks an arm around its slick, long head and pulls back we hear its tendons strain, snap.

CALL

(to a guard)

Shoot it! Shoot them both!

She grabs his gun and BURNS them both. Two less-than-human SCREAMS fill the room as they briefly disentangle, thrown apart.

The beast recovers first, dodging the next blast and going for Ripley again.

Ripley, on her back, reaches behind her, grabs a table leg and with inhuman strength brings the table down on the monster's head.

She dives at it as it comes out from under...

Call shoots as Ripley hits the alien, they're both fried as Ripley's momentum sends them over a railing and they FALL TWENTY FEET - the Alien lands with a spine snapping crunch, Ripley only slightly better.

A few crew members rush to look over the railing. Christie starts down the spiral staircase to that level.

JOHNER

Where are you going?

The creature rolls back onto Ripley, grabbing her with its dying strength. Her face is rigid with pain and anger as she holds it off... its jaws open, dripping shaking...

The tongue SHOOTS OUT and Ripley GRABS IT. HOLDS IT.

A scream wells up in her throat. A totally animal killshriek that she SCREAMS, victorious, as she RIPS THE ALIEN'S TONGUE OUT OF ITS FACE.

She stands, bellows another warrior cry. The crew has gathered near. They watch her, awed, wary.

Ripley walks slowly up to them - up to Call. Ripley looks a tad pissed.

Call tenses, maybe wishing she hadn't shot Ripley as well.

Ripley takes Call's hand, puts the tongue in it, walks on.

Call looks at the dripping souvenir. The pincers at the end still twitching.

CHRISTIE

What the FUCK is going on here?

RANE

What was that thing? Are there more of that thing?

JOHNER

(to Call)

Make a hell of a necklace...

ANGLE: HILLARD

On the upper level, kneeling by Elgyn's body. No tears, but terribly quiet.

HILLARD

What do we do?

CHRISTIE

Same thing we were doing. We get the fuck.

RANE

What if there's more? Let's stay here and let the army guys deal. Someone will come... I mean, where are the fucking army guys?

St Just is very calmly looking up at the rafters, guns drawn.

CHRISTIE

Doctor. You know what that thing is?

WREN

I do.

CHRISTIE

And there's others. How many?

The doctor looks around, almost guiltily.

WREN

Thirty.

JOHNER

Thirty! We are fucked in our pink bottoms if there's thirty of those things.

RIPLEY

There'll be more.

Everyone looks around at her. She is squatting in the corner facing away from them.

RIPLEY

They'll breed. In a few hours there'll be twice that number.

(she stands,
approaches them)

So who do I have to fuck to get off this boat?

CHRISTIE

You bought your ticket when you killed that thing. Welcome aboard.

CALL

Are you fucking crazy? She doesn't care if we...

CHRISTIE

(fiercely)

You got no authority here, Call!
Now secure it!

It's the first time Christie has raised his voice, and it has the desired effect.

After a silent moment, Call starts again softly.

CALL

Christie, she's not human. Wren cloned her because she was carrying an alien in her. She could turn -

JOHNER

Nobody cares about your opinion, you bitch, you fucking mole -

CALL

She'll turn on us! Just like that!

CHRISTIE

I don't give a syphilitic fuck
whether you people can get along
or not. If we've got a wish to
live then we work together, and
that includes bug-lady.

CALL

You can't trust her.

CHRISTIE

I don't trust anyone.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAMBER/CELLBLOCK - A BIT LATER

The group is still in the adjoining chamber, but looking here
into the cellblock where Ripley had been.

DiStephano and St Just come first, guns ready, looking about
them.

They are followed by Christie and Wren.

WREN

There's a console in the guards,
station. We can punch up a
diagnostic of the ship and plan a
route. To your ship.

CHRISTIE

That likes me fine.

He signals for the others to follow, everyone moving
cautiously.

ANGLE: HILLARD

Gently lays her coat over Elgyn's face. Johner looks down a
moment.

JOHNER

Via con dios, man.

Hillard stands. Call puts a hand on her shoulder but Hillard
moves away, a distrustful look on her face.

Ripley, bringing up the rear, watches the whole group with a
sort of fascinated detachment.

Call looks back at her. Ripley smiles, coldly.

ANGLE: IN THE CELLBLOCK

The group makes their way slowly, quietly. They approach a bank of elevators, but Wren points down an adjoining doorway. They are about to go there when the elevator door lights up, indicating arrival.

The group backs up, spreads out. Those who can find cover take it, guns drawn.

The elevator doors open. It is too dark inside to see:

Suddenly sparks fly from the broken overhead in the elevator and a figure appears in the light.

Everyone jolts, about to fire, before they realize it is Vriess, who sits in his chair, a shotgun in each hand, eyes wide.

JOHNER

Oh, fuck...

CALL

Vriess!

VRIESS

(mock casual)

Hey, whatcha guys doing? Hey, Annalee.

CHRISTIE

Thought you were toast for certain.

VRIESS

You've seen that fucking thing?

WREN

(suspiciously)

Where were you?

VRIESS

I was down by - what do you mean?
I was in maintenance, checking out
your oxidation systems.

JOHNER

Doc's got a bug up his ass 'cause
Call's a mole and he thinks we're
a conspiracy.

VRIESS
(looking at Call)
She's a what?

JOHNER
A mole. A fucking spy.

Vriess looks hit harder by that information than anyone.

CHRISTIE
We got 'a mission here, people.
Let's keep moving.

They do.

CUT TO:

INT. GUARDS, STATION - MOMENTS LATER

ANGLE: THE CONSOLE

A hologram of the ship appears above the screen. It looks a solid as the ship itself, except that parts of it occasional break themselves down to show interiors.

The group looks it over. Parts of the ship are simply not there, the sections around those holes red. Wren points them out.

WREN
We've had hull breach by the
lifeboats, here on level five, and
down - Jesus, right by the engine
room. We're very lucky.

ST JUST
(sarcastically)
Lucky we.

CHRISTIE
What about the betty? Our ship.

WREN
The dock seems to be intact.

CHRISTIE
Then we head for it.

JOHNER
Can we track those fucking things?

WREN

No.

JOHNER

We could get to the betty and they could be all over it!

RANE

Are you toting a better fucking idea?

WREN

All of the activity seems'to have been in the aft-sector, by the barracks.

There's no reason to suppose they'd move

RIPLEY

They won't.

Everybody looks at her.

RIPLEY

They're breeding. They've got new bodies to work on. They'll stay close. If they send anybody out, it'll be here. Where the... Meat is.

CALL

'The Meat'. Jesus.

ST JUST

They're breeding. How long does that take?

RIPLEY

Hours.

WREN

Or less. The process has accelerated, something to do with the cloned cells.

CHRISTIE

Faster we get from here to there, the better.

ST JUST

With all the devils of hell in between.

JOHNER

Well, if we want to make decent
time I say we ditch the cripple.
(to Vriess)
No offense.

VRIESS

(giving him the
finger)
None taken.

HILLARD

Nobody's left behind, johner. Not
even you.

Her voice is quiet, mourning still thick in it. Nobody
backtalks her.

CHRISTIE

So what's our route?

WREN

I'm trying to figure it. We can
cut through the labs, but we're
blocked on both sides here, I'm
not sure.

DISTEPHANO

Sir? There is the lift.

WREN

Show me.

DiStephano works the console and the hologram splits, the
route he's indicating revealed.

DISTEPHANO

The lifts. They run straight from
the top of the ship down to
engineering. No stops, but if we
can get in the shaft, there's a
maintenance access tunnel here...
(points to the center
of the shaft)
... that runs above level one
deck. Take us right to the dock.

CHRISTIE

Sounds reasonable.

DISTEPHANO

I don't have the code for the
access tunnel door.

WREN

I can override.

DISTEPHANO

(indicating the route)

Then we head through the labs,
then down to the kitchen. To the
bottom of the shaft. Up, through
the tunnel, and onto the ship.
Home free.

ANGLE: VRIESS

Is unloading additional ammo from inside his chair. He toss
one of his shotguns to Hillard.

VRIESS

They never check the chair...

He pulls out a grenade launcher. It's so compact it's almost
cute, cradled one handed like an Uzi.

VRIESS

Call.

She looks around and he tosses it to her. The gesture is not
accompanied by any show of warmth.

VRIESS

Try not to shoot your foot off.

WREN

You people should know -

ST JUST

We won't shoot at the windows, doc.

WREN

No. The aliens, they bleed
molecular acid.

CHRISTIE

That's right, I saw that.

VRIESS

So did I.

JOHNER

We can't shoot them? Fuck that,
I'm shooting them.

WREN

This is a big vessel, and for the
most part we should be okay. But
if we get anywhere near the outer
hull and start strafing them...

He indicates the hologram, the sections of the ship missing.
Everyone gets it.

CHRISTIE

If we're clear then let's get on
it. We'll go by twos -

RIPLEY

We're moving.

CHRISTIE

What?

RIPLEY

The ship is moving. I can feel it.

RANE

I don't feel shit - what, do you
mean they're piloting this fucking
thing?

VRIESS

This ship has stealthrun, even if
we were moving there's no way she
could feel it.

CALL

She's right.

Call is working the computer now.

CALL

The ship's been going since the
attack.

WREN

It's uh, it's standard, I think.

DISTEPHANO

That's right. If the ship takes on
any serious damage it autopilots
back to homebase.

CALL
(to Wren, pissed)
You were planning to let us know
this?

WREN
I forgot.

HILLARD
What is homebase?

WREN
Earth.

CALL
Oh, God. Oh, you bastard...

JOHNER
Earth? I'm not going to that
fucking slum.

CALL
If those things get to earth,
it'll be...

RIPLEY
(not very concerned)
The end.

ST JUST
That's not our problem.

CALL
We've got to blow the ship.

CHRISTIE
We don't have to do anything till
we get off it. How long till we
get there?

CALL
Three hours. Almost.

CHRISTIE
Then that's what we got. Let's
move.

CALL
Don't you understand what this
means?

CHRISTIE
 I understand my hide. And I like
 it on me. Let's go.
 (to Ripley)
 What are you called, Ripley? You
 mind taking point?

She moves to the head of the line, and they start.

CUT TO:

INT. LABS - LATER

As they progress. Everyone with a gun has it at the ready.
 Ripley is a few yards in front.

She stops, sniffs. Listens.

RIPLEY
 Clear.

Johner moves up next to her.

JOHNER
 You've come up against these
 things before?

RIPLEY
 Yes.

JOHNER
 So what did you do?

RIPLEY
 I died.

He lags behind a bit, thrown.

JOHNER
 That wasn't really what I wanted
 to hear...

DiStephano points to a door.

DISTEPHANO
 This way.

And Ripley leads them in.

CUT TO:

INT. LAB - CONTINUOUS

As Ripley enters, we can see that this lab has been trashed. Ripley surveys the wreckage calmly, keeps moving. As the others file in, their horrified expressions lend contrast to her lack of one.

Among the debris are three bodies, chests exploded outward.

JOHNER

Fuck me...

CHRISTIE

Let's keep moving.

The door to the next chamber is ajar. Christie and Vriess in, then St Just, then Ripley.

INT. NEXT CHAMBER

Something LEAPS at Ripley from out of the shadows - a metal bar SLAMS into her side, throwing her off balance.

St Just and Christie spin, weapons up, and almost shoot the figure cowering in the corner.

Everyone else rushes in as he swings the bar before him, eyes wild with terror.

PURVIS

Get away from me!

CHRISTIE

Drop the rod, man. Do it!

PURVIS

Get away...

But the energy is out of him. The rod falls with a hollow clatter. He looks weakly from face to face.

PURVIS

What's going on?

St Just looks at his name, stitched in his coveralls.

ST JUST

Purvis. What's going on is that we're getting the fuck off this ghost ship.

PURVIS

What ship? Where am I? I was in Cryo on the way to Xarem, work crew for the nickel refinery... I wake up, I don't understand... I saw something... horrible...

CALL

Look, you come with us. It's dangerous here.

Ripley SNIFFS. Cocks her head.

RIPLEY

Leave him.

CALL

Fuck you. We're not leaving anyone on this boat.

RIPLEY

He's carrying...

JOHNER

He's what?

RIPLEY

He's got one... Inside him. I can smell it.

PURVIS

Inside me? What?

JOHNER

Shit, I don't want one of those things birthing anywhere near my ass.

VRIESS

It's a bad risk.

CALL

We can't just leave him.

VRIESS

I thought you came here to stop them from spreading.

CALL

(to Wren, torn)

Isn't there a process, can't you stop it?

ST JUST
We've got no time for that.

WREN
I couldn't do it here. The lab's
torn apart.

ST JUST
(quietly)
I could do him. Painless, back of
the head. Might be the best way.

CALL
There's gotta be another way. If
we freeze him -

PURVIS
What's in-fucking-side me?!?!?

They all look at him, a bit sheepishly.

WREN
A parasite. A foreign element
that....

Ripley steps in front of the doctor.

RIPLEY
There's a monster in your stomach.
They...
(indicating the
smugglers)
... hijacked your cryotube and
sold you to him...
(indicating, Wren)
... and he put an alien in you. In
a few hours it will punch its way
through your chest and you'll die.
Any questions?

Purvis is wide-eyed, stunned. After a moment he stammers.

PURVIS
Who are you?

RIPLEY
I'm the monster's mother.

She starts heading out of the chamber. Call turns to the
others.

CALL

He comes with us. We can freeze him on the betty and get the doctor to remove it later.

WREN

All right.

JOHNER

Since when are you in fucking charge?

CALL

Since you were born without balls.

VRIESS

Ease off, people.

CHRISTIE

(to Purvis, herding him along)

Come with us. You might even live. Get twitchy on me and you will be shot.

They move out.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL - LATER

Still in the same general area, still looking around every corner. It's been too quiet too long, and the group senses that.

They move into...

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM TWO - CONTINUOUS

It's in bad shape, so we might not recognize it as the chamber the Queen was in.

WREN

She's gone.

ST JUST

Who?

WREN

The Queen.

JOHNER

Good.

He is looking into the room, the Queen was kept in. A residue of slime is all that's left here.

Beyond the Queen's chamber is another observation room. Wren indicates that they have to go through.

Suddenly a burner blast FIRES at them, just missing them as they duck.

They hear more blasts, not aimed at them, and screams.

SOLDIER (O.S.)

Pull back! Pull back!

ANOTHER SOLDIER (O.S.)

It's on me!

Ripley looks up and can just see two aliens making short work of a group of soldiers.

Call instantly moves to attack, and Ripley grabs her, holds tight.

CALL

We've got to help them!

RIPLEY

Can't.

CALL

You bitch, let go of me!

She does, and Call rises.

The noise is gone. What she can see of the soldiers is parts.

She is shaking at the vision when an alien RISES in front on the soldiers. Call ducks back down, terrified.

Christie hisses at her.

CHRISTIE

You want to get yourself killed,
then you run solo.

ST JUST

How many?

RIPLEY
At least two.

ST JUST
Think they heard us?

RIPLEY
Yep.

HILLARD
Fine by me...

JOHNER
Yeah, let 'em come.

CHRISTIE
Wren. Any other way around?

Wren shakes his head.

CHRISTIE
We can't just walk in there.

WREN
(thinking)
No. No, but they can.

CHRISTIE
Say again?

WREN
The cages all have failsafes.
Liquid nitrogen. Get 'em to come
to us and I can freeze 'em.

CHRISTIE
Excellent. Get ready.

Wren goes over to the failsafe button. The others look out at the aliens.

CHRISTIE
Okay...
(calls out)
Hey!

VRIESS
Hey, guys!

JOHNER
Here, kitty...

The aliens react, start for the cage. Four 'of them. They reach the edge of it and stop.

Look around, at each other...

But go nowhere.

DISTEPHANO
They're not coming.

JOHNER
Hey! Fresh meat here!

RIPLEY
They know it's a trap.

RANE
Oh, bullshit!

CHRISTIE
What do we do?

JOHNER
Shoot the fucking things!

VRIESS
There's too many, and we don't have the angle.

RIPLEY
Bait.

CALL
What?

RIPLEY
Give 'em a reason to go in there.
Throw somebody in.

HILLARD
Fuck you!

RIPLEY
Do we want to live? Give 'em her.

She indicates Call, who looks around, nervous at the lack of protest about this idea.

Ripley points at Rane.

RIPLEY
Or the skinny one, it doesn't
matter. We can't resist the smell
of meat.

CALL
We?

JOHNER
Fuck, I'm with her! Give 'em
Annalee!

CHRISTIE
Now hold on.

DISTEPHANO
You people are insane.

JOHNER
Now you're not exactly in the club
either, soldier.

People start pointing guns at each other.

RANE
Fuck you all, I'm not dying for
you.

CALL
Stop this.

Ripley grabs her. Looks at the others.

RIPLEY
Come on! Do you want to live or
not?
(to Call)
It won't hurt long.

CALL
(terrified)
Noo...

RIPLEY
(to Wren)
NOW!

Wren hits the button just as three aliens are bounding across the cage - they're almost to the posse, people screaming, scrambling, when the freezing gas hits, turning the beasts to statues.

The forth one sees this and flees, but St Just stands and put four bullets in it from forty yards. It slumps over.

Everyone is silent, stunned. Breathing hard.

VRIESS
(realizes)

Fear.

Ripley nods.

VRIESS
That's how they knew it was a trap. They couldn't smell the fear.

RIPLEY
(looking at Call)
So I gave them some.

JOHNER
(gleefully)
Son of a bitch!

He pops up and FIRES at the frozen aliens - they EXPLODE into fragments.

CUT TO:

EXT. AURIGA

Gliding through space, passing Jupiter's moons with dazzling speed.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL - LATER

Ripley and Call are on point. Ripley looks down the hall. Call is staring at her, and Ripley can feel the girls eyes on her back.

RIPLEY
(without looking around)
Did you think I was going to...
feed you to them?

CALL
I think you still might.

Ripley smiles. She may be right.

RIPLEY
I want to live.

CALL
And you don't care about anything
else.

RIPLEY
No.

CALL
(bitterly)
I guess you're more human than I
thought.

RIPLEY
Why did you come here?

CALL
To kill you, remember?
(after a beat)
Because somebody has to.

RIPLEY
Well it's not me. I did my time.
Now I just want to...

She stops dead, staring at a door.

"CLONING STORAGE FACILITY" is written on it. Stenciled
beneath that is "numbers 1-7".

Ripley stares. Tries the door, which opens.

DISTEPHANO
That's not the way.

CHRISTIE
Ripley, we got no time for
sightseeing.

Ripley is looking down at her arm, at the 8 tattooed on it.

She looks at Call. Looks back at Wren.

WREN
Ripley... Don't.

She enters.

CUT TO:

INT. CLONING STORAGE FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

She stands a moment, staring, before proceeding through it. Call stands in the doorway, others crowding behind her. Every face registers the horror of what they are seeing, but none more so than Ripley's.

Numbers one through seven. The first failed efforts to clone Ripley.

They are lined up like museum exhibits - or side show freaks.

Here is the fetal Ripley, the fetal alien visible through its translucent chest. In a jar.

Here is a prematurely old, diseased Ripley, withered blue skin cling to Collapsed bones.

Here is an attempt to separate the alien and grow it without the host - boneless, bubbling tissue, weak and useless mouth rigored in midmew.

Each one more horrifying than the last, and the last the worst of all.

Ripley approaches, and stares at number seven.

A complete mixture of alien and human DNA. A tortured, disgusting hybrid, half Ripley, half nightmare.

Hooked up wires and machines, it lies on the tilted table, its head nearly level with Ripley's as she finally approaches it.

When it opens its eyes, they are hers.

It tuns its head ever so slightly to look at her.

Recognises her. Ripley cannot even speak. She begins to shake slightly looking at number seven.

NUMBER SEVEN

Kill... Us...

Ripley's eyes go saucered as it speaks out of nothing resembling a mouth.

Ripley staggers back a step, shaking now. This is too much to bear...

CALL

Ripley!

Ripley turns, slowly, still in a fever dream.

Call cocks the grenade launcher with a loud CRACK. Her eyes meet Ripley's.

Call tosses it to Ripley as the crew steps back and even as Ripley FIRES, a grenade chugging to the end of room and BURSTING in fire and noise, she FIRES another, tissue and steel exploding into flame, she turns to number seven, hand shakes momentarily... And she FIRES, the poor creature dissolving in a cloud of flame.

Freezing gas jets fill the room, extinguishing potential spread, but the heart of the firestorm continues to rage in the chamber.

She backs out, the crew waiting for her outside.

The launcher falls loudly to the ground. Ripley turns to Wren, her face rigid with pain.

Wren backs up a step, looking around him for protection that the others have no thought of providing.

CALL
Ripley... Don't do it.

Ripley stops, weariness suffusing her expression.

RIPLEY
Don't do what?

The tension passes. Wren breathes a little sigh of relief.

Call PUNCHES him across the jaw, his head whipping around as collapses to the ground.

Call starts down the hall, not even looking at him.

CALL
Don't do that.

Feeling his jaw, Wren actually smiles at the absurdity of all this. It's kind of winning.

Christie helps him up.

CHRISTIE
Had it coming, doc.

Johner looks in at the burning lab.

JOHNER

What's the big deal? Fucking waste
of ammo.

ST JUST

Let's move before anything comes
to check out the noise.

JOHNER

Chicks, man....

DISTEPHANO

We go down from here.

CHRISTIE

(to Vriess)

We got to lose the chair. Vriess.

VRIESS

I know.

CHRISTIE

Kawlang maneuver, all right?

Vriess is pulling a coil of cords from the chair.

VRIESS

Just like old times...

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - LATER

A hatch opens. Ripley drops down, surveys the scene. Quiet
dark, empty.

Ripley comes up, Call behind her. Ripley sniffs, listens.
Closes her eyes. After a beat she starts further in and Call
motions for others to follow.

Slowly, they make their way down the corridor. Ripley, Cal,
Hillard, guns drawn.

Bringing up the rear is Christie, toting a shotgun.. He turn
slowly, alert, and we see that Vriess is strapped to his back
facing the other way, also with a shotgun.

CALL

(to Ripley)

That lab... I can't imagine how
that must feel.

RIPLEY

No. You can't.

Ripley looks down. The floor here is covered with a foot or so of dark water.

Ripley steps into it, moves up a few paces. The others gingerly follow.

Vriess is facing the back. He looks up.

VRIESS

The cooling tanks. They must have blown during the trouble.

ANGLE: THE COOLING TANKS

We see the round underbelly of two huge tanks. There are gaping, twisted holes in them.

JOHNER

The nasties couldn't have done it, could they?

HILLARD

What for...?

WREN

Down here. He is at the front with Ripley and Call, where the water is waste deep.

He looks down at a stairwell, just the top of the railing visible above the murky water.

RIPLEY

There's no other way?

WREN

We're at the bottom of the ship. Some of the worst damage is down here.

Most of the sections are sealed off.

RIPLEY

You're sure?

WREN

There's the noncom's entrance back there, but it's flooded too, and it's a longer run.

CALL

He's right. We're gonna have to do it this way.

WREN

It's just through the kitchen, then up, maybe seventy feet.

RIPLEY

I don't like it.

ST JUST

What's to like?

CHRISTIE

(to Vriess)

You ready to get wet, partner?

VRIESS

Oh yeah.

HILLARD

You sure about the distance?

WREN

Yes.

CALL

No locked doors?

WREN

It's an open hall. Just keep left when you hit the bottom of the staircase.

JOHNER

This sucks.

ANGLE: DISTEPHANO

He flips caps over the barrel of the gun, slides a panel over the digital readout.

The burner is ready to go, watertight.

DISTEPHANO

(to St Just)

You should secure your weapons.

St Just holds up his two guns.

ST JUST

These are disposables. They can take it.

DISTEPHANO

Disposables. I heard about those. How many rounds?

ST JUST

Twenty. Split points, give you a good hole even at the smaller caliber.

DISTEPHANO

Cool.

ST JUST

They're big with hitters. 'cause you throw 'em away after the job. Nobody likes throwing away a weapon they're attached to. You know?

He smiles at DiStephano, who looks a little uneasy about the turn the conversation has taken.

He joins the others who are getting ready to dive...

CALL

Do I have to tell everyone to take a deep breath?

A couple of the guys smile.

VRIESS

Christie, do me a favor. When we hit the surface on the other side... No backstroke. Okay?

CHRISTIE

(laughing)

You'll be forever blowing bubbles. On three...

He counts down, the two suck in enormous breaths - and dive right behind Call and Ripley.

One by one the entire crew slips down into the black water.

CUT TO:

INT. STAIRWELL\KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

It's all underwater. Visibility is poor. The crew move swiftly and gracefully down the stairs and into the kitchen.

In here it's a tad labyrinthian, and the size of the room is darker. Wren heads straight for the other end.

They swim. Safety is a good fifty feet away.

They are tense, concentrated. Swimming past dark spaces. Anything could be hiding here.

Johner looks about him, very nervous. Dark spaces. He looks behind.

Three aliens are right behind him.

Panic blows half the air out of his mouth as he swings around and FIRES at them, tags one as the other two swim off into shadows with horrible ease.

Ripley, all the way to the stairs, sees. She hurries the others past her.

They swim frantically for safety, Hillard Wren, Christie and Vriess.

Rane is coming along and alien hands grab at him from the darkness, pull him into it.

Hillard FIRES in that direction, Johner bringing up the rear still firing at the third one, wounding it but not scoring killshot.

Call is swimming up the staircase, the growing light above indicating the surface.

She is almost to it when she is IN THE WEB.

A net of translucent alien goo, it is spread just six inches below the surface.

Call struggles the goo sticking to her she's running out of air - as Wren and Christie encounter the same thing - they all try to tear through it, but they are getting weaker.

Ripley looks back as the last of the crew is passing her, aliens close behind.

She looks up to see the situation above and quickly makes for the surface - but an alien GRABS her foot, holding her down. Now SHE is running out of air, KICKS at it, it lets go.

The others are fighting, Call pops her stiletto and cuts through, but it's tough, she still can't get her head up - DiStephano, off to the side, is drowning. Takes in a huge mouthful of water and begins thrashing.

Ripley swims past everyone and grabs the hole Call cut, pulls it apart with a mighty heave, she glides up through.

CLOSEUP: RIPLEY'S FACE

Just BREAKS the surface, she takes in a huge GASP of air, FACEHUGGER CLAMPS DOWN ON HER.

Ripley goes back under, pulling at the thing as others break the surface.

Wren comes up and a hugger LEAPS right at him, but Call nails it in four shots.

Christie and Vriess break surface and both begin FIRING, back to back, in a circular sweep.

They decimate a number of eggs.

ANGLE: UNDERWATER

Ripley pulls the face hugger with all her might - it comes off, its fingers singeing the sides of her face, leaving marks like warpaint. Worse, its probing fleshy member pulls last of her throat, thrashing horribly.

In utmost disgust, Ripley PULLS it APART and the three aliens are COMING RIGHT AT HER.

ABOVE - THE SURFACE

Most of the crew has gotten up out of the water. Christie holding a facehugger inches from his face, others screaming, taking a bead on it.

CHRISTIE

Get it! Kill it!

CALL

The blood'll burn you! Throw it!

He does, and Johner nails it in midflight.

Hillard and Johner pull DiStephano out of the water, but he is not breathing.

ANGLE: UNDER THE SURFACE

Ripley is grabbed by an alien - and St Just comes up behind her and shoots it.

They swim up and away from the spreading, lethal bloodpool.

ANGLE: ABOVE THE SURFACE

They come up out of the water, and an alien rises right behind them. Everyone who can, shoots it. It falls back into the water.

CHRISTIE

A trap! They set a goddamn ambush!

JOHNER

Give me that!

He pulls the burner off DiStephano's body, even as Call is giving him mouth to mouth.

Johner flips the gun open and FIRES at the water, the whole thing SMOKING and sizzling with the electrical charge. We hear an alien wail bubble from below the surface.

JOHNER

(grinning feverishly)

Okay! Everybody out of the pool!

VRIESS

Let's get the fuck!

DiStephano sputters back to life. Ripley picks him up with one hand.

HILLARD

(to Wren)

Which way?

WREN

Up here.

He takes off, the others following.

WREN

Up through the lift shaft!

He stops at a pair of sliding doors, starts working the panel. Ripley come up to the doors and pulls them apart with a grunt.

ST JUST
Company!

He's referring to the noise and shadow of approaching aliens. She herds them into the shaft.

CUT TO:

INT. LIFTSHAFT - CONTINUOUS

It goes down about four stories, and up seemingly forever. Enough room for or three elevators, one of which is two stories below.

WREN
Up!

He starts climbing. It's not that hard - there are ladders in each shaft section.

Call comes up behind him. Ripley and others pair off on other ladders.

They climb fast, they're three stories up before the aliens begin POUNDING on the metal door, it buckles under their might.

JOHNER
Move!

WREN
Not far!

Still POUNDING - one alien gets its head in, looks up, hisses, pulls it out.

ANGLE: LIFT

Wren comes to a crawlspace ledge. He climbs on. Set back a few feet from the shaft is a small maintenance access door, works the keypad beside it as Call climbs up behind him.

The aliens SMASH through the door, one of them SAILING across the shaft to grab a pipe on the other side. Instantly four of them are swarming up the walls, moving much faster on pipes and ridges than the humans on ladders.

On one of the aliens a facehugger crawls, constantly moving about on the adult alien's head like a frightened spider.

CALL

Hurry!

WREN

It's jammed! Shit! Gun!

She hands him her gun and without hesitation he SHOTS HER THROUGH THE CHEST.

She flies back and DOWN THE SHAFT, lands HARD on an elevator six stories below.

Eyes wide and empty.

VRIESS

NOO!

He fires up at Wren, but Wren has punched in the code and slipped through the opening door...

Ripley LEAPS through the air and grabs the ledge, hauling herself up just in time to see the door shut. The lock lights turn red.

She SLAMS against the door, but to no avail.

The aliens are getting closer. St Just, the closest to the bottom, suddenly lets go of the ladder. His knees hooked over a rung, he drops, hangs up side down, his guns filling his hands.

He blows several holes in the nearest alien.

Ripley is furious, maybe surprised just how so. Suddenly an alien RISES OVER THE LEDGE, it's not three feet away from her and she SCREAMS, HURLS herself at it and they both go FLYING OFF into space, they hit the wall on the other side, they fall.

RIPLEY GRABS a pole, it practically tears her arm out of her socket but she holds on, the alien isn't so lucky, it plummets unable to find purchase.

We see it fall past the unmoving body of Call.

ANGLE: CALLS FACE

As the facehugger CLAMPS onto it. Pauses. Pushes off a bit, two digits probing Call's nostrils.

Sensing no breath, the thing scurries away to find a better host.

Another alien is fast approaching Christie and Vriess. Vriess frantically tries to reload.

VRIESS
It's on us!

Christie turns, aims - Vriess grabs the ladder as Christie FIRES, but the alien is too close, it grabs Christie, spurting blood all over him. He SCREAMS, lets go of the ladder Vriess takes the weight of both as Christie fires again, the alien flying off and down the shaft.

HILLARD
We gotta go!

The last alien suddenly starts scurrying back down after his brothers.

RIPLEY
We're locked in.

JOHNER
Fuck!

PURVIS
How far to the next door?

DISTEPHANO
All the way.

RIPLEY
Then we climb.

They start, moving as fast as they can.

VRIESS
(to Christie)
You just hang on, man. I'll get us there.

He starts climbing up, impressively fast considering the burden hanging from his back.

JOHNER
(to Ripley)
Are they going for reinforcements?

RIPLEY
Fucked if I know.

They climb.

And climb, the minutes stretching out, still no door. Ripley easily ahead of the rest.

Finally:

RIPLEY
I think I see the door.

PURVIS
(exhausted)
Great.

Vriess is having increasing trouble. Hillard notices him lagging behind, and why.

HILLARD
Vriess! Jesus!

Vriess is moving very quickly, considering. But the effort is becoming too much.

VRIESS
We're coming...

Johner scrambles down next to Vriess.

He checks the pulse in Christie's neck.

JOHNER
Vriess, man... he's dead.

Refusing to hear it, Vriess struggles to climb further.

VRIESS
We'll get him to medlab... Just a little while...

Johner looks over at Hillard. Without saying a word, she pull out a good sized hunting knife, flicks it open.

She slices through the cord holding them together, and Christie's body falls free.

Vriess shuts his eyes, feeling it.

ANGLE: DOWN THE SHAFT

There is silence as Christie's body drops down the black abyss.

Until, from up the shaft next to where he fell, we see two ALIENS COMING UP.

PURVIS
Fuck! Company!

Hillard looks up the shaft.

HILLARD
How much further?

JOHNER
Too fucking far. Let's go!

They start to climb, but the aliens are making much better time.

A loud CLACKING sounds from the bottom of the shaft. A few of them look down.

ANGLE: DOWN THE SHAFT

The aliens are still coming, but suddenly the lift passes them heading up at high speed.

JOHNER
They can work the elevators? Is there anything fucking else we should know about them?!

He's addressing this at Ripley, but she's as puzzled as the rest of them.

The lift comes up to them, stops suddenly as emergency brake is flipped.

They wait, guns ready. Out of the hatch pops Call, not especially dead.

CALL
Get on!

A moment of stunned silence, then they all jump on top of the lift.

Call drops back down inside.

An alien comes up level with the lift, prepares to jump. St Just shoots the shit out of it.

HILLARD
Where are the others?

CUT TO:

INT. LIFT - CONTINUOUS

Call flips the brake off, and the lift shoots up. She is holding her jacket closed around her chest wound, but it doesn't seem to bother her particularly much.

ANGLE: ON TOP

Everybody holds on as the lift flies up the shaft.

ANGLE: INSIDE

Call waits for the signal to stop and an alien PUNCHES THROUGH the bottom of the lift.

Call yells as it gets its head and an arm through, clawing for her.

ANGLE: ON THE BOTTOM

We see the other half of the alien clinging to the lift.

ANGLE: ON TOP

Ripley sees the door approaching.

RIPLEY
Stop!

ANGLE: INSIDE

Call hits the emergency button and the lift stops halfway in front of the door - giving both Ripley and Call access. But the alien is still grabbing for her -

Ripley pries open the doors again, the crew pouring out into the hall. Ripley follows, jumps down and opens the lift doors.

The alien hisses at Ripley as she pulls Call out - the alien grabs Call's ankle, but Ripley wrenches her free.

They roll out but the alien is still fighting, pulling itself inside the lift.

Ripley grabs Hillard's shotgun. Levels it at the cables holding the lift.

FIRES. The lift PLUMMIETS, the alien still halfway in.

It shoots down the shaft - picking up the second alien on its way down, neither beast able to get its bearing and get out of the way as...

...the lift SMASHES into the bottom of the shaft, crushing both the Aliens to jelly.

ANGLE: UPPER DOOR

Johner triumphantly sticks his head in the shaft.

JOHNER

Eat that, fuckneck!!

They all breathe hard, exhausted, before they can muster for the next stretch.

Call stands with her back to them.

VRIESS

Baby, am I glad to see you. I thought dickbag took you out for sure. Are you, hurt?

CALL

I'm fine.

DISTEPHANO

You got body armour on?

CALL

Yeah. Come on.

Ripley isn't buying.

RIPLEY

You were gunshot. I saw.

CALL

I'm fine!

Ripley spins her around. Call stares at Ripley, sullenly a small trickle of milky white fluid comes from her nostril Ripley looks down.

ANGLE: CALL'S CHEST

Wren has indeed made a messy hole here, but where blood and bone should be there is a tangle of synthorganic wiring. To state the obvious:

A robot.

JOHNER
Call's a goddam synthetic!

HILLARD
Son of a bitch. Little Annalee's
just full of surprises.

RIPLEY
(quietly)
I should have known.

ST JUST
Couldn't smell this one out?

RIPLEY
No, I mean... All that crap about
being human - there's no one so
zealous as a born again.

VRIESS
(to Call)
You're an LM7, aren't you? Is that
it?

CALL
Leave me alone.

Her voice shocks her more than anyone her vocal track slip
affected by the wounds.

The voice is a shade slow, and echoes strangely.

VRIESS
Call....

CALL
(bitterly)
Yes.

ST JUST
LM7? Shit. That explains a lot.

VRIESS
(to Ripley)
The latest and best. They were
supposed to revitalize the
synthetic industry. Instead they
buried it.

Ripley looks at the girl.

RIPLEY
They were too good.

VRIESS
Oh yeah. Overrode their own
behavioral inhibitors. Didn't feel
like being told what to do.

The government ordered a recall. Fucking massacre.

HILLARD
I always heard there were a few
that got out alive, but man... I
never thought I'd see one.

Johner starts laughing.

JOHNER
Oh, Christ. Doing fucking nickel
and dime border runs, selling
second hand junk to the farm
belt... And we're carrying the
most expensive piece of contraband
in the system. That's rich.

PURVIS
(getting anxious)
It's great, she's a toaster
oven... Can we leave now?

Vriess tries to touch Call's wound.

VRIESS
Let me see.

Call pulls away.

JOHNER
Yeah, get your socket wrench,
Vriess. Maybe she just needs an
oil change.

RIPLEY
Let's go.

They start off again, Johner and St Just bringing up the rear.

JOHNER
Can't believe I almost fucked the
thing.

ST JUST
Yeah, like you've never fucked a
robot.

ANGLE: RIPLEY

Letting DiStephano lead.

RIPLEY
Distephano. Where are we?

DISTEPHANO
Upper decks... Storage... The
chapell's up here, not much else.

RIPLEY
Can we get to the ship?

DISTEPHANO
Well, we're a ways out of the way,
but I think we can get through to
the garden. From there, it's down
a few levels, it's do-able. What
if the fucking doctor gets there
first?

VRIESS
It's a good point.

DISTEPHANO
Shit.

They have reached an access door. Debris blocks the way.

RIPLEY
Another way?

DISTEPHANO
Uh, yeah. Through the wall. We'll
have to get one of these panels
off. It'll take a while.
(to Vriess)
You got tools?

VRIESS
Yeah, but no torch.

JOHNER
Fucking blow the door!

HILLARD

Assface, we're on the top of this thing.

(pointing to the ceiling)

That's hull.

VRIESS

What about Wren? If he gets in the computer he can really fuck us around.

RIPLEY

We have to get in too.

DISTEPHANO

There's no access console on this level. We'd have to backtrack.

HILLARD

Fuck that.

DISTEPHANO

And I don't have the security access that Wren does anyway.

Ripley turns to Call.

RIPLEY

Call.

CALL

No. I can't.

JOHNER

Bullshit. She's a damn well talking machine.

CALL

There's another way.

DISTEPHANO

Just tell her to access it on remote.

VRIESS

Shit, that's right. Any of the new model droids can access the mainframe.

JOHNER

Just by blinking.

CALL

I can't.

ST JUST

No time to get coy, Annalee.

CALL

I can't. I burned my modem drive.
We all did.

VRIESS

You can still patch in manually.
You know that.

Call looks over at the group, staring at her. She knows she doesn't have a choice.

DISTEPHANO

There's ports in the chapel.

RIPLEY

Come on.

(to the others)

You get started on that wall.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS

Ripley and Call enter the small room. Ripley sits in one of the pews, pulls out a bible.

It somewhat resembles a Newton Under the leather flap is a screen reading: "HOLY BIBLE. PRE START."

Ripley pulls out the cord from the bible's port, holds it up.

CALL

Don't make me do this.

RIPLEY

Don't make me make you.

CALL

I don't want to go in there.

RIPLEY

Get over it.

CALL

It's like... Your insides are liquid. It's not real.

RIPLEY

You can blow the ship. Before it reaches earth. Kill them all. Just give us time to get out first.

That convinces Call. She pulls up her sleeve, and begins. Pushes a part of her forearm, just below the crook of her elbow. It has a spring release catch, and a small panel rises up with two computer ports on it. She takes the cable from Ripley and plugs it in.

It looks almost like she's mainlining heroin.

She cocks her head.

CALL

Dammit.

RIPLEY

Anything?

CALL

Hold on.

She reaches in her chest, reconnects some tubes. She twitches then shuts her eyes.

It's beginning.

She begins speaking very rapidly, eyes still shut.

CALL

Breach in sector seven sector three sector nine unstable - engines operating at eighty six percent - forty six minutes until earthdock.

Her voice has a slight mechanical quality as she rattles this off. Her eyes open.

CALL

We burned too much energy - I can't make critical mass. I can't blow it.

RIPLEY

Then crash it.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

As the crew works at getting the wall panel off.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - A BIT LATER

CALL

Ground level recalibrated... New destination 760, 403. done. Forty one minutes until impact.

RIPLEY

Try to clear us a path to the ship.

CALL

Tracking movement in sublevels six through nine. Video is down. Attempted rerouting nonfunctional, wait, partial visual in waste tank 5, unauthorized presence...

VRIESS

Unauthorized?

CALL

Non-human.

RIPLEY

How many?

CALL

Please wait... Emergency override on console 45V, level one... Handprint ID...

(like herself)

It's Wren. He's almost at the Betty.

RIPLEY

And how do you feel about that?

CUT TO:

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

Wren is holding his hand to the scanner, just as Call described. The red light turns green and we hear the locks the door crack open.

FATHER
Emergency override validated.

The door begins to rise. Looking around him, Wren waits to through.

The door grinds to a halt, still too low to climb under. The lights go out, only the faintest glow coming from various instrument panels. Wren's expression drains.

WREN
Father, reboot systems on 45V,
authorization 'starling'.

Nothing happens. Wren looks about him, beginning to sweat. Did the aliens do this?

WREN
Father, locate power drain,
report. Father?

CALL
(on the system)
Father's dead, asshole.

Wren spins in shock at the sound of Call's voice. It's everywhere around him.

She has downloaded her vocal matrix place of Father's. (She's not just speaking over a PA, she is the PA.)

The door SLAMS back down, locks clack into place. The doors behind him open up, emergency lighting pulsing along toward him.

CALL / SHIP
Intruder on level one... All
aliens please proceed to level one.

Wren is freaking. He turns back down the corridor, looking about him wildly.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS

Call pulls the cord out of her port.

RIPLEY
You got a mean strak.

CALL

It's done. That should hold the
fuck.

This as her voice track slips even more. She works the wires
in her chest, trying to fix it.

RIPLEY

Let me see.

CALL

Don't touch me.

Ripley backs off.

CALL

You must think this is pretty
funny.

RIPLEY

Yes. But I'm finding a lot of
things funny lately. And I'm not
sure they are.

CALL

Why do you go on living? How can
you stand it? How can you stand...
Yourself?

Ripley shrugs.

RIPLEY

Not so hard. Not much choice.

CALL

At least there's part of you
that's human. I'm just... fuck.
Look at me....

She looks at the hole in her chest, the white and sticky
fibers.

CALL

I'm disgusting.

Her voice is at its slowest here, low and eerie. It's a
mechanical problem, but it sounds just like despair.

RIPLEY

Do you dream?

CALL

I... We have neural processors
that run through...

(stops)

Yes.

RIPLEY

When I sleep, I dream about it.
Them. Every night. All around
me... In me. I used to be afraid
to dream, but I'm not anymore.

CALL

Why?

RIPLEY

Because no matter how bad the
dreams get... When I wake up it's
always worse.

Purvis enters.

PURVIS

I guess we're almost there.

RIPLEY

Right.

He exits again. Call finishes fiddling with her internal
wiring. We hear her voice slip back to normal as she says:

CALL

Let's get going.

CUT TO:

INT. TUNNEL

As they come one by one through the wall.

DISTEPHANO

Not far now.

PURVIS

God, I'm so tired...

JOHNER

Yeah, well, we'll sleep when we're
dead.

Ripley follows him through.

RIPLEY
Don't count on it.

The rest of them come through and walk into:

INT. THE GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

The Garden runs nearly half a mile straight across, and then down on a terraced slope.

Everywhere are different kinds of plants: trees, vegetable plants, exotic and experimental hybrids.

Access paths crisscross the beds.

It's huge, the single biggest space on the ship. Yet the low ceiling, latticed with grow-lamps now dim in nightcycle, and prodigious undergrowth make it labyrinthian, almost claustrophobic.

From where the crew is, they can barely see where it slopes down.

JOHNER
What's this fucking deal?

DISTEPHANO
This supplies most of the food for the unit.

VRIESS
(holding a luscious
ripe pear)
You guys got something against spam?

DISTEPHANO
And there's some lab work here too. Hybridization.

RIPLEY
At the other end?

DISTEPHANO
Runs down to the by the waste tanks. We can get to the dock from there. You, okay?

Ripley is holding her head. She shuts her eyes.

CALL
What is it?

Ripley shakes it off.

RIPLEY
Nothing. I'm okay.

She looks out at the jungle, they have to cross.

CALL
We should get moving.

ST JUST
Hey! Check it out!

He has come upon a small loading truck, a sort of platform jeep. Vriess checks it out, takes a huge bite of his pear.

VRIESS
Beats walking.

He hauls himself up into it. Everybody piles onto the back flatbed just a foot or so off the ground and just big enough to hold everyone but Vriess, Call and Ripley, who pushes into the driver's seat.

VRIESS
Quickly and quietly, people.

Ripley stares uncomprehendingly at the controls for a moment till Call flips on the ignition.

RIPLEY
Thank, you.

The jeep pulls out. It's electric, so it emits just a low hum as she takes it at a good clip toward the other side.

The access paths are just a bit wider than the jeep itself, plants rising tall all around them.

Ripley concentrates on driving.

They pass through a section of wheat, then of corn. As they come to another section.

The crew's expressions change to one of pleased disbelief.

ST JUST
So this is what heaven looks like.

We see they have driven into a healthy section of CANNABIS plants growing ten feet high.

The car screeches to a halt. Ripley's at a crossroads of sorts.

RIPLEY
Which way?

HILLARD
(looking at the
plants)
I always wondered where the
military got its funding...

An alien SHOOTs out of the brush and lands on Hillard everyone SCREAMS - Ripley SLAMS her foot on the pedal.

The jeep PEELS OUT, as more emerge from the brush.

HILLARD
Get it off meeeaaaaaagghre!!!!

It bores into her head before St Just can blow it away. It's head exploding in fragments of bone and sizzling blood as it falls away from the jeep, Hillard's body still clutched in arms.

Another leaps out at them, but the jeep is going a good clip and it misses.

The crew peppering it with bullets.

They look, about them, guns ready.

ANGLE: IN THE BRUSH

Something runs parallel to them in the plants.

ANGLE: ABOVE

Two more run on top of the grow-lamps, pacing them as well.

One DROPS DOWN - Ripley SWERVES out of the way, driving in the plants.

They are varied, exotic - and there are aliens behind half of them.

The crew BLASTS away all around them Ripley drives a drunkard's path through the brush, avoiding trees that dot the scape.

An alien DROPS onto the hood, another grabs the side - Vriess takes out the first, blowing it off, but the second grabs Johner, he goes flying over the side, dropping his gun.

St Just is too preoccupied with his own problems to see that Johner is being dragged, the alien still clutching onto him.

Shots bang out, ripping into the alien, which lets go. Johner looks up to see Purvis holding Johner's gun.

Johner drags himself back on.

One jumps down onto St Just, tears a good chunk out of his midsection before he dusts it.

Another alien jumps on the hood just as the jeep SAILS over first ledge of the terraced slope, comes down hard enough knock it off, SAILS over the next - the crew can barely hang on as the jeep crashes down slope after slope.

Ripley swerves back onto the road, the jeep sliding over onto the steps beside it, rocking violently as they shoot down the remainder of slope, the aliens close on their heels.

Still blasting away at the beasts, the crew is able to put little distance between them as they come to the end of the garden. Here it divides into three sections, all open halls with access for the jeep.

RIPLEY

Which way?

DISTEPHANO

(looking over)

Left! Left!

She swerves left, the jeep bouncing into the hall.

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

Where windows running along either side look out onto black space.

Ripley drives as far as she can, till a staircase - going - fills her vision, too steep for the jeep. She SLAMS on brakes. The jeep spinning out and coming to a halt.

The crew piles out, DiStephano grabbing Vriess. At the other end of the hall, the aliens can be seen approaching.

The crew BLASTS at them, the aliens, blood splattering the narrow hall.

ANGLE: THE BLOOD

Eating into the walls. The floor.

CALL / SHIP
Warning. Potential hullbreach.
Clear sector.

DISTEPHANO
(indicating the steps)
Down here!

They start down - all but St Just. He gets out of the jeep with difficulty.

Looks down at his wound.

Johner looks around to see him still standing atop the steps.

JOHNER
St Just! Come on, man.

St Just looks down at the wound. Back at Johner. He walks calmly away, towards the aliens.

CALL
St Just!

ST JUST
You go.

He looks at the approaching aliens.

ST JUST
I'm bored.

CALL / SHIP
Warning. Evacuate sector.

A moment, then the crew takes off.

St Just takes a handful of pills, pops them into his mouth. Only the slightest grin suffuses his face, as he waits for the aliens.

They close on him, and he raises his guns.

CALL / SHIP
Warning...

CUT TO:

INT. HALL NEARBY - CONTINUOUS

The crew runs full out.

DISTEPHANO

We have to get out of the sector!

RIPLEY

Where!

DISTEPHANO

There!

He points at a door that's down two flights and across the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

The aliens close, and St Just FIRES, blasting away with bot guns. Aliens writhe on the floor before him, still they cover the bodies of their brothers, still he fires. Call / Ship monotones of warning in sharp contrast to the chaos - St Just fires until both guns are empty. In one smooth motion he drops them both and jerks his wrists and TWO MORE disposable guns fly into his palms and he blasts away.

ANGLE: THE BLOOD

Eating through the hull.

ANGLE: THE CREW

Desperately racing for the door.

ANGLE: ST JUST

Firing with quiet glee.

ANGLE: THE CREW

The first of them are through the door.

ANGLE: ST JUST

The aliens are getting closer, but still he mows them down. Both his guns click, spent.

ST JUST

Damn.

CALL / SHIP

Warning.

And BOOM!!!!, the hall BURSTS OPEN, everything explodes into space, the wind rushes out as BOOM!!!, the whole garden sector rips open, sucked out, as...

ANGLE: RIPLEY

Is the last to get out, but the pressure change SUCKS HER she flies backwards, the section door coming down just in time as she SLAMS into it, the door closing fully as she falls, lack of pressure sucks at the door itself, it creaks and be inward slightly, but it holds.

The others have exited into the next hall. They've been tossed about, but not as badly.

Call stops, runs back to Ripley, helps her up. Ripley is dazed; the door hit the back of her head solidly.

CALL

Can you walk?

RIPLEY

I think I...

CALL

I'm not fucking carrying you.

Ripley doesn't even hear her; something else drowns Call out. Ripley puts her hands over her ears.

RIPLEY

Mistake... Mistake...

CALL

Ripley.

RIPLEY

I can hear them, in the hive...
It's close... We're on the hive.

CALL

Jesus. Come on.

RIPLEY

I can hear them... The Queen...

CALL

What... ?

RIPLEY
She's in pain.

They CRASH UP through the floor panels, six of them, surrounding the two women.

Call can barely spin before Ripley GRABS her and HURLS her fifteen feet down the corridor, out of harm's way.

The aliens close on Ripley. She struggles but she's still weak. One slams her onto the ground. Call recovers, looks back at Ripley as the aliens drag her unconscious body back down under the floor.

CALL
Ripley!

CUT TO:

INT. AIR VENT - CONTINUOUS

Dark, cramped, and already covered with a hardening layer of resin.

Skittering, insectile motion at one end heralds the aliens, as two of them crawl rapidly along. The third craw upside down, the semiconscious Ripley draped over its chest. If she were awake, and out of her mind, she could be kissing the beast.

Her eyes flutter open, but she is obviously still groggy.

ANGLE: RIPLEY'S POV

Alien head, dark tunnel passing beneath.

Scuttling through a small maze, the aliens come out into:

INT. WASTE TANK 5 - CONTINUOUS

A vast, dark chamber, entirely encrusted with alien goo. Air vent opens about three quarters of the way up the chamber. The aliens pour out and immediately scuttle UP, carrying Ripley to the top of the chamber.

They circle her and begin secreting resin, spinning a web around her.

The resin comes out of the backs in spits and globs.

It isn't pleasant, and Ripley struggles feebly as they begin to cocoon her.

CUT TO:

INT. ANTECHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

The crew piles through it on their way to the loading dock.

Call brings up the rear, still looking back regretfully.

She hesitates, and Purvis takes hold of her arm.

PURVIS

We got to be moving, miss. Best gift you can give her right now is a quick death.

CALL

It's not right...

PURVIS

I've been saying that all day, we need your help.

A moment more, and she heads out with him.

CUT TO:

WASTE TANK 5 - CONTINUOUS

The aliens have finished webbing Ripley, and climb away.

When it is done she finds herself basically hung from the ceiling, her legs encased and glued with glistening strands to the roof. She hangs therefore at an angle, looking down on the chamber.

And so it is with her, as she swims to full consciousness, we get our first real look at where we are.

There are no less than ten people strung up exactly as Ripley is, encircling the chamber, and all looking some forty feet down at:

The Queen. Lying on her back at the bottom of the chamber, belly swollen and distended.

She is herself partially cocooned, strapped down to the edge of a black pool of blood and ichor. Her head moves slowly back and forth, in delirium of pain.

There are a four or five aliens tending her, spinning goo around her, vomiting blood onto her belly. They might be serving her, or imprisoning her. Both, in fact.

There is one thing missing from this tableau.

RIPLEY
(softly)
No eggs...

GEDIMAN (O.S.)
Multiple reproductive systems.

Ripley turns slowly, to see the person next to her. It's Gediman, looking wane and haggard.

He may be speaking to her but he stares straight ahead, his eyes glowing with near insanity.

GEDIMAN
Complete asexual reproductive cycle, self-impregnating, we found six different sets of ovaries in her. Egg laying is the first cycle, immature. Redundancies, redundancies... She'll bring forth legion.

RIPLEY
They didn't impregnate you?

Now he looks at her, regret and glee at what has happened battling for his expression.

GEDIMAN
No... They've just been draining me.

She looks down, to see...

ANGLE: GEDIMAN'S FEET

As blood from various wounds seeps slowly past his toes, dripping into the pool.

A keening SHRIEK comes out of the Queen, as her limbs begin thrashing.

The aliens around her back off slightly. The bulge in her belly starts moving.

Ripley starts struggling with her bonds, terror and determination in her eyes.

RIPLEY
I'm getting out of here.
Goddammit, I'm getting the fuck
out of here!

He looks at her, the last glimmer of his sanity sinking beyond the horizon.

GEDIMAN
Don't you want to see what happens
next?

CUT TO:

INT. LOADING DOCK - CONTINUOUS

The crew rushes in, heads for the Betty.

JOHNER
How long till we can get airborne?

VRIESS
I'll need Call to patch in to the
ship again, open the hatch.

CALL
Right.

JOHNER
We hit Atmo in a few minutes, only
gonna make it harder.

They all run on board...

INT. THE BETTY

... and head for the cockpit. DiStephano deposits Vriess in a wheelchair.

CALL
Johner, take Purvis to the freezer.

JOHNER
All right... Nap time, buddy.

A GUNSHOT and Purvis goes flying, blood spurting out of his shoulder, Johner draws but Wren emerges from the shadows too fast.

Wren grabs Call and very carefully holds his gun to her back right below her shoulderblades.

WREN

Fuck with me and I put a bullet
where her brain is!

Johner stands, uncertain.

WREN

Distephano! Take their weapons.

DISTEPHANO

Begging your pardon, sir, but eat
my fuck.

Distephano aims at Wren. Wren backs up a step.

WREN

Drop it! Drop it or we all die
together!

Heaped in the, corner, Purvis suddenly jerks forward. His eyes go wide.

CUT TO:

INT. WASTE TANK 5 - CONTINUOUS

Ripley is frantically trying to pull at her bonds. It's just beginning to work.

But the noise in here is getting worse, the aliens frantically agitated as the Queens belly begins moving more violently. SHRIEKS, and RIPLEY does as well, from effort or sympathy, it is hard to tell, as THE QUEENS BELLY POPS OPEN. Blood shoots everywhere, burning into the walls.

And all the screaming stops. The movement stops. Even Ripley stops. Silence.

Something emerges from the wound.

An alien, to be sure, but nothing we've seen so far, its forelegs arch out of its back like spiders legs, its back legs set on enormous haunches, thick and powerful.

Its head is long, eyeless, like the others, but along its white expanse red veins, coming out of the skin and running like thick black hairs to the back.

It has retracted pincers at the side of head that come out when its tongue does.

It's much bigger than the others, nearly the size of the Queen herself.

And it's bone white.

GEDIMAN

Beautiful... Beautiful butterfly...

He is crying with revelatory joy. Ripley is not. Grimacing the sight and smell of the new beast, she begins pulling again at her bonds.

One of the soldiers, at the other end of the room from Ripley wakes up.

Dangling uselessly at his side is a rifle - the real deal, not a burner.

SOLDIER

No, god...

He SCREAMS in uncomprehending horror. The newborn stops, tilting its head:

It LEAPS up to the ceiling in a second, quick and effortless as a monstrous flea.

Leaps again and lands on the screaming soldier, gripping his sides with its four forelegs as he screams lustily.

Pincers SWING out and pin either side of his head.. His eyes go wide as:

It's tongue SHOOTS into his throat. Stays there, and we watch it drain the blood from his body. We can see it, see it's stomach swell, red tinged, as his body goes blue and slack. His rifle drops into the black pool.

CUT TO:

INT. BETTY - CONTINUOUS

Johner's gun drops to the floor.

Everyone backs off.

WREN

The fucking robot is going to plug back into the auriga and land it according to standard operational procedure.

CALL

No she's not.

DISTEPHANO

You're fucking nuts. You still want to bring those things back to earth?

JOHNER

Have you been paying any attention today?

WREN

I can handle the animals!

CALL

Fucking shoot me.

WREN

Shut up!!!

And Purvis LAUNCHES from the corner, screaming, jumps on Wren - Wren gets off a couple of shots - nails DiStephano in the face. The soldier drops like a sack.

The other shots hit the ship, Call dives for cover as Purvis SLAMS his fist across Wren's face, Wren fires again and Jo is on the ground, rolling, grabbing his gun -

Purvis is a man possessed. He grabs Wren's gunhand and SMASHES it against an instrument panel, bone cracking audibly as Wren drops the gun.

Purvis jerks. Blood blooms in his chest.

Everybody stops, mesmerized. Wren drops to his knees, going for the gun, and Purvis grabs him from behind, pulls him so that the back of Wren's head is against his chest.

Purvis jerks again. It takes Wren a moment to understand what's happening.

They both scream.

Then alien BURSTS out of Purvis's chest, STRAIGHT INTO WRENS SKULL.

Everyone else is still frozen. Then the little critter bursts out of Wrens face, flying straight at Vriess.

CUT TO:

INT. WASTE TANK 5 - CONTINUOUS

Ripley TEARS one of her arms free as the newborn feeds beside her.

Gediman is already a shell.

Having drained the scientist, it leaps blindingly fast onto the ceiling. Looks around.

Targets Ripley.

It has no eyes, but she can feel them on her anyway. She rips at her bonds with a terrible effort - the newborn LEAPS at her and she PULLS FREE with a scream, PLUNGING the thirty feet to the pool as the alien flies over her, missing, landing on the far wall instead.

Ripley disappears beneath the surface of the water.

The newborn turns its head, trying to locate its lost prey. Other aliens scutter closer to the pool.

Ripley stands up out of the pool, covered in blood, HOISTING THE SOLDIERS GUN.

Killshriek rising from her throat as she FIRES, taking out a host of aliens in a single sweep, just tagging the newborn as it leaps out of the way. Aliens jump at her, trying to kill and trying to protect the newborns, but she blows them out of the air.

It feels pretty good.

A few shots go wild, and punch big holes in the side of the tank.

Light streams in through them. Ripley sees - and continues firing in that direction.

She makes a big enough hole that she can run and SMASH through to:

INT. BY TANK - CONTINUOUS

Rolling and coming up in an instant. She looks around her. Exit this way, but there is a vent above her.

The newborn's head lunges at her, the small hole making it impossible for the creature to get all the way through. But it wriggles, pushing...

Ripley jumps up, grabbing a pipe, and KICKS open the vent grate, throwing herself up the vertical shaft with astonishing ease.

CUT TO:

INT. BETTY - CONTINUOUS

Vriess is scrambling away, knocking over things to avoid the baby alien.

Johner SHOTS at the creature as it speeds towards Vriess.

CALL

Don't shoot it! Betty's hull is too thin!

JOHNER

Look out!

It knocks over canisters as it speeds across the table and behind some instruments.

VRIESS

Where'd it go?

CALL

Don't shoot it!

JOHNER

Fuck that!

It LEAPS out of the darkness and heads straight for Call, she stumbles back, trips - it comes at her, leaps right at her face, she pulls her hand back - and flicks her wrist. The stiletto pops out as the creature flies at it, the blade slides right into its mouth, ramming eight inches through its innards before it pokes out the other end.

Blood spurts on Call, on the floor. The creature wriggles and finally falls free as the stiletto melts inside it.

JOHNER

Vriess! Get behind the fucking wheel!

CUT TO:

INT. VERTICAL AIR SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

Ripley is climbing up the cramped vent with the speed and agility of an alien.

Unfortunately, so are the aliens, twenty feet below her. Two drones in front, with the newborn squeezing close behind.

Ripley grabs a pole and her hand begins to steam, it's so hot. She cries out, lets go... then looks down. Grabs the pole again and, ignoring the searing agony, pulls, pulls... RIPS out of the wall, burning steam GUSHING out below her, slowing down the aliens.

She continues climbing, then kicks through a grate.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Auriga races toward:

EARTH. But not as we've seen it.

The planet is still blue, but almost two thirds of it is obscured by a giant orbiting latticework of metal, a part shell that rotates slightly faster than the planet itself.

The Auriga heads for a section of exposed earth. Not long now.

CUT TO:

INT. ANTE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Ripley drops to the ground and heads for the dock.

CALL / SHIP
Airlock doors closing. Stand clear.

RIPLEY
No!

She doesn't bother to try the door, she HURLS herself through the window, landing...

INT. DOCKING BAY

In a hail of glass.

She is on the platform that runs the length of the dock. Betty is barely visible past the far end - sinking into the airlock as the massive airlock doors slide slowly shut.

RIPLEY

No!!

A SLAM against the metal door behind her tells her the aliens are here.

She picks herself up and RUNS - and she can run fast.

Speeds across the platform, faster, faster, the Betty sinks of sight as the airlock doors move closer together, fifteen feet apart, ten...

Ripley reaches the edge of the platform and LEAPS, just hurls herself off of the platform, sails through the air, thirty, forty feet, and down, the airlock doors thirty feet below, almost closed.

She DROPS right through just before they close, falls another fifteen feet and lands - WHAM!! - on top of the Auriga, hard, rolls, lies there in extremes of pain.

CUT TO:

INT. BETTY - CONTINUOUS

The crew look up at the sound.

VRIESS

Something's on us!

JOHNER

Forget it! We'll shake it off on descent.

Airlock secure. Outer doors opening...

CUT TO:

INT. AIRLOCK - CONTINUOUS

Ripley tries to pick herself up, is momentarily too wiped, breathes heavily, gets to her knees.

ANGLE: FROM ABOVE

We see Ripley crawling toward the hatch, and the huge outer airlock door opening beneath the ship. Blue sky and wind the screen below.

ANGLE: RIPLEY

Struggling to get to the hatch.

RIPLEY

God...

And above her, through a window into the docking bay, we see the newborn appear.

CUT TO:

INT. BETTY - CONTINUOUS

CALL

Almost there...

JOHNER

We got about forty seconds till we kiss the ground!

CALL

Go full thrust on the downdraft!
We'll get clear!

JOHNER

It's gonna be fucking close.

CALL / SHIP

Warning. Procedural interruption.
Ship not leveling for vertical
drop. Braking system
nonfunctional. Collision imminent.

JOHNER

No shit.

CALL

Almost there.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRLOCK - CONTINUOUS

The airlock doors are almost.. completely open. Ripley has reached the hatch, but cannot get it open. She pounds on it frustration - and the newborn SMASHES through the window, JUMPS DOWN onto the ship.

RIPLEY

NOO!! NOOO!

CUT TO:

INT. BETTY - CONTINUOUS

CALL
NOW!!!

Vriess punches it.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRLOCK / EXT. SKY - CONTINUOUS

And the Betty SHOOTs DOWN out of the airlock - Ripley and the newborn just barely hold on, Ripley's body thrown straight up as she grips the hatch door for dear life.

The newborn has a better grip - it has more things to grip with but it too struggles with the sudden drop.

ANGLE: THE ATJRIGA

Speeding toward the earth. The Betty SHOOTs out the airlock and nearly smashes into the bottom of the ship as it passes, like trash thrown out of a speeding car.

INT. BETTY

The Akiriga passes, huge above them.

VRIESS
Look out!

CALL
I am!

EXT. THE BETTY

The ship swerves as Call expertly avoids the Auriga - and see Ripley and the newborn on top, still fighting for purchase.

The Betty gets clear, leveling out.

The Auriga still heads straight for earth, as the terrain below becomes clear - deserted, snow covered mountains.

ANGLE: RIPLEY

Hanging on.

ANGLE: CALL

Fighting to control the Betty.

ANGLE: INSIDE THE AURIGA

Deserted halls, passageways bodies, and aliens milling here and there.

CALL / SHIP
Collision in six seconds...
Five... Four...
(softly)
Here we go...

ANGLE: THE ATJRIGA

SMASHES INTO THE GROUND, a deafening explosion eating the massive ship in seconds, utter cacophony.

ANGLE: THE BETTY

Flying away, the thundering firestorm behind it.

ANGLE: CALL

An instrument panel suddenly SPARKS beside her warning lights flash, the ship shaking as if under massive turbulence.

CALL
Johner! Fire!

VRIESS
Vector control's fucked! We gotta
put down!

CALL
Find me a path!

Johner sprays foam on the fire. There is a loud BANGING heard far overhead.

CALL
What the fuck is that?

ANGLE: RIPLEY

Is slamming her fist on the hatch doors, hanging on with her other arm.

The ship continues to tremble and buck - she's nearly thrown off.

RIPLEY
Godamnit!

She looks around at the alien. It's almost on her.

Working its way painfully toward her, gripping with its legs and tendrils. Hissing.

It slams a tentacle down at Ripley, but she rolls, just holding on.

ANGLE: JOHNER

Above the cockpit, looking at a fuzzy external monitor.

JOHNER

It's Ripley! Ripley's on the
fucking hatch!

In the cockpit, Call nearly goes white.

CALL

Let her in!

JOHNER

Fuck no! There's something else
out there with her!

VRIESS

One of them.

Johner looks at the image, realizes how massive the newborn is.

Awed fear creeps into his voice:

JOHNER

No, it's something else.

Frustrated, Call jumps out of her seat. Vriess fights to control the ship as she climbs up toward the hatch.

VRIESS

Goddammit, Call!

Johner grabs her, practically throws her at the monitor.

JOHNER

Look at that fucking thing! We
can't open up!

They both tumble as the ship jerks.

ANGLE: RIPLEY

Is bucked OFF THE SHIP before she grabs the newborn's tentacle, holds on to it -

The newborn SMASHES it against the ship, trying to shake her again - she grabs an external grate and starts climbing painfully away.

ANGLE: CALL

Pushes Johner aside as she makes for the hatch release sequence.

ANGLE: VRIESS.

Desperately pulling up as wooded, snowy mountains zoom dangerously close below.

ANGLE: THE ALIEN

Turns as the HATCH OPENS nearby, the door sliding slowly beast is torn between Ripley and this new distraction -

Ripley sees it too, starts climbing for it frantically, one on the newborn.

The beast makes for the doorway - and CALL POPS HALFWAY OUT pointing a GRENADE LAUNCHER at the thing... She BLASTS it once, the beast roaring and starting back, hurt but not nearly enough. Call fires again but the ship's rocking sends the shot wild.

She flies back for all of a second.

The beast rears to attack but Ripley is at the hatch - Call drags her in and closes the hatch, the beast just SLAMMING in it as it closes.

INT. THE BETTY

Ripley is hanging on Call, exhausted.

Another BANG on the hatch, and they can see the door starting to give.

VRIESS
Call! NOW!

Call and Ripley head into the cockpit. Johner continues looking at the vidscreen at the beast.

VRIESS
We can't to do a vertical setdown!
Braking systems are shot!

CALL
Find me a patch of land! I'll put
her down.

Call jumps back into the pilot's seat by Vriess. He pulls up hard on the wheel, but the ship is still dangerously close to the ground.

JOHNER
That thing isn't going anywhere!

VRIESS
Johner, strap in! We're coming
down hard!

ANGLE: BETTY

Approaches the rough, wooded terrain, just above the trees. Hits a relatively clear patch, touches down - bounces back up and then down again.

ANGLE: CALL

Fighting the wheel - she can't pull it up hard enough.

ANGLE: THE BETTY

The ship blasts through trees. The newborn moves to the back of the ship to avoid debris.

JOHNER
That thing's gone back behind the
thrusters!

Call and Ripley look at each other.

RIPLEY
Hit it.

Call throws on the thrusters, the ship ROCKETS forward.

ANGLE: THE NEWBOM

Engulfed in flame, losing its grip -

THE BETTY
Going too fast - Call can't
control it.

VRIESS
Kill thrust! Now!

Call does.

ANGLE: THE BETTY

Skids, skids, throwing up enormous debris. It hits another wooded area.

RIPLEY
Is thrown bodily into the
windshield -

THE BETTY mows down a half acre of trees before finally grinding to a halt.

As soon as they've recovered, Call throws off her seatbelt.

CALL
Is everybody all right?

JOHNER
Where're you going?

Call opens the hatch.

CALL
To make sure that thing is really
dead

Its giant face LUNGES down at her, piston tongue shooting out.

It has charred black skin - in some places that skin has fallen off and wet pink flesh shows through.

Call drops to the floor, the tongue just missing her. Johner scrambles for his gun as Ripley drags her out of the way.

As quickly as it came, the head lurches back out.

JOHNER
I think it's gone!

VRIESS
No, it's waiting for us to come
out! Can we fly?

VRIESS
We can't fucking crawl!

RIPLEY
It's gone.

Call looks at her.

CALL
Are you sure?

JOHNER
Good! Great!

CALL
No...

Call grabs a grenade launcher.

CALL
I've got to stop it.

VRIESS
Call.

CALL
That thing is thirty minutes old!
In a few hours it'll grow up. If
it reaches a place with people...

She heads for the door but Ripley is on her way. They exchange a look.

RIPLEY
You'll never catch it.

Call tosses her the grenade launcher.

CUT TO:

EXT. BETTY - MOMENTS LATER

The ship sits silent in the woods, the trees around heavy with snow.

Ripley comes out the top. She looks around her, sees the tracks in the snow.

Huge, loping. She jumps down off the ship. And runs.

Through the blur of trees, she moves with the grace and speed of an animal, leaping from boulders, racing through the powdered brush this is Ripley at peak speed, and it is something to see.

She starts going up, the way getting steeper and rockier, till she reaches a cliff face, and looks out on: A CITY.

Sprawling, huge, a million tiny lights cutting through the darkness. It's just before the horizon.

The newborn RISES in front of Ripley, STRIKES her before she has a chance to aim her weapon.

Its tentacle cuts deeply into her, sends her flying.

The beast is on her in a second, its enormous jaws missing her head by an inch as she rolls, grabs the grenade launcher, FIRES.

The beast is thrown, but just grazed, back on her as she tries to get off another shot, it SLAMS a foot down RIGHT ON HER she SCREAMS, the launcher rolls free, the beast coming in for the kill and over the ridge FLIES THE HARVESTER, Call at the controls. Aiming right for the newborn.

It rears up to see it just as the girl RAMS it into the creatures head, it knocks it on its ass, the harvester shaking but not quite spinning out, as Call comes around for another shot.

Ripley scrambles to safety as the Newborn prepares for the oncoming harvester, it whips its tentacles at it but Call swerves at the last second - the monster spins with it, screaming, sees Ripley and slashes at her. KNOCKS HER OFF THE CLIFF -

She falls, grabs brush it snaps - she starts sliding down rockface and she takes her hand, SLAMS her fingers into the smooth rock face like a pick axe - it rips her nails bloody but she digs out purchase.

ANGLE: CALL

SLAMS into the newborn from behind, the girl nearly thrown out of the harvester, the newborn spins and grabs it, Call throws it into reverse but the newborn is too strong, holds on, bringing its head up to face Call herself.

ANGLE: RIPLEY'S

Bloody and torn, it SMASHES into the rockface, as she climbs back to the top.

ANGLE: THE NEWBORN

SWINGS the harvester into a tree, Call nearly knocked loose again. The monster is jolted as well, lets go, Call pilots the machine back through the trees, the alien watching it, growling -

Call flies deftly through the trees, away, away, then spins out, heads back for the beast at TOP SPEED, the wind roars as she closes.

The newborn spins and she SLAMS into it, it goes flying, screaming in pain, the harvester bouncing off it, flipping over, CRASHING against the trees and landing tilted upside down, Call unconscious between it and the ground.

The newborn shudders, rises, makes for the harvester - it clearly pissed.

Ripley pulls herself over the ridge, sees the situation, rushes toward them.

Call awakens to see the monster approaching the machine. Terrified, but determined, she reaches for a lever.

RIPLEY
No! Over here!

Calling out to distract it, she runs, waving her arms.

CALL
Ripley! Let it come! Let it come!

Tears run through her voice as she strains for the lever. The beast is torn, and for a moment doesn't move.

Ripley looks over to where Call is, and understanding blooms on her face.

She looks around and spots:

ANGLE: THE GRENADE LAUNCHER

Halfway between her and the newborn.

For a moment neither of them moves. Then Ripley RUNS, the newborn comes at her with equal speed, like they're playing chicken, Ripley DIVES at the ground, rolls, comes up holding the grenade launcher, and she FIRES!

The newborn is hit up close and dead center this time, and it rears back, screaming - Ripley FIRES and FIRES, driving it back toward the upended Harvester.

The alien rears up to its full height, and Ripley pulls the trigger. There is a hollow click.

Furious, Ripley stares a moment at the beast. A SCREAM wells up in her throat and she THROWS herself at it, leaping impossibly high, smashing into it and sending both of them tumbling onto the Harvester.

Call pulls the lever.

In an instant the machine roars to life, a thousand blades grinding to top speed, pulverizing the beast, consuming it, sucking it down as layer upon layer of alien flesh is chopped into messes.

And it SHRIEKS, a noise unheard before, as it thrashes frantically.

Ripley tries to pull herself off it before the blades get too close -but the beast grabs her, holds her. The blades ever closer as she struggles with it.

ANGLE: CALL

Still trapped below, she sees the aliens blood seeping through the machine all around her!

She squirms, trying to get away, but she's stuck. A stream of blood lands on her shoulder, eating it away. Another on her leg, and panic blooms, bright in her.

CALL

Ripley!

Galvanized by the cry, Ripley TEARS herself out of the beast's dying grasp, flips backwards off the Harvester as it begins to smoke and spark, blood eating through the controls.

Call writhes, blood everywhere now. She is lost in primal terror.

Ripley wriggles her way under, and, regardless of the streams of blood splattering her, wrenches Call free. She drags her out.

A section of the Harvester explodes, raining fire and debris or the dying alien.

Call lies on the ground, Ripley behind her, arms wrapped tight around her.

Covered in blood and grime, the two watch the alien go up in flames, breathing hard, holding each other as if their lives depended on it still.

DISSOLVE TO:

ANGLE: THE NEWBORN'S SKULL

Burning, hollowed out by the licks of flame that caress it. Collapsing gently on itself.

WIDE ANGLE:

EXT. SAME - LATER

The four of them sit by the huge camp-fire, watching the flames.

Vriess tosses Christie a bottle of whiskey.

JOHNER

The bitch takes her time in burning.

VRIESS

Well, it looks like she's finally giving it up.

JOHNER

Troopers should be finding our ship any time now. I don't much love the idea of being around when they do.

Ripley gets up, looks out over the cliffs edge at the lights the city.

Christie offers the bottle to Call. She takes it and drinks.

VRIESS

(to Call)

I guess you won't want to be answering any official Questions either.

CALL

I guess not.

She is grateful for the suggestion that they are in it together.

VRIESS

Well, we're on earth, for chrissake. Plenty of places to get lost here.

CALL

So I've heard.

After a moment, she gets up as well, goes over to Ripley. She hands her the bottle. Ripley looks at it.

CALL

It's a drink. You drink it.

RIPLEY

(smiling)

I remember. She drinks.

CALL

So, what do you think?

RIPLEY

Think?

CALL

What should we do now?

RIPLEY

I don't know.

She looks out in the distance...

RIPLEY

I'm a stranger here myself.

The two of them stand side by side staring out at the unfamiliar horizon, as the newborn dwindles in the dancing flame.

THE END