fantastic voyage

Current Draft by
The Wibberleys

Previous Drafts by
Dario Scardapane
Rick Jaffa & Amanda Silver
Dean Georgaris
The Wibberleys

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FANTASTIC VOYAGE

FADE IN ON:

TITLE OVER: *"In some sense man is a microcosm of the universe; therefore what man is...is a clue to the universe. --David Bohm"*

1 EXT. SPACE - TIMELESS 1

Endless and silent. We move through space by powers of ten.

At 100 lights years from Earth, a sea of black speckled with billions of tiny stars.

At one light year, our sun becomes a bright star in the sea.

At 100 billion kilometers, our solar system appears. We continue our rapid approach until...

The familiar blue-green Earth fills the screen. We're at 10,000 kilometers...moving closer still...

A SATELLITE orbits. Clouds, continents, oceans...

At ten kilometers above the Earth...a city comes into view--Los Angeles.

2 EXT. LOS ANGELES, AERIAL - DAY 2

One kilometer--a massive freeway interchange. Traffic ebbs and flows through the maze...the city's lifeblood.

We PUSH IN on a Lincoln Navigator sitting in traffic on the LAX off-ramp. We hear voices talking over.

NORTH (O.S.)
Your first time off in years, and this is how you're going to spend it?

3 INT. LINCOLN NAVIGATOR, MOVING - DAY 3

Driving is DR. ANDREW NORTH, 40s, disheveled, the kind of guy who partied his way through medical school.

Riding shot-gun is DR. DOUGLAS GRANT, whose rugged looks belie the fact that he's spent most of his life peering into a microscope.

GRANT
What? I'm traveling to an exotic country--

3 CONTINUED: 3

NORTH
--where there's malaria, bombings,
and a government so crazy it controls
its people by implanting them with
GPS locators like dogs.

GRANT
Which I'll be removing. It's called
helping people.

NORTH
You help people everyday.

GRANT
Professional athletes with torn ACLs
don't count.

NORTH
Remind me never to fall in love with
a treehugger.

Grant checks his cell phone for messages. As he does, we PUSH IN another power of ten...

4 INSIDE GRANT'S CELL PHONE. 4

We're at one millimeter...then 100 micrometers...exploring the cell phone's firing circuitry. We hear new voices over.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Boy, these things keep getting smaller
and smaller.

We come out to find that we've transitioned to...

5 INT. LAX, BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL - DAY 5

Grant moves through the SECURITY CHECKPOINT. A FEMALE GUARD is ogling his ultra-thin cell phone.

GRANT
I think they make them that way so
you'll lose 'em. It's my third one.

The guard gives Grant his cell phone, and he gets on it and starts texting something.

CUT TO:

Somewhere ANOTHER CELL PHONE BEEPS. A woman's hand digs her phone out of her Vegan Hobo purse. We're now on...

6 INT. PLANE - DAY 6

A mix of American and Korean PASSENGERS wait for departure.

6 CONTINUED: 6

A naturally beautiful woman sits in a row next to an empty seat. This is DR. CORA PETERSON. She opens her phone. On the tiny screen is a text message from "**DGrant.**" It says, "**Is that seat taken?**"

Cora looks up to find Grant standing in the aisle and wearing a disarming smile. Cora grins, pleasantly surprised.

CORA
You said you hate flying.

GRANT
I do.

CORA
You said one person can't make a difference.

GRANT
They can't.

CORA
Then why you'd change your mind?

GRANT
I keep asking myself the same thing.

He throws his bag in the overhead compartment. She regards him knowingly.

CORA
You can't live without me.

He considers that with a smirk.

GRANT
Nah. That's not it.

CORA
(playfully challenging)
Uh-huh. Then what?

He sits next to her and shrugs.

GRANT
I wanted to see what you do with your time off.

SMASH CUT TO:

7 EXT. SOUTH KOREA, NEAR THE DMZ - AERIAL - DUSK 7

A BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER soars over the lush river basin.

8 INT. BLACKHAWK CHOPPER, FLYING - DUSK 8 *

COLONEL PARR (50s, career U.S. military) rides in the back with a KOREAN PATIENT, lying on a stretcher, draped in a chain-mail mesh blanket. Two ARMY MEDICS monitor him. *

The PILOT calls back to them. *

PILOT *
Colonel Parr, sir! Just got word, *
the doctors have arrived! *

Parr looks to the patient, an elderly, scholarly type who's having a terrible time masking his fear. *

PARR *
(in Korean) *
Hang in there. *

9 EXT. NATO ARMY HOSPITAL - DUSK 9 *

Hangar tents marked with RED CROSSES are camped near the DMZ. Dust and long grasses swirl in the rotor wash as the Blackhawk helicopter touches down. *

A HUMVEE pulls into camp, and the driver (an ADJUTANT), Cora and Grant climb out. *

Parr disembarks the chopper and crosses to greet them. *

ADJUTANT *
Colonel Parr, this is Dr. Cora *
Peterson and Dr. Douglas Grant. *

PARR *
We appreciate your helping us out. *

They shake hands. *

PARR (CONT'D) *
I'd love to welcome you both with a *
Mai Tai, but we have a situation... *

Behind him, the medics unload the patient from the chopper. *

PARR (CONT'D)
...A defector. Pyung Jin Pai, a *
North Korean physicist. We're *
blocking the implant's signal, but *
it's only a matter of time before *
they track him down. *

They follow the medics as they head toward the tents. *

9 CONTINUED: 9

PARR (CONT'D)
(to Cora)
I'm told you're familiar with the GPS implants?

CORA
I removed a few last year in Gangwon-do.

PARR
Right. Well, they've gotten a little more sophisticated since then...

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON A LAPTOP SCREEN. On it, a VIDEO FEED of cardio-arthroscopic surgery plays. A distinctly shaped object lodged near the aortic valve comes into view.

PARR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
There.

We're in...

10 INT. NATO ARMY HOSPITAL, SURGICAL TENT - DUSK 10*

Grant and Cora are performing arthroscopic surgery on the patient who lies unconscious on a gurney. They stare at laptop feed, stunned.

CORA
I'll say it's more sophisticated. It's gotta be ten times smaller. And on the aortic valve...how's that even possible?

PARR
The North Koreans are inoculating their citizens with 'em now, claiming they're vaccinations. Once inside the body, the implants target cardiac cells, making it impossible for our field medics to remove.

Grant stares at the screen, in disbelief. Through the microscopic lens, the implant looks like a mechanical tick latched to the slowly pulsating heart muscle.

GRANT
This is insane. There are only a handful of surgeons in the world who could get that thing out.

Cora regards Grant.

10 CONTINUED: 10

CORA
Good thing you're one of them.

PARR
Let's hope he is.

Grant and Cora share a long look. We realize she's not half the surgeon Grant is, but she's got twice his conviction.

Grant knows it's down to him.

GRANT
All right. Let's dilate the ascending aorta.

Cora quickly prepares a syringe and injects it into the patient's IV.

CORA
Pushing 70 mils Diazoxide.

On the screen, we watch as the aorta dilates.

Using the video feed for guidance, Grant maneuvers a tiny robotic hook, which telescopes out from the arthroscope.

Grant steels himself as he slowly and steadily closes the hook on the implant. Suddenly--

THE IMPLANT EXPLODES! It instantly kills the patient. Grant takes the brunt of the blast, which blows up in his face. Everything goes--

BLACK.

A beat, and then the whir and beep of medical equipment breaks the silence. We FADE BACK into--

11 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SEOUL - DAY 11*

Grant lies in a bed, unconscious, bruised and cut, tubes running in and out of him. He stirs.

CORA (O.S.)
Morning, sunshine.

We WIDEN to see that Cora is standing at his bedside. Grant looks around weakly, trying to get his bearings.

CORA (CONT'D)
We're in a hospital in Seoul. The implant was a microbomb.

Grant tries to move. It hurts. He groans.

11 CONTINUED: 11

CORA (CONT'D)
You broke a couple ribs, sustained some second-degree burns, but you're going to be OK.

Grant pulls up his hands and sees now that they're bandaged. She watches him. She wants to cry.

CORA (CONT'D)
I am so sorry.

Grant smiles through his pain.

GRANT
Hey, I said I wanted to see how you spent your time off, didn't I?

Cora laughs a little at that.

CORA
And what do you think so far?

GRANT
I think there are a lot of crazy people in the world.

CORA
Yeah. But now that we know the implants are bombs, maybe we can find a more non-invasive method to extract--

Cora is afire, but Grant stops.

GRANT
--Wait...what? You're not seriously thinking of going back there and trying to extract those things, are you?

CORA
Grant, these people are prisoners. They have no rights.

Grant strains to sit up. He looks at her. She's beautiful in that Peace Corps, save-the-world kind of way.

GRANT
Cora, I love that you fight so hard and never quit, but sometimes the patient can't be saved. You know that. This isn't your problem.

Cora considers that, conflicted.

11 CONTINUED: (2) 11

GRANT (CONT'D)
Come on. Let's go home. Let's plan a real vacation. It's your turn to see how I spend my time off.

Cora can't help smile at that.

CORA
A real vacation, huh? What do people do on those?

GRANT
Stuff like this...

Grant grins mischievously, beckoning her closer with his bandaged finger. Cora leans in and kisses him.

GRANT (CONT'D)
Ow.

CORA
Sorry!

But Grant was only kidding. He yanks her onto the bed.

CORA (CONT'D)
Ow! Hey!

Grant smothers her with a kiss. She melts into it. Then, they come up for air.

CORA (CONT'D)
OK. That's sounds like fun.

She stands and straightens her dress.

CORA (CONT'D)
I'll have the military arrange for our transport in the morning. I'll get our things from the hotel and meet you there.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. U.S. MILITARY BASE - SEOUL - MORNING 12*

It's raining. Grant stands on the tarmac, waiting and watching as MILITARY WORKERS finish loading a C-17 military supply plane.

The PILOT approaches Grant.

PILOT
Sir, they've given us clearance for take-off.

12 CONTINUED: 12

GRANT
She must be stuck in traffic. Let me try calling her again.

Just then, Grant's phone BEEPS. He flips it open.

On the cell phone screen, there is a text message from "**Cora.**" It reads, "**We both knew I couldn't leave. Not now. I hope someday we can take that vacation together. ILY, Cora.**"

Grant just stares at the screen, his heart broken.

PILOT (O.S.)
Dr. Grant. We need to get going.

Grant nods sadly, closes the phone, and then starts toward the plane...

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. MEDICAL CENTER, DOCTORS' LOUNGE - DAY 13

A small television plays the news softly in the background. On it, news footage of a train bombing in South Korea plays.

TITLE OVER: Los Angeles, Two Years Later

Grant sleeps on a couch in this sparse lounge. His face is stubbled. His beeper goes off, awaking him.

14 INT. MEDICAL CENTER, TRAUMA SCRUB SINKS - DAY 14

North is here, scrubbing in. Grant pokes his head in.

GRANT
I'm not on call.

NORTH
Then why're you here?

GRANT
I thought I was at home. What do you got?

NORTH
Gunshot victim.

15 INT. MEDICAL CENTER, TRAUMA O.R. - DAY 15

Grant enters to find the O.R. filled with HOSPITAL PERSONNEL in scrubs or white coats. They yell...

NURSES/DOCTORS
Surprise!!!

15 CONTINUED: 15

The O.R. is decorated with inflated surgical gloves and unrolled gauze draped like ribbons. There is a big cake sitting on the operating table. Grant is indeed surprised.

North steps in behind him, wrapping his arm around him.

NORTH
Happy birthday.

GRANT
It's my birthday?

NORTH
You've been working so much you don't even know what day it is.

Grant considers that and then jokes...

GRANT
How old am I?

NORTH
Old enough to drink.

North pulls a bottle of Scotch out of his coat, cracks it open, and pours some in a plastic hospital sippy cup.

NORTH (CONT'D)
You are officially off-duty.

He hands the cup to Grant. A nurse steps up holding a CUPCAKE with a lit candle atop.

NURSE
Make a wish.

Grant plays along, blows out the candle.

NORTH
That wish better involve hookers later.

CUT TO:

16 INT. MEDICAL CENTER, LOBBY - LATER 16*

The party's over, and Grant is going home. He looks spent. A WOMAN (30s, dressed conservatively in a skirt suit) approaches him. This is HOLLY ROBINSON.

ROBINSON
Dr. Douglas Grant?

He eyes her. She's attractive in a very "all-business" kind of way. But Grant is tired.

16 CONTINUED: 16

GRANT *
Look, I know North sent you, and *
although tempting, I'm really not *
interested. *

She regards him, confused. *

HOLLY *
I'm Lt. Holly Robinson, United States *
Army. *
(then) *
Who's North? *

GRANT *
(chagrined) *
Just some jerk who has a knack for *
making me look stupid. *
(then) *
What can I do for you? *

HOLLY *
Your presence has been requested by *
General William Hunter. *

That's not what Grant was expecting. *

GRANT *
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs *
General Hunter? *

Holly nods. *

HOLLY *
We have a car waiting outside. *

CUT TO: *

17 EXT. SDSU COASTAL WATERS LABORATORY - DAY 17

These modern facilities include wet labs, a shipyard, and a greenhouse, all which overlook San Diego Bay.

TITLE OVER: San Diego, California.

18 EXT. COASTAL WATERS LABS, BOAT YARD - DAY 18

KURT SOMMERS (31) leads a BUSINESSMAN through the yard, which * is littered with barnacled boats and cranes. Don't let Kurt's Hawaiian shirt and flip-flops fool you. He's a born salesman.

KURT
...Imagine the extraordinary
adventures you and your friends could
have--from the tropical abundance of *
(MORE)

18 CONTINUED: 18

KURT (CONT'D)
the Sea of Cortez to the fabulous shipwrecks of the Dry Tortugas--the Proteus can take you there in absolute luxury and total safety...

They round the hull of a boat up on blocks and come upon--

THE PROTEUS, a 36-meter, ABS classed, manned submarine sitting dry-docked. This is no Navy sub. It looks more like a submersible yacht with large viewing windows. Emblazoned on the bow is the ship's name PROTEUS.

A two-person CREW scrubs her hull and makes repairs: BETH (20s, blonde, fit, bikini-clad) and JORGE MARTINEZ (mid-30s).

A towheaded 8-year-old BOY stands on the prow with his arms out like Jack on the Titanic. This is Kurt's son OWEN. *

KURT (CONT'D) *
Hey, Barnacle! Get down from there! *

OWEN *
But dad-- *

KURT *
--No. How many times do I have to tell you--my ship is not a toy! *

Owen grudgingly jumps down. *

KURT (CONT'D) *
(to the businessman) *
Sorry about that. His mom's late picking him up. Now, where was I? *

BUSINESSMAN *
I'm sorry, but our bank doesn't do loans for submarines. We refi high-end boats, yachts. *

Owen joins his dad. *

KURT *
Exactly the point I'm making. The Proteus is a mega-yacht of the deep! *

OWEN *
(to the businessman) *
My dad says he's gonna find treasure with it, but my mom says he's a loser who couldn't find his own butt if he had a map. *

18 CONTINUED: (2) 18

KURT
Tell your mom I want my soul back
when she's done crushing it--
(spots something)
--Hey!

Kurt steps away from the banker as we REVERSE to see a man climbing up from the deck hatch. It's Colonel Parr, dressed in his army blues. Kurt is perturbed.

KURT (CONT'D)
Beth, Jorge. You cannot keep allowing people on the boat unsupervised.

BETH
He said he wants to charter it.

A broad smile cuts across Kurt's face as he calls up to Parr.

KURT
Well, hello there!

PARR
Nice ship. What's her cruising speed?

Before Kurt can answer, Owen calls up...

OWEN
18 knots! But the helm gets a little tight around 16.

Kurt shoots his son a look like, "shut up."

KURT
(calls up)
Which we fixed last week!
(to Owen, between his teeth)
Go call your mom.

OWEN
I already did.

PARR
Maximum life support?

KURT
300 hours.

PARR
How thick are the viewing windows?

KURT
Six inches of transparent acrylic.
Tested out at 5,000 pounds per square inch.

18 CONTINUED: (3) 18

Just then, HONK-HONK! A hot girl driving a Volkswagon Bug pulls up. This is Kurt's ex-girlfriend MALLORY.

MALLORY
Sorry, I'm late! Owen, let's go!

Owen runs off. Kurt calls after him.

KURT
See you next week, buddy!

Owen climbs into the car, and they pull away. Parr finishes his inspection and finally jumps down.

PARR
She'll do.

KURT
Great!

Kurt and his crew exchange grins.

KURT (CONT'D)
Kurt Sommers, by the way.

Kurt shakes Parr's hand.

KURT (CONT'D)
We're running a special right now for our boys in blue--my boat and her crew are all yours for the low price of $1,000,000 per day.

PARR
She's not your boat.

KURT
Of course, she is. I built her--

PARR
--With government grants. She was supposed to be a research vessel.

KURT
And she is. Except on weekends and holidays.

PARR
Mr. Sommers, your vessel's being appropriated for government use by order of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

KURT
What? You're kidding, right? You can't just appropriate her.

18 CONTINUED: (4) 18

But Parr is already leaving. Kurt chases him.

KURT (CONT'D)
Wait! Who's going to crew her? She's got a lot of quirks, you know. She's mostly salvage. It's going to take you months just to figure out how to flush the toilet.

That stops Parr. He looks to Kurt.

PARR
$10K per day. Have your sub and crew ready by seventeen-hundred. We'll arrange transport.

With that, Parr exits. Kurt turns to his crew. *

KURT *
Yes! *

CUT TO:

19 EXT. MCCARREN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY 19

Holly leads Grant across the tarmac toward a waiting CHINOOK HELICOPTER. Up ahead, we see the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs GENERAL WILLIAM HUNTER (60s) waiting to greet them. *

GENERAL HUNTER
Dr. Grant! I'm General William Hunter. Thank you for coming. *

GRANT
I didn't have much choice in the matter. Are you going to tell me what's going on now? * *

GENERAL HUNTER *
I understand you've had experience with North Korean nanobombs-- * *

GRANT *
--Look. If you're going to ask me to extract one of those things, I think I'll pass. * * *

GENERAL HUNTER *
The patient has specifically asked for you. * *

GRANT *
The patient clearly isn't aware of my success rate in nanobomb extraction. * * *

19 CONTINUED: 19

GENERAL HUNTER
Actually, she is aware. The patient is Dr. Cora Peterson.

Grant is staggered by this revelation. Cora?

GENERAL HUNTER (CONT'D)
Two days after you left Seoul, Dr. Peterson was captured by the North Koreans.

Grant takes the news like a punch to the gut.

GRANT
I had no idea...

GENERAL HUNTER
Over the two year period she was kept prisoner there, she managed to gain the trust of certain North Korean military medical personnel with her work as a surgeon. She was able to infiltrate their group--

GRANT
--Whoa. Wait. You mean Cora became some kind of...
(impossibly)
...spy?

GENERAL HUNTER
She became an invaluable source of intel, yes. Three days ago, she contacted us, requesting pick-up. She indicated North Korea was planning a massive assault on several U.S. cities and that she was coming out with critical recon--a new prototype nanobomb--one that's a 1,000 times more lethal than the current model and that has already been implanted into several carriers, including Dr. Peterson. She volunteered to be implanted.

GRANT
She volunteered? That's insane.

GENERAL HUNTER
Dr. Peterson is very brave. It was the only way she could acquire the prototype and smuggle it out.

Grant reels, flooded with emotions.

19 CONTINUED: (2) 19

GRANT *
I want to see her. *

CUT TO: *

20 EXT. DESERT ROAD - AERIAL VIEW - DAWN 20*

A Humvee kicks up dirt on this private desert road as it * makes its way toward a military base in the near distance. *

TITLE OVER: Mojave Desert, Nevada. *

21 INT. HUMVEE, MOVING - DAY 21*

Colonel Parr drives. Kurt, Jorge, and Beth ride as passengers. We hear CHOPPERS approaching. Beth looks out her window, squinting to make out something in the offing.

BETH
What the hell? *

Kurt and Jorge follow her gaze out the window to see an impossible sight. THE PROTEUS submarine soars in the skies, sling-loaded and hanging like a pendulum under TWO SKY-CRANE TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS.

JORGE
It's our boat.

KURT
Where're you taking her?

PARR
To Alpha Base.

Parr gestures to the military base up ahead. Kurt, Jorge, * and Beth regard the vast desert landscape with confusion.

KURT
Dude, I hate to break it to you, but the last time there was an ocean here was about 2 billion years ago, so unless you have a time machine...

PARR
Don't be ridiculous.

BETH
Then, why're you bringing her out here?

PARR
(matter-of-factly)
We're going to shrink her down, inject * it into a patient, and use it for nanosurgery.

21 CONTINUED: 21

KURT
Ha-ha, no really. Tell us.

PARR
We've been driving for three hours.
Do I strike you as the joking type?

Parr shoots them a look, dead serious. Kurt and his crew exchange incredulous looks.

JORGE
But...that's impossible.

PARR
Let's hope it's not. *

CUT TO:

22 EXT. ALPHA BASE, MOJAVE DESERT - DAWN 22*

An oasis of concrete buildings and airport hangars in the middle of the desert. The facility is tightly guarded with armed SOLDIERS on patrol. A Chinook chopper touches down. *

23 EXT. ALPHA BASE, TARMAC - DAY 23

Army Chief of Surgery DR. TALBOTT salutes as General Hunter, Holly, and Grant disembark the chopper.

GENERAL HUNTER
This is Dr. Talbott, Armed Forces *
Chief of Surgery.

DR. TALBOTT *
It's an honor to meet you, Dr. Grant. *

GRANT *
Take me to her. *

24 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL THEATER - DAY 24*

This glass-walled observation theater looks down into a state-of-the-art surgical suite. Grant stands at the glass, looking * down at-- *

CORA is unconscious, wrapped in a cooling blanket and hooked * up to Ivs and monitors. A MEDICAL TEAM attends to her. *

DR. TALBOTT
We're holding her at 28-degrees
Centigrade. Heart is holding steady
at 32 bpm. Respiration is at six.

GRANT *
You're inducing hypothermia? Why?

24 CONTINUED: 24

DR. TALBOTT *
To stabilize the implant. *

GENERAL HUNTER *
Once we blocked the GPS signal, the *
nanobomb armed itself. Any sudden *
movement could set it off. *

Grant stares down at Cora through the glass. Her face is *
beautiful and serene. *

GENERAL HUNTER (CONT'D) *
We have no idea how many more carriers *
are out there or when or where they'll
hit, but if we can extract the
implant's motherboard, we can decrypt
and override the destruct signal and
disable the other bombers. Will you
help us? *

Grant stares down, filled with trepidation. *

CUT TO: *

CLOSE ON A VID-SCREEN. Images of the tiny nanobot-like *
implants fill two windows.

DR. TALBOTT (O.S.)
This new implant is much more
sophisticated than anything we've
seen...

We WIDEN we're in--

25 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 25

Dr. Talbott mans two arthroscopes inserted in tiny incisions in Cora's lower side and chest. Grant and General Hunter monitor large VID-screens showing arthroscopic feeds.

DR. TALBOTT
...We're calling it "Hydra"--like
the mythical beast--they have multiple
heads. Once inside the body, it
splits itself into three. The hydra
are programmed to target three types
of cells...

Dr. Talbott toggles to HYDRA-1 in Cora's lumbar region.

DR. TALBOTT (CONT'D)
The first one targeted sacral neurons.
Here it is lodged at the base of her
spine. The second targeted cardiac
myocytes...

25 CONTINUED: 25

He toggles to HYDRA-2, latched onto Cora's beating heart.

DR. TALBOTT (CONT'D)
...here, on the right atrium. And the third one targeted the glial cells of the brain stem.

ON THE SCREEN, the camera moves like a submersible, approaching HYDRA-3. It's the main beast, a hideous semi-globe, like a robotic tic on her BRAIN STEM.

Grant stares at the screen, horrified.

GRANT
I can't operate on that. It'll kill her and everyone here.

GENERAL HUNTER
You're not going to operate. At least not in the traditional sense.
(off Grant's look)
How much do you know about miniaturization?

CUT TO:

26 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 26

Kurt, Beth, and Jorge are dwarfed as they enter the airplane hangar, which has been converted into--

The miniaturization "launch pad." It is surrounded by scaffolding and massive Hadron Colliders ("atom smashers") which look like giant jet turbines.

The hangar doors rumble open, and two AIRPLANE HAULERS slowly tow the submarine toward the scaling platform.

Kurt, Beth, and Jorge watch, agape. A voice calls out from behind...

GUY'S VOICE (O.S.)
That your sub?

The group wheels around to see two geeks approaching. Meet JASON and IAN (both mid-30s, multi-degreed, M.I.T. grads). They admire the Proteus.

KURT
Yep.

IAN
Niiice.

The crew smiles, proud.

26 CONTINUED: 26

JASON
I hope we don't vaporize it.

The crew's smiles fade.

IAN
He's kidding! I'm Ian. He's Jason. Welcome to our playground.

Ian eyes Beth. She's hot. Jason looks over to see that Grant is being led into the hangar by General Hunter.

JASON
Ah, looks like you're all here. Who wants a tour?

CUT TO:

Later. Jason and Ian lead the tour group along a catwalk that looks out onto the bay of colliders and down to the scaling platform below.

JASON (CONT'D)
...As you probably recall from high school physics, the atom has an electron cloud which is made up of both particles and force fields--

IAN
--Particles is actually a misnomer.

JASON
I didn't want to confuse them, Ian.
(continues)
These subatomic elements are bound together by an electromagnetic force that cause the atom to act like a solid structure even though--

IAN
--Now look who's confusing them.

JASON
OK, Mr. Nucleon-Anisotropy-for-Dummies, you try.

IAN
Gladly.
(to the group)
If you were to magnify an atom until it was a mile across, the nucleus would be only an inch long, and the electrons would be even smaller. Atoms are 99.99% free space. What these Hadron Colliders do is--

26 CONTINUED: (2) 26

GRANT *
--Reduce the empty space. *

IAN *
Exactly. *

Ian shoots Jason a look like, "See?" *

27 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 27*

Like something out of NASA Mission Control--computers, giant vid screens, walls of glass that look out into the hangar scaling station.

This place is a hive of activity with both SCIENTISTS and MILITARY PERSONNEL, including General Hunter.

A RADIO TECHNICIAN monitoring the airwaves pulls off his earphones and calls out.

RADIO TECHNICIAN
General Hunter, sir!

General Hunter approaches.

RADIO TECHNICIAN (CONT'D)
I'm picking up a something...very faint, nothing of ours.

GENERAL HUNTER
Point of origin?

RADIO TECHNICIAN
The patient. *

GENERAL HUNTER *
The destruct signal?

RADIO TECHNICIAN
Negative. Outgoing, not incoming.
I'm guessing some kind of search *
beacon initiated when the implant
lost contact with the satellite.

GENERAL HUNTER
Last time we "guessed," we invaded *
Iraq. Figure it out. *

28 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 28*

Jason and Ian continue their tour. *

Nearby, an OFFICER supervises a CREW which maneuvers the Proteus into position on the scaling platform.

28 CONTINUED: 28

JASON
Dr. Jan Benes won a Nobel for his experiments reducing carbon atoms seven years ago, and it's been a nano-Space Race ever since.

IAN
For awhile, North Korea was kicking our butts.

JASON
But only because our collider got shut down by a bunch of Cal Tech quacks in a class-action lawsuit claiming a particle accelerator this massive would create a black hole.

IAN
Which North Korea proved would not happen.

BETH
So, you can really shrink down anything?

JASON
Anything except elements with atomic numbers greater than 82 or those with no stable isotopes.

IAN
In other words, nothing radioactive, like nuclear energy cells.

GRANT
Humans?

JASON
We've been ready for a human trial for months, but we could never get approval...

The officer supervising the crew breaks away and approaches.

JASON (CONT'D)
...until now.

IAN
You know what they say--"Necessity is the mother of 'let's try something crazy.'"

KURT
Whoa-whoa-whoa, no one ever said anything about shrinking <u>us</u> down!

28 CONTINUED: (2) 28

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
No one's expecting you to go on the mission...

They turn to see Colonel Parr step up. Grant is surprised.

PARR
...We hired you as consultants only.
(to Grant)
Good to see you again, Dr. Grant.
Glad to have you on my team.

GRANT
I didn't realize it was your team when I signed up.

PARR
Do you have a problem with that?

Grant considers that. He clearly has a problem with that.
The others stand there, awkwardly witnessing the tension.

GRANT
Just tell me one thing. Did you know that first implant was a bomb?

PARR
Would you have operated if I had told you it was?

KURT
Bomb?! What bomb?

PARR
You won't be going anywhere near any bomb. We have a team of Navy SEALS--

BETH
--I want to go.

Kurt wheels around, regards Beth...WTF?!

KURT
You want to get shrunk down? Are you crazy?!

BETH
The reason we built that submarine was to explore worlds we've never seen before.

KURT
Yeah, places where there's sunken treasure--not bombs! Jorge, tell her she doesn't want to do this.

28 CONTINUED: (3) 28

JORGE
First humans to be miniaturized? It'll be like going to the moon. A chance to make history. *

Jorge and Beth smile and bump fists. Kurt regards them like they're both crazy.

KURT
Too bad this is a military operation.
(to Parr)
No civilians, right?

Parr regards Beth and Jorge, impressed by their intrepidity.

PARR
We could use you to crew the ship. Make sure the toilet flushes.

Kurt sighs like, "Fuck me." Then, a LIEUTENANT steps up.

LIEUTENANT
SEAL Team Seven is arriving, sir.

29 EXT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR - DAY 29

The group emerges from the hangar to see a bus kicking up dust as it pulls in and parks in front of the hangar.

General Hunter joins Parr. They talk low.

GENERAL HUNTER
I pray this works.

PARR
We're playing God. I don't think he likes us much right now.

The NAVY SEAL TEAM disembarks the bus. They are a grizzled, battle-tested group:

VINCE NGUYEN, the Tactical Systems Officer (TSO). Vince (late 20s) is East L.A-streetwise, 2nd generation Vietnamese.

TY RUSSELL, the Targeting/Communications Officer. Russell enlisted underage six years ago and is the youngest of the bunch. Last off the bus are -- *

Two frogmen and bomb disposal experts: BOBBY ZIMMERMAN and PAUL DOUGHERTY. Both early 30s and tattooed with the Navy SEAL's motto, "The only easy day was yesterday."

The SEALs approach Hunter and Parr. They salute each other. *

29 CONTINUED: 29

GENERAL HUNTER
Seal Team Seven, I'd like to thank you for volunteering.

ZIMMERMAN
Well, sir, when we heard about the mission, we figured it was either us or nobody.

CUT TO: *

30 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 30*

The Proteus is undergoing final preparations. MILITARY PERSONNEL on cherry pickers spray its hull with anti-rejection chemicals.

Kurt, Beth, and Jorge lug their gear to the sub.

A PRIVATE passes them pushing an ordnance rack loaded with lightweight TORPEDOES. Curious, Kurt peels away from the group and follows the private, intercepting--

Parr who is walking the sub's perimeter, checking items off a manifest. Kurt falls in step.

KURT
Those are torpedoes.

PARR
The Proteus is a retired SKR Hunter-Killer sub.

KURT
I converted her launch tubes into tanning beds. *

PARR
We're unconverting them. *

31 EXT. ALPHA BASE, TARMAC - DAY 31*

The Chinook chopper touches down. This time, out steps North. * Grant crosses the tarmac to greet him. *

GRANT *
Thanks for coming. *

NORTH *
Who doesn't love getting pulled out * of bed in the middle of night and * choppered to the middle of nowhere? * Takes me back to our college days. * Now, are you going to tell what the * hell's going on? *

32 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE/THEATER - DAY 32*

A MEDICAL TEAM preps Cora for "surgery." Grant stands with North, looking down to Cora.

NORTH
I've seen guys do some pretty stupid things for a girl, and it's usually me, but nothing this stupid.

GRANT
I lost her once. I'm not going to lose her again.

NORTH
I hate to break it to you, but you're going to be a microbe. If something goes wrong, Cora's body's could reject you.

GRANT
It won't be the first time.

NORTH
That's not funny.

GRANT
Look. I need you. All the military cares about is the implants. I need someone on the outside who will do everything possible to keep Cora alive in case something goes wrong.

NORTH
"If something goes wrong"? It will be a miracle if something goes right.

GRANT
Will you do it?

North studies Grant. He knows there is no changing his mind.

NORTH
Fine. But next time I decide to do something really stupid, you have to help me.

Grant smiles a little, "I owe you."

33 INT. PROTEUS, VARIOUS - DAY 33*

TRACKING SHOT inside the sub, down the ladder to Level 2-- where we find SEALs Zimmerman and Dougherty in the berthing area, stowing their gear in this cramped space.

33 CONTINUED: 33

Dougherty unpacks a clear, plastic eco-cube and sets it on a metal shelf. Seven hash marks have been written in indelible ink on it. Next, he pulls out a ZIPLOCK baggie filled with water. He holds it up, and we see inside swims a GOLDFISH.

DOUGHERTY
Hiya doing, Lucky?

Zimmerman eyes the goldfish.

ZIMMERMAN
Dougherty, tell me you did not smuggle that fish on board.

DOUGHERTY
It's our good luck charm...

Dougherty dumps Lucky into his eco-cube and seals the top.

DOUGHERTY (CONT'D)
...We've made it through seventeen missions because of this fish.

ZIMMERMAN
We made it through seventeen missions because we're bad-ass.

Just then, GRANT pops his head in, looking lost.

GRANT
Is this fore or aft?

ZIMMERMAN
We're aft.

GRANT
Thanks.

Grant disappears.

DOUGHERTY
Who was that?

ZIMMERMAN
He's our navigator.

Grant pops back in, still confused.

GRANT
Maybe if you could just point me to the Command Deck?

Zimmerman points. Grant disappears again.

33 CONTINUED: (2) 33

DOUGHERTY
He's our navigator?

Zimmerman nods. Dougherty crosses himself and then grabs Lucky's eco-cube and kisses it.

34 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - SHORT TIME LATER 34

The nerve center of the ship. Grant is going over a map of CORA'S CIRCULATORY SYSTEM with everyone.

GRANT
We'll enter through the Vena Cava, transfer to the L5 vein here, which should bring us to Hydra-1.

ZIMMERMAN
Just like a trench run. Done it a hundred times.

Grant regards the cocky SEALs.

GRANT
With all due respect, this isn't the Caribbean.

PARR
With all due respect, these SEALs have spent the last eighteen months sweeping mines in the East China Sea.

Grant is unimpressed.

GRANT
And while I'm sure that was treacherous work, we're talking about the human body here. Over one million years of evolution have devised an immune system so fierce it can battle any foe, from a catastrophic illness to a paper cut. It fights with no hesitation, no compassion--just a pitch perfect sense of "self" and "other." And make no mistake--we will be "other."

Just then, a loud voice booms over the P.A.

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.)
T-minus five minutes. Proteus and Alpha teams, commence final checks.

Everyone reacts. This is it. Parr turns to his team.

34 CONTINUED: 34

PARR
Alright then. Let's giddy-up!

35 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - EVENING 35

The sub's outer hatch is closed from the inside. A hangar KLAXON sounds. PERSONNEL quickly clear the scaling platform.

36 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 36

The mission control room is lit up with organized chaos. MILITARY PERSONNEL are scrambling.

37 INT. PROTEUS, ARMORY - DAY 37

Zimmerman and Dougherty finish securing their SDVs (Swimmer Delivery Vehicles), jet-ski-like vehicles.

38 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 38

The MEDICAL TEAM makes final preparations. A dozen VIDEO MONITORS show live feeds from the scaling hangar and mission control. North confers with Dr. Talbott.

NORTH
Her body temperature is getting dangerously low.

DR. TALBOTT
Slowing her circulation will improve the sub's ability to maneuver. I'm also pushing heparin to thin her blood--less debris in the way.

NORTH
"Debris." Interesting way to think of all that vital stuff.

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.)
T-minus four minutes. Proteus and Alpha teams, take your stations

Dr. Talbott leans into a mic.

DR. TALBOTT
Alpha team standing by.

39 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 39

Grant, Parr, and the SEALs move to their jump seats in the back of the bridge. Zimmerman and Dougherty emerge from below and join them.

Everyone takes their seats and straps themselves in. Parr looks everyone over, then turns to--

39 CONTINUED: 39

Beth and Jorge in their command seats, hemmed in by their instrumentation. Beth leans into her console mic.

BETH
Proteus team standing by.

40 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 40

General Hunter leans into the mic. *

GENERAL HUNTER
Godspeed to you. *

With that, General Hunter nods to the MISSION CONTROLLER who turns back to her console. *

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.)
Proteus, disconnect external power.

41 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 41

Jorge flips switches.

JORGE
Disconnecting external power.

The lights dim for a moment as the sub switches from external power to its own.

JORGE (CONT'D)
We're running on our own dime now.

42 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 42

Everyone dons earplugs as they crowd behind the observation windows, waiting for the big moment.

MISSION CONTROLLER
Commencing plasma accelerator ignition.

A MISSION TECH turns two console keys.

43 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 43

The massive Hadron colliders come to life with a thunderous roar. The air begins to hum and crackle.

44 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 44

The roar from the colliders is deafening.

MISSION CONTROLLER
Scaling towers nominal. Operating temperatures nominal.

44 CONTINUED: 44

IAN
Oh shit.

JASON
What?

Ian hurries to his station and roots around for something.

IAN
We almost forgot...

Ian comes up with his mini DV-camera.

IAN (CONT'D)
...we gotta record this.

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.)
T-minus one minute. Standby for final go.

45 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 45

The sub trembles as the colliders churn with incredible force. Everyone swallows their nerves. A beat, then...

The youngest SEAL, Russell, looks to Grant.

RUSSELL
So...is this going to hurt?

GRANT
Every atom in our bodies is about to be smashed. I would guess, "yes."

Russell swallows hard, psyching up. Vince grins.

VINCE
This is going to be Russell's first time inside a woman.

The SEALs laugh at that. Kurt looks to Jorge and Beth like, "I can't believe you dragged me into this."

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.)
Proteus, we are clear for final go.

46 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 46

Ian turns his camera on Jason.

IAN
Come on, hurry up. Say something. For posterity.

Jason stares at the camera blankly.

46 CONTINUED: 46

JASON
Um...
(looks to the sub)
...You know, we've never done anything this massive before.

Ian turns the camera to look out the window at the massive submarine. Ian looks to Jason, "fingers crossed."

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.)
T-minus 10 seconds.

47 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 47

North, Dr. Talbott, and the medical team nervously watch the live feeds from the scaling hangar.

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.)
...nine...eight...

48 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 48

The colliders begin to belch ELECTRICAL SPARKS.

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.)
...seven...six...five...

INTERCUT--FACES--Everyone waiting, anxious.

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.) (CONT'D)
...four...three...

49 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 49

Final looks are exchanged.

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.)
...two...

They all brace for the inevitable. Dougherty crosses himself.

MISSION CONTROLLER (ON THE P.A.) (CONT'D)
...one.

Russell closes his eyes...

50 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 50

The submarine is enveloped in a storm of ELECTRICITY. It's a VIOLENT, DEAFENING display.

51 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 51

Sparks fly across the cabin, creating ELECTRICAL OUTLINES of people and objects.

51 CONTINUED: 51

The crew tenses as they meld into white lights of critical mass.

52 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 52

The electrical storm builds and then...BOOM! The Proteus DISAPPEARS with a tremendous THUNDERCLAP!

53 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 53

The concussion BLOWS OUT ALL OF THE CONTROL ROOM WINDOWS! Everyone ducks as mission control is showered with shattered safety glass.

54 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 54

An electrical fire breaks out on the console. The power dies. A fire alarm screams. All hands jump out of their seats to extinguish it.

Smoke quickly fills the cabin. Kurt blasts the fire with quick bursts from a fire extinguisher.

Finally, the auxiliary power kicks in. We survey the crew. Everyone is shaken but intact.

PARR
Get me a damage report.

The SEALs quickly peel off to assess damage. Jorge fusses with the communications console, flipping switches. Every panel comes up black.

JORGE
Comm panel is shot.

PARR
(to Kurt)
Tell me you have a back-up.

KURT
Of course, we have a back up.
(under his breath)
Somewhere around here.

Kurt moves off in search of it.

As everyone works, Grant is the only one taking in the reality of what's just happened. He looks at his hands, makes a fist, and then looks up to the sub ceiling--

As we FOLLOW his gaze, the CAMERA PUSHES THROUGH the sub's hull...MOVING OUTSIDE through the liquid to--

55 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 55

A GOD'S EYE VIEW, looking down onto the EMPTY SCALING PLATFORM.

56 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 56

The glass settles, and everyone comes up to see that the Proteus is GONE!

57 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 57

North stares at the video feed, stunned.

NORTH
Jesus...

58 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 58

Everyone stares into the empty hangar. The mission controller leans into her mic.

MISSION CONTROLLER
Base to Proteus, do you copy?

Ian and Jason look on, concerned. *

MISSION CONTROLLER (CONT'D)
(to General Hunter)
I'm not getting anything, sir.

JASON *
Electromagnetic pulse could have fried their communications.

GENERAL HUNTER
Get me a visual.

59 INT. PROTEUS, BELOW DECK - DAY 59

Kurt digs through a pile of equipment in a cubby and comes up with a circuit board. He blows the dust off it.

KURT
(to the circuit board)
You'd better work.

60 INT. PROTEUS, BERTHING QUARTERS - DAY 60

Dougherty enters. The room is in disarray. He moves to the shelf where he left Lucky, but the eco-cube is gone!

He looks around, panicked.

61 INT. PROTEUS, ENGINEERING - DAY 61

Russell and Beth work on an electrical panel, which is more like a riot of wires and fuses.

RUSSELL
Did a monkey wire this or what?

Beth coolly makes a quick adjustment. As the main power comes back on, Beth grins smug...

BETH
No. We're not the military.

62 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 62

All the lights come back on.

BETH (INTERCOM)
Main power restored.

Kurt enters with the circuit board, followed by Zimmerman.

ZIMMERMAN
All secure, sir. No structural damage.

CUT TO:

A HYDRAULIC WHINE as a CAMERA MOUNTED ON A ROBOTIC ARM moves into frame. We're in--

63 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 63

The arm moves the camera across the scaling platform, positioning it over--

A PETRI DISH fitted into a small compartment in the platform floor. The camera's light snaps on.

64 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 64

Beth and Russell emerge from below as an intense light suddenly floods the cabin.

Everyone turns to peer out the large viewing windows. Now, the crew finally realizes they are floating in a clear liquid. Beyond are distant shadows.

ZIMMERMAN
Check it out. We're submerged.

VINCE
In what?

64 CONTINUED: 64

Grant stares out the window, in awe.

GRANT
A petri dish.

Everyone is staggered by the realization.

PARR
It worked!

They all regard each other and themselves...amazed.

BETH
I don't feel any different.

JORGE
I feel a little queasy.

Concerned, Grant crosses to Jorge to check him out.

GRANT
Sit down.

BETH
Ignore Jorge. He's just sea sick.
Happens every time we hit the water.

Grant regards Jorge, who nods like, "I'll be fine."

GRANT
Picked a helluva a line of work to
go into. *

65 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 65

ON THE VID-SCREENS, the camera searches until it finds a speck. The camera ZOOMS IN, FOCUSES, and the Proteus comes into view.

MISSION CONTROLLER
We have visual!

The room breathes a collective sigh of relief. Ian and Jason almost hug, then back off. Everyone stares at the tiny ship on the screen, in absolute wonderment

66 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 66

Everyone in here is staring out the observation windows in wonderment as well.

PARR
Turn on the beacon. Let 'em know
we're fine.

66 CONTINUED: 66

Jorge hits an overhead switch.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON--A RADAR SCREEN. Something PINGS.

67 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 67

A SONAR TECHNICIAN stands and calls to the room.

SONAR TECHNICIAN
I got a signal!

Everyone cheers.

INTERCUT--Surgical suite. Everyone's cheering in here as well. North is relieved.

NORTH
They're alive.

BACK TO MISSION CONTROL--

GENERAL HUNTER
Let's go to Phase Two.

MISSION CONTROLLER
What about communications?

GENERAL HUNTER
They know what they have to do. *
Let's move. *

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON THE ROBOTIC ARM as it precisely inserts a SYRINGE into the petri dish--

68 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 68

ON THE VID-SCREENS, we watch as the camera magnifies the action. The needle moves toward the Proteus.

69 INT. PROTEUS, BERTHING QUARTERS - DAY 69

Dougherty finally finds the eco-cube, which had tumbled into a berthing cubby. He grabs it and peers in.

Inside, Lucky swims about happily and oblivious.

70 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 70

Kurt works on getting the radio back up.

Through the observation windows, something massive blots out the light.

70 CONTINUED: 70

ZIMMERMAN
What the hell is that?

GRANT
A hypodermic needle.

The crew agape by the sheer size of the steel cylinder coming at them. It pauses. A beat.

PARR
Phase Two, people! *

Beth hits the intercom.

BETH
Crew to impact positions!

71 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 71

The robotic arm stops moving and then, slowly pulls out the plunger, SUCKING FLUID IN--

72 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 72

The crew scrambles to their seats and strap in.

73 INT. PROTEUS, BERTHING QUARTERS - DAY 73

Dougherty hugs Lucky with one arm and is barely able to grab a steel pillar with the other as the submarine lurches backwards with a sudden, violent jolt.

Anything not battened down goes flying through the cabin, including Dougherty who loses his grip and tumbles backwards.

Luckily, a hammock breaks his fall. He rolls out of it and braces himself and Lucky in a berthing cubby as the sub goes from 0-300 mph in just seconds.

74 INT. SYRINGE (MICROSCOPIC VIEW) - DAY 74

The submarine rolls and shudders at it tumbles through the churning liquid.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON--Cora's peaceful face. A gloved hand brings the SYRINGE into frame. We're in-- *

75 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 75

North watches anxiously as--

Dr. Talbott positions the syringe at Cora's lower left thoracic region and gingerly makes the injection.

75 CONTINUED: 75

CLOSE ON THE SYRINGE--as the plunger COMPRESSES, expelling the liquid INTO Cora's bloodstream--

76 INT. PROTEUS, VARIOUS - DAY 76

Everyone hangs on as the sub rushes forward, hitting the with NINE Gs OF FORCE! It's like being shot off the deck of an aircraft carrier.

INTERCUT--the Proteus shoots down the metal cylinder.

77 INT. CORA'S BODY, VENA CAVA - DAY 77

A giant circulatory pathway. The NEEDLE STABS into the artery.

INTERCUT SURGICAL SUITE--Cora's body is suddenly racked with spasms.

NORTH
(calls to the nurses)
Sodium pentathol! She's convulsing!

INTERCUT INSIDE CORA'S BODY--The needle PUNCHES completely through the artery and out the other side!

INTERCUT--the Proteus is ejected from the cylinder with a WHOOSH and plunged into--

78 INT. CORA'S BODY - DAY 78

TOTAL DARKNESS.

79 INT. PROTEUS, BERTHING QUARTERS - DAY 79

Instantly, the sub settles into a gentle, rhythmic motion.

Dougherty looks down at Lucky. Thankful to be alive, he kisses the eco-cube and braces it back on its shelf.

80 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 80

Through the observation windows, we see inky blackness, but we can hear the faint beating of a heart.

GRANT
That's her pulse! We're in!

Everyone unstraps.

PARR
Helm?

Beth jumps into her command seat, checks her instrumentation.

80 CONTINUED: 80

BETH
Positive directional control.

PARR
Turn on the external lights.

Jorge switches on the lights, and what the crew sees through the observation window takes their breath away--

A KALEIDOSCOPE of color--red blood cells churning through clear plasma. The curving striated walls of the artery loom overhead like a vast catacomb.

The crew is positively awe-struck by the view.

RUSSELL
Damn...

VINCE
Who knew we were so ugly inside?

Nodules, deposits and scars form strange, living stalactites. Ringing the catacomb, wiry, hair-like nerves wind around. Platelets rip by at a scaled speed of 70 mph.

It's simply incredible. They all stare agape.

KURT
One giant leap for mankind; one small step by really small men.

PARR
All right. We're not here for sight-seeing! You know the mission. We have three motherboards to recover. Let's go.

The SEALs peel off. Parr turns to Kurt.

PARR (CONT'D)
Sommers, where's my radio?

Kurt snaps out of it and gets back to work on the comm.

81 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 81

Cora's body relaxes as North pushes the sodium pentathol. North then regards Dr. Talbott, who looks ashen.

NORTH
You missed the vein?

DR. TALBOTT
Not sure. She convulsed.

81 CONTINUED: 81

They exchange a look. This is bad.

82 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 82

General Hunter is watching North and Dr. Talbott on the surgical suite video feed.

GENERAL HUNTER
Do we have a problem, gentlemen?

83 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 83

Kurt solders the radio circuit board. Grant stares out at the colorful scenery which is now turning DARK and LIFELESS.

GRANT
Something's not right...

Grant continues to stare out the glass.

PARR
What do you mean?

GRANT
Her pulse, the current. It's dissipating. And those don't look like the walls of an artery. There's mucus--

Suddenly--BAM! The window is SMACKED HARD WITH SOMETHING GREEN! It rocks the sub.

84 INT. PROTEUS, ARMORY - DAY 84

Zimmerman and Dougherty and their gear are tossed about as the sub is rocked.

DOUGHERTY
Now what?

85 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 85

The sub is hit again and again. Parr, Grant, Jorge, Beth, and Kurt watch as the window is slowly covered with clumps of green sludge.

KURT
What the hell are those?

BETH
Antibodies?

GRANT
Antibodies would be eating us. These, they're just sticking to us.

86 EXT. CORA'S BODY, COMMON BILE DUCT - DAY 86

A mucus-lined tunnel filled with floating GREEN PARTICULATE BODIES (BILE). The Proteus is being barnacled by them.

87 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 87

A TECHNICIAN runs a HD-Sonagram wand over Cora's chest while--

North and Dr. Talbott study the microscopic 3-D images of Cora's beating heart on a monitor with General Hunter. There is a BEEP as the sonogram reveals the sub's location.

NORTH
There!

ON THE SONAR SCREEN, the sub's image finally comes up...a tiny spec of WHITE...precariously close to the stomach.

The doctors' faces turn somber. This is worse than bad.

DR. TALBOTT
They're in the common bile duct.

GENERAL HUNTER
And?

NORTH
And...if they reach the stomach, they're dead.

88 INT. CORA'S BODY, COMMON BILE DUCT - DAY 88

The bile-covered Proteus sails through the passageway. Not far ahead now is--

A DARK OPENING--like a black hole. It draws bile-covered bits of fat, which look like boulders, into its depths where they DISINTEGRATE IN SECONDS.

<u>The sub is headed straight for it.</u>

89 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 89

North hurries to a supply cabinet, roots around, and comes up with an AMNIOTIC SYRINGE and 6-INCH NEEDLE.

DR. TALBOTT
What're you doing?

NORTH
I'm getting them out of there.

North moves to Cora with the syringe.

89 CONTINUED: 89

GENERAL HUNTER
You have no authority to abort the mission.

NORTH
If they die, there is no mission.

North moves to stab the needle into Cora's stomach, but the COLD STEEL of the barrel of General Hunter's gun pressed to the back of his head stops him. North freezes.

90 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 90

An ALARM sounds. Jorge checks his instrumentation.

JORGE
The sub's taking on weight!

GRANT
You sure?

Grant watches the green chunks float past, mind ticking.

PARR
What's going on, doc?

91 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 91

General Hunter still has his gun to North's head. The MPs move in and strip North of his syringe.

NORTH
Listen to me. If I can extract them, we can re-inject them into the right spot.

That stops General Hunter. Dr. Talbott is wary.

DR. TALBOTT
If you can extract them. It's a needle in a haystack, not to mention she could convulse again.

NORTH
It's our only option.

ON GENERAL HUNTER, considering it.

92 INT. CORA'S BODY, COMMON BILE DUCT - DAY 92

The sub keeps moving heading toward the edge of oblivion.

93 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 93

General Hunter flips a mental coin, then lets down his aim.

93 CONTINUED: 93

GENERAL HUNTER
(to North)
All right. Do it.

94 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 94

Grant studies the sticky green chunks, deep in thought.

GRANT
(to himself)
What attaches to material in the body but doesn't do anything except make us bigger...heavier...?
(realizing)
Stop the sub! STOP THE SUB!!!

Everyone reacts, what?

GRANT (CONT'D)
We're in the bile duct! If we enter the stomach, the digestive juices will eat the hull of this ship like molecular acid!

Jorge and Beth reverse engines.

INTERCUT--BILE DUCT. The sub's propellers churn in reverse, and its forward speed in the duct comes to a dead-stop.

95 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 95

North positions the syringe over Cora's stomach, using the sonogram image for guidance. He gently presses the needle to her skin--

--But a hand reaches in, stopping him. It's Dr. Talbott.

DR. TALBOTT
Wait! Look...

Everyone follows Dr. Talbott's gaze to the sonogram screen.

GENERAL HUNTER
They're stopping.

ON THE SCREEN, the speck indeed seems to have stopped.

DR. TALBOTT
They figured it out.

ON THE SCREEN, the speck starts to reverse.

DR. TALBOTT (CONT'D)
They're turning around!

95 CONTINUED: 95

Everyone lets out a sigh of relief. Especially North, who regards Cora, staring through her with a small smile. *

96 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 96

The crew stares out the observation window as the sub holds steady at the precipice where chunks of bile are sucked into the void where they disintegrate.

KURT
We were almost lunch.

PARR
(to Grant)
Can you get us back on track?

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON the tactical display of Cora's circulatory system. A finger traces over a vein. We WIDEN to reveal--

97 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 97

Parr, Beth, Jorge and the SEALs listen as Grant reroutes their course to Hydra-1.

GRANT
...Right here, we'll transfer to the ascending lumbar artery, and that should keep us from having to cross the spinal cord itself.

Behind them, Kurt pops the new circuit board in the radio console. He flips a switch and leans into the comm.

KURT
Can you hear me now?

98 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 98

The radio crackles to life.

KURT (VIA RADIO)
Can you hear me now?

The room lights up with excitement. Ian stumbles over a chair to get to the radio. He fumbles with a console mic--

99 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 99

Kurt waits, then...

IAN (VIA RADIO)
Yes! Hi, hello!

99 CONTINUED: 99

KURT
(calls out)
Radio's back!

100 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 100

General Hunter steps up behind Ian.

GENERAL HUNTER
We copy you, Proteus. *

One-by-one, digital video transmissions from the Proteus come on-line, filling the giant vid-screens with images of the Proteus cruising up a vein and the Proteus command deck.

Everyone in the room is stunned into silence by what they're seeing on their screens.

101 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 101

The visuals have been patched in here as well. North, General Hunter, Dr. Talbott, and the others watch in wonderment.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Hope you're enjoying the pretty pictures we're sending you.

102 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 102

Parr stands on the bridge.

PARR
We had a little detour. We'll be back on track in a few minutes.

GENERAL HUNTER (VIA RADIO)
Roger that, Proteus. Good work.

103 INT. CORA'S BODY, INFERIOR VENA CAVA - LATER 103*

The Proteus glides along with the current, making good time through the massive and vibrant waterway. The bile has dried up and is chipping away like corn flakes in the current.

104 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 104

The SEAL team pours over photographs of Hydra-1.

VINCE
That'd be the power cell. Which makes this part the detonation charge and this part the main explosive. Best bet is to cut out the main explosive, get the motherboard, then bug out before the detonator fires.

104 CONTINUED: 104

GRANT
Whoa, you can't let the detonator fire.

VINCE
The charge will be insignificant.

GRANT
It'll be enough to damage her spine.

PARR
But it won't kill her.

GRANT
It'll paralyze her.

Parr studies Grant, measuring him.

PARR
Dr. Grant, the mission is to recover the motherboards. *

GRANT *
Right. And everyone else is expendable. *

PARR *
We're talking about millions of lives here. Every one of us is expendable. Don't let your emotions cloud your judgment. *

The two men stare each other down. *

BETH (O.S.)
Uh, doc. There looks to be some kind of lightning storm ahead.

They all turn to see-- *

Through the observation window, we see what looks like lightning flashing in the near distance. *

GRANT
(in awe)
That "lightning storm" is her spinal cord.

THROUGH THE OBSERVATION WINDOW, Cora's spinal cord comes into view. It's like NOTHING anyone has ever seen--

105 INT. CORA'S BODY, SPINAL CORD - DAY 105

A towering, pulsing electrical storm, wrapped in a double-helix of WHITE AND GREY MATTER.

105 CONTINUED: 105

At it's heart is a GLOWING SPIRE of nerves which constantly fire in a ballet of light.

The entire structure climbs as high and as far as the eye can see--like an elevator to God.

106 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 106

The crew peers out in amazement.

ZIMMERMAN
There's something you don't see everyday.

As they approach the spine, the sub's LIGHTS BEGIN TO FLICKER.

PARR
Slow to one-third.

BETH
Slowing to one-third.

107 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 107

The entire room is glued to the video-feed on the screens. The images are brief glimpses broken up by static.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Are you guys getting this?

MISSION CONTROLLER
Too much interference.

108 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 108

One-by-one, each of the console monitors roll into static. Jorge flips switches.

JORGE
Um, we're losing sonar...and radar.

109 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 109*

ON CORA. She's unconscious, but her toe twitches. *

110 INT. CORA'S BODY, SPINAL CORD - DAY 110*

An ARCING BOLT OF ELECTRICITY shoots out of Cora's spinal cord and hits the sub. * *

111 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 111*

WHAM! The sub is jolted. All of the interior lights SHORT OUT one by one. * *

111 CONTINUED: 111

JORGE
Power surge tripped the circuits!

Beth jumps up and exits to fix the power.

THROUGH THE OBSERVATION WINDOW, we can see more BOLTS of ELECTRICITY SHOOTING from the spinal cord TOWARD THE PROTEUS like fingers reaching out to grab the sub.

PARR
Reverse engines! Let's get us some distance.

Kurt mans the helm--

112 EXT. PROTEUS/SPINAL CORD - DAY 112

The Proteus pulls away, just out of the electricity's reach.

113 INT. PROTEUS, ENGINEERING - DAY 113

Beth pops out and replaces fuses.

114 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 114

The console screens flicker back to life. The sub stabilizes.

KURT
Afraid that's as close as we're gonna get her.

PARR
Hold her right there.

Kurt dials the sub into a hover.

PARR (CONT'D)
(to the SEALs)
All right, dive team. Let's do this.

115 INT. PROTEUS, AIRLOCK - DAY 115

This airlock has a small "moonpool" of clear, viscous liquid in the middle. Vince, Zimmerman, and Dougherty finish pulling on their EXO-suits.

VINCE
Helmets on. Camera checks.

They pull their dive helmets on. Wide visors afford an excellent view. They run checks into their mics.

VINCE (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
SEAL Team 7 to bridge...

116 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 116

Grant, Parr, and the others are here. Russell has a laptop up and running on the console.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
...You with us?

PARR
Loud and clear.
(to Russell)
Cameras?

CLOSE ON Russell's laptop screen. Video-feeds from the SEALs' helmet-cameras which are displayed in three windows labeled with their names: NGUYEN, DOUGHERTY, and ZIMMERMAN.

RUSSELL
We're on-line.

117 INT. PROTEUS, AIRLOCK - DAY 117

The SEALs each grab a Divex DPV (hand-held propulsion device).

PARR (VIA RADIO)
OK, SEALs. By the book.

The SEALs regard the pool of thick, clear liquid.

DOUGHERTY
I don't recall this being in the book.

ZIMMERMAN
Let's go.

Dougherty gestures, "after you."

DOUGHERTY
Age before beauty.

With a cocky shrug, Zimmerman jumps into the THICK LIQUID with his DPV and DISAPPEARS. Dougherty goes next, followed by Vince.

118 INT. CORA'S BODY, ASCENDING LUMBAR ARTERY - DAY 118

The dive team splashes down and sinks into the warm plasma, which is packed with red blood cells.

DOUGHERTY (VIA RADIO)
Man, water's warm!

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO)
It's not water.

118 CONTINUED: 118

DOUGHERTY (VIA RADIO)
Right.
(then)
Eww.

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO) *
Just keepin' it real.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Let's go. Slow and steady. Follow me.

They fire up their DPVs, assemble in a tight formation, and swim off into the vein, disappearing into the hazy fluid.

119 INT. CORA'S BODY, ASCENDING LUMBAR ARTERY - DAY 119

Like explorers on another planet, the SEALs gingerly proceed down this alien underwater tunnel, through a thick and turbulent current. Cora's pulse comes in strong but gentle waves, and with each burst the DPVs get propelled ahead.

120 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 120

As the divers approach the mighty, towering spinal cord, we finally see it--

THE HYDRA-1 IMPLANT (roughly the size of an SUV) sits nestled in a bundle of nerve fibers, which hang out of a sheath of bluish-white matter that gives the entire area the appearance of a horses's tail.

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO)
Jesus. You guys seeing this?

121 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 121

Grant, Parr, and the others watch the incredible bobbing video images on the laptop.

GRANT
That's the filum terminale.

122 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE/COCCYGEAL NERVES - DAY 122

HYDRA-1 is attached to the surface of the dura matter, underneath several ACTIVE NERVES.

The divers move in, but--

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
No, don't--

Suddenly, ELECTRICITY ARCS out at divers as the nerves fire!

122 CONTINUED: 122

GRANT (CONT'D)
Those are active nerves.

The divers retreat.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Then, how the hell we supposed to get the motherboard without frying?

INTERCUT--Grant as he studies the nerves, getting an idea.

123 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 123

North and Dr. Talbott stand with General Hunter.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
I need you to slow her respiration.

North considers that, getting it.

NORTH
I can bring her to two beats per minute. Anything slower and--

GRANT
--Yeah, I know.

124 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 124

The dive team hovers.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Two breaths per minute means 30 seconds between each time the nerves fire.

Vince nods, then addresses his team.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
We'll go in cycles. First, cut the power to the main explosive. Then, get the motherboard.

125 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 125

Cora's breathing is being slowed by opiates until it drops to ZERO. An ALARM sounds. An ENDOTRACHEAL TUBE is inserted into her chest. They do it carefully, but--

126 INT. ASCENDING LUMBAR ARTERY - DAY 126

A slight tremble from the intubation sends the sub careening toward vein's wall.

127 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 127

Parr and Russell grab hold as Kurt and Beth fight to maintain control the sub.

128 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 128

The dive team comes perilously close to tumbling into the active nerves. Dougherty spins out of control, but he's caught by--

Vince just before he fries on a nerve.

DOUGHERTY (VIA RADIO)
Thanks.

But Vince is looking past him at something.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Uh, doc?

Dougherty and Zimmerman follow his gaze to--

The walls of the vein where GIANT, TRANSLUCENT GLOBULES are starting to form.

129 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 129

Grant studies the images on the laptop.

GRANT
White blood cells.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
They a problem?

GRANT
They will be in a few minutes.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Anything we can do about it?

GRANT
Hurry up.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
That's what I thought.

130 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 130

North checks the ventilator which slowly hisses.

NORTH
Rate steady at two per minute.

131 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 131

Vince, Grant, and Dougherty float as near to the implant as they can. A MASSIVE bolt of electricity shoots down the nerves around the implant. Then it stops.

132 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 132

Grant checks his watch. *

GRANT (VIA RADIO) *
Go!

133 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 133

Vince points out four connections between the brains of the implant and the explosives. It's a bit like separating the front of an 18-wheeler from it's trailer.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Cut those, and the main explosive is disabled.

Dougherty and Vince both grab cutting torches and ignite them. Water sizzles and sparks. They cut quickly.

INTERCUT--GRANT'S WATCH as it passes fifteen seconds. *

134 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE 134

And the VENTILATOR moves to force in another breath.

135 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 135

The SEALs finish the four cuts.

DOUGHERTY (VIA RADIO)
Got it!

GRANT (VIA RADIO) *
Time!

The SEALs back-off just as the ELECTRICITY SNAKES PAST THEM at the speed of light!

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Now the motherboard, then we split.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Wait!

136 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 136

Grant leans forward, scrutinizing the images on the laptop.

136 CONTINUED: 136

GRANT
They have to disconnect the detonator.

INTERCUT--The divers. They exchanges looks like, "We're missing a valuable window here."

INTERCUT--Parr.

PARR
We've been over this. *

Grant points to the screen.

GRANT
No. Look at the nerves. They travel directly to her brain stem.

PARR
So?

GRANT
So, that's where Hydra-3 is. The nerves, they're like wires. I'm no * electrician, but when this detonator * goes, wouldn't signal the other * implants?

Parr regards him, considering that. *

137 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 137

Vince looks at the white blood cells. There are dozens of them now--still moving very slowly--like clouds forming.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Cut the detonator. Then the motherboard.

The ELECTRICITY fires through again. *

VINCE (VIA RADIO) *
Sir, those white blood cells are-- *

PARR (VIA RADIO) *
--Just do it. *

138 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 138*

Parr turns to Grant.

PARR
You'd better be right.

139 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 139

The electricity stops, and the SEALs swim in to begin cutting the detonator. *

INTERCUT--The ventilator pushing breaths.

140 INT. CORA'S BODY, SACRAL VEIN - DAY 140*

Zimmerman waits nearby, holding the DPVs. His view of the Vince and Dougherty is becoming obscured by the ever-growing population of slowly floating WHITE BLOOD CELLS.

141 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 141

The SEALs finish the last cut on the detonator.

GRANT (VIA RADIO) *
Time!

DOUGHERTY (VIA RADIO)
DONE!

They jump back just as electricity jolts the plasma.

142 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 142

The SEALs look at each other while they wait for the electricity to subside.

The white blood cells are numerous, but still harmless.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Let's get that board and bug outta here.

143 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 143

The ventilator finishes pushing another breath.

144 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 144

Vince and Dougherty jump in to cut out the MOTHERBOARD.

GRANT (VIA RADIO) *
30 seconds...

The SEALs get one corner free.

GRANT (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D) *
25 seconds...

Two more corners come free.

144 CONTINUED: 144

GRANT (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D) *
20 seconds...

In his haste, Dougherty's torch slips and slices a burn through the wrist of his EXO-suit.

DOUGHERTY (VIA RADIO)
Ouch!

INTERCUT--GRANT. Alarmed.

GRANT
What happened out there?

DOUGHERTY (VIA RADIO)
It's just a nick. No big deal.

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN, we watch as Dougherty looks down at his arm. A trickle of blood drifts into the fluid.

GRANT
Get outta there!

PARR
Negative. Get that motherboard. *

INTERCUT--Dougherty looks to Vince. *

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Go! I got this!

Dougherty swims away as Vince presses on.

INTERCUT--Grant and Parr. *

GRANT *
Pull your men out. *

INTERCUT--Vince finishes cutting the MOTHERBOARD clear of * the implant just as-- *

The electricity comes flying out. Vince pulls back, holding * the board triumphantly.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Hydra-1 disabled!

145 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 145

General Hunter, North, and Dr. Talbott sigh, relieved.

146 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 146

Only there's a problem, and only Grant seems to realize it.

146 CONTINUED: 146

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Everyone get out of here! Now!
RIGHT NOW!

The SEALs turn and see why. THE WHITE BLOOD CELLS have suddenly come to life--as if vigorously waking from a coma. Like sharks, they follow the trail of blood.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
ZIMMERMAN!

147 INT. CORA'S BODY, SACRAL VEIN - DAY 147

Zimmerman fires up his DPV, lets one DPV go, and then races into the fray carrying the remaining DPV.

148 INT. CORA'S BODY, FILUM TERMINALE - DAY 148

The plasma is becoming so thick with fast moving white-blood cells that Vince and Dougherty are quickly losing track of where they are. It is total disorientation.

Zimmerman arrives with the extra DPV. He passes it to Vince.

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO)
Dougherty! Grab on!

Dougherty grabs Zimmerman. Vince tucks the poster-sized MOTHERBOARD under one arm and fires up the DPV with the other.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Let's go-go-go!

They all blaze out of there, flying blind in the midst of the swarming white blood cells.

But the white bloods cells do not relent. They stay on them, drawn by Dougherty's bleeding arm. Vince looks back--

The swarm intensifies. The army of white blood cells grows and is gaining on them. There's no outrunning them.

VINCE (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
We're not going to make it!

Dougherty knows what he has to do. He looks to Zimmerman, somber but resolute.

DOUGHERTY (VIA RADIO)
Take care of Lucky for me.

Before Zimmerman can protest, Dougherty bails off the back * of the DPV and drifts away, taking the white blood cells with him.

148 CONTINUED: 148

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO)
NOOO!!!

Zimmerman watches in horror as the white blood cells swarm his friend.

149 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 149

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN, we can hear Dougherty scream as he's ingested in the feeding frenzy.

His camera feed cuts to static.

CUT TO:

150 INT. PROTEUS, AIRLOCK - MINUTES LATER 150

Zimmerman explodes up from the moonpool. Grant and Parr hurry in to help the divers out. As soon as Zimmerman is out, he lunges at Grant, grabbing him by his shirt.

ZIMMERMAN
You killed Dougherty!

He throws Grant against the wall. Parr tries to hold Zimmerman back.

PARR
Zimmerman, calm down!

ZIMMERMAN
He made us cut out the detonator. *

GRANT
It could have triggered the other * implants.

Behind them, Vince pulls himself out of the moonpool with the HYDRA-1 motherboard.

ZIMMERMAN
It had nothing to do with the fact * that this is your ex-girlfriend? *

GRANT
No. The other implants could have blown. We'd all be dead.

ZIMMERMAN
(snaps)
Bullshit! BULLSHIT!

PARR
Stow it, Zimmerman.

150 CONTINUED: 150

VINCE
Guys, you need to look at this--

They all turn. Vince points to a small box located on the motherboard.

VINCE (CONT'D)
--Dr. Grant was right. This is an electrical transmitter. If we hadn't cut the detonator, it would've sent a signal to blow the other implants.

They all digest that. Zimmerman's grip on Grant loosens, calmed down but not convinced.

ZIMMERMAN
(to Grant)
You didn't know that for sure. You did it for her.

With that, Zimmerman exits, followed by Vince, leaving the Parr and Grant alone.

Grant is tormented. He turns to Parr.

GRANT
He didn't have to die. You should've gotten them out when I told you to.

PARR
We got the board. We have two more to get. That's all that matters. Like I said, we're all expendable.

A voice on the intercom interrupts.

RUSSELL (INTERCOM)
Bridge to Colonel Parr. *

Parr hits the intercom.

PARR
Now what?

RUSSELL (INTERCOM)
There's something following us.

151 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - MOMENTS LATER 151

Grant and Parr rejoin the crew at the bridge. Russell sits at the radar, wearing headphones.

PARR
Put the sonar feed on the speaker.

151 CONTINUED: 151

Russell punches a button. All they hear is static.

PARR (CONT'D)
Last range?

RUSSELL
25,000 scaled yards. Down from 30,000. It's a mechanical sound.

GRANT
(curious)
Mechanical?

PARR
(to Russell)
Take your best guess where it is, and send out one sonar ping.

Russell sends a sonar PING out into the void. It gets all sorts of weird echoes of noise as it returns.

RUSSELL
That's background and body material. We're waiting for something that sounds--

PING in return--exactly what he was afraid of.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
--Metallic.

Everyone reacts. What the hell?

152 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 152

Technicians are watching the PINGING on their sonar.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Proteus to base. We have possible submerged threat, bearing zero-4-7.

GENERAL HUNTER
Get an I.D. on it.

153 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 153

The crew continues to track the unknown object.

RUSSELL
17,000 yards. And closing.

KURT
It's coming at us!

Russell strains to listen, running a sonar I.D. program.

153 CONTINUED: 153

RUSSELL
Sonar signature's being ID'd as a North Korean XIA Class hunter-killer drone. *

BETH
Another sub? In here?! That's impossible!

KURT
Exactly what part of us being here <u>is</u> possible?

PARR *
Must've come in with the Hydra, part of its defense system.

GRANT *
Against what? How'd they know we'd even be here? * *

PARR
They knew we had the technology. *
(to the others) *
Man your stations. Prepare to launch countermeasures. * *

The SEALs jump into action. Beth and Jorge exchange confused looks.

JORGE
We have countermeasures?

154 INT. CORA'S BODY, INFERIOR VENA CAVA - DAY 154

We now see the drone sub approaching. As it does, we see something they can't--

Out of the darkness of blood comes a steel apparition: a SLEEK DRONE SUBMARINE with several KOREAN SYMBOLS ETCHED INTO ITS HULL. *

It's heading right for the sub. And worse, it's OPENING its torpedo tubes.

155 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 155

Kurt, Jorge, Beth, and Russell anxiously watch the sonar.

RUSSELL
Sir, it's down to 10,000 yards...

INTERCUT--The drone launches two torpedoes--WHOOSH-WHOOSH!

INTERCUT--The sub's radar is pinging like crazy.

155 CONTINUED: 155

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
I have two transients in the water!

GRANT
What does that mean?

RUSSELL
Torpedoes.

PARR
Launch countermeasures!

Russell hits the launch button.

156 INT. CORA'S BODY, INTERIOR VENA CAVA - DAY 156

Two spinning, fizzing countermeasures leave the sub.

157 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 157

We hear TWO PINGS echo off their hull.

GRANT
Are you crazy? You can't have a torpedo fight in here!

PARR
Tell it to the drone.

The radar sets off one steady PING that doesn't go away.

RUSSELL
TARGETING TONE! TORPEDOES CLOSING!

PARR
BUBBLE DOWN FIVE-ZERO!

Beth and Kurt throw the sub into a dive.

158 INT. CORA'S BODY, INFERIOR VENA CAVA - DAY 158

The torpedoes take off after the decoys, passing right overhead of the sub, nearly scraping the paint off the roof.

159 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 159

A GRATING SOUND--like metal nails on a titanium blackboard--SCREAMS through the sub.

PARR
ALL AHEAD FLANK!

160 INT. CORA'S BODY, INFERIOR VENA CAVA - DAY 160

The two torpedoes which missed the Proteus SLAM into...THE VENA CAVA WALL, rupturing it badly.

161 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 161

The force of the explosion ROCKS the sub.

162 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 162

Cora's vitals drop suddenly, setting off ALARMS.

DR. TALBOTT
Internal hemorrhaging!

NORTH
(to a nurse)
Get me 30 cc's of prefacol!
(to the sonogram technician)
Find the source of bleeding!

163 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 163

Parr hits the intercom.

PARR
Ready the firing solution. Aft tubes!

164 INT. PROTEUS, ARMORY - DAY 164

Vince hits a button, pressurizing the torpedo tubes.

165 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 165

Grant is beside himself.

GRANT
We're not in the East Asian Sea!
What do you think happens when those
things explode in here?

PARR
The sooner we destroy the drone the
less damage there will be.

VINCE (INTERCOM)
Solution locked and ready.

GRANT
If the Vena Cava collapses, we'll
all die!

But Parr ignores him.

165 CONTINUED: 165

PARR
Fire one and two!

166 EXT. PROTEUS/VENA CAVA - DAY 166

Two torpedoes leave the aft tubes...and hurtle towards the distant shape of the drone.

167 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 167

The crew tensely watches the torpedoes' progress.

168 INT. DRONE/VENA CAVA - DAY 168

The drone defends itself by firing two more torpedoes.

The first of the drone's torpedoes COLLIDES with the first of the Proteus' torpedoes. A massive explosion ensues, which forces the drone back and out of range.

SHRAPNEL RIPS into nearby tissue.

The second torpedo continues on, missing the drone and then EXPLODING nearby.

169 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 169

Through the observation window, we see the drone's second torpedo suddenly appear from out of the debris cloud. It rockets right at them!

PARR
HARD TO PORT!

170 INT. CORA'S BODY, INFERIOR VENA CAVA - DAY 170

The sub veers left, scrapes along the side of Inferior Vena Cava. The torpedo passes by and explodes ahead of them, doing more damage to the blood vessel and making it turbulent as it leaks out under high pressure into her abdominal cavity.

171 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 171

Cora's vitals are crashing. The sonogram technician is scrambling to find the bleeding.

TECHNICIAN
The inferior vena cava is ruptured!

NORTH
Where?!

TECHNICIAN
Everywhere!

171 CONTINUED: 171

North thinks fast.

NORTH
(to the nurse)
Push 4 cc's of adrenaline!

172 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 172

The crew holds on as the sub is bounced about.

173 INT. CORA'S BODY, INFERIOR VENA CAVA - DAY 173

Swift crisscrossing currents of blood toss the sub. It slams uncontrollably into the side of the blood vessel--crushing the sub's rudder and conning tower.

174 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 174

Alarms sound as their instrumentation is damaged.

RUSSELL
Drone's closing.

PARR
Get two more torpedoes into the aft tubes.

KURT (O.S.)
What the hell are those things?

Everyone turns to follow Kurt's gaze.

THROUGH THE OBSERVATION WINDOW, we see UNDULATING GLOBS OF RED AND GREEN, CHAIN-LIKE MATERIAL.

GRANT
(realizing)
Adrenaline.

The sonar keeps PINGING.

RUSSELL
12,000 yards, sir. It'll fire on us at 10,000.

VINCE (INTERCOM)
Torpedoes ready.

PARR
Prepare to fire.

GRANT
No! Don't fire! Listen to me. There's a way we can escape. A way that drone can't follow us.

174 CONTINUED: 174

That gets Parr's attention.

RUSSELL
11,000 yards and closing.

PARR
Talk fast.

GRANT
Adrenaline is for vasoconstriction--
to stop her internal bleeding. It's
going to close all these arterial
walls in tight.

Grant moves to the tactical schematic. He points to the blood vessels in the kidneys.

GRANT (CONT'D)
If we can make it to here--the walls
shut behind us. We'll be safe.

Through the observation window, we can see artery walls are starting to constrict.

PARR
OK, how do we get there?

Grant looks to the vista ahead. They're about to enter a maze of capillaries near the kidneys.

GRANT
Turn right into this capillary.

PARR
Left full rudder--all engines full
astern!

175 INT. CORA'S BODY, CAPILLARY MAZE - DAY 175

The drone on its tail, the Proteus swings right into--

176 INT. CORA'S BODY, CAPILLARY - DAY 176

The drone chases the Proteus as the walls of the capillaries shrink down all around them--narrowing the passageway.

ADRENALINE CELLS swirl all around them.

On the tail of the sub, the drone OPENS its torpedo tubes.

177 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 177

The crew holds on. They stare down the narrowing tunnel.

177 CONTINUED: 177

RUSSELL
That's 10,000 yards. It's about to fire.

178 INT. CORA'S BODY, CAPILLARY - DAY 178

BAM! The Proteus bounces off the constricting capillary wall--

179 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 179

The ship shakes violently.

180 INT. CORA'S BODY, CAPILLARY - DAY 180*

The WALLS OF THE CAPILLARY--LIKE THE BODY OF A BOA CONSTRICTOR--COLLAPSE AROUND THE DRONE SUB--

Just as the Proteus squirts past the lip of the closing capillary, which THEN SEALS COMPLETELY BEHIND THE PROTEUS.

The DRONE is swallowed. Stopped dead.

181 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 181

Huge sighs of relief and even some smiles.

PARR
How long will it stay this way?

GRANT
Ten, maybe 15 minutes.

PARR
Plot a course to the heart.
(into the intercom)
Get me a damage report.

182 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - A LITTLE LATER 182

Dr. Talbott and North stand over Cora, who is now stable.

DR. TALBOTT
What next?

183 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 183

General Hunter stands over the radio technician, studying a computer screen showing an undulating radio signal.

RADIO TECHNICIAN
This is the decrypted signal being broadcast from the implant.
(MORE)

183 CONTINUED: 183

RADIO TECHNICIAN (CONT'D)
(points to the oscillations)
See here? The eigenvalue is reducing *
by intervals at a constant rate. *

GENERAL HUNTER
Meaning?

RADIO TECHNICIAN
It's not a search beacon, sir. It's *
a count-down. *

General Hunter digests this, realizing.

GENERAL HUNTER
An auto-detonate fail-safe.

RADIO TECHNICIAN
Yes, sir. *

GENERAL HUNTER *
This Hydra's full of surprises. *
(then) *
How much time do we have? *

The radio technician brings up the fail-safe countdown clock on his screen: **00h:57m:11s.** Less than an hour.

GENERAL HUNTER (CONT'D)
Evacuate all non-essential personnel.

184 INT. ALPHA BASE, CORRIDOR - DAY 184

The ALARM LIGHTS are twirling. PERSONNEL is evacuating.

Ian and Jason emerge from the cafeteria carrying snacks and an armful of Red Bulls. Ian stops a PASSERBY.

IAN
What's going on?

185 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 185

The crew has just been given the really bad news.

KURT
So, they're getting us outta here, right?

PARR
Negative. If we don't get those *
motherboards, a lot more people are *
going to die than just us. The *
mission hasn't changed. We'll be
extracted after we recover Hydra-3.

185 CONTINUED: 185

Kurt and his crew exchange grim looks as the realization sets in.

KURT
(mimics Jorge)
"It'll be like going to the moon! A chance to make history!"
(then, as himself)
More like a chance to be history.

Suddenly, the walls of the ship RUMBLES faintly. It stops. Then RUMBLES again. Then stops. It's as if a giant is approaching with heavy footsteps.

RUSSELL
Now what?

Grant listens. The rumbling grows louder. Like a distant low beat on a drum. Grant is caught by unexpected emotion.

GRANT
It's Cora's heart.

186 INT. CORA'S BODY, ARTERY - DAY 186

Blood hurtles around the sub with an impressive show of force as it gets sucked into--

CORA'S HEART, which is barely visible ahead in the darkness. Its thumping is relentless, an awesome display of force.

187 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 187

The sub PITCHES and ROLLS, making it difficult to walk.

PARR
Where are my stabilizers?

Beth and Kurt man the helm.

BETH
Not responding.

KURT
We must have lost them when that torpedo scraped the top of us.

PARR
Without those controls, we'll get sucked right in and crushed.

GRANT
You'd never get any divers in there either. Not with this current.

187 CONTINUED: 187

PARR
Ideas?

BETH
Maybe go around, find a smoother
Way to approach?

GRANT
(not wanting to say)
We have to stop her heart.

Everyone turns to regard Grant, surprised.

GRANT (CONT'D)
Put her in cardiac arrest. It'll
get rid of the turbulence. It's the
only way to get the divers to *
Hydra-2. *

188 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 188

Most of the medical team and the guards are being evacuated. It's just North and Dr. Talbott now.

DR. TALBOTT
The cardioplegia solution will stop
her heart--

INTERCUT--Vince, Russell, and Zimmerman prepping for the dive in the airlock.

INTERCUT WITH--Command deck. Grant explains to Parr and the others how's it's going to go down.

GRANT
--but once induced, we'll only have
five minutes before Cora incurs
permanent brain damage--

INTERCUT--North and Talbott.

NORTH
--We'll need the crash cart fully
charged. Alpha team standing by.

INTERCUT--The SEALs, waiting and ready.

VINCE
Dive team standing by.

INTERCUT--Grant sets his watch for FIVE MINUTES.

GRANT
Ready when you are.

188 CONTINUED: 188

INTERCUT--North also sets a clock to five minutes and then looks to Cora. *

NORTH
All right, Cora. Whatever you do-- don't die. *

With that, North nods to Dr. Talbott who pushes the cardioplegia solution into the IV. They then turn to watch the HEART RATE MONITOR. *

Almost instantly, it BEGINS TO DROP.

189 INT. PROTEUS, AIRLOCK - DAY 189*

The SOUND of Cora's heart and the TURBULENCE from its pumping starts to drop. *

GRANT (INTERCOM)
Go!

Vince, Zimmerman, and Russell jump into the moonpool with their DPVs and disappear in the dark liquid. *

190 INT. CORA'S BODY, VEIN - DAY 190

The dwindling SOUND of the mighty pump is like listening to an unseen giant DYING. The current begins to slow, and the turbulence fades.

Then her heart beats for one final time. The rest is SILENCE. The current through the vein glides to a stop.

The team easily moves up the artery--into the void.

191 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 191

Through the observation window, we watch as the divers swim into the vein and disappear from our view.

PARR
(to Kurt)
Watch our six. Our ten-minute head start on that drone is quickly evaporating.

Jorge wakes up Russell's laptop and brings up the digital video feeds from the divers' helmet-cameras.

192 INT. CORA'S BODY, VEIN - DAY 192

The dive team comes around the bend as SOMETHING emerges out of the darkness-- *

192 CONTINUED: 192

A HUGE BASILICA, LINED WITH SMOOTH, MIGHTY MUSCLE--IT IS THE BEGINNING OF CORA'S HEART.

Most dramatic of all is THE MASSIVE HEART VALVE that beckons them to enter like Heaven's gate, five-stories high. For the moment, it has been left open. *

193 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 193

Parr, Grant, Kurt, Beth, and Jorge watch on the laptop as the dive team swims through the heart valve which looks like canyon walls.

194 INT. CORA'S BODY, RIGHT ATRIUM - DAY 194

And they arrive at HYDRA-2.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Okay, let's get to work. *

They light their torches and begin to cut away the larger "trailer" part of the implant.

195 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 195

Dr. Talbott lubricates the cardio paddles. He glances at the countdown timer.

196 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 196

The sonar band sweeps around the scope. Still nothing coming up on the sub.

The crew watches the laptop feeds.

197 INT. CORA'S BODY, RIGHT ATRIUM (HYDRA-2) - DAY 197

The drivers finish making their cuts.

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO)
Detonator disabled.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Let's get the motherboard.

The divers re-position themselves to get to the motherboard.

198 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 198

Grant watches his clock ticking down.

GRANT
You got 90 seconds.

199 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE 199

Cora's blood pressure is dropping. North glances to the clock...then to the crash cart. Talbott notices.

DR. TALBOTT
We don't re-start her heart until we know they've gotten clear with the motherboard.

200 INT. CORA'S BODY, RIGHT ATRIUM (HYDRA-2) - DAY 200

The dive team continues to cut through all the wiring of the motherboard.

INTERCUT--Grant glances at his watch.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
40 seconds.

201 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 201

The alarms start going off, their digital read-outs turning from yellow to red.

North grabs the crash cart paddles, but Dr. Talbott stops him.

DR. TALBOTT
No. Not until they get the motherboard.

NORTH
If she dies, her body will shut down. Her blood will thicken. They'll never make it to the final Hydra.

That gets Talbott. He lets go of North. He moves to Cora and places the paddles on her.

NORTH (CONT'D)
CLEAR!

He shocks her. Her body convulses.

202 INT. CORA'S BODY, RIGHT ATRIUM (HYDRA-2) - DAY 202

The sub caroms off the side of the vein.

203 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 203

The SHOCK is massive in here. The crew is tossed as the sub's interior EXPLODES in a shower of sparks.

204 INT. CORA'S BODY, RIGHT ATRIUM (HYDRA-2) - DAY 204

The MASSIVE HEART VALVE OPENS AND CLOSES ONE CYCLE before stopping. It sends a wave of turbulence that forces the dive team to CLING to the implant in order not to get blown away. The wave passes.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
One more cut, and we're out of here!

The resume their work.

INTERCUT--North puts the paddles on Cora again.

NORTH
CLEAR!

INTERCUT--The SHOCK does another round of damage to the sub.

KURT
ENGINES STALLED!

PARR
GET THEM BACK UP!

And if it wasn't bad enough, Jorge sees a BLIP on the sonar.

JORGE
Our friend's back! 1,000 yards and closing!

205 INT. CORA'S BODY, RIGHT ATRIUM (HYDRA-2) - DAY 205

The divers FINISH the final cut. Vince lifts out the MOTHERBOARD.

206 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 206

North puts the paddles on Cora again.

NORTH
Clear!

He shocks her. This time, SOMETHING NEW HAPPENS. Cora's heart starts beating uncontrollably, shooting up to 200 bpm. *

DR. TALBOTT
She's in V-tach! *

207 INT. CORA'S BODY, RIGHT ATRIUM (HYDRA-2) - DAY 207

Grant recognizes the condition the instant it starts.

GRANT
EVERYONE HANG ON!

207 CONTINUED: 207

The team fights to cling to the implant as the heart is suddenly PUMPING FURIOUSLY like a massive locomotive. Blood flows through at an awesome rate.

One-two-three...the DPVs get sucked into the void! Then it happens--

Russell...loses...his...grip! He's sucked away. *

ZIMMERMAN
RUSSELL, NO!!!

208 INT. CORA'S BODY, HEART (RUSSELL) - DAY 208

We FOLLOW Russell as he hurtles through the heart, screaming.

RUSSELL
AHHHH!!!

209 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 209

CLOSE ON Russell's camera feed, which spins crazily.

Grant looks away as Russell is finally SMASHED BY THE VALVE. The screen cuts to static.

Grant notices Parr staring at the screen, grim-faced. Another man gone. A beat, then Parr snaps out of it and gets back to business.

210 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 210

The paddles beep ready.

NORTH
Clear!

North hits Cora with another jolt, but Cora's heart continues * to beat out of control. *

211 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK 211

The ventricular tachycardia is too much for the Proteus. * Each beat sucks the ship inexorably towards it.

PARR
FULL POWER! BACK US OUT!

JORGE
300 yards...200 yards.

KURT
We're going to be crushed! *

212 INT. CORA'S BODY, VENA CAVA - DAY 212

The DRONE, much smaller and lighter than the Proteus, is sucked towards the heart so fast that IT SMASHES INTO THE BACK of the Proteus!

213 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 213

Parr, Grant, Kurt, and the crew fight to save the boat.

KURT
Flooding aft of deck three!

PARR
Seal off everything below the airlock, and start the pumps!

214 INT. CORA'S BODY, VENA CAVA - DAY 214

Badly damaged, the drone can't fight the current at all. It gets sucked into the VALVE and is CRUSHED like the Hindenburg's Zepplin. The heart doesn't miss a beat.

215 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 215

North hits Cora with the paddles again. This time, her heart * stops! She's back to flat-line. NO HEART BEAT. *

216 INT. CORA'S BODY, RIGHT ATRIUM - DAY 216

Grant knows this is their chance.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
That's it. Go! Now! Fast!

217 INT. CORA'S BODY, HEART VALVE - DAY 217

The dive team swims THROUGH the massive valve, kicking hard, racing against time before Cora's heart restarts again. *

218 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 218

North puts the paddles on Cora, and...

NORTH
CLEAR!

219 INT. CORA'S BODY, HEART VALVE - DAY 219

The massive valve CYCLES ONE MORE TIME, slamming shut just inches behind the dive team!

220 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 220

Beth spots the dive team through the observation window.

220 CONTINUED: 220

BETH
THERE THEY ARE!

221 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 221

North can't believe Cora is still flat-lining. Desperate, he ups the charge to 300. The cart beeps. He positions the paddles and...

NORTH
CLEAR!

222 EXT./INT. PROTEUS/VEINS - DAY 222

It all happens virtually at once. THE DIVE TEAM makes it through the airlock as...

223 INT. CORA'S BODY, HEART - DAY 223

CORA'S HEART RE-STARTS in all its glory! This changes everything.

224 EXT./INT. SUB/VEINS - DAY 224

The sub lurches forward and spins wildly out of control as it careens STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART ITSELF!

225 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK 225

The THUMPING OF CORA'S HEART RATTLES THE SUB. The crew fights to hold on. ALARMS SOUND as the sub's systems all fail.

AUXILIARY LIGHTS TAKE OVER. Most of the plasma consoles are dead. The others scream warnings.

JORGE
ELECTRICAL'S OUT!

KURT
HULL BREACH AT DECK 2 AFT.

PARR
DIVERT ALL POWER TO MANEUVERING ENGINES. KEEP US OFF THESE WALLS!

BETH
SIR! *

What she is staring at is the HEART VALVE, which they are heading straight for.

BETH (CONT'D)
What do we do?

225 CONTINUED: 225

GRANT
We'll have to time it.

Parr watches the valve as it opens--then shuts--opens--then shuts. He nods. *

PARR *
(to the crew) *
On my go, give me forward engines, *
full thrust. *

Kurt nods. Jorge watches the SONAR, which gives the RANGE IN YARDS to the valve.

ON THE SONAR--It unwinds quickly...nearly down to zero.

ON THE VALVE--Open--shut--open--shut.

PARR (CONT'D) *
NOW! FULL POWER!

Kurt hits it, and the Proteus screams to life. It rockets forward right into the void! The VALVE SLAMS SHUT. THEY'RE ABOUT TO HIT IT, BUT THEN IT OPENS--

226 INT. CORA'S BODY, HEART - DAY 226

The Proteus just clears the valve as it SHUTS--WHOMP!

227 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 227

Propelled by the powerful arterial flow, the sub pulls AWAY from the heart. Everyone sighs, relieved. *

PARR
Two-thirds power. And get me a damage report.

228 INT. CORA'S BODY, ARTERY - DAY 228

The Proteus limps off into the murky liquid. It is consumed by a sea of bubbles, which indicate leaks in the hull.

<u>The sub is slowly sinking</u>.

229 INT. PROTEUS, VARIOUS - DAY 229

Cora's blood plasma, thick and nearly colorless, is pouring in through cracks in the hull.

230 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 230*

The control room is mostly empty except for General Hunter, Ian, Jason, and the radio technician. *

230 CONTINUED: 230

The FAIL-SAFE SIGNAL COUNTDOWN screen: **00h:46m:07s.**

GENERAL HUNTER *
You have 46 minutes until the fail- *
safe detonates. *

INTERCUT--the crew on the Proteus. Solemn faces. *

KURT *
Well, that's OK, because our sub's
sinking in less than 20 anyway.

GENERAL HUNTER (VIA RADIO)
Sinking?

PARR
All four engines are damaged as well.

BETH
We've got maneuvering power but no
way to move against the current.

Grant studies the schematic of Cora's circulatory system.

GRANT
If we can just get to this junction,
right here, the blood flow in this
artery will take us to the brain.

Parr and the crew contemplate that for a beat, then...

KURT
We might be able to get the engine
to turn over once.

PARR
It's all we got. Everyone else prep
to abandon ship.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON LUCKY, swimming in his eco-cube. We're in...

231 INT. PROTEUS, BERTHING QUARTERS - DAY 231

Zimmerman stares at the fish. Lucky looks back at him as if pleading.

ZIMMERMAN
All right, Lucky. All right.

He unstraps the cube and grabs Lucky's eco-cube. *

ZIMMERMAN (CONT'D) *
Let's see you get us out of this one. *

231 CONTINUED: 231

Zimmerman stuffs Lucky into a water-tight bag. *

232 INT. PROTEUS, BELOW DECK - DAY 232

Jorge and Beth grab SCUBA gear, emergency transmitters, flashlights.

233 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 233

Grant, Kurt, Vince, and Parr watch out the observation window as they reach their first maneuvering point. Just ahead, there is a fork in the arterial road.

PARR
Power now.

Kurt fires the engines for the final time.

234 INT. CORA'S BODY, ARTERIAL SPLIT - DAY 234

The sub rumbles to life just long enough to adjust its drift off into the artery on the right.

235 INT. PROTEUS, COMMAND DECK - DAY 235

They watch anxiously as they barely make the turn. And then the engine groans as it dies.

236 INT. PROTEUS, AIRLOCK - DAY 236

The ship groans and shudders as everyone preps to abandon ship. Beth tosses some SCUBA gear to Grant. Grant regards it, unsure. Parr takes note. * * *

PARR *
You ever dived before? *

Grant shakes his head, no. *

BETH *
Breathe slowly. Try not to panic. *

Zimmerman grabs torches and detonators and moves to-- *

The MOONPOOL. The fluid is CLEAR, not colored like before. One by one, the crew steps up and jumps into the void of CEREBROSPINAL FLUID. * *

237 INT. CORA'S BODY, CHOROID AQUEDUCT (NEAR THE BRAIN) - DAY 237

The divers all assemble outside the sub, including Grant, who looks uneasy.

KURT (VIA RADIO)
You OK, doc?

237 CONTINUED: 237

Grant nods, adjusting.

238 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 238

North looks to Dr. Talbott.

NORTH
No reason for both of us to be here, and I promised Doug I'd stay.

Dr. Talbott nods, grateful, and leaves.

239 INT. CORA'S BODY, CHOROID AQUEDUCT (NEAR THE BRAIN) - DAY 239

The crew watches helplessly as the Proteus, floundering and broken, drifts away and DISAPPEARS into the darkness. Suddenly, the divers feel very small. And the ENORMITY of the body relative to them hits them hard.

They are now utterly alone in an alien world. With nothing but themselves...and very little time.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
All right, doc. Where to?

Grant looks around--

There are dozens of different shaped and sized openings. All of them with a unique color. Each with its own texture. It's enough to invoke a feeling of vertigo.

Grant points to a small opening...

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
We can take a short-cut through there. North?

240 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 240

North moves to the mic.

NORTH
Yeah? I'm here.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Turn off every instrument, every monitor, anything that makes a sound. We're going to need total silence.

North smiles a little as he realizes...

NORTH
You're cutting through the Cochlear Aqueduct. Smart.

240 CONTINUED: 240

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Unless it kills us.

North begins shutting off everything.

241 INT. CORA'S BODY, ENTRANCE TO THE COCHLEAR AQUEDUCT - DAY 241

The dive team regard Grant, curious.

KURT (VIA RADIO)
Unless what kills us?

Grant gestures for them to look. They shine their flashlight into the tunnel to see--

It's VIBRATING MASSIVELY. DEBRIS FLOATS and SHAKES in the tunnel. We PUSH THROUGH THE AQUEDUCT and PULL OUT to find--

We're IN THE EAR CANAL.

242 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 242

All of this vibration is being caused by the sound waves from the noises in the operating suite enter Cora's ears.

North moves fast, finally turning the last monitor off. Total silence.

243 INT. ENTRANCE TO THE COCHLEAR AQUEDUCT - DAY 243

Grant nods to the crew. They're ready.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Let's go.

Vince and Zimmerman lead them into the dark long tunnel.

244 INT. CORA'S BODY, COCHLEAR AQUEDUCT - DAY 244

Even with seemingly total silence in the operating room, there is still a vibration in here. And with it--

NOISE--low, deep, and broad...

245 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 245

...the sound of Cora's own breathing.

246 INT. CORA'S BODY, COCHLEAR AQUEDUCT - DAY 246

The sound of her breathing echoes through the tunnel as if a dinosaur is roaring--discouraging them from continuing deeper.

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO)
How much farther?

246 CONTINUED: 246

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Not sure. Never actually swam it before.

247 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 247

Cora's hand flinches just a bit. A tiny involuntary spasm. North doesn't see it.

248 INT. CORA'S BODY, COCHLEAR AQUEDUCT - DAY 248

Zimmerman and Vince, still leading, push forward. We can see the end of the tunnel just ahead.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Almost clear--

249 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 249

Cora's hand spasms again, but this time it SLIPS off the operating table. It swings down--

NORTH sees it, reacts fast--

He lurches to catch her arm as it flops down, almost hitting a metal tray of medical instruments--

But in the process, North barely bumps an EKG machine on wheels. It doesn't fall. No big deal. Except that--

The wheels quietly SQUEAK!

250 INT. CORA'S BODY, COCHLEAR AQUEDUCT - DAY 250

The sound comes SCREAMING through here like a banshee freight train. The noise is beyond deafening.

The vibrations PIN everyone against the canal wall, CRUSHING THEM UNDER WHAT FEELS LIKE HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OF PRESSURE.

251 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 251

North deftly and quietly stops the wheel from rolling even a millimeter more.

252 INT. CORA'S BODY, COCHLEAR AQUEDUCT - DAY 252

The wave of pressure and noise finally releases. The dive team gathers themselves, and they move quickly to EXIT THE TUNNEL, which spills out into...

253 INT. CORA'S BODY, BASE OF THE BRAIN - DAY 253

In a massive cavity of clear fluid, it's something so dazzling above them that it stops them in their tracks--

253 CONTINUED: 253

An unprecedented light show of electrical sparks reflects in their masks.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
We made it.

We REVERSE to reveal--

The CEREBELLUM. A massive dark cloud of matter, with distant fingers of electrical sparks firing as far and high as the eye can see.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
What is all that?

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Her thoughts.

That blows them all away. Then, Grant looks ahead... *

GRANT (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
This way.

He heads around towards the back of the brain stem.

254 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 254

North turns the monitors and speakers back on.

255 INT. CORA'S BODY, BRAIN STEM - DAY 255

Grant leads the team around towards the back of the brain. And then, they see...

THE BRAIN STEM. A massive vertical orientation of nerves, like a ten-lane highway, that joins the base of Cora's brain to the massive 500-lane highway that is the spinal cord below.

ONE SPOT IN PARTICULAR CAPTIVATES GRANT. A look of amazement crosses his face.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
You know what that is?

VINCE (VIA RADIO) *
Her brain?

KURT (VIA RADIO) *
(jokes) *
On drugs?

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
The Reticular Formation. It's a part of brain stem we've never been able to get to surgically.

256 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 256*

North is intrigued.

NORTH (VIA RADIO)
What's it look like? *

257 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM (BRAIN STEM) - DAY 257

It's a thick, densely woven cable of nerves. Like a tangle * of electrical vines. Among these vines are several watermelon * shaped bodies--each the size of a small house--which help control neuro-transmitters like serotonin and dopamine.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
It's impossible to describe. You'll have to try this someday and see for yourself.

The crew stares up at it. *

KURT (VIA RADIO)
What's it do?

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
No one's sure. No one's ever even seen it except at autopsy. It's the most primitive part of the brain, believed to be the central area responsible for brain activity.

As they continue to approach, they finally see it--HYDRA-3. * Its tendrils have dug deeply into Cora's nerves. The neurons' electricity flows through the implant.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Let's get to work.

Vince studies the implant.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Main explosive looks like a clean cut.

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO)
Detonator too.

But Grant stops them.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Whoa. You can't just cut those. They're ganglionic nerves. They control all her autonomic functions--respiration, heartbeat.

257 CONTINUED: 257

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Not our problem.

Grant loses it.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Bullshit! You owe her. We all owe her! If she hadn't volunteered to smuggle this thing out, NONE of us would have a chance. None so us would ever be safe again. She deserves a chance. You know she does. Just hear me out. *

That stops Parr. *

PARR (VIA RADIO) *
All right. *

GRANT (VIA RADIO) *
We can short-circuit the implant.
Fry the entire Hydra in an instant.
We get the motherboard. Cora lives. *

GENERAL HUNTER (VIA RADIO)
Negative. We don't have time.

Grant locks eyes with Parr. Determined. Pleading.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
All I need is five minutes.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
Doc, hate to break it to you, but our equipment won't produce that much power.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
We have all the power we need right there.

Grant gestures past the Reticular System to--

The DARK MASS of the CEREBELLUM, which dominates for as far as the eye can see.

GRANT (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
Above us is the cerebellum. It controls all motor functions in the body.

The crew stares up at the cerebellum, dark as night.

257 CONTINUED: (2) 257

GRANT (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
Right now, it's quiet because Cora is unconscious. But if we wake her up, that area will bloom with enough electricity to power Las Vegas.

Parr studies Grant. Considering it. Then...

PARR (VIA RADIO)
General Hunter, how long before the fail-safe detonates? *

INTERCUT--The fail-safe countdown screen: **00h:09m:48s.**

GENERAL HUNTER (VIA RADIO)
Less than 10 minutes. Get that board and get out of there. *

Parr looks to Grant. Makes his decision.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
(to Grant)
You got three minutes.

258 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 258

General Hunter blows a gasket.

GENERAL HUNTER
Goddammit. You are disobeying a direct order!

INTERCUT--Parr. This isn't easy for him.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Have evac and re-scaling team standing by.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON--A SYRINGE. We're in...

259 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 259

North prepares a cocktail of drugs over Cora, who lies there, totally still and unconscious.

INTERCUT--The SEALs rig cables to short-out the Hydra's four main connectors.

INTERCUT--The fail-safe countdown clock shows: **00h:08m:12s.**

INTERCUT--The dive team completes the rigging on THE IMPLANT. They then start unreeling the cables, pulling them up towards the CEREBELLUM.

260 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 260

North finishes prepping and leans into the mic.

NORTH
I'm ready.

INTERCUT--The SEALs check over the contact points. They've got all FOUR main anchors of the implant wired to fry.

Grant follows the cables with his eyes. They stretch out and up, like the cables of a bridge, climbing to the surface of the cerebellum where they are attached.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Do it.

We HEAR A GASP OF BREATH...

261 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 261

Suddenly, Cora opens her eyes. She's <u>disoriented</u> and can't move. She makes out North standing over her. He's injected something into her IV line.

NORTH
Hi, Cora. Remember me? Grant's friend. Andy North.

She fights to focus, confused.

NORTH (CONT'D)
If you can hear me, blink twice.

262 INT. CORA'S BODY, BRAIN STEM (HYDRA-3) - DAY 262

Already Cora's cerebellum is lighting up.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
She's waking up. Get ready.

263 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 263

North leans over Cora, in her face.

NORTH
Listen. Grant's trying to remove the Hydra. Do you understand?

But Cora doesn't seem to. *

NORTH (CONT'D)
(to Grant)
She's non-responsive. Maybe if she hears your voice?

263 CONTINUED: 263

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Cora, it's me. Grant.

Cora's eyes instantly respond in recognition. Her eyes dart around, trying to find the source of the voice.

NORTH
She hears you. Keep talking.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
You asked me to come...

INTERCUT--Grant staring up at her cerebellum.

GRANT (CONT'D)
...Well, here I am. I'm staring up at your cerebellum right now...

Cora follows the voice to the radio.

GRANT (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
...and I need you to do something for me. Move your index finger. It doesn't have to be much.

North studies Cora.

NORTH
Do you understand?

Cora blinks twice.

NORTH (CONT'D)
She understands.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Good. When I say go, move your finger, and this will all be over. All right?

She blinks twice.

NORTH
OK. On three. One...

INTERCUT--The dive team waits, ready...

NORTH (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
...two...three.

CLOSE ON CORA'S FINGER--It moves.

INTERCUT--The cerebellum blooms to life! Huge bursts of * electricity, but none of them hit the cable yet.

263 CONTINUED: (2) 263

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Again!

INTERCUT--Cora's moves another finger.

INTERCUT--The cerebellum. More electricity, but no strikes of their cable.

GRANT (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
One more!

INTERCUT--Cora moves a third finger.

INTERCUT--The cerebellum is alive with activity, but still no luck yet...

GRANT (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
COME ON!

THEN IT HAPPENS! Electricity connects to the cables and shoots down towards Hydra at the speed of light.

Suddenly, there is a TREMENDOUS SERIES OF ELECTRICAL EXPLOSIONS across the surface of the implant.

GRANT (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
YES!

INTERCUT--Cora wiggles her hand. *

NORTH
That's it! Keep going!

INTERCUT--Finally, the HYDRA SHORTS OUT in a blaze of sparks. *

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
OKAY, CLEAR THE CABLES!

The SEALs pull the cables away from the implant and from the cerebellum.

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO)
Mission accomplished. Let's bug out!

Zimmerman and Vince float over to the MOTHERBOARD, where all the lights ARE OFF! They've done it!

...or have they?

There's a hint of a REFLECTION in Vince's mask. Grant follows * the light and sees that--

The HYDRA IMPLANT IS STILL ON! Vince deflates. *

263 CONTINUED: (3) 263

VINCE (VIA RADIO) *
No!

Beth swims over and sees the bad news.

BETH (VIA RADIO)
(sadly)
It didn't work.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Sorry, doc. Time's up. *

Parr puts his hand on Grant's shoulder. *

PARR (CONT'D) *
If we can get that motherboard, she *
won't have died in vain. *

Grant nods sadly. *

GRANT *
She always wanted to save the world. *

The FAIL-SAFE COUNTDOWN CLOCK is still going: **00h:03m:59s**

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Let's move SEALs.

264 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 264*

Fully conscious now, Cora stares at the radio. She's heard the entire exchange. North looks at her. He knows that she knows it didn't work. There's a beat.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
Cora, I'm sorry.

Cora is unable to move, but she knows she is about to die.

265 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - DAY 265

Parr regards Grant. He doesn't want Grant to have to be the one to kill Cora.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
We can do it.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
No. It's gotta be me.

Grant reaches for Vince's torch. Parr nods to Vince, "Let him have it."

266 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 266

The radio crackles. *

GRANT (VIA RADIO) *
Cora, I just want you to know--I *
never stopped loving you.

Cora listens. A tear runs down her cheek. *

267 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - SAME 267

The divers all hear this. The words hang heavy on everyone. It's a heartbreaking moment.

268 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 268

Cora closes her eyes and drifts back into unconsciousness.

269 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - DAY 269

Grant ignites the torch. He begins cutting CORA'S GANGLIONIC NERVES, which are attached to the motherboard.

There are FOUR POINTS he must cut. There goes the first. SNAP. With it, emotion hits the team.

Beth can't watch. She looks away. As does Kurt.

Grant continues to work. There goes number two. SNAP!

Vince looks down. Then, number three. SNAP!

Parr watches Grant--an overwhelming respect in his eyes.

SNAP! GRANT CUTS THE FOURTH CONNECTOR.

270 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 270

The fail-safe countdown signal on the radio console freezes at **00h:00m:10s.**

RADIO TECHNICIAN *
Auto-detonate fail-safe disabled. *

271 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 271*

Cora goes INSTANTLY BRAIN-DEAD. ALARMS SOUND as everything flatlines. Her heart and breathing stop.

272 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - DAY 272

The electricity in Cora's cerebellum dies, plunging the divers in darkness.

273 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 273

North flips off the life-support machines, turning off their strident alarms.

274 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - CONTINUOUS 274

Vince and Zimmerman take the MOTHERBOARD from Grant. They now have all three.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
(without joy)
Mission accomplished.

It's dark and also suddenly very quiet. The divers snap on their FLASHLIGHTS. We now see--

WHITE BLOOD CELLS are starting to form. The blood continues to circulate, but it's slowing gradually.

BETH *
(hopeful) *
Look! She's not dead. White blood *
cells are still forming. *

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
White blood cells continue to form
long after mortality. *

NORTH (VIA RADIO) *
You have about five minutes before *
her blood coagulates. It'll be like *
mud. You'll never get out. *

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Proteus team proceeding to Phase 3.

275 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 275

North operates on Cora's neck, inserting a tiny metal stent in her jugular vein.

NORTH
Inserting the stent at the retrieval
point...

276 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETRIEVAL POINT ARTERY - DAY 276

Of course, in here the tiny metal stent looks like a massive lattice of metal in here.

NORTH (VIA RADIO)
When you reach that structure, grab
onto it. It's your ride out.

277 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - CONTINUOUS 277

The dive team begins to swim away, but GRANT HANGS BEHIND.

KURT (VIA RADIO)
Doc, let's go.

But Grant lingers there, staring at Cora's dead cerebellum. *
Grant's eyes flicker with hope. *

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
I have an idea. *

PARR (VIA RADIO) *
Give it up. She's dead. There's *
nothing you can do. *

GRANT *
No, I think can save her. *

INTERCUT--North reacts.

NORTH (VIA RADIO)
You can't! You've already wasted *
too much time. Get out of there! *

INTERCUT--The crew eyes the monstrous blobs which continue *
to grow and threaten them. *

ZIMMERMAN (VIA RADIO) *
Doc got his three minutes. We are
leaving!

Grant looks to Parr. *

GRANT (VIA RADIO) *
Go! Get them out of here. *

Parr nods. A moment passes between the men, then Parr *
reluctantly turns and swims off with the others. Kurt *
follows, glancing back--

278 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 278

North waits, watching the clock. Cora's brain EEG is still *
flat except for the most basic delta wave. Her heart is *
still dormant.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
We're on our way to the retrieval
point.

279 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 279

General Hunter turns to Ian, Jason, and the radio technician. *

279 CONTINUED: 279

GENERAL HUNTER
Prep for immediate transfer, scale-up, and motherboard decryption.

280 INT. CORA'S BODY, VEIN - CONTINUOUS 280

Parr leads the dive team. The blood is nearly still now and THICKENING. The crew struggles to swim through it. *

VINCE *
(straining) *
It's like swimming in quicksand. *

WHITE BLOOD CELLS continue to bud and take form.

281 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - DAY 281

Grant is alone, ignoring the growing population of WHITE BLOOD CELLS, which drifts around the dark and silent space. He approaches the tangle of dark nerves.

The NERVES on either end of the dead-implant are still SPARKING with a bit of life. They reach out as if trying to re-connect.

NORTH (VIA RADIO) *
Come on, Grant. Get the hell out of *
there. *

GRANT *
The Reticular Formation--it's like *
the body's fuse box. *

He studies the dead hydra, which blocks the nerves from touching. *

GRANT (CONT'D)
If I could just reconnect it... *

Grant tries to move the HYDRA, but it is too big.

282 INT. CORA'S BODY, JUGULAR VEIN - DAY 282

The divers now can see the massive lattice structure of the stent up ahead.

VINCE (VIA RADIO)
There's the retrieval point!

283 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - DAY 283*

Cora's blood is turning blue, and the WHITE BLOOD CELLS are closing in. Grant regards the white blood cells. *

283 CONTINUED: 283

GRANT *
(to the white blood cells) *
Let's see if we can work together. *

He finds an opening in the Hydra and slips inside. *

284 INT. HYDRA IMPLANT - DAY 284*

Grant looks around, spots a sharp edge of metal, and RAKES HIS ARM ACROSS IT! *

ON GRANT'S FOREARM. It's BLEEDING PROFUSELY from the deep cut he's just made. *

The trail of blood leaks out of the implant... *

285 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - CONTINUOUS 285*

...and into the blood stream. Our VIEW of Hydra becomes obscured as WHITE BLOOD CELLS close in. * *

286 INT. CORA'S BODY, JUGULAR VEIN/STENT COMPLEX - DAY 286*

The divers each grab hold of the lattice. Everyone's ready.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Alpha team, commence extraction.

287 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 287

North delicately inserts a SYRINGE in the center of the stent. *

288 INT. CORA'S BODY, JUGULAR VEIN - CONTINUOUS 288

To the divers, it's a frightening sight. The HUGE NEEDLE PUSHES THROUGH, PUNCTURING THE VEIN. It pauses--

And then BEGINS SUCKING IN THE BLUISH BLOOD.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
Here we go!

A SUDDEN, VIOLENT PULL OF FORCE. One-by-one, the divers let go of the lattice, allowing themselves to be drawn into the syringe--along with a host of WHITE BLOOD CELLS.

Parr waits until everyone is sucked in and then lets go. We FOLLOW him as he's sucked into the needle.

289 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 289

CLOSE ON THE SYRINGE as it fills with blood.

290 INT. SYRINGE - DAY 290

The divers roll and tumble in the liquid.

PARR (VIA RADIO)
(garbled)
We're in!

291 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 291

North pulls out the needle just as Ian rushes in.

NORTH
Extraction complete.

He pulls the AMPULE from the syringe and carefully passes it to Ian, who gingerly rushes out with it.

North turns back to the radio, anxious. *

NORTH (CONT'D) *
Whatever you're doing in there, buddy, *
I hope it works. *

292 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM/HYDRA - DAY 292*

The white blood cells, now monstrous blobs, ooze through the * structure, enveloping the HYDRA. They begin to eat away at it.

293 INT. HYDRA IMPLANT - CONTINUOUS 293*

Using the cutting torch, Grant cauterizes his own wound, stopping the bleeding.

The implant is KNOCKED and JARRED and SHAKEN as it's devoured all around him. The NOISES are terrifying... *

294 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 294

CLOSE ON THE AMPULE sitting in the center on the platform.

The COLLIDERS BEGIN TO HUM.

295 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 295

Ian and Jason man the scaling station controls as * electromagnetic energy fills the hangar.

296 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 296

Sparks fly as the electrical storm builds and then...BOOM!

A BLINDING LIGHT of critical mass BURSTS FROM THE PLATFORM FLOOR with a tremendous THUNDERCLAP!

296 CONTINUED: 296

In the adjacent control room, everyone ducks as the concussion blows through the control room. A beat as static crackles, then clears.

Ian, Jason, General Hunter, and the radio tech peek their heads back up to see--

THE FULL-SIZED DIVERS ARE FLOATING IN THE NOW GIANT AMPULE TANK on the platform, ALONG WITH SEVERAL NOW MASSIVE WHITE BLOOD CELLS!

General Hunter reacts fast, whips out his gun, and SHOOTS OUT THE AMPULE WALLS. The glass shatters, and--

The divers spill out with the fluid and white blood cells all over the stage. *

Ian and Jason hurry to help the divers. *

Vince pulls off his mask and tosses the MOTHERBOARDS to the radio technician and General Hunter. * *

Zimmerman opens his suit and pulls out-- *

LUCKY swimming oblivious in his eco-cube. Kurt regards it, curious. * *

KURT *
Where'd you get the fish? *

ZIMMERMAN *
It was Dougherty's. He said it's lucky. * *

Kurt considers that. *

KURT *
How much you want for him? *

The rest of the divers catch their breath as the WHITE BLOOD CELLS wither and die. *

297 INT. HYDRA IMPLANT - DAY 297*

Grant looks up at the ceiling of the implant as it disintegrates. He's waiting to see white blood cells...

BUT THE FLOOR is eaten out from under him! Suddenly, WHITE BLOOD CELLS are licking at his feet. * *

With no other option, Grant swims up, through the cascade of falling bits of broken implant. With pieces being devoured all around him, Grant slips through a hole in the ceiling.

298 INT. ALPHA BASE, SCALING CONTROL ROOM - DAY 298*

ON THE TECHNICIAN'S COMPUTER SCREEN, we see that his program has cracked the code. *

RADIO TECHNICIAN *
We got it! *

GENERAL HUNTER *
Broadcast the override. *

299 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - DAY 299*

The ceiling of the structure is ingested, Grant swims up through the swarm of white blood cells as they DEVOUR the last bits of blood-laced Hydra-- *

And then SOMETHING MAGICAL HAPPENS! *

The WHITE BLOODS CELLS DO THEIR JOB--they form SCAR TISSUE and reconnect the nerves! *

As the metallic implant disappears, the NERVE ENDS BRIDGE AND MERGE-- *

SUDDENLY, CORA'S DARK BRAIN BLOOMS WITH LIFE. Grant's visor is bathed in thousands of colors of light! *

300 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 300

Cora's EEG...BEEPS! North wheels around to regard the machine, confused. The radio crackles.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
North.

North breathes a sigh of relief.

NORTH
What the hell just happened in there?!

301 INT. CORA'S BODY, RETICULAR SYSTEM - DAY 301

Grant swims with renewed hope as Cora's brain sparkles with life all around him.

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
I rebooted her.

302 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 302

Cora suddenly SUCKS IN A BREATH. North turns on the life-support monitors. Amazingly, Cora's heart is beating.

She. Is. Alive.

302 CONTINUED: 302

GRANT (VIA RADIO)
I'm coming out her tear duct. *

North is positively confounded.

NORTH
I'll be waiting.

303 INT. CORA'S BODY, HYALOID CANAL/EYE - DAY 303

Grant kicks hard, swimming up--

THE HYALOID CANAL, a thin waterway surrounded by the clear, white jelly of the eyeball.

304 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 304

North studies Cora.

NORTH
Cora. Cora can you hear me?

Cora slowly comes to--and BLINKS. *

305 INT. CORA'S BODY, BACK OF LENS/EYE - DAY 305*

It's an amazing moment for Grant. One second he's in darkness, wondering if he's going to live... *

...and then the GREAT DOME OF THE EYELID flutters open, FLOODING THE LENS WITH LIGHT. *

Grant turns away, shielding his eyes from the sudden brightness. *

After a moment, after his own eyes adjust, he looks back. And WHAT HE SEES FILLS HIM WITH WONDER-- * *

HE'S LOOKING THROUGH CORA'S OPEN EYE. IT'S A MASSIVE WINDOW OF COLOR IN AN UPSIDE-DOWN LANDSCAPE. *

Grant watches in awe as Cora's EYE TRACKS AROUND THE SUITE, trying to get oriented. * *

She BLINK, and the DOME CLOSES FOR AN INSTANT, PLUNGING GRANT INTO DARKNESS. *

Cora's EYE OPENS AGAIN. And now, Grant sees NORTH'S FACE, leaning in. * *

NORTH (VIA RADIO)
You there?

GRANT *
Looking right at you. Ready? *

305 CONTINUED: 305

North nods. *

306 INT. CORA'S BODY, BACK OF LENS/EYE - DAY 306*

GRANT DIVES INTO A GLAND FILLED WITH CLEAR LIQUID. *

We FOLLOW him as he free-falls, like he's going over the world's largest waterfall...

307 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 307

North holds a SUCTION SYRINGE up to Cora's eye, carefully collecting tear fluid.

308 INT. ALPHA BASE, HANGAR/SCALING PLATFORM - DAY 308*

North carefully expels the syringe into a petri dish and * then steps back as the colliders are fired up once again-- *

The petri dish becomes a GIANT TANK OF WATER. An anxious * beat and then-- *

Grant throws an arm over the side of the tank. North and * the others move to help him out. *

Grant's got only one thing on his mind. *

GRANT *
Cora? *

309 INT. ALPHA BASE, SURGICAL SUITE - DAY 309*

Grant hurries to Cora's side. She's awake. *

GRANT *
We stopped the bombs. *

Cora smiles weakly. *

CORA *
I noticed when I didn't blow up. *

Grant has to smile at that. *

GRANT *
You're crazy, you know that? *

They stare at each other, elated they're both alive. *

CORA *
I think I'm ready to take that *
vacation now. *

Grant grins, then leans in, and pulls her into a kiss. But-- *

309 CONTINUED: 309

CORA/GRANT
Ow!

They pull away, both sore from their adventure. They share a grin. A beat. Oh, what the hell. Grant sweeps her into another kiss, and we...

DISSOLVE TO:

310 EXT. OTHERWORLDLY LANDSCAPE - TIMELESS 310

Blurry images fill the screen. A blue-green limbo filled with liquid structures. As we FOCUS, we see--

A SUNKEN PIRATE SHIP AND TREASURE CHEST filled with booty.

Suddenly, a GIANT FISH SWIMS INTO FRAME, dwarfing the sunken wreckage.

We PULL BACK and realize that we're actually looking at--

A FISHBOWL. Inside, LUCKY the lucky goldfish swims about happily. Owen stares into the fishbowl, mesmerized.

OWEN
Is he really lucky?

We're in--

311 INT. MALLORY'S BEACH COTTAGE - DAY 311*

Small, warm, and decorated with Hawaiiana. Kurt stands with Owen, admiring the fish. We hear someone at the door.

KURT
We'll see in a minute.

Just then, Kurt's ex-girlfriend Mallory enters with two bags of groceries in hand. She is not happy to see Kurt.

MALLORY
What're you doing here?

KURT
I got Owen this goldfish, and, uh...
(takes a shot)
...I was kinda hoping it'd help us get back together again.

Owen brightens upon hearing this, but Mallory just stares at Kurt, stupefied.

MALLORY
You really think a goldfish is going to get us back together?

311 CONTINUED: 311

Kurt grins. *

KURT *
Don't underestimate this fish. *

FADE OUT. *

The End.